

Taro Security and Purity Task Force  
TESTIMONY

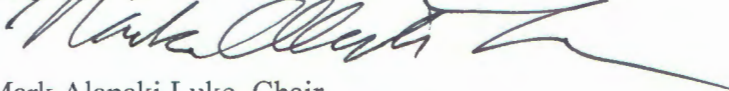
**House Bill HB1089 HD1  
RELATING TO KALO APPRECIATION MONTH**

House Bill HB 1089 HD1 designates October as "Kalo Appreciation Month." In 2008, the legislature recognized taro's role in the State's history and well being by designating taro as the state plant. The same year, the legislature also established the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to address challenges facing taro, taro growers, and taro markets, further demarcating taro as a key cultural as well as economic concern.

In conjunction with the growing community sustainability movement there has been a corresponding resurgence of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices, especially around taro cultivation and related practices like poi pounding. Hawai'i's distinctive history of taro cultivation points to the plant's cultural, nutritional, and current economic significance.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force fully supports HB1089 HD1 to celebrate this unique plant and it's strong tradition in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Alapaki Luke', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair  
Taro Security and Purity Task Force