

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 House Committee on
CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 203
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO RECAPTURE, RETAIN, AND SHARE THE CULTURAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF LIMU KALA.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 203 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop programs to recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of limu kala. **The Department supports this measure and offers comments.**

The Department recognizes 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 has made a recent investment in this effort by upgrading limu production tanks at the Anuenue Fisheries Research Center (AFRC) on Sand Island. The Department currently produces ogo, palahalaha, and lepe-o-Hina at AFRC and makes them available for community limu restoration efforts.

As for limu kala, during the past ten years the Department has supported the University of Hawaii's Botany Department's research related to propagating limu kala. Although this has been a challenging endeavor, the Department plans to continue this support by providing seawater, tanks, electricity, and technical guidance as the Department has done in the past.

The Department often participates in limu outreach events with non-government partners. As these efforts continue, the Department will ensure to highlight the importance of limu kala in an effort to recapture, retain, and share the cultural, and environmental knowledge of limu kala for the people of Hawaii. The Department recognizes that in Hawaii's modern context there is an underappreciation of limu. This resolution is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of limu in Hawaii.

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
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
IN SUPPORT OF SCR 203
April 13, 2022, 10:00AM, Room 329

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 I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui.

KUA supports SCR 203 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 SCR 203 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!

SCR-203

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 4:06:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/13/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Heimuli	Limu Hui with Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kua,

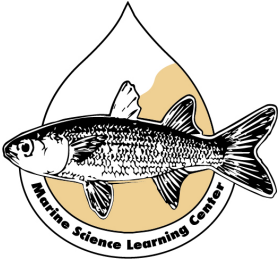
As a representative of the Limu Hui and Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA), we are in support of SCR 203 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO RECAPTURE, RETAIN, AND SHARE THE CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF LIMU KALA.

Please consider passing this resolution for the perpetuation of Hawai'i limu for future generations. E Ola Limu!

Malam pono,

Malia Heimuli

Limu Hui Coordinator with Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)



The Marine Science Learning Center at Wai'anae High School

85-251 Farrington Hwy, Wai'anae HI 96792

Phone: (808) 697-9400

April 12, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 1 p.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: SCR203 Re: Limu Kala; Hawaii State Limu

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Kealoha, I am the coordinator for the Marine Science Learning Center at Wai'anae High School, and I am writing to encourage you to support Resolution 203 which would establish Limu Kala as the Hawaii State Limu and encourage DLNR to develop programs to capture, maintain and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of limu kala.

Hawaii has four endemic sargassum species, all commonly referred to as limu kala. Probably the most culturally significant and easily identifiable Hawaiian limu, limu kala serves many important functions, both ecologically and culturally. Almost anyone who has grown up visiting Hawai'i's coastlines will recognize it, and it serves as a key building block, both as food and habitat, in the lives of Hawai'i's many unique and valuable coastal species. It's name, kala, which means to release or forgive, makes it an apt symbol for Hawaiian practices of conflict resolution, as well as ceremonies meant to release people from illness. As a high school teacher, I make sure to help my students to learn to identify their limu, as well as understand it's uses and importance. I can see through these conversations that much of the community and folk knowledge we consider to exist relating to Hawaiian seaweeds in general has been greatly reduced with the passage of time, at least in my community, and there is a need to reinvigorate interest in the next generation.

This resolution would provide opportunities for all the communities in Hawaii to learn about Hawai'i's native limu, increase interest and care in the health of our coastal resources and insure that valuable knowledge is not lost. I urge you to support it's passage.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Katie Kealoha



April 11, 2022

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for **SCR203**: Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop programs to recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of limu kala.

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

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

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005 that cares for, educates about, and protects the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD).

Board of Directors

Denise Antolini
Anne Chung
Sydney Covell
Bob Leinau
Jacqueline Leinau

A very large part of the work we do is educating youth and adults alike about Hawai'i's fragile marine ecosystems. Limu (seaweed) is a critical part of those ecosystems, and we are very pleased to see actions that help bring attention to and awareness of the importance of limu both environmentally and culturally. As the basis of the food chain, all marine life relies on healthy and abundant limu. Limu kala, especially, is a favorite of kala fish (Bluespine and Orangespine Unicornfishes).

Advisory Council

Athline Clark
John Cutting
Dr. Alan Friedlander
Debbie Gowensmith
Maxx E. Phillips
Bill Quinlan
Palakiko Yagodich

SCR203 is important to help move the conversation about limu forward and to engage the Legislature, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the public in efforts recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of limu, specifically, limu kala. In addition, these resolutions will lay the foundation for the designation of limu kala as Hawai'i's State Limu next session.

