

registration #89

Testimony in Opposition to Bill 958
Anthony H. Sang

Joint Committee of Agriculture

Written testimony in opposition of SB 958

Anthony H. Sang, I am a Maka'ainana homesteaders as described by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, delegate to Congress.

Reasons:

A decision to stop any future studies and experimentation of cross breeding of Hawaiian Taro is not pono, right. To GMO, as I understand, is simply cross-pollination or cross breeding of animals, plants, and other life forms, including myself as a human being. Hawaiians and other peoples have been cross breeding for centuries. I ask you, if GMO is bad for plants and animals, is it also bad for Humans? And should SB 958 include humans? Why pick on Taro? Humans all cross breed which is why so many ethnicities have evolved, which is why people are tagged "mixed plate." When two people of different ethnicities create a child is that not cross breeding? Think about that for a second.

A compromised plan between farmers and scientific and technical parties should be created by this committee to save what is left of the Hawaiian Taro population. I would also like to ask this committee to look at the pros and cons of this issue. Look for a third option. A possible compromise between the two parties with a solution that will benefit us the consumers. Like the many kupuna who love eating their poi or the non-Hawaiians who enjoy Taro and/or poi.

#90

From: toi pua la`a [
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 11:32 PM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: testimony in support of sb958

Aloha,
My name is Timoteo Hew Len, I am 13yrs. old. I live on Kauai.
I also will be giving testimony in support of sb 958.

Note: forwarded message attached.

Looking for last minute shopping deals? [Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.](#)

From: toi pua la`a [
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 11:25 PM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: testimony in support of sb958

#91

Dear Honorable Committee Members,
Aloha,

I will be giving testimony in person at the March 19, 2008 hearing on SB 958.
Please support this bill calling for a 10 year moratorium on GMO testing of taro.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
T. Pua La`a Norwood
P.O. Box 967
Kilauea, HI 96754

Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#)

#92

From: Marti Townsend
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:52 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Jason Ito - In support

Please add Jason Ito to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

#93

From: Marti Townsend [mailto:marti@kahea.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:56 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Daniel Anthony - In support

Please add Daniel Anthony to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at [mailto:bryna@kahea.org]

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:57 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro

#94

Please add Hanohano Naehu to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

#95

From: Marti Townsend |
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:58 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Kalaniua Ritte - In support

Please add Kalaniua Ritte to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend |
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:59 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Makana Martin - In Support

#96

Please add Makana Martin to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at `

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:00 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Kealoha Domingo - In Support

#97

Please add Kealoha Domingo to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at .

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

#98

From: Marti Townsend
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:00 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Keamoku Kapu - In Support

Please add Keamoku Kapu to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend |
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:01 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Uilani Kapu - In Support

#99

Please add Uilani Kapu to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend [
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:01 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Walter Ritte - In Support

#100

Please add Walter Ritte to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at [

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend [
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:02 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Don Cooke - In Support

#101

Please add Don Cooke to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

#102

From: Marti Townsend [
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:03 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Tom Young - In support

Please add Tom Young to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

#103

From: Marti Townsend [
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:04 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Gwen Kim - In Support

Please add Gwen Kim to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

From: Marti Townsend [
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:05 AM
To: sb958inpersontaro
Subject: Pomaikai Freed - In Support

#104

Please add Pomaikai Freed to the list of testifiers to speak in the morning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryna at :

This should be the last one for now.

Mahalo,
Marti.

--

Marti Townsend
Program Director
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
P.O. Box 270112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827



#105

Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club

President, Malia Nobrega

E HUKI LIKE!

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 958 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS; TARO; MORATORIUM

Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Malia Nobrega, President, Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 958 SD1 HD1.

My name is Malia Nobrega and I'm the President of Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club (WHCC), the chair of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Bioprospecting Task Force, a faculty at the University of Hawai`i, and a Native Hawaiian concerned about the sustainability of our unique environment that my kupuna took care of and lived off of, and that Native Hawaiians today struggle to protect for our use and for generations to come.

