

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

98

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 6, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 704  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 704 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED  
ORGANISMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to protect the agriculture sector  
in Hawaii, the State's precious native ecosystems, and the  
biodiversity of Hawaii's sensitive island environment from the  
potential and unforeseen effects of testing or cultivating  
genetically modified coffee and taro in the State.

Specifically, this bill imposes a ten-year moratorium on  
testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, and growing of  
genetically modified coffee and taro in the State. This bill also  
defines the terms "genetically modified" and "recombinant DNA  
technology".

Your Committee finds that the use of genetically modified  
taro is assumed to benefit taro farmers and the taro growing  
industry in the State. However, your Committee further finds that  
many taro farmers do not agree with this assumption and have not  
requested assistance or sought solutions to maintaining or  
improving taro crops using methods involving genetically modified  
taro.



Rather than expending scarce resources on the testing of genetically modified taro and its cultivation, your Committee believes that it would be more appropriate for those resources to be used for research, study of invasive species, and soil management that will more effectively help to strengthen the taro growing industry in Hawaii.

Finally, your Committee finds that the issue of genetically modified coffee will be addressed separately in another measure.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Adding language to further clarify the purpose of this bill;
- (2) Deleting genetically modified coffee from the ten-year moratorium; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 704, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 704, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy &  
Environmental Protection,



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HERMINA MORITA, Chair



