



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
IN SUPPORT OF HCR 74
Hearing date: March 17, 2021, 9:30AM

Aloha Committee Members:

We are Kevin Chang and Miwa Tamanaha, Co-Directors of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA).

KUA testifies in strong support of HCR 74.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together 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 three statewide networks: more than 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 38 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a and a 60+ growing group of limu practitioners and kupuna called the Limu Hui. All of the networks, communities, and individuals we work with recognize the importance of limu as the foundation of the nearshore marine environment's food chain and that the decrease in our shoreline fish stocks is directly related to the decline of limu. A first step in addressing an issue and/or renewing its significance is in recognizing it as this resolution does.

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 SR 60 because having a "Year of the Limu" recognizes limu's significance to all of Hawai'i. It also uplifts the work and passion of generation of kupuna 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Testimony in Favor of HCR 74
Declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu
March 16, 2021

Aloha,

My name is Wally Ito. I coordinate the Limu Hui, a statewide network of loea limu (limu experts) and people dedicated to learning about and sharing limu knowledge. I am also Project Manager for Ewa Limu Project. Both organizations are dedicated to limu education, limu awareness, and limu restoration efforts.

Limu is a key component of the nearshore marine ecosystem but this concept is not realized by many within our State. Loea limu have intimate knowledge of the many uses of limu. Not only for food but also for medicine and its use in many cultural and religious ceremonies. A healthy limu population is a key factor to a healthy reef ecosystem.

Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr. was one of the founding members of the Limu Hui and Ewa Limu project. He held much of the traditional limu 'ike which he freely shared with all. Uncle Henry grew up in Ewa Beach where he learned about the many uses of limu from his grandmother, mother, and aunt. As they grew older, he realized that he needed to share their knowledge with others otherwise all of their limu 'ike will be lost forever. Unfortunately, Uncle passed away almost six years ago but our Limu Hui continues Uncle Henry's legacy of limu education, limu awareness, and limu restoration.

Passing HCR 74 will send a message that our State recognizes limu's importance and will trigger many limu related projects and activities which will benefit the people of our State for generations to come.

One of my favorite Uncle Henry quotes is "No Limu, No Fish".

Special mahalo to Representative LoPresti for introducing this Resolution. He represents a place that was once known as "The House of Limu" so he understands much of what I have articulated above. This is the time to get others to understand also.

Please feel free to email me any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Wally Ito

Limu Hui Coordinator, Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo
Project Manager, Ewa Limu Project
wally@kuahawaii.org



HCR74/HR63

REQUESTING THAT THE YEAR 2022
BE DESIGNATED AS THE YEAR OF THE LIMU

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Mo‘omeheu, nā Hana No‘eau, a me ke Kuleana o Nā ‘Āina ‘ē
House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Malaki 17, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Lumi 329

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HCR74/HR63, which would declare 2022 as the Year of the Limu. **This measure will facilitate a greater appreciation for limu and will also reinforce existing efforts to transmit limu knowledge and practices to future generations.**

Limu is both a Native Hawaiian cultural heritage and also an integral part of a healthy, well-functioning ecosystem. Limu constitutes an important component of the traditional Native Hawaiian diet, along with fish and poi, and has also been used as medicine and for religious and cultural purposes such as in the conflict resolution process of ho‘oponopono. Limu also helps to filter runoff from the land, and provides necessary food and protection for juvenile fish.

Although this precious biocultural resource was once healthy and abundant, the native limu population has suffered greatly due to urban development, land use practices, improper harvesting, climate change, and other pressures. At the same time, changes to the Hawaiian lifestyle and diet, along with other socioeconomic factors, have contributed to the loss of traditional practices and ancestral knowledge, including the cultural connection to limu and the limu practices.

Despite the historic trauma caused by the loss of land, culture, and identity, Native Hawaiians remain resilient and are determined to transmit to future generations the knowledge and practices handed down by na kūpuna. Grassroots organizations such as Kua ‘Āina Ulu ‘Auamo help to empower and create capacity among limu practitioners while others like the Waimānalo Limu Hui work tirelessly to regrow limu and thereby reclaim cultural spaces. This measure will help to bring awareness to the cultural and ecological importance of limu, and will honor and reinforce the work of those such as Uncle Wally Ito and others who carry the torch of wisdom and ancestral knowledge handed down to us by kūpuna such as Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr., Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott, and countless more.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR74/HR63. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-74

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:08:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Kipahulu Ohana, we love the idea of designating Year of the Limu!

In our 2012 [Malama I Ke Kai](#) Community Action Plan, The Kipahulu Ohana prioritized limu (Hawaiian seaweed) as part of it's Ocean goal: "InÄ• mÄ• lama 'oe i ke kai, mÄ• lama no ke kai ia 'oe. If you care for the ocean, the ocean will care for you" with the following objective: Actively maintain healthy native limu abundance on shoreline at current levels.

Limu has important ecological, nutritional and cultural values. The limu serves as food and shelter for herbivorous fish and are the foundation of the food chain. Limu is rich in minerals and other nutrients and is served in many Hawaiian dishes, like poke. Some limu are used medicinally, and others are considered highly sacred and are used ceremonially, and have ancient stories around them.

The Kipahulu Ohana conducts limu education and propagation activities, and supports and participates in the annual Hana Limu Festival with limu planting demonstrations and education about our makai efforts and [Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area](#) designation application. We are part of the [Limu Hui](#).

We believe the idea of showing the singular importance of limu in the Hawaiian culture and ecology and dedicating resources to the public education around the importance of limu would be well supported by designating a Year of the Limu, and we encourage your support for this resolution.

Mahalo,

Scott Crawford

Executive Director

HCR-74

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:36:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Damien Kenison	Kauhako Ohana Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha no kakou,

I am writing in support of HCR 74, designating 2022 as the Year of the Limu.

Limu is vital to the health of people, as well as fish and a delicious source of protein. Hawaiians depended upon limu to provide nourishment and supplement the vegetal needs of their diet.

The harvesting and eating of limu has begun to die out because of the changes to the habitat and the loss of this precious food resource. Besides the polluting sewage from the development along the coastlines of Hawaii, altering the landscape has interfered with the flow of fresh water to the ocean, having a devastating impact on the growth of limu.

Limu is a good indicator of a healthy marine ecosystem and its outgrowth is controlled by fish and other natural causes. This balance is a necessity which affords us the benefit of harvesting the bounty of the ocean for sustenance and enjoyment.

By designating the year 2022 as the Year of the Limu, you will bring awareness to how important these ocean plants are to the people of Hawaii and also visitors to this state. Hopefully, this awareness may translate to pono actions by people who live here and hopefully influence the legislators and lawmakers who we entrust with protecting our oceans and Ő1aina for our economic, social, and cultural needs.

Mahalo nui loa,

Damien Kenison

President - Kauhako Ohana Association (KOA)

PO Box 38 Honaunau, HI, 96726

(808) 987-9149

HCR-74

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:56:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yagodich	Malama Pupukea-Waimea	Support	No

Comments:

We STRONGLY support SR60 requesting that 2022 be designated as Year of The Limu. Limu plays a critical part in the health of our nearshore reef ecosystems and is a valuable part of a resilient ahupua'a. Due to a decline in limu abundance and a lack of general limu knowledge and awareness, designating 2022 as Year of The Limu will provide opportunities to increase overall knowledge, will result in more awareness, and will benefit Hawai'i's nearshore fisheries and all the people of Hawai'i for generations to come.

HCR-74

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:14:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Costales	Kupa'a no Lana'i	Support	No

Comments:

Kupa'a no Lana'i, a non-profit organization on the Island of Lana'i, supports the HCR 74 to designate the Year of 2022 as the Year of the Limu.

HCR-74

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:43:16 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I am in support of HCR74 designating 2021 as the year of the Limu. Limu is a very vital part of the ecosystem for our ocean, especially the corals and reef fish that depend on limu for survival. When I think of Limu, I think about uncle Henry from Ewa Beach, whose life mission was to restore and preserve limu. In honor of uncle Henry, I send my testimony,

mahalo,

Kaimi Kaupiko

808-937-1310