



GOV. MSG. NO. 688

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 7, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
And Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2832 HD1 SD2 CD1

On July 6, 2010, House Bill No. 2832, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Taro Security" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill authorizes the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to seek available federal, state, county or private funding to restore taro and lo'i cultivation. The bill also requires the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to submit reports to the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions.

This bill raises several concerns. First, it should be noted that OHA already has the authority to seek federal, state, local and private funding for projects. Thus this bill does not grant that organization any powers it does not already possess.

However, the measure is troubling in that it proposes the implementation of recommendations that may not be in the best interests of the public, including the taro farming community. It would be unfortunate if projects were undertaken that did not address the needs and concerns of commercial taro growers that provide the foodstuff many of us enjoy and depend on. The bill would also support implementation of proposals that would violate other sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the manner in which fair lease rents are determined for the use of public lands.

I urge OHA and members of the Task Force to proceed with caution and to ensure that projects are in the best interest of all of the residents of our islands.

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
And Members of the Senate  
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For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2832 to become law as Act 196, effective July 6, 2010, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "LINDA LINGLE".

LINDA LINGLE

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO TARO SECURITY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature established the taro security  
2 and purity task force (task force) in 2008 to seek solutions to  
3 challenges facing taro, taro farmers, and taro markets. The  
4 task force published the report "The Taro Lives; Abundance  
5 Returns to the Land" in 2009, which represents the first time  
6 that guidance for taro, taro research, and the problems facing  
7 taro farmers comes from the farmers and from the taro itself.

8           The legislature finds that the task force developed  
9 recommendations that need implementation. The task force  
10 members are dedicated to continuing their work to implement the  
11 recommended policies and programs.

12           SECTION 2. Chapter 10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
13 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
14 read as follows:

15           "§10-           Taro security; funding. (a) The office may seek  
16 available federal, state, county, or private funding to restore  
17 taro and lo'i cultivation. The office shall cooperate with other



1 public and private agencies, as appropriate, in applying for  
2 funds pursuant to this section.

3 (b) The office may use and distribute funds received  
4 pursuant to subsection (a) for projects that use taro for:

5 (1) Flood control;

6 (2) Wetland restoration and preservation;

7 (3) Food security;

8 (4) Community economic development;

9 (5) Job creation;

10 (6) Education; and

11 (7) Water-quality protection."

12 SECTION 3. Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, section  
13 2, is amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

14 "(e) The task force shall submit a preliminary report to  
15 the legislature documenting the status of its progress no later  
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
17 of 2009. The task force shall submit a final report to the  
18 legislature summarizing its program, the results achieved,  
19 actual expenditures, and recommended legislation no later than  
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
21 2010.



1        The task force shall implement the recommendations in the  
2 final report submitted prior to the regular session of 2010, and  
3 shall submit a preliminary report to the legislature documenting  
4 the status of implementation no later than twenty days prior to  
5 the convening of the regular session of 2014. The task force  
6 shall submit a final report to the legislature summarizing its  
7 implementation accomplishments no later than twenty days prior  
8 to the convening of the regular session of 2015."

9        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

10       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this            day of            , 2010

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

