
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO APPLY THE PRECAUTIONARY
PRINCIPLE IN EVALUATING ALL PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, although advances in technology, biotechnology,
2 and agricultural production processes have resulted in
3 significant benefits for our society, caution must still be
4 exercised when considering the implementation of new
5 innovations; and

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7 WHEREAS, new technologies come with potential risks that
8 may only appear through rigorous scientific testing; and

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10 WHEREAS, just as prosecutors in criminal cases must prove
11 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, it is the responsibility of the
12 introducers of new technologies to prove, beyond a reasonable
13 doubt, that the technologies are safe to implement; and

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15 WHEREAS, the uncertainty and risks associated with new
16 technologies are especially significant with respect to
17 agriculture, since agricultural hazards can have serious effects
18 on our natural environment; and

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20 WHEREAS, to minimize the risks and hazards associated with
21 the implementation of new technologies in agriculture, the
22 precautionary principle should be applied with respect to permit
23 applications involving agriculture; and

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25 WHEREAS, applying the precautionary principle means
26 evaluating whether it would be prudent to deny a permit
27 application to avert serious or irreversible environmental
28 damage before scientific certainty regarding the likelihood or
29 magnitude of the harm exists; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2006, the Senate concurring that the Department of
4 Agriculture is urged to apply the precautionary principle in
5 evaluating all permit applications; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
9 Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

Fyle B. Berg
Mel Carroll
[Signature]

MAR 15 2006

