



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
IN SUPPORT OF HR 63
Hearing date: March 17, 2021, 9:30AM

Aloha Committee Members:

We are Kevin Chang and Miwa Tamanaha, Co-Directors of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA).

KUA testifies in strong support of HR 63.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports three statewide networks: more than 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 38 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a and a 60+ growing group of limu practitioners and kupuna called the Limu Hui. All of the networks, communities, and individuals we work with recognize the importance of limu as the foundation of the nearshore marine environment's food chain and that the decrease in our shoreline fish stocks is directly related to the decline of limu. A first step in addressing an issue and/or renewing its significance is in recognizing it as this resolution does.

One of the founding kupuna of our first network E Alu Pū, Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr., a recognized loea limu (limu expert) grew up in Ewa Beach and personally witnessed the decline of limu there. He worked to create a Limu Management Area (LMA) in Ewa, a place legally designated for traditional limu gathering. Uncle Henry taught us that one of the main causes of the loss of limu is the loss of groundwater that once flowed abundantly along the shoreline. As the flow of groundwater decreased, limu abundance decreased. One of Uncle Henry's famous sayings was "No limu, no fish". Unfortunately, Uncle Henry passed away in 2015. He left a legacy which includes the Limu Hui, the Ewa LMA and the struggle to bring limu back to Ewa the way it once was. KUA works to perpetuate his legacy. This resolution is part of that legacy we wish he were here to testify on and help continue.

KUA supports SR 60 because having a "Year of the Limu" recognizes limu's significance to all of Hawai'i. It also uplifts the work and passion of generation of kupuna like Uncle Henry to perpetuate the deeper socio-cultural ties that bind us to these islands. We also feel this recognition will provide many opportunities to increase awareness and to educate Hawai'i's residents of the environmental and Hawaiian cultural significance of limu.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Testimony in Favor of HR 63
Declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu
March 16, 2021

Aloha,

My name is Wally Ito. I coordinate the Limu Hui, a statewide network of loea limu (limu experts) and people dedicated to learning about and sharing limu knowledge. I am also Project Manager for Ewa Limu Project. Both organizations are dedicated to limu education, limu awareness, and limu restoration efforts.

Limu is a key component of the nearshore marine ecosystem but this concept is not realized by many within our State. Loea limu have intimate knowledge of the many uses of limu. Not only for food but also for medicine and its use in many cultural and religious ceremonies. A healthy limu population is a key factor to a healthy reef ecosystem.

Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr. was one of the founding members of the Limu Hui and Ewa Limu project. He held much of the traditional limu 'ike which he freely shared with all. Uncle Henry grew up in Ewa Beach where he learned about the many uses of limu from his grandmother, mother, and aunt. As they grew older, he realized that he needed to share their knowledge with others otherwise all of their limu 'ike will be lost forever. Unfortunately, Uncle passed away almost six years ago but our Limu Hui continues Uncle Henry's legacy of limu education, limu awareness, and limu restoration.

Passing HR 63 will send a message that our State recognizes limu's importance and will trigger many limu related projects and activities which will benefit the people of our State for generations to come.

One of my favorite Uncle Henry quotes is "No Limu, No Fish".

Special mahalo to Representative LoPresti for introducing this Resolution. He represents a place that was once known as "The House of Limu" so he understands much of what I have articulated above. This is the time to get others to understand also.

Please feel free to email me any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Wally Ito

Limu Hui Coordinator, Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo
Project Manager, Ewa Limu Project
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HCR74/HR63

REQUESTING THAT THE YEAR 2022
BE DESIGNATED AS THE YEAR OF THE LIMU

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Mo‘omeheu, nā Hana No‘eau, a me ke Kuleana o Nā ‘Āina ‘ē
House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Malaki 17, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Lumi 329

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HCR74/HR63, which would declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu. **This measure will facilitate a greater appreciation for limu and will also reinforce existing efforts to transmit limu knowledge and practices to future generations.**

Limu is both a Native Hawaiian cultural heritage and also an integral part of a healthy, well-functioning ecosystem. Limu constitutes an important component of the traditional Native Hawaiian diet, along with fish and poi, and has also been used as medicine and for religious and cultural purposes such as in the conflict resolution process of ho‘oponopono. Limu also helps to filter runoff from the land, and provides necessary food and protection for juvenile fish.

