

SCR 229

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
1:15 P.M.
Room 414

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 229
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

Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of this resolution is to request 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. We offer comments and amendments.

Agriculture is an important contributor to the State's overall economic health. In order to sustain the growth of agriculture, the agricultural industry must continue to evolve and expand its markets. Successful diversification of agriculture in Hawaii requires that farmers be given the opportunity to make choices regarding crops and production methods used to be competitive in chosen markets.

However, some people want to force decision makers to choose between genetically engineered, conventional, and organic production methods. In reality,

however, all of these production methods provide key opportunities for farmers and are critical to the long-term viability of agriculture and our rural communities.

The department recommends these amendments:

1. The request be changed from Board of Agriculture to Department of Agriculture.
2. The Department of Business and Economic Development be included in the discussions because of the importance of the biotechnology industry to our economy.
3. The objectives of this measure be scaled down to more attainable objectives.
4. The measure be provided with appropriate funding.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 300

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph: 808-487-5561/Fax: 808-486-5020

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SCR 229**

**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**

April 3, 2008

Chairs Tokuda and Menor and Members of your Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am President and Research Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

HARC supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 229, a request to the Board of Agriculture to develop policy on issues relating to genetically modified agricultural crops in Haewaii.

While we support this request I have had some experience in this at the national level and strongly urge the legislators to provide funding for transportation for those group members located off island and for organizational support. In addition to providing the necessary resources possibly in the budget process please consider extending the time period to report back to the legislature to allow adequate attention to this very broad request.

The Advisory Committee on Biotechnology & 21st Century Agriculture (AC21) addresses this area at the national level and has tackled 4 topics surrounding this issue and produced a consensus document on each. This has taken 7 years and 18 meetings along with specifically tasked working groups outside of the committee meetings and multiple conference calls in order to reach consensus on this often contentious area.

Those 4 documents are

Preparing for the Future

Global Traceability and Labeling Requirements

Opportunities and challenges in Agricultural Biotechnology

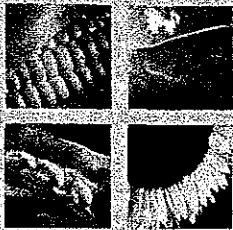
What issues should USDA consider regarding coexistence among diverse agricultural systems in a dynamic, evolving, and complex marketplace

and can be found at the USDA website :<http://www.usda.gov>. and typing in 21st Century Agriculture and Biotechnology into the search window.

Considering the time and national expertise that went into these documents HARC recommends that they be considered as initial working documents for this group of representatives tasked with developing a framework, recommendations and policies.

We urge you to support **SCR 229** and hope the recommendations above are taken into consideration in this broad and challenging task.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by: Sarah Styan

SCR229, Requesting the BOA 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

Senate AWH/ENE Committees

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Room 414: 1:15 pm

Position: Support, with recommendations

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, and Members of the Senate AHW/ENE Committees:

My name is Sarah Styan. I am a Kauai resident, President of HCIA and research scientist of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Waimea Research Station. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii for nearly 40 years. The HCIA is comprised of five member companies that farm an estimated 8,000 acres on four islands, valued at \$97.6 million in operating budget (2006/2007 HASS). We are proud members of Hawaii's diversified agriculture and life sciences industries.

Appreciation is expressed for this measure that acknowledges the diversification of Hawaii's agriculture in terms of organic, conventional and biotechnology farming practices, and that farmers have the right to choose farming practices that offer the most productive use of their resources. We also appreciate the Legislature's recognition that co-existence is an economical and agricultural reality.

HCIA supports this measure that seeks to increase the public and agricultural industry's knowledge of science based information rather than fear and speculation about genetically engineered crops and farming practices. We look forward to participating in the proposed Working Group which delineates commercial agriculture associations and agriculture producers that derive their income from agricultural operations rather than backyard home growers.

In addition, we provide the following recommendations for consideration:

1. Build on the 2006 series of Co-Existence Discussions by beginning with the Best Practice Framework for Biological Drift and Chemical Drift.

HCIA members participated in the 2006 series of Co-existence discussions, along with individuals who represented conventional and organic farming practices. We encourage that the next step further develop Best Practice Frameworks for Biological Drift and Chemical Drift, which apply to all growing methods and not only to genetically engineered farming practices. These two areas address issues about varietal purity and chemical applications, which have been the concern of 2008 Session legislation.

91-1012 Kahl'uka Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Tel: (808) 224-3648
director@hciaonline.com
www.hciaonline.com

HCIA
SCR 229
Sen AHW/ENE
April 3, 2008

2. Identify DBEDT as the lead agency, with assistance from DOA and the HFBBF on agricultural matters.

The placement of this Work Group within DBEDT sets the discussion within the context of economic development for Hawaii. With recent closures of the Molokai Ranch, Aloha Airlines, etc it is critical to view agriculture as a needed and sustainable pillar of economic development in Hawaii.

3. Consider other organizations such as the Keystone Center/Peter Adler, President, in addition to the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution to facilitate meetings.

We agree that the Work Group needs a strong third-party facilitator(s). However, we ask that instead of identifying only the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, the lead agency should have leeway in researching and identifying other appropriate facilitators.

The Keystone Center, of which Peter Adler, a former Hawaii resident and skilled facilitator, is President, has recently come to our attention. The Keystone Center's mission is to "ensure that present and future generations approach environmental and scientific dilemmas and disagreements creatively and proactively. By way of its education and public policy programs, The Keystone Center improves decisions about long-term issues by helping thought-leaders, teachers, students, and decision-makers effectively address technically complex and politically uncertain situations."

<http://www.keystone.org/index.html>

The fact that concurrent resolutions do not appropriate funds is problematic. Any professional facilitator would need to be compensated for services.

We look forward to participating in the Work Group. I can be reached at 808- reached at 808-338-8300 ext. 113 if there are any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**TROPICAL
HAWAIIAN PRODUCTS**

P.O. Box 210
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
Phone (808) 966-7435
Fax (808) 966-7367

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
And
ENRGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

SENATE RESOLUTION 229

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

April 2008

Dear Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor & Members of the Committees:

STRONG SUPPORT

Tropical Hawaiian Products (THP) supports SCR#229 requesting the Board of Agriculture to convene a working group of representatives from the agriculture industry to develop a framework, recommendations and policies on issues relating to genetically modified agriculture crops.

My name is Loren Mochida, General Manager of THP in Keaau, Hawaii. THP is a processor and exporter of Hawaiian Premium papayas to CONUS and Japan.

I support all "POSITIVE" type Bills for agriculture introduced by Legislators. Anti "GMO" Bills are negative type Bills introduced by a few Legislators.

I believe all three production systems are critical to the economic viability and sustainability of Hawaii. Papaya Growers in the state have already chosen whether they want to produce by biotechnology, conventional, or organic. They have a choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR#229.



HAWAII ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION

(808)969-7789 FAX: (808)969-7759

P.O. Box 6863 Hilo, HI 96720

hofa@hawaiiorganicfarmers.org www.hawaiiorganicfarmers.org

SCR229
Thursday April 3, 2008
1:15 P.M. Room 414
Testimony In Opposition

LATE

Aloha,
Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser, members of the committee,

HOFA strongly opposes SCR229.

Hawaii Organic Farmers Association (HOFA) is a non-profit membership organization which has been supporting organic food and agriculture in Hawaii since its inception 15 years ago. HOFA has helped to implement farm-based legislation and expand public awareness and education. HOFA is the only USDA accredited certifying agency for organic growers and processors in the state of Hawaii. The non-profit sustains a membership which includes certified farmers and processors, retailers, small exempt farmers, customers and other supporting members.

HOFA has 494 members statewide, 148 certified producers, and 75 new applicants. One third (53) of our certified organic producers and handlers are growers or roasters of certified organic coffee. While organic coffee farms represent only 8% of the coffee farmers in Kona, organic farmers represented 33% of the cupping contest finalists in 2007. The overall winner in 2007 was an organic farmer, and over the last 10 years of cupping contest winners, 6 were certified organic (60%).

Our growers not only know how to grow coffee without genetic modification, they grow superior coffee. The successful methods for growing award winning coffee include care for the soil, the water and the land (without chemicals, poisons, and genetic modification.) Contamination of our crop by genetic drift has already impacted the livelihoods of our papaya farmers on the Big Island, apiaries on Molokai, and corn farmers on Kauai. International markets for Kona coffee in Japan and Europe could be severely impacted by the introduction of GMO coffee with potentially dire consequences.

Does SCR229 offer our successful organic farmers a seat at the table in this discussion? No! Nowhere does SCR229 provide a voice for this thriving industry—
Where is the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association?
Where is the Hawaii Coffee Association?
Where is the Kona Coffee Farmers Association?
Where is the Kona Coffee Council?
Where is the Kona Farmers Alliance?
Where is the Kona Pacific Farmers' Cooperative?

With all due respect to the authors of this legislation, the stakeholders listed in SCR 229 do not provide an opportunity for a fair and balanced discussion about GMOs in Hawaii. Only one pro-GMO coffee organization is offered a seat at the table. HOFA, not HICOF, is the state's largest organic farmer's membership organization, and has the bulk of certified farmers as members, while HICOF has a small faction. HICOF has voiced a view that farmers can co-exist with GMO crops, while HOFA members do not agree. Exclusion of vital stakeholders does not level the playing field; it makes a mockery of democracy. The Hawaii Organic Farmers Association respectfully urges the committee not to support this resolution.

Signed, Deborah J. Ward, Certification Coordinator

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Deborah J. Ward
Certification Coordinator

Hawaii Organic Farmers Association

Our mission is to protect the life of the land and the health of our communities through education about organic land care practices. We believe that developing and strengthening certified organic farms would enhance Hawaii's many fragile ecosystems and be a base for a local sustainable economy



Hawai'i Florists & Shippers Association

*P.O. Box 5640
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

LATE

Testimony for Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and Committee on Energy and Environment

Regarding

SCR 229

Thursday, April 3, 2008

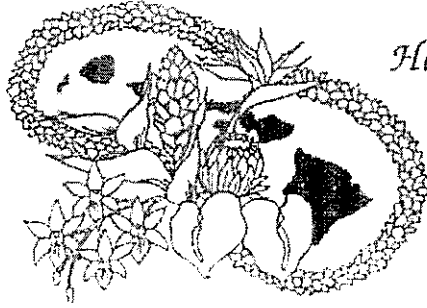
Room 414: 1:15 pm

Position: Support

Honorable Chairpersons Jill Tokuda and Ron Menor, and Members of the Senate AHW/ENE Committees:

Aloha my name is Eric S. Tanouye, President of Hawaii Florists and Shippers Association. Hawaii Florists and Shippers Association, (HFSA) is a statewide organization founded in 1948. It has approximately 400 members on all Islands. Our membership is composed of breeders, propagators, growers, shippers, retailers, wholesalers, and allied businesses, which support agriculture/ornamentals here in Hawaii.

We support this bill in the hopes that research and development can be considered based on discussion of the problems allowing reliable science and information to afford us solutions to the problems that face us in the changing world of GMO, Agriculture and Technology. With the current controversy facing us with GMO, it is important that we allow those who understand GMO's risks



Hawaii Florists & Shippers Association

P.O. Box 5640

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LATE

and those that understand GMO's benefits to discuss and not to make decisions based on fear and speculation.

In the current market with the world as your competitor, the importance of multiple means of growing, be it conventional, organic or biotechnology, becomes much more pronounced. The Growers of Hawaii must work as one and work towards mutual success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of HFSA we would like to thank you for your past support of our industry and we look forward to participating in the Work Group. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808)959-3535.

Supporting Hawaji Agriculture

Eric S. Tanouye, President

Hawaii Florists and Shippers Association

808-959-3535 ext. 22

808-959-7780 fax

gpn@greenpointnursery.com



Hawaii Island Economic Development Board
ISLAND OF OPPORTUNITY

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SENT VIA EMAIL

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April 2, 2008

LATE

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Mauna Kea Banana

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Barry Mizuno
Owner's Representative
Puna Geothermal Venture

Gene Kaleolani Leslie nomination to the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

Immediate Past Chair
Warren Lee
President
Hawaii Electric Light Company

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda and Committee Members:

Director
Winston Chow
Senior Vice President
First Hawaiian Bank

On behalf of the directors and the 115 member organizations of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, we wholeheartedly support Gene Kaleolani Leslie and his nomination by Governor Linda Lingle to the Hawaii Island Burial Council. We respectfully ask that you approve his nomination.

Director
Roberta Chu
Senior Vice President
Bank of Hawaii

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘a ha‘a

Director
Greg Chun, Ph.D.
President and General Manager
Kamehameha Investment Corp.

Director
Patricia Provalenko
President
PATDI, INC.

Mark McGuffie
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Barry K. Taniguchi
President and CEO
KTA Super Stores

Director
Mark McGuffie
Executive Director

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator, J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Hawai'ian Affairs

Senator Ron Menor, Chair
Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Ralph C. Boyea, Legislative Advocate, Hawai'i County Council

For: Hearing on April 3, 2008

SCR 229 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

Testimony **in favor** of SCR 229

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council, I am presenting this testimony in favor of SCR 229. This Resolution would establish a working group to address issues relating to genetically modified agricultural crops.

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council and the residents of Hawai'i County, I ask that this Resolution be amended to contain a provision that would place a moratorium on the field testing of genetically modified coffee, outside of an environmentally secured facility, until the legislature has the opportunity to consider and address the report of this working group. I also request that each of the County Councils be allowed to appoint a representative to this working group.

These requests are being made for the following reasons.

1. Issues relating to genetically modified crops have come to the forefront during this legislative session. For example: SB 958 relating to genetically modified taro and HB 1577 relating to genetically modified coffee.

SB 958 – relating to genetically modified taro.

On January 24, 2008, the Hawai'i County Council passed Resolution #462-08 in support of SB 958, SD1, HD1. This Bill proposes a 10-year moratorium on developing, testing, propagating, cultivating, growing and raising of genetically engineered taro in the State of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i County Council heard

overwhelming public testimony in support of Resolution #462-08. The Resolution passed without a single “no” vote. One of the nine council members was excused.

In 2007, the Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawai’ian Affairs committee and the Senate Energy & Environmental Protection passed SB 958, SD1. The WLH committee report, SSCR #28, states:

“While genetic engineering may arguable serve as a tool to improve or protect agricultural crops, it is still prudent to respect and preserve the integrity and purity of the various varieties of taro grown in Hawai’i.”

On March 19, 2008, the House Committee on Agriculture heard SB 958, SD1, HD1. Nearly 100 individuals representing many organizations testified on this Bill. The vast majority testified in favor of the moratorium. The Capitol website shows over 1 gigabyte of testimony submitted as ‘in person’ testimony. Well over 2000 pages. In addition, there is over 112 mega bytes, 241 pages, of additional testimony on the website regarding this Bill. Again, the vast majority of that testimony was in support of the moratorium.

Contained within this wealth of testimony are many scientifically sound arguments as to why the moratorium on genetic engineering of taro, and other food crops, should be implemented.

The House Agriculture committee has scheduled decision making on this Bill on April 3, 2008.

HB 1577, HD1 relating to genetically modified coffee.

On January 24, 2008, the Hawai’i County Council passed Resolution #463-08 in support of HB 1577, HD1. This Bill proposes a 5-year moratorium on the growing of genetically modified coffee, while at the same time permitting research on genetically modified coffee in an environmentally secure facility. The Hawai’i County Council heard overwhelming public testimony in support of Resolution #463-08. The Resolution passed without a single “no” vote. One of the nine council members was excused.

The House committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce and the House committee on Energy & Environmental Protection both heard and passed this Bill. The EEP committee report, SCR #99, states:

“Currently, genetically modified coffee is not regulated in Hawai’i and subject only to federal regulation. The Kona coffee industry contributes significantly to the economic and cultural vitality of Hawai’i. There is a strong desire to maintain the unique brand identity and the market price of Kona coffee, which is a highly regarded specialty coffee. There is substantial concern that permitting genetically modified coffee in the Hawai’i market will lead to a substantially reduced market price and erode the niche that Kona coffee, as a specialty coffee, enjoys.” My emphasis.

As of this date HB 1577, HD1 has not been heard by the Senate.

Without a moratorium, Hawai'i's specialty coffee crops can suffer irreparable harm.

There has been overwhelming public interest in both of these Bills. Residents of our various counties have taken the time to express their concerns at both the Legislature and at the County Council level. Geographically, the Council's are more readily accessible to our neighbor island residents. Given the public interest on these issues, we request that the Council's each be allowed to appoint a representative to this working group.

2. Some of the specific issues that need to be considered and addressed.

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council, I provided committee Chairs Menor and Tokuda with documentation showing scientific and legal issues regarding the unwanted spread of genetically modified crops on the mainland. Some of the issues addressed in that documentation are:

1. a February 13, 2007, US District Court ruling that found that the growing of genetically modified crops could severely and negatively impact non-genetically modified crops, thus requiring an environmental impact statement prior to planting of genetically modified crops;
2. once genetically modified genes are released into the environment, they cannot be controlled;
3. numerous instances of cross contamination have occurred on the mainland costing the growers of non-genetically modified crops millions of dollars;
4. even the most professional, and theoretically most responsible researchers have not been able to stop the unintended release of GM/GE genes into the environment when doing field testing;
5. and, while various proponents of genetic engineering argue that farmers should be allowed to choose whether or not they grow genetically modified crops; those same proponents place the burden of protecting non-genetically modified crops on the growers of those non-genetically modified crops; they do so without reference to any realistic method to protect those crops – thus, due to the very real threat of cross contamination, negating the free choice of the non-genetically modified farmers to grow the crops of their choice.

We believe this material supports the need for an honest, unbiased look at the issues relating to growing genetically modified crops and the issues of choice for Hawai'i's farmers. Hawaii, unlike the mainland states, has the ability to take a long hard look at this issue, before any unwanted, uncontrolled release of genetically modified crops takes place.

We support the passage of SCR 229.

For the reasons cited above, we request that SCR 229 contain a provision for a moratorium on

the planting of genetically modified coffee outside of an environmentally secured facility until the working group's report is considered by the Legislature. The moratorium will also give the industry time to convince the public of the value of genetic modification and to find ways to insure that those who choose to grow non-genetically modified crops will be protected from cross-contamination by genetically modified crops.

We further request that each of the County Council's be allowed to appoint a representative to this working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for considering our requests.

testimony

From: Randy Wirth [randy@caffeibis.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 6:46 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 229 in support with ammendments

Date: 4/3/08
Room: 414
1:15 pm
Chris Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to have my comments included in the record.

We have been coming to the islands for some 40 years. We owned a home on the island of Kauai for over 14 years. I have been involved in the specialty coffee industry for over 35 years. My wife, Sally and I have specialty cafes and a custom coffee roasting house in Logan, Utah. Along with direct distrubtion throughout the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii), we also custom roast and sell to Canada, Europe, and Japan.

We have always supported specialty coffee from the highlands of Kona on Hawaii. I am in the process of purchasing certified organic coffee from A'ama Organic Farm for this year. I will be paying significant premiums (over \$25/lb, unroasted) for this coffee. I am willing to do this because it is specialty certified organic coffee.

