

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, March 30, 2022
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 203/SENATE RESOLUTION 196
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/Senate Resolution 196 urge 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 these measures and offers the following 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, Department staff will be sure 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.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department recognizes that in Hawaii's modern context there is an underappreciation of limu. These resolutions are an excellent opportunity to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of limu in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SCR-203

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:45:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Sakoda	Testifying for DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



DATE March 29, 2022

Supporting testimony for SCR 203

Aloha Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned Native Hawaiian serving organizations, we submit this testimony in strong support for SCR 203. This resolution would urge the development of programs to educate on the importance of limu kala. With this resolution, we hope to make Limu Kala as the Hawai'i State Limu in future legislation.

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 ceremonial tradition - and as a foundational life form in the nearshore marine environmental ecosystem and food chain.

Educational programs centered around limu provide an opportunity for communities to reflect on the importance of this often-overlooked plant life in our lives, streams, our shorelines, and reefs and will help in the protection of limu for future generations. 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 203.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!

Malia Heimuli
Limu Hui Coordinator of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF SR 196 & SCR 203
March 30, 2022, 1:00PM, Room 229

We are Malia Heimuli, Limu Hui Coordinator Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director 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.

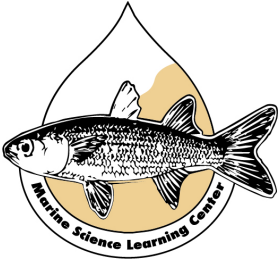
KUA supports SR 196 and SCR 203 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

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 SR 196 because having a "Hawai'i State Limu" recognizes limu's significance to all of Hawai'i. 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!



The Marine Science Learning Center at Wai'anae High School

85-251 Farrington Hwy, Wai'anae HI 96792

Phone: (808) 697-9400

March 29, 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



March 29, 2022

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for **SR196 and 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.

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

**Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712**

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Makai Watch Coordinator*

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

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

As you know, 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).

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.

SR196 and SCR203 are 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.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of SR196 and SCR203,

Jenny Yagodich

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

SCR-203

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 7:00:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Committee

Room Date/Time

I URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO RECAPTURE, RETAIN, AND SHARE THE CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF LIMU KALA.

SCR-203

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:43:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution!

SCR-203

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:29:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Starting at the bottom of the food chain is the correct way to go.

SCR-203

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:57:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselani Kahooalahala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill! Mahalo!