



# The Senate

## RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EAST MAUI TARO FESTIVAL

The Hawai'i State Senate is proud to formally recognize community events dedicated to cultural education and the preservation and promotion of traditional Hawaiian practices. The community of Hana on the island of Maui exemplifies these values each year when individuals and organizations gather together for the annual East Maui Taro Festival.

On Saturday, April 21, 2012, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual East Maui Taro Festival will be held at the Hana Ballpark. The mission of each festival is to promote and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian culture and practices with a focus on taro as it is the symbol and staple of the Hawaiian (kanaka maoli) people. The event is an opportunity to expose younger Hawaiians to their heritage. Each year, the Taro Festival helps bridge the cultural gap between the older generations and the younger ones thereby perpetuating traditional Hawaiian knowledge and culture for all future generations.

The life of Kanaka Maoli, the indigenous Hawaiian people, is linked closely with kalo, also known as the taro plant. Kalo is believed to have the greatest life force of all foods. According to the Kumulipo, the creation chant, kalo grew from the first-born son of Wākea (sky father) and Papa (earth mother), through Wākea's relationship with his and Papa's daughter, Ho'ohokulani. Hāloa-naka, as the son was named, was stillborn and buried. Out of his body grew the kalo plant, also called Hāloa, which means everlasting breath. Kalo and poi (pounded kalo) are a means of survival for the Hawaiian people. By eating kalo as poi, one at a time as a ritual around the poi bowl ('umeke) at the center of the diners, the protocol of Hawai'i is maintained. This is a ceremony of life that brings people together and supports a relationship of 'ohana (family) and of appreciation with the 'aumākua (ancestors).

The Senate of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i hereby recognizes the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual East Maui Taro Festival and all its participants and organizers over the years for their significant contributions in preserving the Hawaiian culture and extends its aloha and best wishes in all future endeavors.



The 26th Legislature  
Certificate No. 767

*William K. Kalahe*  
*Michelle Hideni*  
*Anna Mercedes Ai*  
 Done this 21st day of April 2012  
 State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i  
*J. Kalani English*  
 J. Kalani English, Sponsoring Senator  
*S. S. T. S.*  
 Shan S. Tsutsui, President of the Senate  
*Carol Taniguchi*  
 Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate