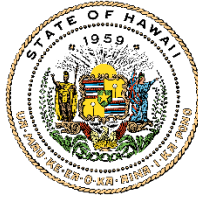


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN KP KANAKAOLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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 of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1899
RELATING TO STATE SNAILS**

House Bill 1899 proposes to designate certain snail species as official state snails. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Hawaiian tree snails are known as the “Jewels of the Hawaiian Forest” due to their beautiful shells. They exist nowhere else on earth and help sustain healthy forest ecosystems. Many ancient Hawaiian tales refer to snails that sing in the forest. In Hawaiian custom, snails are the voice of the forest, and they embody the Polynesian oral tradition of passing on one’s genealogy through singing, making them extremely important to the cultural practices of hula and chant.

Many of these snail species are so unique that the genealogical family is entirely composed of species found only in Hawai‘i. Hawaiian snails represent one of the most stunning examples of species evolution in the world. Unfortunately, it is estimated that over half of the seven hundred fifty terrestrial Hawaiian snail species have gone extinct. Many of the surviving species have very small populations and are now only known to exist in a few remote locations.

The Department’s Snail Extinction Prevention Program is breeding many of these species in laboratories and protecting wild populations with small predator proof fences. These fences provide complete protection from rats, invasive predatory snails, and Jackson’s chameleons. Inside these fences, the snail populations rebound naturally and provide hope for the future continuation of these species.

This two-part strategy is part of the emergency multi-island efforts underway to save our tree snails and ensure they remain on the landscape where they have lived for millennia. There is no other viable option for protecting wild populations of these species that once were a familiar and legendary part of the native Hawaiian forests.

The designation of these snails as the official state snails will bring awareness to both the importance of these terrestrial snails and the urgent need to save the remaining snails.

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



House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
10:00AM Conference Room 309 and Videoconference

Testimony in Support for HB1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kailee Lefebvre and I am testifying on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). **We are in support of HB1899, *Relating to State Snails*** which would designate certain snail species as official state snails.

I lived on Oahu my entire life and worked in conservation for the past 10 years and only a few years ago found out what Kāhuli are. It's embarrassing to admit that I knew nothing of these beautiful, charismatic, unique, and critical ecosystem providers. I have since learned that there are very few, if any wild populations of kāhuli and live populations are survived by caring human hands in captivity in a lab or an enclosure. I have also learned about their vital role as tiny forest cleaners, helping to keep our watersheds healthy. I've even heard of mo'olelo which spoke of the legend of the singing kāhuli in the forest, calling to birds to bring them a drink of water. My lack of awareness is not uncommon, as I have had the opportunity to teach many others about the species, especially since the Governor proclaimed 2023 the Year of the Kāhuli.

This lack of awareness in the community is the reason why we support HB1899. The Year of the Kāhuli proclamation was a great campaign that has caught the excitement and interest of many in the community but it was only for the year. We would like to see continued engagement from the community and change-makers, especially in taking actions to protect kāhuli. Please support the conservation efforts of these native species, our watersheds, and Hawaiian culture by passing HB1899.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kailee Lefebvre
CGAPS Planner
kaileehl@hawaii.edu (808) 726-0181

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Jan 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

We want you to pass a law to help the Kahuli. The Kahuli snails are important in many ways. They are in many mo'olelo, chants, songs and other parts of Hawaiian culture. They also put nutrients like nitrogen back in the soil so they are kind of like our decomposers and play an important role in our ecosystem. However, because of people bringing invasive species, destruction of their native habitats, and collecting too many shells, the Kahuli population is lowering.

So far, groups like the Snail Extinction Prevention Program are putting the snails in a safe place where no predator can get through to try and help the snails. Other people are trying to spread awareness on what is happening to the Kahuli snails to help them. With your help, we want you to help pass a law to help the Kahuli so the Kahuli don't go extinct.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Gino
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Jan 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

We want you to pass a law to help the Kahuli. The Kahuli snails are important in many ways. They are in many mo'olelo, chants, songs and other parts of Hawaiian culture. They also put nutrients like nitrogen back in the soil so they are kind of like our decomposers and play an important role in our ecosystem. However, because of people bringing invasive species, destruction of their native habitats, and collecting too many shells, the Kahuli population is lowering.

So far, groups like the Snail Extinction Prevention Program are putting the snails in a safe place where no predator can get through to try and help the snails. Other people are trying to spread awareness on what is happening to the Kahuli snails to help them. With your help, we want you to help pass a law to help the Kahuli so the Kahuli don't go extinct.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Gino
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The Kahuli are important to Hawaii's ecosystem. Kahuli help our plants by getting out all the fungus in plants and trees. They especially help the ohia lehua with getting the fungus out. They are very important to Hawaiian culture. They are important to Hawaiian culture because they use them in mo'olelo and in dances they also use them to make necklaces they use their shells. Animals like Rats, the giant african snail, rosy wolfsnail and jackson chameleons are predators to the Kahuli. One thing that people are doing to help the Kahuli is keeping them in a laboratory. In the laboratory they breed the snails to make the population larger. In the laboratory they clean the cages. They also make fungus for the Kahuli. To protect Kahuli we should keep an eye out for them and make an area only for Kahuli.

Sincerely,

Amaya Winqvist
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,
I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The Kahuli are very important to the ecosystem. Kahuli can do very amazing things to save the land of Hawaii. They are the ones who keep the environment clean by eating fungus, and bacteria. They are going extinct just like the Kauai O'o bird. So we at Manoa School want to help them from going extinct. So we want you to know what is killing them and how we can stop them from going extinct. The things that eat the snails are Rats, Jackson Chameleon, and Rosy Wolf Snails. We can stop this by keeping these snails in an incubator or a "fridge" for snails. So this is why we should provide more snail incubators to keep them from dying and make them repopulate just like before when humans came when there used to be 750 species, but now today there are only 18 species left. So let us Oahu and all the people on it, and future generations rise up to the challenge and help pass a law so these snails don't go extinct.

Sincerely,
Isaiah Harden
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 18, 2014
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

Kahuli are important to many cultures & the ecosystem. They are used in oli, mo'olelo, mele, and they are sometimes used for jewelry. The Kahuli are land animals that take dead leaves and other things that need to be decomposed and break it down so that the plant can become nutrients for the soil. However, many rodents, birds, carnivorous snails, jackson chameleons, and even we are hurting the Kahuli population as they eat and kill them slowly. It is predicted that most large native snails will probably be extinct by the next 10 years if nothing is done. Scientists are keeping them in a safe container so that they can mate and slowly the Kahuli can grow a little. After they are done mating they are released into the Ko'olau where their predators are kept away by a fence that zaps the carnivorous snails and the fence is tall enough to where the other animals can't get in. But this isn't enough, we all need to do something about it. We should make a law to protect Kahuli so that more people will care about them and they won't go extinct.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Louie
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 18, 2024
Conference room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez , and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The Kahuli are important to the land of Oahu because of the amazing things they do for our land. The Kahuli reproduce the land and give back to nature, they go on plants and put nutrients like nitrogen on the leaves to help make plants easier to grow. The Kahuli are also known for their Oli, mo'olelo, meles, and beautiful jewelry they provide. The Kahuli are really important for our ecosystem because they are our decomposers, without them our land would be full of piles of leaves in our forest. Since the Kahuli are small and don't have any defense they are a very popular source of food for pigs, deer, jackson chameleons, other types of snails, and rats. Since the snails are such a popular food source the population of the Kahuli are going down, before there were 350 different species but today there are only 18 different species.

But with the help of the Snail Extinction Prevention Program they save and store snails from becoming truly extinct, they put the snails in a fenced area so no predators get in. We would like you to pass a law for our Kahuli to be protected and safe. We want you to spread a message about our Kahuli going extinct so people will know and care.

Sincerely,
Khloe Ichiyama
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 18th, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate curtain snail species as our official state snails.

Our Kahuli are important because they help save our native plants, the ohia lehua, recycle organic matter, and are our foundation to our watershed. Hawaiian culture treasures the Kahuli by celebrating them in mo'olelo, mele, and in oli. Kahuli eat fungus so they act as a natural antifungal for the ohia. Kahuli are being threatened by rosy wolfsnails, rats, jackson chameleons, and people because people used to go into the mountain to collect the Kahuli shells. Scientists are currently collecting and breeding Kahuli to get their numbers back up to prevent the Kahuli from going extinct. If we have a law that makes the Kahuli our state snails then people will learn more about our Kahuli and care so that they hopefully will not go extinct.

