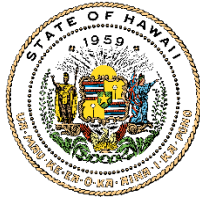


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H. E. KAAKUA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 30, 2023
9:35 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 819, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO LIMU KALA

House Bill 819, House Draft 2 proposes to designate Limu Kala (*Sargassum echinocarpum*) as the official Hawai'i State Limu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

This bill acknowledges and promotes the critical role that limu plays in our natural environment and in sustaining the people of Hawai'i. Limu Kala is an excellent choice for the state limu due to its numerous uses and significant cultural importance. Traditionally, the word "limu" included a broad range of organisms such as terrestrial moss and lichen, and even some marine zoanthids. However, for the purpose of this testimony, "limu" refers to native aquatic botanical species such as algae and seagrass.

The Department realizes the decline of desirable limu species, including Limu Kala, throughout the State. Limu is an "indicator species" (an organism whose presence, absence, or abundance reflects a specific environmental condition). The presence, absence or change in abundance of an indicator species can signal a change in the biological condition of an ecosystem, and may therefore be used as a proxy to diagnose the health of an entire ecosystem. The presence of native limu is an indicator of a healthy marine ecosystem. Many species of limu, including limu kala, need a brackish environment and therefore grow in abundance where there is mauka-makai water connectivity of kahawai (streams) or punawai (springs) to muliwai (river mouths or estuaries) to kai (ocean). Therefore, designating an official Hawai'i state limu, and limu kala in particular that grows where fresh and ocean water mix, honors the interdependence and connectivity of Hawai'i's environment.

Currently, the Department is supporting non-government organizations in the propagation of limu species for community driven restoration projects. Additionally, the Department has documented the proliferation of limu‘ē (non-native algae) and its detrimental impact on native benthic species such as limu and coral. In response, a decade ago the Department established an urchin hatchery. Urchins produced by the hatchery are released in areas with high limu‘ē concentrations. These urchins then feed on the limu‘ē, reducing their populations.

The Department recognizes that in Hawai‘i’s modern context there is an underappreciation of limu. House Bill 819, House Draft 2 is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of limu in Hawai‘i, particularly Limu Kala.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.



HB819 HD2
RELATING TO LIMU KALA
Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 30, 2023

9:35 AM

Room CR 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB819 HD2, which would designate limu kala (*Sargassum echinocarpum*) as the official limu of the State of Hawai‘i. **OHA echos the thrust of this measure in its support for the ecological and cultural significance of limu (and limu kala) to the State and takes care to expand upon limu kala’s cultural significance.**

“Kala,” means to “forgive,” and limu kala has played a critical role in traditional ceremonies revolving around acts of forgiveness and purification.

“Among the first organisms named in the Kumulipo are varieties of limu, including limu kala. Limu kala was one of the most commonly utilized types of limu in ceremonies. Kala in Hawaiian means to free, untie, unburden or absolve. People are familiar with using kala when saying, “E kala mai ia‘u” to apologize.

“Limu kala symbolically unbound or loosened human beings from offenses committed against one another or against the akua. Due to this particular meaning, limu kala played an essential part in rituals.

“During a purification ceremony, a kahuna pule heiau would mix seawater, limu kala, and sometimes ‘ōlena (turmeric) in a bowl and sprinkle the congregation. This ceremony was mainly done when people had been exposed to a corpse or something that made them ritually unclean. Before the start of ‘ōpelu season, fishermen would gather at a kū‘ula (heiau specific to fishermen), and a kahuna would offer a prayer and then purify them before they went out to sea. This same mixture was also used to purify places that had become ritually unclean.

“Limu kala played a vital part in traditional forgiveness rituals. When there was a dispute or harsh feelings within a family, the family would conduct a ho‘oponopono. When the issue was resolved, limu kala would then be eaten. If a family or community had wronged their ‘aumakua or the akua, an aha ‘āina kala hala (feast for forgiving offenses) would be prepared. Symbolic foods were eaten including pua‘a, āholehole, moa, kalo, and limu kala.”¹

¹ Ka Wai Ola, *Limu as Food and Culture* by Adam Keawe Manolo-Camp, Apr. 1, 2022; available at: <https://kawaiola.news/moomeheu/limu-as-food-and-culture/>.



HB819 HD2
RELATING TO LIMU KALA
Senate Committee on Judiciary

As the State navigates through both turbulent and tranquil seas, the designation of limu kala as the official State limu becomes an appropriate choice and reminder that Hawai'i should always strive to do what is right, while embracing these Islands as a unique place, with a unique and storied history that is now home to uniquely diverse peoples.

As is the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,² OHA appreciates the opportunity to voice its support on this measure and respectfully asks the Legislature to **PASS HB819 HD2**. Mahalo nui loa.

² HRS §10-3.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
IN SUPPORT OF HB 819 HD2
March 30, 2023, 9:35AM, Room 016

We are Malia Heimuli and Kevin Chang the Limu Hui Coordinator and Executive Director, respectively, of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui.

