



SB 2499, RELATING TO TARO

House Committees on Tourism & Culture; and
Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

March 14, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Room: 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2499, which would change the effective date of Act 36, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, from January 1, 2025, to July 1, 2008.

OHA was supportive of Act 36, which made kalo the official plant of Hawai'i, and we continue to support it today, urging the Legislature to pass this housekeeping measure that would implement Act 36 in a timely fashion, as was originally intended.

As the Legislature knows, kalo is a sacred plant in Hawaiian culture, considered to be the elder sibling of Native Hawaiians. Furthermore, poi - made from the corm of taro - is the staple of the traditional Hawaiian diet.

Mahalo for publicly and officially recognizing the vast cultural, spiritual, health-related, historical and genealogical importance of this plant to both the Native Hawaiian people and the general public of Hawai'i.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS S.B. 2499. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.