



LATE TESTIMONY

HCR 167 RELATING TO KALO AND THE STATE CAPITOL

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 1, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Room: 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR 167, which requests the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to conduct a study, in consultation with OHA, into the feasibility of planting kalo in the reflecting pools that surround the State Capitol building.

Kalo is one of the most sacred plants to Native Hawaiians, as Native Hawaiians believe the first kalo, Häloanakalaukapalili, is our elder sibling, the child of the gods Wäkea and Ho'öhökükalani. Moreover, Poi, which is made from the corm of kalo, serves as the staple food in the traditional Hawaiian diet. In 2007, the Hawai'i Legislature passed a bill naming kalo as the official plant of the state.

OHA believes that some sort of physical presence should be afforded to kalo at the State Capitol building because of the plant's cultural and historical importance to Hawai'i. Further, we embrace our kuleana of providing consultation to CTAHR for the college's feasibility study of planting kalo in the reflecting pools around the State Capitol building.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS HCR 167. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.