KUA supports HB 819 HD2 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

One of the founding kupuna of our first network E Alu Pū, Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr., a recognized loea limu (limu expert) grew up in 'Ewa Beach and personally witnessed the decline of limu there. He worked to create a Limu Management Area (LMA) in 'Ewa, a place legally designated for traditional limu gathering. Uncle Henry taught us that one of the main causes of the loss of limu is the loss of groundwater that once flowed abundantly along the shoreline. As the flow of groundwater decreased, limu abundance decreased. One of Uncle Henry's famous sayings was "No limu, no fish". Unfortunately, Uncle Henry passed away in 2015. He left a legacy which includes the Limu Hui, the 'Ewa LMA and the struggle to bring limu back to 'Ewa the way it once was. KUA works to perpetuate his legacy. This resolution is part of that legacy we wish he were here to testify on and help continue.

KUA supports SB 1037 because recognition of the significant socio-cultural dimensions of Limu Kala helps to elevate the importance of the resources, people and culture of Hawai'i broadly. It also uplifts the work and passion of generations of kūpuna like Uncle Henry to perpetuate the deeper socio-cultural ties that bind us to these islands. We also feel this recognition will provide many opportunities to increase awareness and to educate Hawai'i's residents of the environmental and Hawaiian cultural significance of Limu Kala and all limu.

Lastly, this bill is significant to Hawai'i's leadership in the world. Limu Kala is significant to Native Hawaiian processes of reconciliation and healing. Global environmental governance has begun to disentangle the *hīhia* of colonial environmental history and reconciliation is a major theme on the pathway toward better caring for our planet together. In this regard Hawai'i is not just a leader for its own kupa'āina but for the world.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Aloha 'Āina Momona, E Ola Limu!



Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Board of Directors

Denise Antolini
Keelan Barcina
Anne Chung
Sydney Covell
Olan Leimomi Fisher
Bob Leinau
Jacqueline Leinau

Advisory Council

Athline Clark
John Cutting
Dr. Alan Friedlander
Debbie Gowensmith
Maxx E. Phillips
Bill Quinlan
Palakiko Yagodich

Staff

*Jenny Yagodich, Director of
Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

March 28, 2023

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for **HB819 HD2**: Relating to Limu Kala
JDC Hearing March 30, 2023, 9:35AM; Conference Room 016

**Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the Senate
Committee on Judiciary,**

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is the grassroots, community non-profit that actively works to care for, educate about, and protect our fragile, near-shore marine ecosystems of Pūpūkea and Waimea. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships."

We are pleased to offer strong support of HB819 HD2. As part of the work we do, we have been monitoring the limu at Papakahāohina (a reef flat at Kapo'o/Sharks Cove) for the past seven years and have identified 38 native species of limu there so far, including Limu Kala, which is by far the most abundant. We regularly offer limu education for anyone, keiki to kupuna, and often host visits to the reef flat to learn more about this very important and special part of a healthy marine ecosystem.

In addition to being a significant source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber with many uses for traditional medicine, limu is a critically important component of a healthy, productive reef ecosystem. Limu is a primary producer and the base of the nearshore marine food chain, an important habitat for many marine creatures, and a key indicator of the health and resilience of the ahupua'a. Limu Kala, specifically, is special because has many uses for Native Hawaiian cultural ceremonies, is used in traditional fishing, and in the protection of ocean voyagers,

Naming Limu Kala as the State limu will help to bring awareness to the recapture, retention and sharing of limu cultural knowledge that will benefit the nearshore fishery and all people of Hawai'i for future generations.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony. **We strongly support HB819 HD2.**

Mahalo nui,

Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

March 28, 2023



Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB819**: Relating to Limu Kala

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

We represent the Mālama Limu Club, a Kamehameha Schools Kapālama high school organization. The purpose of the Mālama Limu Club is to remove invasive limu from various fishponds and beaches, giving endemic and native Hawaiian limu the opportunity to thrive and maintain diversity in our ocean ecosystems.

Our entire club recognizes the environmental and cultural importance of seaweed. Limu is the foundation of all ocean ecosystems, as they provide a habitat and food source for various marine organisms. They also produce a large part of our world's oxygen and mitigate erosion and coral breaking. Culturally, limu was used in medicine, lei making, dying clothing, and is still found in a variety of Native Hawaiian dishes. Limu was also a cornerstone in the lives of Native Hawaiian women, as the process of collecting limu was entirely designated for women. Limu Kala, in particular, was used in ritual practices such as the ho'oponopono ceremony, where people would seek forgiveness as they ate or held the limu. It was also used for cleaning, in religious practices, after burials, and prior to fishing.

We strongly support HB819 which would name limu Kala as Hawai'i's official state limu. Due to the pollution and warming of our water along with the introduction of invasive seaweeds, which are much more resilient to these environmental changes, the endemic and native limu populations are rapidly decreasing. We believe that limu needs

to be recognized for its immense importance and that this bill will bring awareness to the great need for conserving our endemic and native marine ecosystems.

