Proclamation

WHEREAS, limu include numerous endemic and indigenous species of plants and algae which grow in fresh water, salt water, and other damp habitats throughout Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, limu play a significant role in Native Hawaiian traditions and ahupua‘a stewardship, are an integral part of the traditional Hawaiian diet, are used for medicinal, religious, and cultural purposes, and expertise about limu has been transmitted largely among Native Hawaiian women for generations; and

WHEREAS, limu serve key ecological and economic functions, preventing erosion and coral breakage, creating oxygen, producing sand, serving as food and shelter for marine animals, mitigating global warming through carbon sequestration, and acting as the base of the food-web on which local fisheries rely; and

WHEREAS, limu population changes evince the dangers of unsustainable development, algal blooms, over-harvesting, invasive species, climate change, and other factors which disrupt marine ecological balance; and

WHEREAS, limu are a local, sustainable, nutritious, and delicious food source which can reduce Hawai‘i’s dependency on carbon-intensive imported foods, revitalize the environment, and reinvigorate local communities; and

WHEREAS, individuals such as Henry Chang Wo Jr. and Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott, the first Native Hawaiian woman to earn a PhD in science, and organizations such as Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, Limu Hui, the 'Ewa Limu Project, and others have admirably worked to maintain limu and ‘ike about limu; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources works with various partners in community-driven limu restoration projects, administers the 'Ewa Limu Management Area to promote the sustainable regeneration of limu, and continues to document and curb the spread of invasive algae; and

WHEREAS, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo and Limu Hui are working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and others to plan and promote events throughout the year of 2022 to share awareness of limu and raise interest in limu as an important facet of Hawai‘i’s marine environments and communities;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai‘i,** do hereby proclaim 2022 as

“YEAR OF THE LIMU”

in Hawai‘i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in acknowledging the critical role that limu play in our environment and culture, and in recognizing the crucial endeavor of protecting, restoring, and perpetuating both limu and knowledge about limu.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twenty-eighth day of January, 2022.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i