Ever since 2002, WHCC has endorsed the protection of native rights and interests in the biodiversity of Hawai`i as well as the preservation of our mea ola (all living things). We've partnered with other organizations like `Īlio`ulaokalani Coalition, Nā Koa Ikaika o ka Lāhui Hawai`i and Nā Kahu o Hāloa to advocate for our rights as the indigenous people of this `āina and to educate our community about these very issues.

The Paoakalani Declaration is a declaration that many Kanaka Maoli and indigenous peoples around the world support. It is a result of the first Ka `Aha Pono – Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Rights Conference held in 2003. This palapala states as our papa or foundation that “According to the Kumulipo, a genealogical chant of creation, Pō gave birth to the world. From this female potency was born Kumulipo and Pō`ele. And from these two, the rest of the world unfolded in genealogical order. That genealogy teaches us the land is the elder sibling and people are the younger sibling meant to care for each other in a reciprocal, interdependent relationship. Humanity is reminded of his place with the order of genealogical descent. The foundational principle

of the Kumulipo is that all facets of the world are related by birth. And thus, the Hawaiian concept of the world descends from one ancestral genealogy.”

The palapala Paoakalani also states our position on scientific research and says that “ we have the right to free, prior and informed consent before research relating to our biological resources commences. Researchers, corporations, educational institutions, government or others conducting such research must fully and entirely inform Kanaka Maoli regarding the purposes of their research and recognize our right to refuse to participate.”

We are not against scientific research...we support responsible research that is supported by the community. Have our farmers called for the genetic modification of our kalo? `A`ole!!! Have the poi and kalo consumers like myself and the other members of our community asked for the genetic modification of kalo? `A`ole!!!

Members of WHCC have also attended and participated in various United Nations meetings like the Convention on Biological Diversity where governments and indigenous peoples representatives gather to discuss these very issues. Recently the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity stated in our closing statement to the Governments of the world that “We, Indigenous Peoples are here to defend our territories and traditional knowledge that we have preserved and developed as an integral part of our mother earth. In this task we suffer the violation of our human rights. Indigenous Peoples reserve the right to decide on the access to traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources including the right to deny access. Parties must ensure compliance with Indigenous Peoples’ free prior and informed consent.”

GMOs is a global issue and indigenous peoples and communities are speaking out loudly and calling for the sustainability of our native crops, the protection of our human rights, and the respect for our genealogy, our elder sibling, our kalo, `o Hāloa nō ia.

WHCC strongly supports SB 958 SD1 HD1. E ola `o Hāloa.

#106

LIFE OF THE LAND

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Aina I Ka Pono

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Chair: Representative Clift Tsuji

Vice Chair: Representative Tom Brower

DATE: Wednesday, March 19, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: State Capitol Auditorium

SB 958 SD1 HD1 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

PLEASE PASS

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Brower and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own environmental and community action group advocating for the people and the `aina since 1970. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and by promoting open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

Thank you for hearing this important bill.

Genetic Engineering proponents have said at meetings in Hawai'i that genetic engineering must be supported because of the money that could flow into Hawai'i's coffers, as if money is a value, a thing above all other things, that we as a state should strive for.

Genetic Engineering proponents have said in Legislative hearings that there is no proof that genetic engineered crops have any documented negative health impacts at all. Of course, there are 1000s of genetically altered organisms, each one patented to keep its make-up, its location, its use, and its impacts secret. Secrecy is important because most people in the world do not want to eat genetically modified food.

Genetic Engineering proponents say that genetic modification is just speeding up Mother Nature. As the Washington Post (November 20, 2004) article: "Of Mice, Men and In-Between: Scientists Debate Blending Of Human, Animal Forms" stated "In Minnesota, pigs are being born with human blood in their veins. ... In Nevada, there are sheep whose livers and hearts are largely human. ... In California, mice peer from their cages with human brain cells firing inside their skulls."