On behalf of the Mālama Limu Club Members, mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Madison Murata

Mālama Limu Club President

Members: Hope Rosenbush, Brady Akau, Amara Martin, Shaina Wandasana, Amara Martin, Aidden Murray, Alyssa Faulkner, Ava Pasa, Brayden Van Kuren, Carleena Mattos, Carly Lasconia, Chloe Martin-Blevins, Clarice Hutchison, Cloey-Anne Yamasaki, Eli Nagaishi, Emily Loscalzo, Emma Attwood, Ethan Abraham, Gage Bassett, Hailey Ching, Harryzen Soares, Haylie Reiny, Hekili Kamalani, Jack Poepoe, Jadon Koa Haina Dumlao, Jenna Lingenbrink, Jordyn Lee, Kahiau Kaopuiki, Kaila Kim, Kailani McLain, Kaimana Eliana-Pantil, Kaimana Kau, Kaiya Hoopai, Kaohu Helenihi, Kapua Pupuhi, Kassidy Kepa, Kau'i Sato, Kekai Wong, Kekoa Kenichi Agpalsa, Kekoapiilani Moses Kekina Dierks, Kili Rowe, Kilinoe Brown, Korie Lee, Kukamaehu Tamashiro, Lanamaliekai Haverly, Landon Choy, Lea Richardson, Leilani Jensen, Lucas Valleriani, Mahealani Plunkett, Makamaenamakanamaikalani Santiago, Makayla Lee, Malia Victor, Mālie Nee, Mattea Skeen, Maya Willing, Mehana Silva, Melissa Kaanoi, Mikala Akiona, Mima Field-Perkins, Moanahiwalani Walker, Nikki Chong, Ocean Bustamante, Pi'i McKenzie, Rhyllie Skye Rabang, Roma Lerner, Sanae Oye, Shalem Asano, Shane Pinho, Shyla Aki, Stella Imada, Tiani Ing, Trevyn Nishimura, Nakoa Moses-Gomera, Nathaniel Ho

Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Judiciary
IN SUPPORT OF HB 819 HD2
Hearing date: March 30, 2023, 9:35AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

On behalf of the undersigned Native Hawaiian serving organizations and supporters, we submit this testimony in strong support for HB819 HD2. This bill would make Limu Kala the State Limu.

The Native Hawaiian community has long recognized the importance of limu as a biocultural resource – as food, as medicine, as a tool for peacemaking and religious tradition - and as a foundational life form in the nearshore marine environmental ecosystem and food chain.

Our organizations support HB819 HD2 because recognition of the significant socio-cultural dimensions of Limu Kala helps to elevate the importance of the resources, people and culture of Hawai'i broadly. It also uplifts the work and passion of generations of kūpuna to perpetuate the deeper socio-cultural ties that bind us to these islands. If passed this recognition will provide many opportunities to increase awareness and to educate Hawai'i's residents of the environmental and Hawaiian cultural significance of Limu Kala and all limu.

This relationship to the things that make up 'āina – the land, the ocean, that which feeds- are fundamental to our community identity, environment, and survival. Indeed, it is widely recognized that as we lose our native limu we will continue to see a decrease in our shoreline's ability to feed us. No Limu, No Fish.

As our community's relationship to resources like limu declines -like we have allowed many relationships to biocultural resources to decline- we begin to accept an environment where the traditional knowledge, cultural practices and values that uplift and depend on them decline also. These native and locally situated insights are essential to the survival and identity of the Native Hawaiian community and all our citizens. They are also significant for a world in which our connections to each other are frayed and will become increasingly tested as our climate and weather patterns change.

A first step in addressing an issue and/or renewing its significance is in recognizing it as this bill would do. Limu seems inherently harmless and for some easy to forget, and yet it is also recognizable to many. It has the potential to spark the imagination and love of our community for that which feeds us all.

We ask that you please pass HB819 HD2.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.



Papa Ola Lōkahi



IOLANI PALACE



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION





Pillars of Women

HB-819-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 11:55:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-819-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:54:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree

HB-819-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:50:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Rangel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the Committee on Judiciary,

I am in full support of HB819 HD2 to name Limu Kala as our State limu. Hawai'i does not have a State limu and designating one would help bring awareness to the importance of limu in our marine ecosystem, our culture, and our health. Limu, especially limu kala, is also an important habitat for many marine creatures and is a key indicator of the health and resilience of the ahupua'a. Limu also has many uses for cultural ceremonies. Limu kala, specifically, is used in the conflict resolution process of ho'oponopono and in the protection of ocean voyagers. Limu is an important food source and is rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber and has many uses for traditional medicine.

Mahalo nui, Keala Rangel

HB-819-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 1:27:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the designation of Limu kala as the official Hawaii state limu.