Although this precious biocultural resource was once healthy and abundant, the native limu population has suffered greatly due to urban development, land use practices, improper harvesting, climate change, and other pressures. At the same time, changes to the Hawaiian lifestyle and diet, along with other socioeconomic factors, have contributed to the loss of traditional practices and ancestral knowledge, including the cultural connection to limu and the limu practices.

Despite the historic trauma caused by the loss of land, culture, and identity, Native Hawaiians remain resilient and are determined to transmit to future generations the knowledge and practices handed down by na kūpuna. Grassroots organizations such as Kua ‘Āina Ulu ‘Auamo help to empower and create capacity among limu practitioners while others like the Waimānalo Limu Hui work tirelessly to regrow limu and thereby reclaim cultural spaces. This measure will help to bring awareness to the cultural and ecological importance of limu, and will honor and reinforce the work of those such as Uncle Wally Ito and others who carry the torch of wisdom and ancestral knowledge handed down to us by kūpuna such as Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr., Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott, and countless more.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR74/HR63. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HR-63

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:57:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yagodich	Malama Pupukea-Waimea	Support	No

Comments:

We STRONGLY support HR63 requesting that 2022 be designated as Year of The Limu. Limu plays a critical part in the health of our nearshore reef ecosystems and is a valuable part of a resilient ahupua'a. Due to a decline in limu abundance and a lack of general limu knowledge and awareness, designating 2022 as Year of The Limu will provide opportunities to increase overall knowledge, will result in more awareness, and will benefit Hawai'i's nearshore fisheries and all the people of Hawai'i for generations to come.

March 16, 2021


Testimony Supporting HR 63 (Requesting that 2022 be designated as Year of the Limu)

Aloha Chair Gates and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of HR 63 “Requesting that 2022 be designated as Year of the limu”. I currently have the great privilege of being the Board President of Ke Kula Nui O Waimanalo, a grassroots non-profit based in Waimanalo striving to support a self-sustaining community and Hawaii. One of our programs that we operate is the “Waimanalo Limu Hui”, this program’s focus is “Restore Limu, Restore Pahonu, Restore Community”. The Waimanalo Limu Hui formed in 2017, from numerous kupuna of Waimanalo and their desire to have the native limu abundant for us today and for 300 generations into the future. Aunty Luana Albinio, Waimanalo Limu Hui founder and limu advisor, is a life-long resident of Waimanalo that grew up going to the beach to harvest limu for her kupuna to use to cook with, eat with, make medicine and many other uses on a weekly, sometimes even daily. All these skills she learned from her kupuna she passes on to her mo‘opuna and many other residents of Waimanalo. Aunty Luana’s desire to have limu sparked a movement in our organization and community to learn about limu, the nearshore ecosystem and what it was going to take to restore the abundance Aunty Luana remembers growing.

Waimanalo has a deep connection to limu that spans generations. Moolelo from many kupuna and documentation both oral and written mentions the abundance of limu in Waimanalo Bay. A prominent wind of Waimanalo is “Limu Lipuupuu”. It is said that this wind would carry the smell of the limu from the ocean all the way across the plains and valley to the base of the Koolau mountains. In the spring of 2020 an influx of limu lipoa washed upon our shorelines and we were blessed with the Limu Lipuupuu wind again. Many kupuna of our community also still malama limu grounds year around to harvest limu when they need and want.