An article in National Geographic News (January 25, 2005) Animal-Human Hybrids Spark Controversy noted "Human Born to Mice Parents? For example, an experiment that would raise concerns ... is genetically engineering mice to produce human sperm and eggs, then doing in vitro fertilization to

produce a child whose parents are a pair of mice."

The University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (July 3, 2003) stated: "Influenza virus seen as possible bioterrorism weapon. An influenza virus—especially one genetically manipulated for increased virulence—would be an attractive weapon for bioterrorists, according to physicians writing in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. ... 'The possibility for genetic engineering and aerosol transmission suggests an enormous potential for bioterrorism,' they assert. The Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 killed between 20 million and 40 million people." www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/july0803flu.html

An article in the January 12, 2006 of The New England Journal of Medicine noted "In the future, however, the ability of experimenters to create genetic or molecular diversity not found in the natural world — for example, with the use of molecular breeding technologies — and to select for virulence associated traits may result in new biologic agents with previously unknown potency. Although such agents may not survive long in the natural world and could, from an evolutionary standpoint, be dismissed as poorly adapted competitors, they may prove extremely destructive during their lifespan."

The Wall Street Journal (September 19, 2002) reported that "Federal authorities are investigating the disappearance of genetically altered bacteria fatal to pigs that appear to have been stolen from a research laboratory at Michigan State University."

There have been some good break-throughs: genetic engineering was used in a biosecurity lab to dramatically lower the cost of insulin to diabetics.

But at what cost to society?

In Hawai'i the importation of diseases is carefully regulated. The attempt to genetic create dangerous strains, such as the 1918 influenza pandemic (Spanish flu), which killed more people than World War I, is not regulated at all. Anybody can legally try to create deadly viruses within the state.

Genetic Engineering proponents say that any regulation would *send the wrong signal*. Venture capitalists are finicky, and must know that any recipient state is willing to open their doors to whatever.

Taro manipulation is a small subset of food manipulation, which is a small subset of all genetic manipulation. But it is a good place to start saying no. In the short run we must also regulate genetically manipulated clothing, genetic energy, and genetically coding all people with the aim of restricting medical coverage to those with genetic predispositions towards any serious medical conditions.

Taro is part of the Hawaiian genealogy. Genetically manipulated taro is disrespectful of the cultural foundation taro holds for Native Hawaiians, their culture, and their religious practices. Genetically manipulated taro is insulting to the Kanaka Maoli, threatens a way of life for taro farmers. Since genetically manipulated strains can not be kept separate, its introduction will gradually encroach on and displace non-genetically manipulated taro, which will eliminate that right of taro farmers to choose what they grow.

Henry Curtis
Executive Director



Hawaii Florists & Shippers Association

P.O. Box 5640

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

#107

Testimony for House Agriculture Committee

Regarding

SB 958 sd1, hd1, GMO Taro Bill

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Capital Auditorium - 9:00 am

Position: Oppose, SB 958 sd1, hd1

Representative Clift Tsuji
House Agriculture Chair

Good Morning Chairperson Tsuji, Vice Chair Brower and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

Aloha my name is Richard Ha, President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms. We are a diversified agriculture operation consisting of 600 fee simple acres. We primarily farm bananas and hydroponic vegetables and have more than 30 years of farming experience and we employ nearly 100 people.

Although I am part Hawaiian and do respect the cultural implications of this bill, I still oppose this bill. The dependency of agriculture on the oil industry makes it necessary for us in Hawaii to become more self sufficient in food production. It is better to be safe rather than sorry. We cannot afford to take the chance of losing taro as a source of food. The Irish potato famine comes to mind.



Hawai'i Florists & Shippers Association

P.O. Box 5640

Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Richard Ha

President

Hamakua Springs Country Farms