



SCR135

REQUESTING THAT THE YEAR 2022

BE DESIGNATED AS THE YEAR OF THE LIMU

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai a me ke Ao Kūlohelohe
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Malaki 29, 2021

1:30 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers testimony in **SUPPORT** of SCR135, 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** SCR135. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 29, 2021
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 135
REQUESTING THAT THE YEAR 2022 BE DESIGNATED AS THE
YEAR OF THE LIMU**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 requests that the year 2022 be designated as the Year of the Limu. This resolution acknowledges and promotes the critical role that limu plays in our natural environment and in sustaining the people of Hawai‘i. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Traditionally, the word “limu” includes a broad range of organisms such as terrestrial moss and lichen, and even some marine zoanths. However, for the purpose of this testimony limu refers to aquatic botanical species such as algae and seagrass.

The Department has realized the decline of desirable limu species throughout the state. Currently, the Department is supporting non-government organizations in the propagation of limu species for community driven restoration projects. The Department is currently working with these partners to augment these activities.

Additionally, the Department has documented the proliferation of non-native algae and its detrimental impact on native benthic species such as limu and coral. In response, a decade ago the Department established an urchin hatchery. Urchins produced by the hatchery are released in areas with high concentrations of non-native algae. These urchins then feed on the non-native algae, reducing their populations.

The Department recognizes that in Hawai‘i’s modern context there is an underappreciation of limu. This resolution is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of limu in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
IN SUPPORT OF SCR 135
Hearing date: March 29, 2021, 1:30PM

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 SCR 135.

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 SCR 135 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.

SCR-135

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 1:09:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yagodich	Testifying for Malama Pupukeya-Waimea	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

We STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR135 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.

Mahalo nui!

SCR-135

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 8:59:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahina Duarte	Testifying for Kanaeokana	Support	No

Comments:



March 28, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: SCR135 Designation of 2022 as Year of the Limu

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, strongly supports SCR 135 to designate 2022 as the Year of the Limu.

Designating a Year of the Limu provides an opportunity for education and collective reflection on the importance of this often-overlooked plant life in our lives, streams, our shorelines, and reefs. This relationship to the things that make up 'Ā• ina – the land, the ocean, that which feeds- are fundamental to our community identity, environment, and survival. Indeed, it is widely recognized that as we lose our native limu we will continue to see a decrease in our shoreline's ability to feed us.

As a network of schools and organizations that use 'Ā• ina as a pedagogy to teach, we know we must raise awareness about the importance of Limu in our complex ecosystem. We must collectively work to preserve and learn about our natural resources if we are to be a sustainable and resilient place for future generations.

Therefore, we humbly ask the Committee to PASS SCR135.

Me Ka 'Oia'i'o

Mahina Paishon-Duarte, Co-Chair

Elena Farden, Co-Chair

KÅ• mike Advocacy

Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
IN SUPPORT OF SCR 135
Hearing date: March 29, 2021, 1:30PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

On behalf of the undersigned Native Hawaiian serving organizations, we submit this testimony in strong support for SCR 135. This resolution would declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu.

The Native Hawaiian community has long recognized the importance of limu as a biocultural resource – as food, as medicine, as a tool for peacemaking and religious tradition - and as a foundational life form in the nearshore marine environmental ecosystem and food chain.

Designating a Year of the Limu provides an opportunity for education and collective reflection on the importance of this often-overlooked plant life in our lives, streams, our shorelines, and reefs. This relationship to the things that make up ‘āina – the land, the ocean, that which feeds- are fundamental to our community identity, environment, and survival. Indeed, it is widely recognized that as we lose our native limu we will continue to see a decrease in our shoreline’s ability to feed us.

As our community’s relationship to resources like limu declines -like we have allowed many relationships to biocultural resources to decline- we begin to accept an environment where the traditional knowledge, cultural practices and values that uplift and depend on them decline also. These native and locally situated insights are essential to the survival and identity of the Native Hawaiian community and all our citizens. They are also significant for a world in which our connections to each other are frayed and will become increasingly tested as our climate and weather patterns change.

A first step in addressing an issue and/or renewing its significance is in recognizing it as this resolution does. Limu seems inherently harmless and for some easy to forget, and yet it is also recognizable to many. It has the potential to spark the imagination and love of our community for that which feeds us all.

We ask that you please pass SCR 135.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona.



Papa Ola Lōkahi



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EDUCATION COUNCIL



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FOUNDATION



The Kawaihapai Ohana

Thomas T Shirai Jr – P o’o

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Waialua, HI 96791

Email: Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com

March 26, 2021

RE: Testimony of Support for SCR 135 (Requesting that 2021 be designated Year of the Limu)

Aloha Chair Gabbard & Committee Members,

My name is Thomas T Shirai Jr and providing testimony both as an Individual and Po’o of The Kawaihapai Ohana is recognized as a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) by the Department of Interior’s Office of Hawaiian Relations and one of the first on their listing of NHO in 2007. As an individual I’m recognized both by State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection Act) as a Lineal Descendant for my Ohana Iwi Kupuna of Kawaihapai Ahupua’a. I am active in Community and Cultural Affairs, member of a Piko Ohana of Waialua Moku and lifetime resident of Mokule’ia serving my fourth consecutive term on the North Shore Neighborhood Board Sub-District 1 (Mokule’ia to Ka’ena). I’m also a member of the Mokule’ia Community Association, served on The DLNR’s Ka’ena Point Advisory Group and two terms of the Oahu Island Burial Council (OIBC). Lastly I’ve served on The Office of Hawaiian Affairs’s Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council.

Mahalo Piha to Senator Curt Favella for introducing SCR 135/SR 60 which is highly deserving and recognizing among the many Kupuna and Organizations that continue their Kuleana to Protect, Preserve and Educate everyone about Limu both as a food and medicinal resource.

These Native Hawaiian Kupuna come to my mind who were at the forefront of this Kuleana and they are:

Professor Isabella Abbott an Ethnobotanist who wrote publications about Limu and La’au Lapa’au. She was active in preservation and education at Maunaloa Bay.



Both Walter Kamana and Henry Chang Wo are fishermen who led efforts and education at Oneula Beach Park in Ewa.



Jerry Kaluhiwa led efforts in restoring Limu in Kaneohe Bay

Several songs that includes Edith Kanakaole's composition *Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai* speak of the different Limu.



For many years "Sailors Hat" on Kahoolawe Island has only been just a lake created by the Navy cracking the water table making it brackish water suitable for growing an edible species of Limu called Ogo that could have been raised for subsistence purposes for the Native Hawaiian Community. Similar could be done at the former Ka'ena Quarry here in Waialua where again the water table was cracked and making it brackish water suitable for growing Limu as part of Aquaculture.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony of Strong Support for SCR 135 (Requesting that 2022 be designated Year of the Limu) and it's companion SR 60 SD1 in the Senate along with HCR 74 HD1 and HR 63 in the House. Malama I Ke Kai.

Thomas T Shirai Jr

Mokule'ia, Waialua

SCR-135

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 11:05:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faylene Mahina Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

As the founding executive director of Paepae o He'eia, a local non-profit that is restoring a historic Hawaiian fishpond on the Ko'olau coast of O'ahu, I understand first-hand of the importance of limu in our aquatic and marine ecosystems. I fully **support** this bill.

Hawai'i would be well served to honor and acknowledge the role and importance of limu in Hawai'i.

me ka mahalo,

Mahina Paishon-Duarte

SCR-135

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 1:03:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this resolution.

Testimony in Favor of SCR 135
Declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu
March 28, 2021

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

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 SCR 135 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 Senator Fevella 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
wally@kuahawaii.org