Sincerely,

Kaimalie Jensen
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

We should start saving the kahuli more. There used to be 325 different species on the islands, but now there are only 18. The Kahuli are an important part of Hawaiian culture, they are featured in many of their oli, mele, mo'olelo, and their jewelry. They are also an important part of our ecosystem because they eat the fungi and dead leaves of plants, but not harming the plant and release nutrients into the soil. They are on the brink of extinction because they are being eaten by rats, the giant african snail, Jackson chameleon, and the dangerous rosy wolfsnail that was brought here to counter the giant african snail. They also were collected by the thousands by people. David Sischo is the coordinator of the Snail Extinction Prevention Program and their program set up 5 snail breeding centers on O'ahu for them to breed and then released into an enclosure so the popollation can keep on growing. We should pass a law to protect Kahuli, let more people know about the Kahuli, so we can keep the Kahuli from going extinct.

Sincerely,
Dylan Ueda
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

Kāhuli are not only important in hawaiian culture, but also as Hawaii's decomposers. Kāhuli are mentioned in hawaiian oli, mele, and mo'olelo, and made in hawaiian jewelry. Kamehameha the third's summer house was named after kāhuli. However, today Kāhuli are threatened by hooved animals, carnivores snails, Jackson chameleons, rats, and people. Right now people are captive-breeding kāhuli to keep them from going extinct, and also built them a closed off area that prevents predators from killing them. You can help us by passing a law to protect kāhuli. Then more people will know and care about them, so hopefully they won't go extinct.

Sincerely,

Autumn Yamashiro
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Cultures, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Maritnez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The Kahuli in Hawaii is an important part of our culture in Hawaii. They help plants and trees in nature. Kahuli snails are an important part of Hawaiian culture because they are in mo'olelo, mele, oli, and jewelry or accessories. Kahuli helps our ecosystem in forest or nature because Kahuli scrubs fungi and fungus off on trees and plants and when they do that they make the plants healthy. The Kahuli are threatened of getting eaten by carnivorous snails and Jackson Chameleon, rats, and snail collectors who collect snail shells of Kaniakapupu. Luckily, for snails safety, David Sischo the coordinator of the snail Extinction Prevention Program, and other scientists have made a peaceful place for snails called love shack. It's a shack made out of wooden planks, wire mesh seats and concrete. The love shack has over 100 Amastra Spirizonas. Kahuli were also released to a fenced site that protected kahuli with electric wire that was 4.5'' tall. We need your support to help continue the effort to keep our kahuli safe for future generations.

With Aloha,
Ethan Peng
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and international Affairs
January 18 2024
State Capital
Conference Room 309

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails . Kāhuli are very important in our culture and we honor these special snails by telling stories, including them in our songs, chants, and hula. Our Kāhuli's role in our ecosystem is by helping us clean the fungus and bacteria off our native plants. And these special Kāhuli connect us to special ancient times. But there is a problem: our Kāhuli are becoming extinct because before there were humans, there were 750 different species, but now there are only 200 different species left! It's because of predators like the Jackson chameleon, Rosy wolf snails, and rats, and also because of natural disasters like hurricanes, fires, and droughts. Scientists are helping these kāhuli by creating a program called the Snail extinction prevention program. We can all help save kāhuli by Keeping sacred places secret, keep our critters contained, and keep kāhuli in their natural habitat.

With Aloha,
Hannah Low
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails. Kahuli land snails are some of the rarest animals in the world, and there were over 750 species of Kahuli before humans arrived in Hawaii. Now there are only 18 species of Kahuli and we all know they are endemic to Hawaii. They are also important to our culture. We use them for oil, mele, moolelo and jewelry. We also need Kahuli for our trees and soil; the Kahuli help us by eating fungus off of tree leaves and turning it into fertilizer. Kahuli have many predators such as: rats, other snails, and Jackson chameleons. It's not just animals that are killing them, it's humans too. We are cutting down their habitat. I believe it's pollution in the air as well. So what scientists are doing is keeping them safe when they are babies, then putting them in a supervised forest when they are teens. This way, the Kahuli are safe from any predators that eat them, also so no one will chop their habitat down. What we can do to help is raise awareness and encourage others to protect them as well so they don't go extinct.

Sincerely,

Joan Fong
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 18 , 2024
Conference room 309
State capitol

Testimony in support of HB 1899

Dear Aloha Chair Tam, Vice chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

This snail is important because they came here before humans came to earth by bird, currents in the ocean, and in the air. Our snails are also important because they have been in our oli, mele, and mo'olelo for many years. They are important to our island because they are decomposers and they put nutrients in the soil so the soil can be healthy. Though, there are some threats to the Kahuli snail like Jackson Chameleons, rosy wolf snails, and rats. Because of these threats we only have 200 species left in the wild and before we used to have 750 species. What's being done to help them are scientists like David Sicho who is the coordinator of the snail extinction program which is a program that helps the Kahuli snail population. What we, and our leaders, should do to protect them is to pass a law that will protect the Kahuli from going extinct and so more people can know more about the Kahuli in the future.

Sincerely,
Asher Dalgamouni
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representative
Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB in 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state. The Kāhuli help us eat fungus growing on our native plants and they help clean up bacteria. Kāhuli are a really important part of our culture. Kāhuli are mentioned in mele, oli and mo'olelo. They can also use the snails for jewelry like necklaces and bracelets. Kāhuli also have a lot of predators such as rosy wolf snails, rats, jackson chameleons and other carnivorous snails. To prevent that, people make programs to protect the Kāhuli. To prevent the Kāhuli from going extinct we want to pass a law to protect our Kāhuli. We want to pass the law so more people know and help out. Mahalo for your attention.

Sincerely,

Mason Kenjo
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024

Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails

Kahule, one of the most famous and important animals of Hawaii, and is also a huge part of Hawaii's culture used in Oil, Mele, Moololo and their shells are used as jewelry. Kahuli are also a big part of their ecosystem because they eat fungus off of soil and plant material. And now Kahuli are endangered, many pigs, goats, deers, and cattle are threats to kahuli. There used to be 750 species, now only 200 remain! At this pace kahuli would be extinct in five to ten years. On a good note many people from the Snail Extinction Prevention program are protecting our kahuli. But, we also want to pass a law that people will protect and care about the Kahuli so that they won't go extinct.

Sincerely,
Cruz Ferreira
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The kahuli are an important part of Hawaii. They help get fungus off of ohia. Ohia is a keystone species meaning that the whole food web would fall apart without it. The ohia are water collecting trees so without them we won't have fresh water. The kahuli keep the ohia healthy and also bring nutrients and nitrogen into the soil. The kahuli are also in many mo'olelo, oli, mele, and jewelry in Hawaiian culture. Invasive predators like rats, rosy wolf snails, jackson chameleons, and humans who collect their shells. Cattle and destruction of their natural habitats is another threat to the kahuli. The Snail Prevention Extinction Program helps to protect the snails by raising them in labs then releasing them into an enclosure that is safe from any threats to the kahuli. We should help by passing a law to protect kahuli so that we can spread awareness so that more people will try to protect them.

Sincerely,

Kolbie Wu
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 18, 2024
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

The kahuli are important because they decompose for hawaii forests. They have a big role in ecosystems and they are very important to Hawaiian cultures. The thing is they are getting hunted by the rosy wolf snail, the giant African snail, rats, jackson chameleons, and other big snails. The scientists are doing everything they can to save them from extinction by putting them in refrigerators and also putting them in protected areas. We should pass a law to protect the kahuli so more people will know more about the kahuli this way then this way don't go extinct.

Sincerely,

Emma Kapaona
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species our official state snails.

Our endangered Kahuli Snails are going extinct in the next 5-10 years. These important species save our precious 'Ohia lehua. Although scientists are working hard to try to save the Kahuli from going extinct from today, most of them are dying due to humans and invasive species predators. Some Scientists say that the Kahuli came over from the nesting of the **Birds**. Before humans arrived there were over 750 species. The most famous snails are the tree dwelling snail. The precious shells are made into jewelry from their beautiful shells. Because of the work on Snail Extinction Protection Program predators like Rosy Wolfsnails, Jaxon Chameleons, and Rats cannot attack the Kahuli Snail. We need your help to pass the law that will continue to help protect the Kahuli, and we need more people to know about the Kahuli and to care for them.

With Aloha,
Ryan Giambrone
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state
We should start saving Kahuli. The Kahuli are important for the ecosystem because the
Kahuli are the decomposers and the Kahuli feed on the fungi on the leaf's and on the dead leaf's
they eat the mold on it. They are in meles and are in mo'olelo and in are oli. Then they put
nutrients in the soil that help because the nutrients are poor so with them they can put nutrients in
the soil. The things that are killing or threatening them are the giant african snail, rosy wolfsnail,
and the jackson camolen. But, there are things being done to help scientists like the captive
breeding programs in the laboratory. What we should do to help is that we can put the Kahuli in a
safe place until we have a lot of Kahuli and we should make a law to help the Kahuli so more
people can care about them. If more people know, then they will care they will start saving more
of the Kahuli too, and if we keep on doing that the Kahuli will not go extinct.

Sincerely,

Peyton Tamanaha
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the committee,

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

Kahuli are important to not only humans, but to the ecosystem too. We use the Kahuli shell to make many of the most beautiful jewelry like necklaces, bracelets, and more. Kahuli are in many Hawaiian stories, and are important to Hawaiian culture. We need Kahuli for the ecosystem so our forests don't die. If we kill all of them then the ecosystem will be off balance because they eat fungus off plants like our Ohia tree, and that makes the watershed healthy. After they eat all the fungi off plants they put nutrients back into the soil and make plants nice and strong. There used to be more than 750 species of Kahuli, but they declined to 200 species. We want a law of the Kahuli so that people will want to help save them so they don't go extinct. Some people already are helping by collecting the Kahuli and putting them into a snail lab where they will wait until they are teenagers. After that let the Kahuli go into a protective forest where predators can't get them. We want a law for the Kahuli so that people will want to help save them so they don't go extinct. Hawai'i is not our land, but the Kahuli's land too.

With Aloha,
Laynie Hirohata
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 17, 2024
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1899

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee.

I am writing to support the bill to designate certain snail species as our official state snails.

Snails are very important for our culture, because we use kahuli snails for oli, mele, mo'olelo, and jewelry. If we didn't have kahuli snails all the chants and mele that use them wouldn't be the same. Also if we didn't have kahuli snails we wouldn't have all these nice jewelry because we use the shells for necklaces and bracelets. The kahuli snails help our ecosystem by eating leaf fungus, mold, or dead leaves. They are our decomposers. We also need to help them because of all the threats around them like pigs, goats, deer, and cattle, even kids. Because a long time ago kids would go up the mountains and collect an abundance of kahuli snails. Luckily, today we already have people helping out by keeping the kahuli in a snail extinction prevention program but there used to be 750 species but now there's only a few species left. We need to pass the law to protect the kahuli so more people will care and learn about it. If not the beloved kahuli snails could go extinct.

With Aloha,
Kolten Vierra
Grade 5
Manoa Elementary School

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB 1899, Relating to State Snails**

**House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 31, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309 and via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 1899, Relating to State Snails, which designates certain snail species as official state snails.

Invertebrates, such as insects and mollusks, are an integral component of ecosystems: providing pollination for plants, decomposition of waste, nutrient cyclers, and food for other animals. The Hawaiian islands are a hotspot for invertebrate biodiversity, with a uniquely high number of native species, many of which are threatened, endangered, or extinct. Nearly 100 percent of Hawai‘i’s 750+ snail species are endemic, but an estimated 70% are thought to be extinct, and the status of several remaining species is threatened.

Hawai‘i’s land snail fauna holds ecological significance in Native Hawaiian ecosystems due to their role as decomposers, breaking down dead or decaying material to provide plant-life with nutrient-rich soil, or fungivores, scraping and eating fungus off of plants, promoting healthy plants. They are a food source for other native species such as *Hyposmocoma molluscivora*, the carnivorous moth native to Maui and O‘ahu.

Hawai‘i’s kāhuli (snails) have also served a significant role in Hawaiian culture through mele (song), hula, mo‘olelo (story), oli (chant), and as symbols for romance and omens. They earned the ancient description: the singing snails, representing the voice of the forest due to their immense prominence in the habitat. As the wind rustled the leaves of trees, kāhuli shells were thought to create a whistling noise, interpreted as a signifier of positive events or affirmations of certain decisions.

We strongly support the protection of biodiversity, climate change adaptation, watershed management, and conservation. Designating State snails would be an important step forward in promoting public awareness of natural resource management and mālama ‘āina.

For over 40 years, TNC has actively managed nature preserves throughout Hawai‘i. We currently manage 40,000 acres in preserves on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, and Kaua‘i. We also work with over 30 coastal communities through networks and partnerships to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. Over our decades of experience of forest management and marine conservation, TNC has implemented many conservation actions that promote biodiversity and it is these experiences which underpin our support for this measure.

