
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the life of kanaka
2 maoli, the first people of Hawai'i, is linked closely with kalo,
3 also known as the taro plant. Kalo is believed to have the
4 greatest life force of all foods.

5 The legislature further finds that from early times, kalo
6 was the primary food source of Native Hawaiians. Taro came to
7 Hawai'i with the earliest Polynesian settlers and has been
8 cultivated as a staple food from ancient times in the tropical
9 and subtropical latitude band around the Earth.

10 The legislature further finds that all parts of the sturdy
11 kalo plant are eaten — lū'au, the young leaves of the kalo plant,
12 are cooked for greens, and the tubers are eaten after being
13 baked, boiled, or steamed or made into poi by being cooked and
14 mashed.

15 The legislature further finds that in the kalo and poi-
16 based agricultural society, the people of ancient Hawai'i were
17 dependent on wetland taro. Great skills were needed to terrace,



1 cultivate, and irrigate the land along streams. Today's taro
2 farmer exemplifies self-sufficient stewardship of natural
3 resources. The legislature finds that there is history and
4 wisdom in encouraging and supporting community and back yard
5 cultivation of this valuable food.

6 The legislature further finds that it is kalo that fed
7 Native Hawaiians, without which they would not have lived and
8 thrived as a people since their first arrival in these islands.
9 No other Hawaiian staple crop, including 'uala, mai'a, and 'ulu,
10 holds such a sacred place in Hawaiian culture, nor the
11 nutritional value that kalo and lū'au represent as primary food
12 sources for Hawaiians. Lū'au contains significant levels of
13 essential phenolic compounds, flavonoids, and antioxidants that
14 help protect against cancer. The growing, preparing, and eating
15 of kalo and lū'au are beneficial to Hawaiian dietary and health
16 practices and reduce the impacts and costs of diabetes and heart
17 disease within the Hawaiian community and to the State's
18 healthcare system.

19 The legislature further finds that the cultivation and
20 consumption of kalo and lū'au within the State can play a
21 significant role in increasing food security, which is



1 especially important to an island state. Kalo and lū'au are also
2 beneficial to the environmental, physical, and economic well-
3 being of all residents of Hawai'i.

4 The purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Designate kalo as the official food dish of the State;
6 and

7 (2) Designate the month of June as "Lū'au Month" in Hawaii.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
9 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
10 read as follows:

11 "§5- State food dish. Kalo is established and
12 designated as the official food dish of the State."

13 SECTION 3. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
15 read as follows:

16 "§8- Lū'au Month. The month of June shall be designated
17 as "Lū'au Month" to celebrate the cultural connection of Native
18 Hawaiians to the kalo plant, including lū'au, and the critical
19 role it plays in community health, sustainability, and economic
20 development. This month is not and shall not be construed as a
21 state holiday."



- 1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 55
S.D. 1
Proposed

Report Title:

Kalo; State Food Dish; Lū'au Month

Description:

Designates kalo as the official state food dish. Designates the month of June as "Lū'au Month" in Hawaii. (Proposed SD1)

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