If GMO coffee is allowed to field test and to be grown in Hawaii, I will immediately pull my support for this or any other Hawaiian coffee until it is proven to be safe and can be certified organic. I expect this to be a 20 year period from the introduction of GMO field testing. As it is, I will significantly alter my current order pending the outcome of this resolution.

As you may know, the USDA Organic Standard does not allow GMO products. As you may or may not be aware, the Specialty Coffee Association of America, does not support GMO coffee. As you may know, a very large shipment of American rice that had been sold and shipped to Europe this past year was rejected and returned to the United States because GMO contamination was detected. GMO products are generally not supported by consumers in the USA, Europe, Canada, Japan, and many other countries.

Approval of field testing of GMO coffee in Hawaii will seriously alter the reputation of this important commodity and seriously affect the price premiums paid for Hawaiian coffee, at least in the short run (20 years).

It should be noted that the strongest growth market in the United States is in certified organic products because of consumer concern about health, both environmental and personal. The GMO industry should be responsible for proving the long term safety to consumers prior to introduction. It should also be responsible for proving that it can be introduced without affecting neighboring farms crops. The state of Hawaii should not allow industrial agriculture to make it the "guinea pig" to the world.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to have my remarks included in the record of these proceedings.

All the Best,
Randy Wirth & Sally Sears
CoOwners
Caffe Ibis Coffee Roasting Company, Inc. and Caffe Ibis Gallery/Deli

4/1/2008

testimony

From: bonnie bonse [bcbonse@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 10:15 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 229 - in support with amendments

Testimony re: SCR 229 in support with amendments

Date: April 3, 2008

Room 414 - 1:15 pm

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser:

My name is Bonnie Bonse, I live in Makawao. My work is with children with disabilities. Much of my personal time is spent educating myself about GMOs. I am committed to raising awareness - not *fear*, mind you - about this issue. So, as a very concerned citizen, I submit this testimony in support - with amendments - of the creation of a working group to make recommendations and policies regarding agricultural genetic engineering in Hawai'i.

However, I find the language of this resolution quite biased in support of the GMO industry. Inappropriate presumptions are made; for example, "...promote a fair, open and honest discussion about GMO issues that is centered on how conventional, biotech and organic agriculture can co-exist;" If this group's job is really to look honestly at the issue of GMOs in Hawai'i and their affects on our agricultural practices, I believe it would be more accurate for that to read: ..."centered on *whether or not* conventional, biotech and organic agriculture can co-exist." Co-existence has not been established.

Another amendment I propose has to do with the choosing of the members of this group. Efforts to protect Hawaii's prized Kona coffee led to this resolution, as I understand it. Therefor, I am concerned that there is only one coffee organization represented, and it happens to be the only one that actually promotes GMO coffee! Where are the representatives of the many other coffee growers? The largest organic certifier, HOFA, has also not been invited to participate - why?

I feel strongly that this resolution needs work before it will be fair and produce positive results.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bonnie Bonse
182 S. Makaleha Pl
Makawao, HI 96768
808-572-1865

You rock. That's why Blockbuster's offering you one month of Blockbuster Total Access, No Cost.

testimony

From: Jennifer Snyder [snyder@dancingfrog.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 8:11 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 229 / vote NO

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Ron Menor, Chair
Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:
Thursday, April 3, 2008
TIME:
1:15 P.M.
PLACE:
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D ASCR 229

Testimony

Status

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.

Dear Committee;

I would like to submit testimony on this subject.

Vote NO on SCR 229.

This bill minimizes people's informed concerns that have already been abundantly expressed in HB958 testimony and allows the continued unregulated proliferation of Agricultural Genetic Engineering in Hawaii (highest GE activity per capita in the world!)

Please vote for a complete GMO taro moratorium and a GMO coffee moratorium.

1000's of citizens are calling for GMO field tests disclosure and GMO labeling (Gabbards killed bills). Please listen to the wisdom of the future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Snyder
Box 1427
Kapaau, HI 96755

SCR229 in support with amendments

Date:

April 3, 2008

Room 414

1:15 pm

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser;

It is a serious error and a disservice to the public trust to allow a taskforce to be formed that is from the beginning conflicted with regard to protecting the very activities that need objective oversight.

Farmers should be heavily represented on this taskforce. The task force must include coffee farmers, Kalo farmers, organic farmers, and also objective scientists who fully understand the environmental and cultural impacts of genetically modified plants in Hawai'i.

Please remember that Monsanto and other GMO industry representatives do not represent the public interest. They exist only to further their own profit margin—at any expense—to public process, environment, or cultural rights.

Please ensure that a taskforce represents all the interests of agriculture in Hawai'i, not just those with the most money.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cha Smith
P.O. Box 10829
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818

testimony

From: Marjorie Erway [merway@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 9:18 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SCR229 with amendments, Apr. 3, Rm. 414, @ 1:15pm

Aloha Chairpersons Menor and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Hooser and English, and committees members!

Since the Kona Coffee industry is highly successful and would be damaged if GMO was used on this island, it is vital that this resolution be changed.

Please narrow the focus as the reso is much too broad as it is. I encourage you to meet with all the coffee organizations. There have been too many groups left out of the dialogue, so far.

Mahalo for reading,

Sincerely,
Marjorie Erway
PO Box 2807
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745
808-324-4624

For the Senate Joint Committees: Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and Energy and Environment Meeting on Thursday April 3rd; Testimony on
SCR 229:

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

I am Al Santoro, an organic farmer on Oahu's N. Shore and President of the Hawaii Co-op of Organic Farmers (HICOF). I am very conflicted about offering support for SCR 229 as it is currently written. Although dialog to reduce tension between our farmer groups is usually a good thing, our last attempt at this working group resulted in no actionable initiatives. It is unclear who might be requesting to repeat this time-consuming and often frustrating discourse without specific guidance and direction and without assurances of follow-thru on reasonable solutions.

I am concerned about the assumptions which led to the language of the Reso. If justification for diversified ag is scientific research I have to remind folks that the only sector enjoying that scientific focus is the gmo sector and ask when will organic farmers share in that resource. I would not want to participate in discussions which are designed to justify one's science vs another's as there is no common ground; more progress if we stop focusing on the science and focus on solutions. I have read and reread the first few paragraphs of the Reso which sound like a prelude to a gmo love-in and is not conducive to an open playing field.

Real choice of farming practices comes from equal opportunities and access to resources for all of Hawaii's farmers and that has not been the case in the past and this Reso needs to include the words that will help to ensure it happens in the future.

We ask for specific word changes:

1) page 3, line9; please insert a period after "crops" and delete lines 10-15; rationale: there is NO consensus that Hawaii shall be the center of gmo research for "farmers and peoples around the world"; and

2) page 4, first para, pls add " the Mediation Center of the Pacific"
as an alternative to the CADR;.

Thank you, Al Santoro, 637-4555, asantoro@hawaii.rr.com

testimony

From: Naia [naia96708@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 2:11 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 229 - in support (with amendments)

Testimony re: SCR 229 in support with amendments

Date: April 3, 2008

Room 414 - 1:15 pm

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser:

My name is Nadine Newlight; I live in Paia. My work is with children with learning disabilities and much of my personal time is spent educating myself about GMOs. I am committed to raising awareness - not *fear*, mind you - about this issue. So, as a very concerned citizen, I submit this testimony in support - with amendments - of the creation of a working group to make recommendations and policy regarding agricultural genetic engineering in Hawai`i.

However, I find the language of this resolution quite biased in support of the GMO industry. Inappropriate presumptions are made, for example, "...promote a fair, open and honest discussion about GMO issues that is centered on how conventional, biotech and organic agriculture can co-exist;" If this group's job is really to look honestly at the issue of GMOs in Hawai`i and their effects on our agricultural practices, it would be more accurate to read: "...centered on *whether or not* conventional, biotech and organic agriculture can co-exist." Co-existence is NOT a given!

Another proposed amendment regards selection of the members of this group. Efforts to protect Hawaii's prized Kona coffee led to this resolution, as I understand it. Therefore, I am concerned that there is only one coffee organization represented (the only one that actually promotes GMO coffee). Where are the representatives of the many other coffee growers? The largest organic certifier, HOFA, has also not been invited to participate - why?

I feel strongly that this resolution needs work before it will be fair and produce positive results.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nadine Newlight
45 Laenui Place
Pa`ia, HI 96779-8110
808-573-7730

"Please help save the environment: Consider not printing this e-mail."

testimony

From: Jeff Sacher [jsacher@kona.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 5:23 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Ron Menor; Sen. Gary Hooser
Subject: SCR 229

RE: SCR 229
DATE: Thursday, April 3, 2008
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 So. Britania St.

Dear Senators:

Please do not pass SCR 229. At this point in time we need a complete moratorium on any and all GMOs.

Mahalo,
Jeff Sacher
Kawaihae, Big Island
808-936-9983

testimony

From: Christine Sheppard [christinesheppard@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 6:05 PM
To: testimony
Subject: In support, with amendments, of SCR229

Regarding: SCR229
Thursday April 3, 2008
1:15 P.M. Room 414

Honorable Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser;

We understand you are hearing SCR229, and we respectfully ask you to amend the resolution.

It is essential for the health and prosperity of the Kona coffee industry that the members of the task force that are making the decisions about GMO coffee ARE the members of the coffee industry. It is definitely not appropriate for members of the seed corn industry, the papaya industry, or the nursery industry to be making decisions about our unique Kona coffee. We we have a very successful agricultural industry that does not need GMO. In fact it would seriously damage our markets if GMO plants were to end up on our island due to people bringing them here.

Why were all major coffee organizations left off of the resolution as participants? Kona Coffee Council, Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Kona Farmers Alliance, Hawaii Organic Farmers Association... Why was the HCGA the only one included, the smallest of the coffee organizations in the state, and the only coffee organization that promotes the cultivation of GMO coffee in Hawaii. This is an insult to the industry as a whole. With such obvious "cherry picking" of participants one has to question the intention here.

The resolution mentions a fair, open and honest discussion. Let us start with including all the stakeholders in the coffee industry in Hawaii.

We would be present to testify to you, but with the Aloha Airlines collapse it has been impossible to get a flight from the outer islands, and I hope you will bear this in mind, and not think we do not care enough about this issue to come to talk to you personally.

Aloha

Ken & Christine Sheppard
75-6153 Hoomama Street
Kailua Kona HI 96740
808-329-7239

Christine Sheppard
www.kona-coffee-country.com/coffee
christinesheppard@hawaii.rr.com
808-329-7239

testimony

From: Melissa Yee [drmlyukyo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 11:09 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 229 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL CROPS HEARING THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008 Conference Room 414 To Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs From Dr. Melissa Yee

I have been following the debate on genetic engineering of crops and am concerned that this is a stall technique to continue to allow the chemical companies to experiment in the fields on all the islands. The Pandora's box has already been opened, and the chemical companies themselves cannot guarantee the safety of the procedures and products they are promoting.

However, the farming community must come together and become more knowledgeable about this form of genetic manipulation of crops which will feed people and be part of our exports to the world. The papaya industry has already suffered because of the GMO types which Japan refuses to import. It is possible that our Kona coffee and other foods will also be rejected by other countries when they are informed that these products have been tampered with.

I support forming a study group to research the pros and cons of genetic engineering. Also the public needs to become more educated about what GMO's can and will do to the environment and our health.

The organic foods business is growing, now bringing in \$16 billion a year. The biggest food corporations are already capitalizing on this demand, and the label "organic" has already been misused.

I encourage labeling of GMO foods and will support a bill next year to label foods so people have a choice in what they are eating.

Please pass this resolution to support the creation of this committee, the sooner the better. In spite of advancements through science and technology, Hawaii and America cannot claim to have the healthiest and most productive inhabitants. Let us make this a truly Healthy State.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Melissa L. Yee
1480 Kinau Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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SCR229

Thursday April 3, 2008

1:15 P.M. Room 414

Testimony In support with amendments

Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser;

I am the General Manager of Sugai Kona Coffee. The Sugai Family has been growing Kona Coffee for the past 100 years. The Japanese-American community has roots in Kona coffee here in Hawaii. I am a steward for the next generation of coffee here at Sugai's. I also speak for a few other farmers here in Kona.

I want to encourage the esteemed Senators to allow fellow Kona Coffee farmers to be on the committee. Coffee farmers need a voice on the committee that would be a different perspective than a blender or processor will bring. Kona Coffee farmer's livelihoods could directly be affected by the results of this committee, more so than the processor or blenders could be.

I request that no field testing or outdoor experimental testing be permitted during the time preceding the Senate hearing in 2010. By allowing these field testing while the committee is meeting would circumvent the purpose of the committee.