Since November 2017, the Waimanalo Limu Hui has been hosting monthly community planting events (pre-covid restrictions) in Waimanalo Bay at Kaiona Beach Park on the east side of Oahu. The events regularly attract 75+ community members who come out to spend the day working and enjoying the beach with their families. Planting limu is a small kine labor intensive task. The volunteers start by making leis, with sprigs of spore and nutrient rich limu braided using natural fibers from native plants such as ule hala and hau. Then, the volunteers tie the leis to rocks that range in size from a softball to a basketball. The hui uses a raft constructed from a large inner tube and a piece of plywood to float the rock-anchored limu leis out into the bay for placement in strategic spots. The hui and community have noticed positive affects from the limu outplantings. We definitely see a lot more fish because as soon as the limu is planted, the fish come and eat them, which is great because just like the birds spread plant seeds on land,



the fish spread the limu spores. In the end the hui hopes the fish spread the spores throughout the bay and maybe over into the next town's bay. Our hui recognizes that replanting is important, but the replanting events are also an opportunity to create awareness and understanding in the community that in order to bring back the limu, we have to restore the water—we have to recharge the aquifer and the whole ecosystem mauka to makai. All of these affect the over all effort of restoring limu.

The work that the Waimanalo Limu Hui partakes in wouldnt be possible if it werent for the many kupuna limu practitioners from across the state supporting the efforts and sharing their limu knowledge. We have to especially appreciate the trailblazer in the world of limu Dr Isabella Abbott, she is pioneer of studying limu and sharing that knowledge through the many books and publications that she wrote over her career and lifetime. Next, Uncle Henry Chang-Wo and Uncle Walter Kamana who led the limu efforts of Oneula Beach Park, which led to the first designated Limu Management Area in the state. Waimanalo mirrors the work that Uncle Henry and Uncle Walter did for many years in the Ewa Beach (“House of the Limu”) community. Uncle Wally Ito of KUA, is a resource of our efforts and we rely on him for all of his limu knowledge he has learned over the years. Uncle always reminds us thst “if no more limu, no more fish”, and we Hawaiians and people of Hawaii rely on the ocean and fish to sustain us. The many limu practioners across the state such as; Koolau Limu Restoration Project, Lanai Limu Restoration Project, Ewa Limu Projects and the many other limu people doing the the importnat work. Lastly, our Kupuna limu experts of Waimanalo and across the state, that have that ‘ono for limu and want to perpetuate limu life for many many generations.

In conjunction of this resolution, we hope with this recognition we might build on actions toward restoration, education and economy that perpetuate its significance to our community like the prior HB 2020 from the 2016 legislative session. The Waimanalo Limu Hui wants to see this bill brought back to life in 2022, and are ready to explore opportunities in Limu efforts expanding; in the Year designated for LIMU, 2022!

In conclusion, on behalf of the Waimanalo Limu Hui, Ke Kula Nui o Waimanalo, and our kupuna and limu practioners of Waimanalo we are in strong STRONG support of SR60 and urge you to this resolution and initiative. We thank you for hearing this important resolution and designation, and are very excited for all things LIMU in the year 2022.

Mahalo nunui loa,



Kirk Deitschman
Ke Kula Nui O Waimanalo and Waimanalo Limu Hui
www.kekulanuiowaimanalo.org

HR-63

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:44:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I am in support of HCR74 designating 2021 as the year of the Limu. Limu is a very vital part of the ecosystem for our ocean, especially the corals and reef fish that depend on limu for survival. When I think of Limu, I think about uncle Henry from Ewa Beach, whose life mission was to restore and preserve limu. In honor of uncle Henry, I send my testimony,

mahalo,

Kaimi Kaupiko

808-937-1310

HR-63

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:25:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Costales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passage of HR63 to designate The Year 2022 as the Year of the Limu.

As a kid I spent a lot of time along the shorelines collecting limu (seaweed). Limu is part of the culture of Hawaii and has been used medicinally for healing purposes. Sadly, it has become scarce in many of the islands due to multiple unfavorable conditions.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.