
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO RECAPTURE, RETAIN, AND SHARE THE CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF LIMU KALA.

1 WHEREAS, limu is an important component of a healthy and
2 productive reef ecosystem; the base of the marine food chain; a
3 key indicator of the health and resilience of an ahupuaa; and a
4 critical part of many marine life habitats, especially limu
5 kala; and

6
7 WHEREAS, four endemic species of limu kala are found in
8 Hawaii: *S. echniocarpum*, *S. hawaiiensis*, *S. obtusifolium*, and
9 *S. polyphyllum*; and

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11 WHEREAS, limu is used as a vitamin-, mineral-, and fiber-
12 rich food source; in traditional medicine, especially as a
13 treatment for minor cuts and scratches; and in cultural
14 ceremonies, with limu kala specifically being used in the
15 conflict resolution process of hooponopono and in the protection
16 of ocean voyagers; and

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18 WHEREAS, limu kala is seasonally abundant and commonly
19 found in many intertidal and subtidal habitats, including
20 tidepools and reef flats in areas with moderate to high wave
21 action; and

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23 WHEREAS, limu kala is used as a traditional bait for reef
24 fish, including the kala unicornfish; and

25
26 WHEREAS, much of limu-based cultural knowledge has been
27 lost over many generations due to a lack of knowledge and
28 awareness of the significance of limu, hindering work or efforts
29 to increase the State's population of nearshore fish; and

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31 WHEREAS, there has been a steep decline of limu throughout
32 the State and a correlating decline in the number of nearshore
33 fish in the waters of the State; and



