



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**

December 31, 2008

Senator Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Report on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force

Aloha e President Colleen Hanabusa,

Act 211, Regular Session Laws 2008, created the Taro Security and Purity Task Force, an 18-member group of taro farmers and governmental representatives, to help protect taro. In addition to naming the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as the administrator of the task force, Act 211 also required that a preliminary report documenting the progress of the group be developed and submitted to the Legislature 20 days prior to the convening of the 2009 legislative session. As such, please find the following report on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force, developed pursuant to Act 211.

The members of the task force are passionate about their kuleana to protect taro, and they welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the challenges facing Hawai'i's state plant.

If you wish to meet with members of the task force or if you have any further questions, please contact OHA policy advocate Sterling Wong by phone at (808) 594-0248 or e-mail him at sterlingw@oha.org. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

'O wau iho nō me ka 'oia 'i'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde W. Nāmu'o".

Clyde W. Nāmu'o
Administrator