
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REQUIRE FULL DISCLOSURE
OF ALL CHEMICAL AND GENETIC MODIFICATION ACTIONS TO THE
PUBLIC AND LEGISLATURE WHEN COMPANIES CONDUCT ANY OPEN AIR
FIELD TESTING ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has more genetic engineering test sites per
2 square mile than any other state in the nation, with over 166
3 United States Department of Agriculture permitted field tests in
4 2003, and an unknown number of United States Environmental
5 Protection Agency experimental use permits, which allow crops to
6 be planted on thousands of acres on four islands; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the genetic engineering of crops to create
9 genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is a relatively new
10 science that is being developed faster than studies can be
11 performed to evaluate the long-term effects of allergens, pollen
12 drift, and viral mutations on our health, environment, and
13 economy; and
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15 WHEREAS, the unintended releases of pollen containing
16 genetic marker genes into the environment may be inevitable and
17 irreversible when open-air tests of GMO's are conducted; and
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19 WHEREAS, corn, the most widely genetically engineered crop
20 in Hawaii, has pollen that is almost impossible to contain and
21 protect from the wind, rain, birds, bees, and other insect
22 pollinators, and is scientifically documented to drift two or
23 more miles away from the plantings; and
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25 WHEREAS, genetic engineering may have unforeseen effects on
26 Hawaii's precious and fragile native ecosystems and the
27 biodiversity of our sensitive island environments such as by
28 remaining in the soil and sediment, raising resistance rates of
29 weeds and pests, and contaminating aquifers and fresh waterways;
30 and
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1 WHEREAS, the contamination of genetic materials to other
 2 crops may affect non-GMO farmers' livelihoods because many
 3 countries block imports of genetically modified products due to
 4 health, environmental, and agricultural safety concerns arising
 5 from the lack of verifiable safety data; and

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 7 WHEREAS, there are no regulatory agencies that require
 8 adequate safety data from the biotechnology industry prior to
 9 marketing or field trials, and therefore, no incentives exist
 10 for the industry to sponsor safety studies; and

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 12 WHEREAS, if the regulatory agencies do not assess the
 13 safety of open-air testing of GMOs on our islands, the potential
 14 risks and benefits of each genetically modified crop should be
 15 assessed by the community where the crop is located; and

16
 17 WHEREAS, the locations of open-air GMO field test sites are
 18 currently kept private by the biotechnology companies that
 19 conduct the experiments as "confidential business information";
 20 and

21
 22 WHEREAS, full disclosure of the locations of each open-air
 23 field test site of genetic modification activity and what
 24 chemicals are being used is essential for the community to make
 25 informed decisions to protect themselves from the potential
 26 effects of GMOs on human health, our environment, and
 27 agriculture; now, therefore,

28
 29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 30 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 31 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
 32 Agriculture is urged to require all companies that conduct open
 33 air testing of genetically modified organisms to fully disclose
 34 all chemical and genetic modification actions to the public and
 35 the Legislature; and

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 37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 39 Board of Agriculture.
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 HCR HMS 2006-2565



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