We look forward to continuing to support efforts to collectively raising awareness about the importance of our State’s natural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB 1899.

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:28:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Marsden	Le Jardin Academy 2nd and 3rd Graders "Kahuli Hui"	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[LJA Kahuli Hui Video Testimony in Support of HB 1899](#)

January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

We, the students of Le Jardin Academy from second grade and members of our school's Kāhuli Hui, are expressing our strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. We sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

The Kāhuli Hui

Students from 2nd Grade

Le Jardin Academy



January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

We, the students of Le Jardin Academy from third grade and members of our school's KāhuliHui, are expressing our strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. We sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

The Kāhuli Hui

Students from 3rd Grade

Le Jardin Academy



January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Meara Marsden, a student of Le Jardin Academy from third grade and a member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Meara Marsden

3rd Grade, Le Jardin Academy



January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Eric Baum, a student of Le Jardin Academy from second grade and a member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Eric Baum

2nd Grade, Le Jardin Academy



January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Sahana Lyon Tanovic, a student of Le Jardin Academy from third grade and a member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Sahana Lyon Tanovic

3rd Grade, Le Jardin Academy

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E Oia Kahuli!



January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,


I, Jonie Nagle, a student of Le Jardin Academy from second grade and a member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Jonie Nagle

2nd Grade, Le Jardin Academy

A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is holding a white rectangular sign in front of her chest. The sign has the Hawaiian phrase "E oia kāhuli" written on it in black marker. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. To the left, a black remote control and some colorful markers are visible on a surface.

E oia kāhuli

January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Blair McCray, a student of Le Jardin Academy from second grade and a member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Blair McCray

2nd Grade, Le Jardin Academy





January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Alice Katzman, a student of Le Jardin Academy from second grade and member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Alice Katzman

2nd Grade, Le Jardin Academy



from: Alice

January 27, 2024

Dear Representatives, Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I, Rie Connors, a student of Le Jardin Academy from third grade and member of our school's Kāhuli Hui, am expressing my strong support for Bill 1899 proposing a native snail designation for each of the Hawaiian Islands. The Kāhuli snails are essential to our Hawaiian ecosystems, being uniquely specific to our islands. It's crucial to shed light on their current challenges and actively work towards ensuring their protection. These remarkable "gems of the rainforest" are disappearing rapidly, posing a significant threat to Hawaii's environment. I sincerely request your support for this Bill, recognizing its importance in safeguarding the Kāhuli for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Rie Connors

3rd Grade, Le Jardin Academy



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Kahuli Hui at Le Jardin Academy



HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Scott Wayson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having explored the top of many of our ridges and mountains, it is essential that we protect our native snails. By far I have found more chameleons than native snails in the wild, and those proportions need to be changed. Please support and enforce legislation that protects our native species.

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:06:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee,

This is in reference to Bill 1899 relating to State snails being introduced on January 31, 2024 at 10:00am.

IN SUPPORT

I am a teacher and scientist and am testifying in favor of designating the 9 snails in this bill as the State Snails of Hawai'i.

Native kāhuli used to have 750 unique and endemic species in Hawai'i and over 60% of those have gone extinct. One hundred more will likely go extinct in the next decade without immediate action. Every time an endemic species in Hawai'i goes extinct, we lose the product of millions of years of evolution and a part of the cultural heritage of our islands. I was lucky enough to visit Mt. Ka'ala with the Bishop Museum and it was amazing to go searching in the forest, looking under leaves and finding these little jewels under every leaf. These snails have fascinating and unique life histories and some even have parental care! Because snails are the base of the food chain, we lose other species that depend on them, like the Po'ouli (the black-faced honeycreeper), whose diet was based on our native kāhuli. The disappearance of the kāhuli likely contributed to its extinction. When our kāhuli are lost, our world becomes less rich and darker.

In summary, I am in support of designating the 9 snails in Bill 1899 as our state snails and think it will highlight their importance to Hawai'i and bring awareness, increasing conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Chan

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:25:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mikyla nakila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill HB1899 because I believe our snails are a very important part of our history and ecosystem and deserve to have light shined on them, they are so cool! I also hopes that this would further interest and help to gain support towards their care!

