

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 30, 2015
1:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE RESOLUTION 107/SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 171
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF TARO BY IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSALS SET
FORTH IN ACT 211, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2008, AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK
FORCE'S 2010 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.**

Senate Resolution 107/Senate Concurrent Resolution 171 proposes that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs develop a strategic plan for the protection of taro by implementing the proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support the implementation actions prescribed by these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

The Department wishes to first acknowledge and recognize the hard work and dedication of the taro farmers serving on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force and their efforts over the past few years to implement the recommendations outlined in the 2010 Report to the Legislature. While the Department holds a representative seat on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force, the Department does not believe that the intent of the Task Force was or is to develop a strategic plan through these resolutions. Rather, the original intent of this resolution was to recognize the importance of kalo to Hawaiian culture, the agricultural industry in general, and for the Legislature to support continued efforts, whatever that may be, beyond the dissolution of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force on June 30, 2015.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
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



SCR171/SR107
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP
A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF TARO
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Agriculture

March 30, 2015

1:40 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration will recommend to the Board of Trustees) a position of **COMMENTS** on SCR171/SR107, which requests that OHA develop a strategic plan for the protection of kalo by implementing proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 Report to the Legislature.

OHA supports efforts to protect kalo and kalo lands, and to strengthen the local kalo industry, but respectfully asserts that OHA is not the appropriate agency to implement the proposals and recommendations of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force (Taro Task Force). Implementation of the recommendations, which include improving access to kalo lands through leases and permits, improving protections for kalo lands throughout the state, and providing incentives for the active rehabilitation of kalo lands, are not within the purview of OHA's regulatory authority. Thus, while OHA continues to be an advocate for increased kalo production, OHA recommends that the committee consider agencies that have direct authority to protect kalo land and related infrastructure to ensure that these lands and structures remain available to support present and future kalo needs, improve our state's food self-sufficiency, and facilitate our return to a more traditional and sustainable model of local food production.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**Testimony of
TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE**

**MARK ALAPAKI LUKE
Chair**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 30, 2015, 1:40AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 171**

SCR171 requests the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to develop a strategic plan for the protection of taro by implementing the proposals set forth in Act 211. The strategic plan will be aimed at creating a permanent state body that will continue to represent taro farmer concerns at the legislature and with agencies, in addition to facilitating the work outlined in Act 211 and the 2010 report to the legislature, and providing a point of contact for researchers and agencies interested in working with taro farmers. **The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports this resolution with amendments.**

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force was created by the legislature under Act 211 in 2008 specifically to guide policy and research related to taro and taro farming, as well as to support the vitality, economic viability and perpetuation of taro and taro farming in the state. The task force's 2010 report to the legislature was the result of a yearlong community consultation and included 89 recommendations across seven key issues. Since the release of the report the task force has focused on facilitating the implementation of key recommendations, particularly through legislation to protect wetland taro lands in public conservation zones (SB774).

As the task force sunsets June 30, 2015, SCR171 is a call to the legislature to continue to uphold its kuleana to perpetuate the cultural and ecological legacy of kalo and support kalo farmers throughout Hawai'i. However, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs lacks the regulatory authority to implement the proposals under Act 211 and the recommendations of the 2010 report to the legislature. The task force proposes the following amendments to more closely reflect the intent of the resolution, which is for the Hawai'i State Legislature to acknowledge the importance of the work of the taro task force and support the reformation of a future body to address taro-related policy issues.

We propose paragraph seven be amended to read:

WHEREAS, ~~protection of the individual as well as~~ Hawaiian culture, history, and spirituality are reflected in the protection of kalo and the specific agricultural systems ~~areas~~ in which kalo is grown throughout the islands; and

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

We propose paragraph thirty be amended to read:

WHEREAS, an online petition recently initiated by the public has collected more than one thousand seven hundred signatures supporting the continuance of a transparent entity that retaining the task force in some form not yet determined to continue to advocate for taro issues at the public, agency and legislative level and to ~~would~~ facilitate and implement the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's recommendations, further highlighting the urgency and value of perpetuating kalo for the greater community; and

Finally, after paragraph thirty-one, we propose the remainder of resolution read as follows:

WHEREAS, the taro community wishes to establish a body that will embrace a broad constituency of taro growers while continuing to move towards fulfilling the recommendations of the 2010 taro task force report to the legislature, especially the need to protect wetland taro lands, and that will enable the body to receive and distribute funds in support of the recommendations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the ~~Office of Hawaiian Affairs is requested to develop a strategic plan for the protection of taro by implementing the proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report to the Legislature~~ legislature acknowledges the positive impact of the work of the taro security and purity task force and the role it has played for the taro growing community and cultural continuity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ~~strategic plan be aimed at creating a permanent state body that will continue to represent taro farmer concerns at the Legislature and with agencies, facilitate the work outlined in Act 211 and the 2010 report to the Legislature, and provide a point of contact for researchers and agencies interested in working with taro farmers~~ legislature will support the reformation of the task force as a legislatively enabled body, should

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

the taro farming community determine the need, which will continue to work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Department of Agriculture to determine the most appropriate agency relationship; and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is requested to report its strategic plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Taro Security and Purity Task Force.

We encourage full support from Senate committee members for this resolution with the proposed amendments.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Alapaki Luke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair
Taro Security and Purity Task Force



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE

SR107/SCR171 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF TARO BY IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSALS SET FORTH IN ACT 211, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2008, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE'S 2010 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Monday, 3/30/15; 1:40 pm; Room 224

Aloha Madam Chair Shimabukuro of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee and Chairman Ruderman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Riviere and members of the joint committees.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) agrees that a strategic plan to protect taro is needed, however we **do not agree** that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs should take on the burden when other state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and/or the Department of Land and Natural Resources are better suited and have staff experts to provide a plan and the regulatory authority to support the implementation of the task force recommendations. We further object to the legislature once again passing on to OHA costs that should rightly be in the budgets of DOA or DLNR.

We have long recognized the need to stabilize, protect and encourage the taro agricultural industry. At the annual AHCC convention in 2014 the delegates adopted: *Resolution 14-30 Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Enact Legislation that would Classify and Protect Wetland Taro Lands (Lo`i kalo) on Unencumbered, Undeveloped Lands Under the Jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii for the Purpose of Improving Future Food Security.*

It appears that much of the preliminary work has already been done with the reports citing a number of strategic recommendations including policies as well as the identities of possible partner agencies and organizations. The Legislature can properly acknowledge the excellent work of the task force by creating a means to implement these recommendations. We know that both OHA and the members of the task force have

suggestions for continuing the work to protect the interest of haloa and those of our taro farmers. We hope that you will consider their suggestions and support their implementation. Mahalo for allowing us to testify today.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR171 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:21:04 PM

SCR171

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS the intent of SCR 171, which requests the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to develop a strategic Plan for the Protection of Taro by Implementing the Proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report to the Legislature. (SCR 171) LURF would respectfully recommend that OHA's recommendation include additional funding for OHA and other Stakeholders to implement some of the proposals and recommendations in the proposed Strategic Plan for the Protection of Taro.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR171 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM*
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SCR171

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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