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



1           The purpose of this Act is to outline the conditions under  
2 which testing of coffee will be permissible for a five-year  
3 period.

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; limitation;  
8 coffee. (a) Genetically modified coffee may be tested,  
9 propagated, cultivated, raised, or grown in the State in an  
10 environmentally secure facility. No open-field testing or  
11 growing shall be permitted.

12           (b) As used in this section:

13           "Environmentally secure facility" means an enclosed  
14 facility, such as a laboratory or greenhouse, in which  
15 precautions exist to prevent the exchange of genetic material  
16 between genetically modified coffee and non-genetically modified  
17 or conventional coffee.

18           "Genetically modified" means alterations to a life form or  
19 its living progeny at the nucleic acid level, using the  
20 techniques collectively referred to as recombinant DNA  
21 technology.

1       "Recombinant DNA technology" means the transfer of genes,  
2 regulatory sequences, or nucleic acid between hosts by the use  
3 of vectors or laboratory manipulations and includes the  
4 insertion, excision, duplication, inactivation, or relocation of  
5 specific genes, regulatory sequences, or sections of nucleic  
6 acid; provided that it shall not apply to material or an  
7 organism developed exclusively through traditional methods of  
8 breeding, hybridization, or nondirected mutagenesis."

9       SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report  
10 on the effects of this Act to the legislature no later than  
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
12 2011.

13       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006 and  
15 be repealed on June 30, 2011.



**Report Title:**

Genetically Modified Organisms; Coffee; Limitations

**Description:**

Permits testing of coffee for a five year period, provided that safeguards exist to prevent pollen from being released.

Requires a report to the legislature. Sunsets June 30, 2011.

(SD1)

