

**testimony**

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**From:** kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 16, 2008 8:03 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Supporting SB 2499 (Relating to Taro)

**LATE**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (AHW) Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair /  
Senator J Kalani English, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday February 19, 2008  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224 / State Capitol

Testimony Supporting SB 2499 (Relating to Taro)

Aloha Chair Tokuda & Committee Members,

I currently serving on the Office of Hawaiian Affairs's (OHA) Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council (NHHPC) and providing testimony of support for SB 2499 as an individual. The effective date should have been corrected during the 2007 legislative session or during the super ferry hearings. Taro (Kalo) is a significant plant to the Hawaiian people and is our OHANA. Taro (Kalo) is also where the OHANA concept originated from. On the Hawaii State Seal there are eight (8) taro leaves which represent the (8) major Hawaiian Islands. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 2499 which Kalo highly deserves.

Thomas T Shirai Jr  
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