
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

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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

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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



1 WHEREAS, learning, retaining, and sharing cultural and
2 environmental knowledge about limu will benefit nearshore
3 fisheries and all residents of the State for many generations;
4 now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2022, that the Legislature, recognizing the Governor's
9 declaration that the year 2022 is the year of limu, urges the
10 Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop programs to
11 recapture, retain, and share the cultural and environmental
12 knowledge of limu kala for the people of Hawaii; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
16 Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