Staff

Jenny Yagodich, Director of Educational Programs & Makai Watch Coordinator

Mahalo nui for your consideration of SCR203,

Jenny Yagodich

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

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

SCR-203

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 7:39:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/13/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this important resolution to recapture, retain and share the cultural and environmental knowlege of limu kala, and urges the Committee to pass Resolution SCR203!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

SCR-203

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 8:24:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/13/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORTS!

SCR-203

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 7:48:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/13/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miwa Tamanaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write today in strong support of SCR203. DLNR programs for learning, retaining, and sharing cultural and environmental knowledge about limu will benefit nearshore fisheries and all residents of the State for many generations.

Miwa Tamanaha

94-1144 Moololo St, Waipahu 96797

Dennis H. Fujii
Pamela Lota Fujii
520 Kuli'ou'ou Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
kapiolehua@gmail.com
(808) 255-6207

April 12, 2022

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

Re: Support SCR 203 Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop Programs to Recapture, Retain and Share the Cultural and the Environmental Knowledge of Limu Kala to have Limu Kala become the Hawaii State Limu

Dear Senators Inouye and Keith-Agaran:

My name is Dennis H. Fujii and my wife is Pamela Lota Fujii. We have lived in the ahupuaa of Kuli'ou'ou for 40 years and are volunteers with the Ewa Limu Project, Limu Hui, Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA), Waimanalo Limu Hui, Paepae O Heeia, Keiki O Ka Aina, Hui Malama O Ke Kai and the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center.

As volunteers for these community organizations we help restore our fishponds, native limu and nearshore habitats to bring abundance back to our islands and to ensure that traditional and cultural practices are sustained for future generations.

As Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp said, "In the days of our ancestors, limu, poi, and fish were considered significant components of a nutritionally balanced diet and were part of our food security. It was normal for Kānaka Maoli households to always have limu on hand. For too long limu has been underappreciated for its role in our culture, medicine and food sustainability. With 2022 now proclaimed as the "Year of the Limu," limu is finally being recognized for its role in helping to feed our identity as well as our bodies."

We strongly support SCR 203 Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop Programs to Recapture, Retain and Share the Cultural and the Environmental Knowledge of Limu Kala to have Limu Kala become the Hawaii State Limu.

Supporting this measure empowers communities to PROTECT, PRESERVE AND PERPETUATE our native resources FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

As Uncle Henry Chang Wo said, "Limu is so essential, it is the start of life, we need it."

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit written testimony

Dennis H. Fujii and Pamela Lota Fujii

SCR-203

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 10:33:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/13/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the committee hearing SCR 203,

My name is Ellie Jones and I testify in support of this resolution as a marine scientist, conservationist, diver, fisher, and science communicator living on O'ahu.

2022 has been designated in Hawai'i as the Year of the Limu to preserve and share knowledge and cultural practices relating to limu. Limu is such an important organism, not only for the culture and history of Hawai'i, but for the health of its natural ecosystems as well. Limu, especially limu kala, is an important food source for herbivorous fishes, which supports thriving fisheries and healthy coral reefs.

Furthermore, limu kala holds significant cultural importance for the State of Hawai'i. Traditional knowledge of the use of limu kala for customs and fishing requires specific attention to preserve. Without programs dedicated to preserving this knowledge, it is in danger of being lost in time. This is why it is important that this resolution passes to develop programs to recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of limu kala for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and support of SCR 203.

Sincerely,

Ellie S Jones

Erika Ishii
P.O Box 235
Kōloa, Hawai'i 96756

April 12, 2022

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Support for SR196 and SCR203

Aloha Committee on Water and Land,

I support SR196 and SCR203 for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop programs to recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental knowledge of Limu Kala. I support the resolution that 2022 is the year of the limu, with the urgency to share knowledge of limu.

As a Hawaiian, I've lived all my life on the island of Kaua'i and currently board as a high school senior on O'ahu. I have been learning about limu within the past school year in a Marine Science class and being an intern of Mauiola Ke'ehi. I believe that the DLNR should support opportunities for teaching and learning about Limu Kala because it is used for food, has health benefits, and is used in ceremonial practices.

Limu is the base of the marine food chains. Without limu, Hawaii residents would not have fish to eat now and in the future. Limu can also be used to heal cuts and scratches, and is a source of vitamins and minerals. Limu Kala is vital to Hawaiian ceremonial practices of ho'oponopono.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Mahalo, Erika Ishii.