
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, limu is a crucial part of a healthy and productive
2 reef ecosystem; and

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4 WHEREAS, limu is the primary producer and, therefore, the
5 base of the nearshore marine food chain; and

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7 WHEREAS, limu is a key indicator of the health and
8 resilience of an ahupuaa, filtering runoff from the land, and
9 providing protection for juvenile fish; and

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11 WHEREAS, limu was once the third important component, along
12 with fish and poi, of the traditional Native Hawaiian diet; and

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14 WHEREAS, limu was used for food, medicinal, cultural, and
15 religious purposes, such as the conflict resolution process of
16 hooponopono; and

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18 WHEREAS, most limu-based cultural knowledge has been lost
19 throughout many generations due to a lack of knowledge and
20 awareness of limu's significance; and

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22 WHEREAS, there has been a steep decline of limu throughout
23 the State and a correlating decline in the amount of nearshore
24 fish due to the pressures related to the climate crisis,
25 proliferation of non-native algae, urbanization pressures, and
26 polluted and diverted stream flows; and

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28 WHEREAS, the lack of knowledge and awareness about limu
29 hinders efforts to increase Hawaii's population of nearshore
30 fish due to the loss of cultural connection to limu and limu
31 practices; and
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1 WHEREAS, despite the historic trauma caused by the loss of
 2 culture, land, and identity, native Hawaiians remain resilient
 3 and are determined to transmit to future generations the
 4 knowledge and practices by limu practitioners and kūpuna, whose
 5 passion for limu perpetuated the deeper sociocultural ties of
 6 limu to the peoples of this State; and

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 8 WHEREAS, Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott was the first native
 9 Hawaiian woman to receive a doctoral degree in science and was
 10 considered the world's leading expert on limu, discovering over
 11 two hundred species of seaweeds; and

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 13 WHEREAS, Uncle Henry Chang Wo, Jr., was a recognized loa
 14 limu (limu expert) who worked to create a limu management area
 15 in Ewa Beach who worked tirelessly to call attention to the
 16 detrimental effects of government policy and development
 17 projects to limu and to the nearshore marine environment; and

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 19 WHEREAS, grassroots organizations such as Kua‘āina Ulu
 20 ‘Auamo (KUA) help to empower and create capacity among limu
 21 practitioners, while others, such as the Waimānalo Limu Hui work
 22 tirelessly to regrow limu and, thus, reclaim their cultural
 23 space; and

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 25 WHEREAS, recapturing, retaining, and sharing cultural and
 26 environmental knowledge about limu will benefit nearshore
 27 fisheries and all the people of Hawaii for many generations;
 28 now, therefore,

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 30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
 32 House of Representatives concurring, that this body requests the
 33 Governor for the year 2022 be declared the Year of Limu; and

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 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
 37 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
 38 Chairperson of the Board of Directors of KUA, and Limu Hui
 39 Coordinator of KUA.