I propose that the committee's task be narrowed to Coffee and the effects of GMO coffee on the Hawaiian Coffee industry. We, coffee farmers, do not claim to be knowledgeable regarding Papaya, Taro, Bananas or other crops and their market. They would also not be able to be as knowledgeable regarding our crops and the effects on our market.

I recommend that a diverse group of interested parties be on the Committee so that a balance can be found to address the fears and speculations of the community. Accurate information and education needs to be distributed to the public to answer current and future questions.

I implore the Committee to have no preconceived outcomes going into this process. If the committee is mandated to find a way for coexistence then no matter what the committee finds the committee's collective mind is already made up. Therefore, the committee would just be a way of spending valuable taxpayer's money.

Mahalo to the Senators for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Kona Farmers.

Nancy Koerner
General Manager
Sugai Products
(808) 322-7717



PO Box 2352, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

hawaiiseed@hawaiiseed.org

promoting sustainable agriculture

educating about the risks genetic engineering pose to the health of our islands

LATE

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Committees on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs & Energy and the Environment

April 3, 1:15pm

Testimony in opposition to SCR229,
Chairs Tokuda, Menor & Members of the Committees,

My name is Meleana Judd and I am the Oahu coordinator for Hawaii SEED—a statewide nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and educating the public about the risks genetic engineering pose to the health of our islands. While I commend you for your interest in creating opportunities for information exchange and open dialogue on these important issues, I am submitting testimony in opposition for the following reasons:

-Current language does not recognize any of the work already done on co-existence issues or in determining Best Management Practices for agriculture in Hawaii.

-The named stakeholder list seems to be loaded on the pro-GMO side and does not include the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, Hawaii SEED, or the Coalition to Protect Hawaii's Coffee. While the list does say “not limited to”, I feel it would not have been challenging to drum up a more balanced representation of stakeholders which leads me to feel concerned that the working group may have biased beginnings.

-It is my understanding that if passed this working group will effectively be a 2 year stall on the Legislature passing any kind of protective measure for those who wish to farm or even eat locally and organically. Within this two year time period an open field test trial for GMO coffee could be planted and already begin contaminating non GMO coffee varieties. Between the Citizen's for Food Choice's thousands of signatures in support of Gabbard's whole foods labeling bill and the thousands who submitted testimony in support of a moratorium of GMO taro, the message that the public wants the right to know if food is genetically modified and wants to set guidelines about what is and is not pono regarding this relatively new science should already be loud and clear.

In closing I want to revisit the March 5th press release where Senator Tokuda's quote reads, “If we plan properly, we do not have to choose one over the other.” If the choice here is conventional, biotech, or organic farming techniques, I would truly hope that as Chair of the Senate's sole agriculturally focused committee that she would not have to but WANT to choose to favor the organic practices as they are proven as the healthiest for people and ecosystems alike in the long term.

Malama Pono,
Meleana Judd
Hawaii SEED

April 2, 2008

SCR229

Thursday April 3, 2008

1:15 P.M. Room 414

Testimony In support with amendments

LATE

Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser;

I speak for many members of the Kona Coffee industry, who would like to amend this resolution and create a situation whereby the members of the task force that are making the decisions about GMO coffee, are the members of the coffee industry. NOT the seed corn industry, the papaya industry, or the nursery industry etc. We know that our situation is unique in the state, in that we have a very successful agricultural industry that does not need GMO agricultural crops in order to proceed and continue to expand our current markets. On the contrary it would seriously damage our markets if the plants were to end up on our island due to people bringing them here. The resolution is much too broad. We would like to be in a dialog to narrow the focus.

If we are to move forward in a knowledge-based fashion, let's operate on the existent knowledge that because of perceptions, justified or not, in the gourmet, specialty and organic coffee markets, GMO products are shunned. Export markets such as the premium Hawaii coffee export market will be lost. This is no problem if your objective lies in garnering a return to your GMO research investment, but what about those invested in non-GMO export crops in Hawaii, and their return?

Has coexistence ever been proven scientifically to be possible? If so, why have all gmo crops contaminated their non-gmo counterparts? If coexistence has never been biologically possible, does a science-based approach include having as a major tenet of the task force, the assumption that it is possible? We support having this being one of the questions that we look to answer? Is coexistence possible? We also would support scientific studies from a wide range of independent researchers across the nation."

We would also like to know why all major coffee organizations were left off of the resolution as participants? Only HCGA was included, certainly the smallest of the coffee organizations in the state. And the only coffee organization that promotes the cultivation of GMO coffee in Hawaii. HOFA was also left off of the list. They are the oldest and largest organic certifier in the state, and the only organic group that has any real knowledge of coffee. With many obvious groups being left out of the resolution from the beginning, a fair question in many people's minds could be "What types of restrictions will be placed upon the truth? "

One other very important point is this, by agreeing to be on a task force with a two year life, it appears that we are agreeing that nothing can be done legislatively until the task force is complete. This leaves the door wide open for gmo coffee proponents to apply for a permit and to release gmo coffee in a field trial. Before we have the "proof" to stop it.

If we agree to be on this task force we want assurance that no permit for gmo coffee will be applied for until completion. If we “neighbors” can’t agree on that easy form of cooperation, then this whole effort is a form of shibai.

I do hope that we can come to an agreement on this issue for the greatest good of the industry.

Thank You,

Una Greenaway, Chair
Coalition to Protect Hawaii Coffee
Members include:
Kona Coffee Council
Kona Young Farmers
Hawaii Coffee Association
Kona Coffee Farmers’ Association
Kona Farmers’ Alliance
Kona Pacific Farmers’ Cooperative
Hawaii Organic Farmers’ Association

testimony

From: Respiratory & Environmental Disabilities Assoc of HI [redahi@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 4:23 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR229 April 3, 2008 Rm 414, 1:15PM

SCR229 in support with amendments

April 3, 2008
Room 414
1:15 pm

Chairpersons Menor and Tokuda, Vice-Chairs Hooser and English, and members of the committees:

THE only people to benefit from genetically altered coffee are the companies themselves. Hawaii's pristine coffee will be compromised and rejected by the rest of world. People in other countries are predominantly against any kind of genetic modification of ANY food. The US needs to reassess their priorities and mainly Hawaii when it comes to this technology.

For those of us with severe food allergies this technology is inherently dangerous. I, personally, have been watching these businesses contaminate fields to the extent where people cannot even live next to them. And that is just the contaminated pollen.

Hawaii needs to protect everyone, not just businesses. We are not unfriendly to business, in general, just to those who would come here and harm our fragile environment and health. Once this technology contaminates, we can never recover.

Thank you for your time,

Bobby McClintock, RED AHI (Respiratory & Environmental Disabilities Assoc of HI)

testimony

From: Dr Paul Drouin [drpaul@iqbnm.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 9:21 PM
To: testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 229 REQUESTING THE BOARD

LATE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 229 REQUESTING THE BOARD
OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP RELATING TO
GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL CROPS
HEARING THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
Conference Room 414
To Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs**

From Dr. Paul Drouin

I have been following the debate on genetic engineering of crops and am highly concerned that this is a stall technique to continue to allow the chemical companies to experiment in the fields on all the islands. The Pandora's box has already been opened, and the chemical companies themselves cannot guarantee the safety of the procedures and products they are promoting.

However, the farming community must come together and become more knowledgeable about this form of genetic manipulation of crops which will feed people and be part of our exports to the world. The papaya industry has already suffered because of the GMO types which Japan refuses to import. It is possible that our Kona coffee and other foods will also be rejected by other countries when they are informed that these products have been tampered with.

I support forming a study group to research the pros and cons of genetic engineering. Also the public needs to become more educated about what GMO's can and will do to the environment and our health.

The organic foods business is growing, now bringing in \$16 billion a year. The biggest food corporations are already capitalizing on this demand, and the label "organic" has already been misused.

I encourage labeling of GMO foods and will support a bill next year to label foods so people have a choice in what they are eating.

Please pass this resolution to support the creation of this committee, the sooner the better. In spite of advancements through science and technology, Hawaii and America cannot claim to have the healthiest and

most productive inhabitants. Let us make this a truly
Healthy State.

Best Regard,
Dr. PAul Drouin
1750 Kalakaua, suite 1909
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

testimony

From: Eden Peart [edenpeart@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 5:23 PM
To: testimony; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Ron Menor
Subject: SCR 229 Thurs. 4.4.08 1:15 p.m. Senate Conf. Rm.414
Attachments: 2767043148-NFU Policy 2008 Genetically Modified Organisms and Biotechnolgy.rtf;
 1016145593-NFFC Farmers Declaration on GE.rtf

LATE LATE

**Testimony - SCR 229 Thursday, April 4, 2008 April 3, 2008
 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414**

From:
 Eden M. Peart
 Hawai'i Farmers Union
 c/o Kawaiholehole Farm
 P.O. Box 1863
 Honoka'a, Hi 96727
edenpeart@yahoo.com

To:
 Senate Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
 Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
 J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
 Senators Mike Gabbard, Clayton Hee, Russell Kokubun, Sam Slom

Senate Energy and Environment Committee
 Ron Menor, Chair
 Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair
 Senators Lee Ihara, Jr., Russell S. Kokubun, Gordon Trimble

Dear Senate Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Environment Committee Members,

Concerning SCR 229, the proposed "Working Group on Genetically Modified Crops" - I am submitting testimony as the Hawai'i liason for the National Family Farm Coalition, as a member of the Hawai'i Farmers Union, as a member of the Hamakua North Hilo Agricultural Cooperative and as a farmer and owner of Kawaiholehole Farm.

Thank you for taking up the imperative to address the concerns that farmers and citizens here and around the world have regarding the complex issue of genetic engineering and food sovereignty. It will require continued effort to educate everyone about the implications of this technology. Thank you for making the effort yourselves and for considering ways to safeguard Hawai'i's sustainable economy, environment and culture. It must be daunting for each of you lawmakers to fathom the importance of your decision-making related to biotechnology activity in Hawai'i. This complex issue presents us with a microcosm of the challenges the world faces today, including sustainability, globalization, trade, and human rights. For these reasons a government-convened "Working Group on Genetically Modified Crops" is certainly justified.

However SCR229, as written and intended, is not an acceptable way to address this central challenge to Hawai'i's sustainable future. This bill minimizes people's informed concerns that have already been

abundantly expressed in HB958 testimony, while allowing the continued unregulated proliferation of agricultural genetic engineering in Hawaii (Hawaii has the highest GE activity per capita in the world!).

Recently I was glad to submit testimony for the Hawai'i Farmers Union on HB958. Hawaii Farmers Union is the newest subdivision of the National Farmers Union. NFU (est.1902,) is the oldest general farming organization in the United States, representing nearly 300,000 family farmers, ranchers and fishermen. The NFU policy on Genetically Modified Organisms and Biotechnology articulates the position of family farmers in relation to GMO crops. I will attach this policy as an appendix to this testimony.

Of even greater service to you decision-makers is the vast body of Hawai'i specific testimony offered in support of HB958. This expert testimony includes CTAHR Associate Professor of Plant Pathology Dr. Scot Nelson, CTAHR Vegetable Crops Specialist Dr. Hector R. Valenzuela, the Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, Kamehameha Schools, OHA, Sierra Club, United Local 5, Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Political Action Council of Hawaii Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs, Native Hawaiian Bar Association, all the taro farmers from Waipio Valley, Kauai County Council, Big Island County Council, members from Maui County Council, Dr. Lorrin Pang, and hundreds of individual Hawai'i residents.

Finally, I want to offer as part of my testimony today, the NFFC's Farmer's Declaration on Genetic Engineering, also to be attached in the appendix. Signatories to this watershed document include the American Corn Growers Association, Hawai'i Organic Farming Association, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, and dozens of other authoritative organizations.

Senators, I urge you to honor the overwhelming body of expert and general public testimony submitted to you for HB958, as well as for the earlier GMO coffee moratorium, GMO Field test disclosure and GMO labeling, rather than invalidating it, wasting public revenues and prolonging the absence of active oversight and regulation of the biotech industry in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Eden Marie Peart, MLIS

Note: Appendices A: NFU 2008 Policy - Genetically Modified Organisms and Biotechnology AND B: National family Farm Coalition; Farmer's Declaration on Genetetic Engineering -**attached**.

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Appendix B : National Family Farm Coalition;

Farmers' Declaration on Genetic Engineering in Agriculture

National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC)

April 1st, 2000

Genetic engineering in agriculture has significantly increased the economic uncertainty of family farmers throughout the U.S. and the world. American farmers have lost critical markets which are closed to genetically engineered products. Corporate control of the seed supply threatens farmers' independence. The risk of genetic drift has made it difficult and expensive for farmers to market a pure product. Genetic engineering has created social and economic disruption that threatens traditional agricultural practices for farmers around the world. Farmers, who have maintained the consumer's trust by producing safe, reasonably priced and nutritious food, now fear losing that trust as a result of consumer rejection of genetically engineered foods. Many scientists believe genetically engineered organisms have been released into the environment and the food supply without adequate testing. Farmers who have used this new technology may be facing massive liability from damage caused by genetic drift, increased weed and pest resistance, and the destruction of wildlife and beneficial insects.