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:00:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elsa Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Adamatly support HB1899 and that the state protect Hawaiian snails as critical to the ecosystem and endangered by human introduction of threats and predators. My 3 year old daughter loves Hawaiian land snails, she's watched lectures by DLNR and we read all the books available about them. I don't know why snails became her special thing but I fell in love with them too as we learned about them together. I had no idea of their importance before. I hope this bill makes more people aware of their existence and importance so there will still be kahuli for my daughter when she grows up.

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:49:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice-Chair Martinez, and Members of the CAI Committee,

This is in reference to HB1899 relating to State snails being introduced on January 31, 2024 at 10:00am.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill today. My name is Logan and I am a high school student from the island of Oahu. I am testifying in favor of HB1899 because it will allow for the preservation of native land snails, which are important to Native Hawaiian culture.

In the ecosystem, native land snails play an important role as fungivores, improving the health of plants by scraping fungus off of them, and in the food web, as other native species depend on them for a food source. Native land snails are also important in Native Hawaiian culture, especially as pertaining to the practices of hula and chanting. In Native Hawaiian culture, native land snails were believed to sing and represented the tradition of passing on family genealogy through singing. Unfortunately, as one of the most threatened species in the world, land snails are at great threat of being lost. Many native land snail species have already become extinct or endangered due to threats of habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change. This problem is especially important to me due to the effects of losing native land snail species, which include losing an integral part of our ecosystems and culture.

HB1899 would designate these native land snail species official state snail species, commemorating them to preserve their importance to ecosystems and Native Hawaiian culture and bringing awareness to the importance of their conservation and their current state of their endangerment. By passing this bill, we will be able to protect these animals that are so important to our unique Hawaiian environment and culture.

Mahalo,
Logan Lee

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:59:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Maruno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to share my full support for HB1899, designating state/island snail species. Designating state snails brings awareness to the native species and ecosystems that are so crucial to our island home. We should celebrate and appreciate the fact that today we are still able to see many of the native snail species being designated. Without awareness, it becomes hard to protect and conserve things because no one knows to care. Hawai‘i is incredibly unique, with plants, animals, and landscapes found nowhere else in the world--snails included. Let's work to protect these species by making them known so they can be around for generations to come.

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:10:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Petersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee,

This is in reference to Bill 1899 relating to state snails being introduced on January 31, 2024 at 10:00am.

IN SUPPORT

My name is Nicholas Petersen, a senior student attending ‘Iolani School. I am testifying in favor of raising awareness and conservation of Hawaii’s native land snails by designating nine native snails to each Hawaiian island. Known as “Hawaii’s jewels of the forest,” native Hawaiian snails are vital components of native cultural values and practices. In Hawaiian customs, snails embodied the oral tradition of one’s genealogy by “singing” and connecting to crucial practices of hula, chant, and mo‘olelo. It is of uppermost importance to increase conservation for these native snails. The snails are more than what they appear to be. Their value is in the cultural and historical aspect that continues to embrace the impacts of modernization in the Hawaiian Islands. Our actions of reversing our ways back to having flourishing ahupua‘a diversified with more than 750 snail species is impossible. But the hope for a better future for these snails continues to thrive. Awareness and conservation of these snails symbolize the accomplishments and sorrows that native Hawaiian culture has been through. The loss of more snails will further hurt the representation and identity of native Hawaii and the Hawaiian people. Due to invasive predators, habitat loss, and climate change, this idea of loss is becoming a reality. About 60% of native snail species have already been lost, and we can expect more than 100 more species to go extinct without proper action. The time is now to raise awareness for “Hawaii’s jewels of the forest” before it’s too late. We must preserve the native snail for future generations to learn about their heritage and personal identity. Awareness and conservation must be implemented starting with designating snails to each Hawaiian Island as we continue to regain our touch of Hawaiian mo‘olelo and traditional values.

Nicholas Petersen

Marley Kong-Mercado, Student

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

HB1899

I am in support of HB No. 1899, Relating to State Snails

My name is Marley Kong-Mercado. I am testifying in support of this bill being passed.

I believe that the introduction of state snails can help to prevent the further endangerment of many local and indigenous species. Native Hawaiian snails are commonly known to appear in Hawaiian chants, hulas, and stories. They prove to be a significant part of both local and Hawaiian culture and are a crucial part of maintaining our Hawai'i environment. They help to decompose fallen leaves and forest debris that can prove harmful to native forests if left to dry. They may even help to prevent native trees from developing diseases. Currently native snails are threatened by climate change, invasive species, and human expansion throughout the islands. Instating this bill will raise awareness and cause change throughout the islands regarding snail treatment and conservation efforts.

