

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 2, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2915

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2915, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Taro."

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Taro Security and Purity Task Force and to place this task force within the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I support the intent of this bill to facilitate an open dialogue among stakeholders and to discuss long-term taro viability and growth. This bill complements the findings and recommendations of the Department of Agriculture as reported in their February 2008 report to the Legislature on the Development of a Taro Security and Purity Research Program.

This bill appropriates \$325,000 of general fund monies if the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is able to match these funds. As this appropriation was not included in the State's financial plan, it will stress available resources and must be weighed against other statewide priorities.

Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution provides that, "[e]xcept for items appropriated to be expended by the judicial and legislative branches, the governor may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes by striking out or reducing the same."

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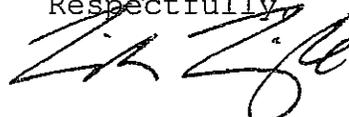
Therefore, pursuant to my line item veto authority, I have stricken out the \$325,000 appropriation from section 3 at line 20 on page 6 of the bill by drawing a line through the \$325,000 appropriation out of the general fund for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the Taro Security and Parity Task Force and changing the amount to \$0.

I understand the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has already indicated it would be unable to provide the full matching funds for this effort as contemplated in the legislation.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is the most appropriate entity to oversee the Taro Security and Purity Task Force. It should be noted that because the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is a separate entity from the executive branch, §26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the default provision for the selection and terms of members of boards and commissions in the executive branch is not applicable to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Therefore, it is suggested that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs identify an alternative process for the appointment of members of the Task Force.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill 2915 with the appropriation in section 3 totaling \$325,000 in general fund appropriations for fiscal year 2008-2009 stricken out and reduced to \$0.

Respectfully



LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii