
HOUSE 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

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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

14
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

24
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

31
32 WHEREAS, the contamination of genetic materials to other
33 crops may affect non-GMO farmers' livelihoods because many



1 countries block imports of genetically modified products due to
2 health, environmental, and agricultural safety concerns arising
3 from the lack of verifiable safety data; and
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5 WHEREAS, there are no regulatory agencies that require
6 adequate safety data from the biotechnology industry prior to
7 marketing or field trials, and therefore, no incentives exist
8 for the industry to sponsor safety studies; and
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10 WHEREAS, if the regulatory agencies do not assess the
11 safety of open-air testing of GMOs on our islands, the potential
12 risks and benefits of each genetically modified crop should be
13 assessed by the community where the crop is located; and
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15 WHEREAS, the locations of open-air GMO field test sites are
16 currently kept private by the biotechnology companies that
17 conduct the experiments as "confidential business information";
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, full disclosure of the locations of each open-air
21 field test site of genetic modification activity and what
22 chemicals are being used is essential for the community to make
23 informed decisions to protect themselves from the potential
24 effects of GMOs on human health, our environment, and
25 agriculture; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2006, that the Department of Agriculture is urged to require
30 all companies that conduct open air testing of genetically
31 modified organisms to fully disclose all chemical and genetic
32 modification actions to the public and the Legislature; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
36 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

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