

MAR 14 2007

S.R. NO. 59

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN
RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER TO REFRAIN FROM DEVELOPING,
TESTING, PROPAGATING, CULTIVATING, RAISING, OR GROWING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES IN
THE STATE OR CONDUCTING ANY TYPE OF RESEARCH THAT WOULD
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES.

1 WHEREAS, kalo (*colocasia esculenta*), the Hawaiian word for
2 taro, is a culturally significant plant to the kanaka maoli,
3 Hawaii's indigenous peoples; and
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5 WHEREAS, kalo provides the kanaka maoli's life-giving
6 sustenance, poi; and
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8 WHEREAS, over three hundred kalo varieties may have existed
9 at the time of the arrival of European explorers and today there
10 are approximately seventy varieties of taro and of these, the
11 majority are unique to the Hawaiian islands due to the
12 horticultural skills of native Hawaiian farmers; and
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14 WHEREAS, the important cultural relationship between kalo
15 and the kanaka maoli continues today in the cultivation of kalo
16 and ohana, the Hawaiian word for family; and
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18 WHEREAS, kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-
19 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also
20 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values
21 important to the State; now, therefore,
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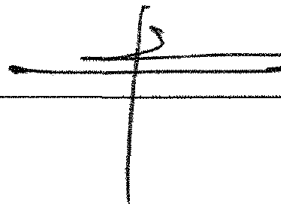
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
25 that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at
26 the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Agriculture Research
27 Center are requested to refrain from developing, testing,
28 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically
29 modified traditional Hawaiian taro varieties in the State or
30 conducting any type of research that would significantly impact
31 traditional Hawaiian taro varieties; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution does not
3 include a request to refrain from developing, testing,
4 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically
5 modified taro of the non-Hawaiian variety, including Chinese
6 taro, in the State; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of
10 Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
11 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, and the Director of
12 the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.
13
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15

OFFERED BY: _____

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