

JAN 19 2007

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

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 taro; moratorium. (a) No
8 genetically modified taro shall be tested, propagated,
9 cultivated, raised, or grown in the State.

10 (b) As used in this section:

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

15 "Recombinant DNA technology" means the transfer of genes,
16 regulatory sequences, or nucleic acid between hosts by the use
17 of vectors or laboratory manipulations and includes the
18 insertion, excision, duplication, inactivation, or relocation of
19 specific genes, regulatory sequences, or sections of nucleic
20 acid. This term does not apply to a material or an organism
21 developed exclusively through traditional methods of breeding,
22 hybridization, or nondirected mutagenesis."



Report Title:

Genetically Modified Organisms; Taro; Moratorium

Description:

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

