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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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 today there  
10 are approximately seventy varieties of taro and of these, the  
11 majority are unique to the Hawaiian islands due to the  
12 horticultural skills of native Hawaiian farmers; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the important cultural relationship between kalo  
15 and the kanaka maoli continues today in the cultivation of kalo  
16 and ohana, the Hawaiian word for family; and  
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18 WHEREAS, kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-  
19 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also  
20 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values  
21 important to the State; now, therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
25 that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at  
26 the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
27 Center are requested to refrain from developing, testing,  
28 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically  
29 modified traditional Hawaiian taro varieties in the State or  
30 conducting any type of research that would significantly impact  
31 traditional Hawaiian taro varieties; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution does not include a request to refrain from developing, testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically modified taro of the non-Hawaiian variety, including Chinese taro, in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, and the Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

OFFERED BY:



