



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
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Media Advisory
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Maui Senator Celebrates East Maui Taro Festival

HANA, MAUI- Hana residents will have a chance to take part in traditional Hawaiian cultural practices at the 20th Annual East Maui Taro Festival on Saturday, April 21, 2012. It will be held at the Hana Ballpark. The festival will include a Farmers' Market, poi pounding, food booths, arts and crafts, music and hula.

“This wonderful event provides the opportunity to bridge the cultural gap between keiki and kupuna using taro as a common thread,” said Senator J. Kalani English, who will be attending the event and presenting a Senate Certificate of Recognition. Senator English, who was born and raised in Hana, was part of a group of individuals who organized the first East Maui Taro Festival.

Kalo is a revered plant for the Hawaiian people. According to the Kumulipo, the creation chant, kalo grew from the first-born son of Wākea (sky father) and Papa (earth mother), through Wākea's relationship with his and Papa's daughter, Ho`ohōkūlani. Hāloa-naka, as the son was named, was stillborn and buried. Out of his body grew the kalo plant, also called Hāloa, which means everlasting breath. Kalo and poi (pounded kalo) are a means of survival for the Hawaiian people.

“I encourage everyone to attend this event to perpetuate the practice of having kalo as an important food staple and to learn about its cultural significance,” said Senator English, who represents District 6, encompassing the areas of Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, and Kaho‘olawe.

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