
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN
RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER TO REFRAIN FROM DEVELOPING,
TESTING, PROPAGATING, CULTIVATING, RAISING, OR GROWING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES IN
THE STATE OR CONDUCTING ANY TYPE OF RESEARCH THAT WOULD
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES.

1 WHEREAS, kalo (*colocasia esculenta*), the Hawaiian word for
2 taro, is a culturally significant plant to the kanaka maoli,
3 Hawaii's indigenous peoples; and
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5 WHEREAS, kalo provides the kanaka maoli's life-giving
6 sustenance, poi; and
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8 WHEREAS, over three hundred kalo varieties may have existed
9 at the time of the arrival of European explorers; and
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11 WHEREAS, today there are approximately seventy varieties of
12 taro, and, of these, the majority are unique to the Hawaiian
13 islands due to the horticultural skills of native Hawaiian
14 farmers; and
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16 WHEREAS, the important cultural relationship between kalo
17 and the kanaka maoli continues today in the cultivation of kalo
18 and ohana, the Hawaiian word for family; and
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20 WHEREAS, kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-
21 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also
22 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values
23 important to the State; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the College of
28 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of



1 Hawaii and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center are requested
2 to refrain from developing, testing, propagating, cultivating,
3 raising, or growing genetically modified traditional Hawaiian
4 taro varieties in the State or conducting any type of research
5 that would significantly impact traditional Hawaiian taro
6 varieties; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution does
9 not include a request to refrain from developing, testing,
10 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically
11 modified taro of the non-Hawaiian variety, including Chinese
12 taro, in the State; provided that such activities are conducted
13 at an isolated and secure site or laboratory to ensure the
14 prevention of cross-pollination with traditional Hawaiian taro
15 varieties; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ongoing discussions between the
18 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the
19 Native Hawaiian community regarding the propriety of research or
20 genetic modification of traditional Hawaiian taro varieties
21 continue to occur; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the College of Tropical
24 Agriculture and Human Resources is requested to submit a report
25 to the Legislature, including information regarding discussions
26 with the Native Hawaiian community, no later than twenty days
27 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
31 of Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
32 and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, and the
33 Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

