



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!



DATE March 29, 2022

Supporting Testimony for SR 196

Aloha Committee Members,

I am Malia Heimuli, Limu Hui Coordinator of Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo (or KUA).

KUA testifies in strong support of SR 196.

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 kūpuna 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 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!

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



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**

Board of Directors

*Denise Antolini
Anne Chung
Sydney Covell
Bob Leinau
Jacqueline Leinau*

Advisory Council

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

Staff

*Jenny Yagodich, Director of
Educational Programs &
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

SR-196

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 7:02:47 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.		

SR-196

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:56:34 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. Limu kala is such an important limu! Mahalo!