



GOV. MSG. NO. 1333

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 6, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

HB819 HD2 SD1

RELATING TO LIMU KALA.
ACT 230

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUL 6 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 819
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIMU KALA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that limu holds
2 ecological and cultural significance to the State. Four endemic
3 species of limu kala grow in Hawaii waters: *S. echinocarpum*, *S.*
4 *hawaiiensis*, *S. obtusifolium*, and *S. polyphyllum*. Limu kala
5 grows in the nearshore ecosystem and is abundant seasonally in
6 many intertidal and subtidal habitats, including tidepools and
7 reef flats in areas with moderate to high wave action.

8 The legislature further finds that limu is a critically
9 important component of a healthy and productive reef ecosystem.
10 Limu is a primary producer and the base of the nearshore marine
11 food chain. Herbivorous fish rely on limu to survive and due to
12 a steep decline of limu throughout Hawaii, there has been a
13 correlating decline in fish abundance. Limu kala is used as a
14 traditional bait for reef fish, including species of kala fish,
15 also known as unicornfish, and lack of limu knowledge and limu
16 awareness hinders any work or effort to increase the nearshore
17 fish population. Limu, especially limu kala, is also an



1 important habitat for many marine creatures and is a key
2 indicator of the health and resilience of the ahupuaa.

3 The legislature additionally finds that limu is an
4 important food source; is rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber;
5 and has many uses for traditional medicine. Limu kala is used
6 to treat minor cuts and scratches, and has many uses for Native
7 Hawaiian cultural ceremonies. Limu kala, specifically, is used
8 in the conflict resolution process of ho'oponopono and in the
9 protection of ocean voyagers. While much of the limu-based
10 cultural knowledge has been lost over many generations, the
11 recapture, retention, and sharing of limu cultural knowledge
12 will benefit the nearshore fishery and all people of Hawaii for
13 future generations.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate the
15 limu kala as the official limu of the State.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
18 read as follows:

19 "§5- State limu. Limu kala (Sargassum echinocarpum),
20 the Hawaiian word for the water plant endemic to Hawaii, is



1 adopted, established, and designated as the official limu of the
2 State."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 6th day of July , 2023



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 819, HD 2, SD 1

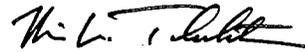
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 11, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate