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## HOUSE 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, that the Department of Agriculture is urged to apply  
4 the precautionary principle in evaluating all permit  
5 applications; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
9 Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:

*Fyle B. Berg*  
*Mel C. Carroll*  
*[Signature]*

MAR 15 2006

