WHEREAS, kalo (colocasias esculenta), Hawaiian for taro, is considered sacred and is also a central part of Hawaiian genealogy and culture; and

WHEREAS, a lo'i, Hawaiian for taro paddy, is the traditional method of planting kalo; and

WHEREAS, kalo is also an important source of food in Hawaiian culture; and

WHEREAS, the State Capitol grounds are a gathering place for visitors as well as residents from across the State; and

WHEREAS, the architectural design of the State Capitol building symbolizes unique aspects of the State: the eight columns along the front and back of the building represent the State's major islands, the sloping walls of the House of Representatives and Senate chambers represent the volcanoes, and the columns rising out of the reflecting pools represent palm trees; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Legislature designated kalo as the State's official plant; and

WHEREAS, despite its cultural importance and the abundance of other symbolic representations at the State Capitol building, kalo is not present; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is requested to oversee the establishment of a lo'i on the grounds of the State Capitol; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OHA is requested to work with and consult native Hawaiian preservation and education groups and practitioners to devise a plan to ensure the success of the program by:

(1) Securing funds from private donations for the materials needed to establish the lo'i;

(2) Allowing Onipa'a Na Hui Kalo and other volunteer organizations, taro farmers, and individuals to provide the labor to establish and maintain the lo'i; and

(3) Working with Oahu Hawaiian immersion and Hawaiian cultural focused charter schools to provide education, cultural activities, and research;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OHA is requested to submit a report to the Legislature of its progress no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Board of Directors of Onipa'a Na Hui Kalo, and Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office.