

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK, RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICIES ON ISSUES RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL CROPS.

1 WHEREAS, agriculture is Hawaii's second-largest export
2 industry and one of the largest contributors to the State's
3 economy; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the long-term prosperity of Hawaii's agricultural
6 industry will be significantly affected by progress regarding
7 diverse scientific research, production methods, and farming
8 practices; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the diversification of Hawaii's agricultural
11 industry -- including organic, conventional and biotech farming,
12 and scientific research relating to agriculture -- is generating
13 significant opportunities for economic growth in both export and
14 import markets; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the long-term development of diversified,
17 sustainable tropical and subtropical agriculture in Hawaii
18 requires the continuing advancement of technological and
19 scientific knowledge to achieve the best farming practices in
20 all sectors of agriculture; and
21

22 WHEREAS, having public and private research, and the
23 transfer of knowledge and technology in many new areas of
24 agriculture, have and will continue to provide substantial
25 benefits to human health and the environment and are therefore
26 critical to the well being of Hawaii's people, as well as to
27 billions of others in developing nations around the world; and
28

29 WHEREAS, successful diversification of Hawaii's agriculture
30 industry mandates that farmers have the right to choose which
31 farming practices will best ensure the most productive use of



1 their resources to reach their target markets in accordance with
2 their personal preferences; and
3

4 WHEREAS, with the development and diversification of
5 farming practices, issues have been raised with regard to
6 genetically modified organisms ("GMO"); and
7

8 WHEREAS, a continuing interest in and concern about GMO
9 crops makes it vital for the community to have clear and
10 accurate information and education regarding GMO issues so that
11 decisions and beliefs can be based on good information and
12 reliable science, rather than on fear and speculation; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that it is necessary to
15 promote a fair, open, and honest discussion about GMO issues
16 that is centered around how conventional, biotech, and organic
17 agriculture can co-exist; and
18

19 WHEREAS, an example of finding a balance point between
20 protecting Hawaii's agricultural crops while encouraging
21 scientific progress is Hawaii's papaya industry which could have
22 been wiped out by blight, if not for the development of
23 resistant strains that now play a vital role in Hawaii's fresh
24 papaya market; and
25

26 WHEREAS, a further potential example of finding a balance
27 point between protecting Hawaii's agricultural crops while
28 encouraging scientific progress could be with regard to Kona
29 coffee, which is an important crop and signature product of
30 Hawaii; and
31

32 WHEREAS, while it is obviously necessary to preserve Kona
33 coffee's viability, it is also in the State's best interest to
34 support scientific efforts that could result in the development
35 of new types of coffee crops that could become important
36 contributor's to the State's agricultural economy; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the Legislature supports the formation of a
39 working group to determine how organic, conventional, and GMO
40 crops in Hawaii's agricultural industry can co-exist; and
41

42 WHEREAS, the GMO working group would consist of various
43 members from Hawaii's agricultural community and would provide
44 accurate information and education regarding issues relating to



1 GMO crops and would make recommendations for finding a balance
2 point between protecting Hawaii's agricultural industry and the
3 development of GMO crops; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
8 supports the agricultural industry's continued efforts to
9 promote choice of farming methods, practices, and crops and that
10 it recognizes the economic value to the State of a diversified
11 agricultural industry supported by mutually supportive co-
12 existence among its sectors, and that it appreciates the value
13 and importance of agricultural research for the benefit not only
14 of Hawaii's farming community, but to farmers and peoples around
15 the world; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the
18 importance of providing accurate information and education to
19 members of the agriculture industry as well as the public-at-
20 large regarding issues facing the agricultural industry,
21 specifically regarding GMO crops, so that decisions can be based
22 on good information and reliable science, rather than on fear
23 and speculation; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture, in
26 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, is requested to
27 convene a working group consisting of various agricultural
28 organizations including, but not limited to, representatives of
29 the Hawaii Cooperative of Organic Farmers, Hawaii Coffee Growers
30 Association, Hawaii Banana Industry Association, Hawaii Crop
31 Improvement Association, Hawaii Papaya Industry Association,
32 Hawaii Export Nursery Association, Hawaii Floral and Shippers
33 Association, Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association, and the
34 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to bring these stakeholders
35 together in a meaningful process to further discuss coexistence
36 and best management practices for finding a balance between
37 protecting Hawaii's agriculture industry and scientific
38 developments regarding agriculture; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to specifically address issues relating to the effect and place
42 of GMO crops in Hawaii's agriculture industry, and that issues
43 such as labeling, field testing, and crop notification be
44 included; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
3 to seek the assistance of the Center for Alternative Dispute
4 Resolution to facilitate its meetings and performance of its
5 duties; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at
8 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and
9 the Department of Agriculture, whenever possible, are encouraged
10 to serve as consultants and resources to the working group; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is strongly
13 encouraged to participate in dialogues with the agricultural
14 community and the community-at-large to gather information and
15 determine issues relating to the effect and place of GMO crops
16 in Hawaii's agriculture industry; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
19 to prepare a report on its findings and recommendations on
20 issues relating to the effect and place of GMO crops in Hawaii's
21 agriculture industry; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include, but not be
24 limited to, policy recommendations regarding specific GMO crops
25 such as coffee, labeling of GMO products, and field testing of
26 GMO crops; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
29 to report on its findings and recommendations, including any
30 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
31 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010 and
32 also file a progress and status report to the Legislature no
33 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
34 Session of 2009; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of
38 Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Cooperative of
39 Organic Farmers, Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, Hawaii
40 Banana Industry Association, Hawaii Crop Improvement
41 Association, Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, Hawaii Export
42 Nursery Association, Hawaii Floral and Shippers Association,



S.C.R. NO. 229

1 Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association, and the Hawaii Farm
2 Bureau Federation.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

Jim
Russell Kohl

