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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Growth in genetically engineered agricultural  
2 production has been swift and pervasive throughout the nation.  
3 The quick acceptance of the new technology, however, may pose  
4 serious consequences for the health and safety of our citizens.  
5 Further, because of an exchange of genetic material between  
6 genetically modified crops and conventional crops, wild plants,  
7 and organisms is known to occur, genetically modified material  
8 and any adverse characteristics it confers or promotes could be  
9 irreversibly dispersed into the wider environment.

10           In Hawaii, the coffee and taro-growing industry are both  
11 widely known around the world and deeply imbedded in our  
12 culture. The legislature finds that commercially experimenting  
13 with the genetic engineering of these two crops without  
14 examining and evaluating the adverse effects of this process is  
15 careless and may have far-reaching, irreversible, and unintended  
16 consequences.



1           The purpose of this Act is to create a ten-year moratorium  
2 on testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, and growing of  
3 genetically modified coffee and taro.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

7           "§321-    Genetically modified organisms; moratorium;  
8 coffee and taro. No genetically modified coffee or taro shall  
9 be tested, propagated, cultivated, raised, or grown in the  
10 State.

11           As used in this Act:

12           "Genetically modified" means alterations to a life form or  
13 its living progeny at the nucleic acid level, using the  
14 techniques collectively referred to as recombinant DNA  
15 technology.

16           "Recombinant DNA technology" means the transfer of genes,  
17 regulatory sequences, or nucleic acid between hosts by the use  
18 of vectors or laboratory manipulations and include the  
19 insertion, excision, duplication, inactivation, or relocation of  
20 specific genes, regulatory sequences, or sections of nucleic  
21 acid. This term does not apply to material or an organism



1 developed exclusively through traditional methods of breeding,  
2 hybridization, or nondirected mutagenesis."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006 and  
5 be repealed on June 30, 2016.

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**Report Title:**

Genetically Modified Organisms; Coffee and Taro; Moratorium

**Description:**

Provides a 10-year moratorium on testing, propagating, cultivating, growing, and raising genetically engineered coffee and taro.

