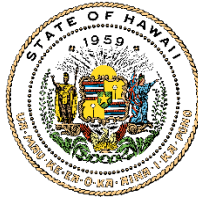


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
10:15 AM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 819
RELATING TO LIMU KALA

House Bill 819 proposes to designate Limu Kala (*Sargassum echinocarpum*) as the official Hawai'i State Limu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) fully supports this measure.**

This bill acknowledges and promotes the critical role that limu plays in our natural environment and in sustaining the people of Hawai'i. Limu Kala is an excellent choice for the State Limu due to its numerous uses and significant cultural importance. Traditionally, the word "limu" included a broad range of organisms such as terrestrial moss and lichen, and even some marine zoanthids. 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, including Limu Kala, throughout the State. Currently, the Department is supporting non-government organizations in the propagation of limu species for community driven restoration projects.

Additionally, the Department has documented the proliferation of limu'ē (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 limu'ē concentrations. These urchins then feed on the limu'ē, reducing their populations.

DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H. E. KAAKUA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department recognizes that in Hawai‘i’s modern context there is an underappreciation of limu. House Bill 819 is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of limu in Hawai‘i, particularly Limu Kala.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



Testimony Before The
House Committees on Culture, Arts and International Affairs and Health and Homelessness
IN SUPPORT OF HB 819
February 15, 2023, 10:15AM, Room 309

We are Malia Heimuli and Kevin Chang the Limu Hui Coordinator and Executive Director, respectively, of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions 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 a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko l'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui.

KUA supports HB 819 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

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 SB 1037 because recognition of the significant socio-cultural dimensions of Limu Kala helps to elevate the importance of the resources, people and culture of Hawai'i broadly. It also uplifts the work and passion of generations of kūpuna 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 Kala and all limu.

Lastly, this bill is significant to Hawai'i's leadership in the world. Limu Kala is significant to Native Hawaiian processes of reconciliation and healing. Global environmental governance has begun to disentangle the *hīhia* of colonial environmental history reconciliation is a major theme on the pathway toward better caring for our planet together. In this regard Hawai'i is not just a leader for its own kupa'āina but for the world.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!



Testimony Before The
House Committees on Culture, Arts and International Affairs (CAI) and
Health and Homelessness (HH)

IN SUPPORT OF HB 819

February 15, 2023, 10:15AM, Room 309

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Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!



Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

February 12, 2023

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for **HB819**: Relating to Limu Kala

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Senate Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs,

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is the grassroots, community non-profit that actively works to care for, educate about, and protect our fragile, near-shore marine ecosystems of Pūpūkea and Waimea. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships."

We are pleased to offer strong support of HB819. As part of the work we do, we have been monitoring the limu at Papakahāohina (a reef flat at Kapo'o/Sharks Cove) for the past seven years and have identified 32 native species of limu there so far, including Limu Kala, which is by far the most abundant. We regularly offer limu education for anyone, keiki to kupuna, and often host visits to the reef flat to learn more about this very important and special part of a healthy marine ecosystem.

In addition to being a significant source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber with many uses for traditional medicine, limu is a critically important component of a healthy, productive reef ecosystem. Limu is a primary producer and the base of the nearshore marine food chain, an important habitat for many marine creatures, and a key indicator of the health and resilience of the ahupua'a. Limu Kala, specifically, is special because has many uses for Native Hawaiian cultural ceremonies, is used in traditional fishing, and in the protection of ocean voyagers,

Naming Limu Kala as the State limu will help to bring awareness to the recapture, retention and sharing of limu cultural knowledge that will benefit the nearshore fishery and all people of Hawai'i for future generations.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony. **We strongly support HB819.**

Mahalo nui,

Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:10:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Murata	Malama Limu Club, Kamehameha Schools Kapalama	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Mālama Limu Club of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama strongly supports HB819.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 8:06:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STANLEY RUIDAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB819

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 12:27:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Haws	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying as a private citizen. I have 38 years of experience in aquaculture and natural resource management and would like to support this bill. Part of my research as a Professor of Aquaculture at the University of Hawaii Hilo focuses on seaweed (limu) culture and conservation. The activities related to limu over the last year under the auspices of the "Year of Limu" have been highly effective in raising awareness of the importance of limu for cultural, economic and environmental reasons. The energy and initiatives catalyzed by the "Year of Limu" can be sustained for many years by naming Limu Kala as the state limu. As an educator, I can attest to the important of state organisms and the attention they garner, particularly from school children and educators. As we all know, limu kala holds a very special place in Hawaiian culture and choosing it as the state limu would be most appropriate and will provide many benefits for years to come. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:46:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt Limu Kala as our state limu. With it's cultural significance and vital role it plays in our marine ecosystem, we need to recognize this limu as our state limu.

‘Auhea ke kala?

Kala loloa, kala.

Kala loloa o kai.

Kala.

Kala maewa ‘ana i kai

Kai pīkai kala ē

E kala ka hewa kua,

E kala ka hewa alo,

E kala loa ka hewa a kānaka,

I ola loa kanaka.

A puaaneane

‘O ka‘u pule kala nō ia

Ua lele a‘ela nei pule

Lele!

- U'ilani

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:14:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grant Murata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill. We celebrate many things and this is worthy of creating a state designation for its cultural and environmental significance.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:18:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laa Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill designating kala as the official state limu. Thank you.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:49:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Poaipuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm submitting testimony in support of HB819.

Līmu holds ecological and cultural significance to the State. Four endemic species of limu kala grow in Hawai'i waters: *S. echinocarpum*, *S. hawaiiensis*, *S. obtusifolium* and *S. polyphyllum*. Limu kala is common in the nearshore ecosystem and is abundant seasonally in many intertidal and subtidal habitats including tidepools and reef flats in areas with moderate to high wave action.action.

Limu is an important food source and is rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber and has many uses for traditional medicine. Limu kala, specifically, is used to treat minor cuts and scratches, limu also has many uses for cultural ceremonies. Līmu kala, specifically, is used in the conflict resolution process of ho'oponopono and in the protection of ocean Voyagers.

While much of the limu-based cultural knowledge has been lost over many generations due to lack of knowledge and awareness of limu's significant importance, the recapture, retention and sharing of limu cultural knowledge will benefit the nearshore fishery and all people of Hawai'i for future generations.

Please vote in support of HB819, mahalo!

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:35:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB819 because limu holds an ecological and cultural significance to Hawai‘i. Limu is a critically important component of a healthy and productive reef ecosystem. We need to honor and prioritize taking care of the native limu we have here to make sure our ecosystems are flourishing and will be here for the next generations.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:45:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am writing to express my strong support of HB319. Limu kala is an important part of Hawaiian culture and an important part of our ocean ecosystems. Limu feeds the fish which in turns feeds us. 2022 was the Year of the Limu which helped bring awareness to the importance of limu to our communities and Hawaii as a whole. Recognizing limu kala as the official limu of Hawaii will provide further educational opportunities and help honor limu kala as the significant food and medicine that it is. Please pass HB319.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lorraine Waianuhea

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:06:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please vote in favor of this bill to give needed recognition to a very important and often overlooked park of our ocean ecosystem.

Bret Mossman

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:37:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Rosenbush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB819. As a Native Hawaiian, I care deeply about limu in general. They were once a regular part of my kupuna's diet, and they were also used for other things like medicine, dye, and more. Limu is also important to me as a wahine because limu picking roles were typically assigned to Hawaiian women.

Limu Kala in particular holds a special place in my heart. It was edible and used for cultural practices, such as the forgiveness ceremony. During the forgiveness ceremony, fragments of it were spread amongst quarreling people. Then, those people would sit in a circle, holding their fragments of Limu Kala, and talk out their issues. The limu was a unifying force. I believe that this concept works well for Hawaii, as we must strive to find solutions to our problems, together. Finally, I believe that Limu Kala is the most beautiful limu of all. It's delicate, intricate spikes and dreamy, golden color lighten up my day. It is most fitting that this beautiful limu should represent the most beautiful state in the United States.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:36:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadon Koa Dumlao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:38:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainalu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill in recognizing Limu Kala as the State limu of Hawai'i. Limu is important to me and my culture on many levels as well as many communities across Hawai'i. I want our future generations to know the significance of our various limu and I believe this bill is a great avenue to do so.

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:01:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie S. Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the committee hearing HB819,

My name is Ellie and I am a marine scientist, fisher, and resident of Mānoa Valley on O‘ahu. I am writing in support of this bill to designate Limu Kala (Sargassum aquifolium) as the official State Limu of Hawai‘i in order to raise awareness for this beloved limu. Sargassum has special cultural and ecological significance to Hawai‘i, but much of the cultural knowledge surrounding use of limu kala for bait, wound healing, and protecting ocean voyages may be lost if it is not highlighted and passed down. Designating limu kala as the state limu will help to perpetuate this knowledge. Additionally, it will build on the precedence of limu appreciation and awareness set by last year’s Year of the Limu in 2022. The designation of 2022 as Year of the Limu brought together people from around the state all year to celebrate, learn about, and share knowledge of native limu in our State waters. Designating limu kala as the official State Limu of Hawai‘i will build on last year’s momentum for recognition of the significance of limu to Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for hearing this bill and for your support.

Ellie S Jones

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:25:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Limu kala is an appropriate limu to name as our state limu. As an effort of kūpuna practitioners and experts who have come before us, please consider moving this bill forward. Mahalo piha!

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:22:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:24:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill

LATE

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 2:42:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Tam and Belatti, Vice Chairs Martinez and Takenouchi, and Committee members,

I support HB819.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo

LATE

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:13:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelani Steward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I am writing in support of SB1037. Limu is a critical component of our nearshore environment and is extremely important for our cultural practices. Limu is an important part of Hawai'i, and SB1037 can serve as an opportunity to continue to educate Hawai'i's people of the environmental and cultural significance of limu. Please support SB1037.

Mahalo!

LATE

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:28:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why in the world would we need a state seaweed? Waste of government time

Mrs Ruth Love

LATE

HB-819

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:21:55 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/15/2023 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.