
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 grow
5 in the nearshore ecosystem and is abundant seasonally in many
6 intertidal and subtidal habitats, including tidepools and reef
7 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 the 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 our 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 and is rich in vitamins, minerals and
5 fiber and has many uses for traditional medicine. Limu kala,
6 specifically, is used to treat minor cuts and scratches. Limu
7 also has many uses for Native Hawaiian cultural ceremonies.
8 Limu kala, specifically, is used in the conflict resolution
9 process of hooponopono and in the protection of ocean voyagers.
10 While much of the limu-based cultural knowledge has been lost
11 over many generations, the recapture, retention and sharing of
12 limu cultural knowledge will benefit the nearshore fishery and
13 all people of Hawaii for 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.

5

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 819

Report Title:

State Designation; Limu; Limu Kala; Sargassum Echinocarpum;
Official Limu of Hawaii

Description:

Designates Limu Kala (Sargassum echinocarpum) as the official
Hawaii state limu.

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