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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TARO.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 211, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2008, recognized the need to develop non-genetic-  
3 modification-based solutions to protect taro from disease and  
4 insects on a statewide basis. Prior to Act 211, a dialogue  
5 among the State's department of agriculture, taro farmers from  
6 each island, researchers and representatives from the University  
7 of Hawaii, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the office of Hawaiian  
8 affairs had produced a joint report recommending the formation  
9 of a taro security and purity task force to guide policy and  
10 prioritize research for the protection of taro in Hawaii. Act  
11 211 established the taro security and purity task force;  
12 assigned it numerous objectives ranging across such areas as  
13 policy development, incentives for taro security, public  
14 education, training, and development of a grant program; and  
15 placed it within the office of Hawaiian affairs for  
16 administrative purposes.

17           Act 211 required the task force to submit to the  
18 legislature (1) a preliminary report documenting the status of



1 its progress no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the regular session of 2009 and (2) a final report summarizing  
3 its program, the results achieved, actual expenditures, and  
4 recommended legislation no later than twenty days prior to the  
5 convening of the regular session of 2010.

6 Conference Draft 1 of Senate Bill No. 2915, the bill that  
7 evolved into Act 211, contained an appropriation of \$325,000 in  
8 state general fund revenues for fiscal year 2008-2009, to be  
9 expended by the office of Hawaiian affairs to achieve the  
10 objectives of the task force and to be matched dollar for dollar  
11 by the office of Hawaiian affairs. However, the governor in  
12 approving the bill vetoed the \$325,000 appropriation in its  
13 entirety. As a result, the task force, although it has been  
14 formed and has made some progress, has faced a major financial  
15 obstacle to fully carrying out its legislative mandate.

16 The purpose of this Act is to help ensure that the taro  
17 security and purity task force reaches its full potential by  
18 appropriating funds for its operation.

19 SECTION 2. Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, is  
20 amended by amending section 3 to read as follows:

21 "SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of [~~\$0~~] \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year [~~2008-2009~~]  
2 2009-2010 to achieve the objectives of the taro security and  
3 purity task force, which may include:

4 (1) Convening and operating the task force, including  
5 conducting discussions on all islands;

6 (2) Contracting at least one person to facilitate,  
7 coordinate, communicate, and record the work of the  
8 task force;

9 (3) Conducting archival and ethnographic research of the  
10 history of taro and taro practices in Hawaii and the  
11 traditional Hawaiian cultivars to aid in its revival  
12 and to revise Bulletin 84: Taro Varieties in Hawaii  
13 (1939) which is the key reference for taro growers and  
14 researchers;

15 (4) Protecting the Molokai taro varieties collection, the  
16 oldest and most complete collection and source of taro  
17 varieties in Hawaii;

18 (5) Conducting taro research and outreach for the control  
19 and eradication of the apple snail; and

20 (6) Preparing the preliminary and final reports to be  
21 submitted to the legislature.



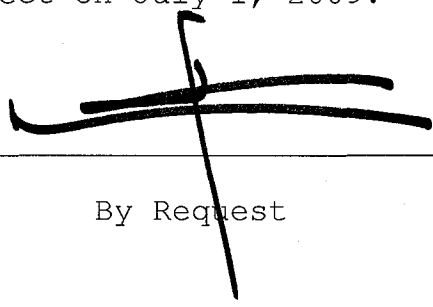
1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
2 Hawaiian affairs for the purposes of this Act [~~; provided that no~~  
3 ~~funds shall be expended unless matched on a dollar for dollar~~  
4 ~~basis by the office of Hawaiian affairs]."~~

5           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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By Request



**Report Title:**

Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Taro; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the taro security and purity task force.