I support this bill because Hawaiian snails are a strong and crucial part of island culture and further help to maintain Hawaii's indigenous plants and state of environment. Thank you for this opportunity to Testify.

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:24:10 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Victorino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee,

This is in reference to Bill 1899 relating to state snails being introduced on January 31, 2024 at 10:00am.

IN SUPPORT

My name is Sophia Victorino and I'm currently a junior at 'Iolani School studying environmental science. I am testifying in favor of Bill 1899.

I strongly support this bill as it would be a significant step towards promoting awareness and education on the often underappreciated species of Hawaiian land snails. We must acknowledge that even the smallest creatures, such as the Hawaiian land snails, play a crucial role in preserving our native ecosystem, but unfortunately, they are frequently overlooked. By spreading education and awareness through establishing state Hawaiian land snails throughout the islands, the bill can undoubtedly boost conservation efforts and emphasize the importance of biodiversity in the Hawaiian Islands. The bill's implementation would also help preserve the voice of the forest, the Hawaiian land snails, which have been an integral part of Hawaiian culture for centuries, referred to as kani kanahale or the voice of the forest. As our native forests are at risk of being lost and our endemic flora and fauna face the threat of extinction, we must take action to preserve these species. Therefore, I support the passing of this bill because it would be a significant move toward preserving our environment and ensuring a more sustainable future for our islands.

I support this bill which would promote awareness and education about Hawaiian land snails, as it will help preserve the voice of the forest and protect our environment for a sustainable future.

Sophia Victorino

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:27:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gervase Ngo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee,

This is in reference to Bill 1899 relating to State snails being introduced on January 31, 2024 at 10:00am.

IN SUPPORT

My name is Gervase Ngo and I am a senior enrolled in Environmental Science at Iolani School. I am testifying in favor of Bill 1899 relating to state snails. I am in support of Bill 1899 because it is important to designate snails to each state to strengthen the awareness of these native snails and to help protect them. These nine species of snails are so significant because they make up a big part of ancient Hawaiian culture which has been severely lost in the past. Raising awareness and conserving these species of snails will keep Hawaiian culture alive and prominent in each island. These snails are also extremely endangered and play a significant role in each state's environment and food chain. To ensure the continuing longevity of the island's beauty and environment, these snails must not go extinct and must be conserved as a species and be made aware of by the general public of Hawaii. Overall, these snails play a big role in conserving Hawaiian culture and the beautiful environment of the state of Hawaii. This is why I am testifying in favor of Bill 1899 to spread awareness and conserve Hawaii's native land snail species as state snails.

Gervase Ngo

HB-1899

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:24:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miley Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee,

My name is Miley Cox and I am an 11th grader at ‘Iolani high school. I am testifying in favor of introducing state snails as of January 31st 2024.

Tree snails hold an extremely large significance in Hawaiian culture, as well as our environment, and to the people of Hawai’i. In mo’olelo, stories, or mele, songs, or oli, chants, tree snails and the wisdom they hold can be found within these sacred oral traditions. It is believed that Hawaiian tree snails are the “voices of the forest” and are said to sing as they climb up and down trees. There are a plethora of songs and chants written about these snails. The cultural significance they hold is one that cannot compare to anything else. Preserving native animals who hold a deep relationship with indigenous peoples are always extremely important.

Not only do these snails hold a large cultural significance, they also play a large role in protecting the environment. These snails eat the fungus that grows on leaves of native plants, protecting the plants from harmful diseases. Some biologists have said that these snails have contributed to the prevention of Rapid ‘ōhi’a Death, which is the spread of a deadly fungus killing hundreds of native trees. What is to happen if these snails are no longer around to contribute to the prevention of the deadly infections?

Introducing the idea of state snails to our communities, would bring a greater understanding of the importance of preserving Hawaiian Tree snails, and the large importance of them in our history and environment. Prior to being taught about these snails, I had no idea that they even existed, or about the fact that they were going extinct. I have now been inspired to take a large step in the conversation of these important species, as well as educate others about them. While a small snail seems like it’s not capable of much, these snails hold a bigger importance than imaginable. Just as the action of introducing state snails may not seem like much, the power it holds could be very, very large.

Thank you,

Miley Cox