Because of all the unknowns, we, as farmers, therefore:

- Demand a suspension of all further environmental releases and government approvals of genetically engineered seeds and agriculture products.
- Demand an immediate, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental, health and economic impacts of genetically engineered seeds and agricultural products.
- Demand a ban on the ownership of all forms of life including a ban on the patenting of seeds, plants, animals, genes and cell lines.
- Demand that agrarian people who have cultivated and nurtured crops for thousands of years retain control of natural resources and maintain the right to use or reuse any genetic resource.
- Demand that corporate agribusiness be held liable for any and all damages that result from the use of genetically engineered crops and livestock that were approved for use without an adequate assessment of the risks posed to farmers, human health and the environment.
- Demand that the corporations and institutions that have intervened in the genetic integrity of life bear the burden of proof that their actions will not harm human health, the environment or damage the social and economic health of rural communities. Those corporations must bear the cost of an independent review guided by the precautionary principle and conducted prior to the introduction of any new intervention.

Demand that consumers in the U.S. and around the globe have the right to know whether their food is genetically engineered and have a right to access naturally produced food.

Demand that farmers who reject genetic engineering should not bear the cost of establishing that their product is free of genetic engineering.

Demand the protection of family farmers, farmworkers, consumers, and the environment by ending monopoly practices of corporate agribusiness through enforcement of all state and federal anti-trust, market concentration and corporate farming laws; by a renewed commitment to public interest agricultural research led by the land grant colleges; by an immediate shift of funding from genetic engineering to sustainable agriculture; and by expanding the availability of traditional varieties of crops and livestock.

Demand an end to mandatory check off programs that use farmers' money to support and promote genetic engineering research and corporate control of agriculture.

What many farmers have found about genetic engineering:

Genetically engineered agricultural products were released on the market without a fair and open process to assess the risks on human health and the environment or the social and economic risks to farmers and rural communities.

Family farmers' livelihoods and independence will be further compromised by genetic engineering. Genetic engineering empowers corporate agribusiness to accelerate capital and chemical intensive agriculture at the expense of family farmers and rural communities around the world, increases corporate concentration in agriculture, and poses unknown risks to the safety and security of the food supply.

Genetic engineering disrupts traditional agricultural practices creating social upheaval in rural communities and threatening agrarian cultures throughout the world.

Consumers worldwide are rejecting genetically engineered foods, driving down farm prices. This will force significant numbers of family farmers out of business.

Family farmers have been unfairly forced to assume liability for genetically engineered products that were not adequately tested before being released into the environment and food supply.

The corporate ownership of genetic resources and the corporate use of genetic engineering in agriculture is not designed to solve the problems farmers face in agriculture such as increased weed resistance, growing staple crops on marginal land, or making traditionally bred crops available to farmers worldwide, but rather to enrich corporations.

Genetically engineered seeds increase costs to farmers, have failed to perform as promised by corporate agribusiness, and, in some cases, yields have been lower and crops engineered to be herbicide tolerant have required increased use of herbicides

manufactured by the corporations that market the seeds.

The "terminator" gene, which renders corporate seeds sterile and was developed with USDA resources, is an unconscionable technology because it destroys life and destroys the right of farmers worldwide to save seeds, a basic step necessary to protect food security and biodiversity.

Genetic engineering*:

Genetic engineering involves taking a gene from one species and splicing it into another to transfer a desired trait. This could not occur in nature where the transfer of genetic traits is limited by the natural barriers that exist between different species and in this way genetic engineering is completely new and incomparable to traditional animal and plant breeding techniques. Genetic engineering is also called biotechnology. Another name for genetically engineered crops is genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

(*Reference: *Genetic Engineering*, Food and our Environment by Luke Anderson, Chelsea Green Publishing Co., White River Junction, Vermont).

ENDORSERS OF THE FARMERS' DECLARATION ON GENETIC ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE

American Corn Growers Association
California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Dakota Resource Council (ND)
Empire State Family Farm Alliance
Family Farm Defenders
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Hawaii Organic Farming Association
Indiana Citizen Action Coalition
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Land Loss Prevention Project (NC)
Land Stewardship Project (MN)
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Minnesota COACT
The Minnesota Project
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Family Farm Coalition
Northeast Organic Farming Association (VT)
North American Farm Alliance (OH)
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association
Ohio Family Farm Coalition

Organic Growers of Michigan
Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA
Rural Coalition
Rural Vermont
Sustainable Cotton Project
Western Colorado Congress
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Women, Food and Agriculture

Policy of the National Farmers Union

Enacted by delegates to the 106th anniversary convention

Las Vegas, Nevada

March 2-5 - 2008

12. Genetically Modified Organisms and Biotechnology

1. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have created a series of ethical, environmental, food safety, legal, market and structural issues that impact everyone in the food chain. Consumer and producer concerns need to be addressed.

We acknowledge concerns that biotechnology is being used as a trade barrier. We respect all nations' sovereignty and food policies and thus encourage open dialogue, cooperation and understanding in trade negotiations relating to biotechnology. We support:

a) A moratorium on the patenting and licensing of new transgenic animals and plants developed through genetic engineering until the broader legal, ethical and economic questions are resolved. The moratorium should include the introduction, certification and commercialization of genetically engineered crops, including all classes of wheat, until issues of cross-pollination, liability, commodity and seed stock segregation and market acceptance are adequately addressed. Research conducted in an environmentally secure facility should be exempt from this moratorium. Research conducted in open field production should be subject to mandatory public disclosure of; persons or entities initiating the research, location of test sites, and specific species and traits involved and the characteristics of the intended resultant genetically modified plant to be created.

Should commercialization of a new GMO become imminent, we encourage the appropriate regulatory authority to provide for a public input and review process, including production of economic and environmental impact analysis prior to commercialization;

b) Legislation to exempt farmers from paying royalties on patented farm animals and technical fees on seeds which have been genetically modified;

c) Legislation to prohibit the patenting of heritage seed, animal and biological

genetics;

- d) Legislation to prohibit the further use of tax dollars in developing terminator technology, e.g., a gene to ensure that seed will not reproduce;
- e) Legislation to prohibit the development and selling of seed that is sterile;
- f) The right of farmers to plant seed derived from proprietary organisms on their own land;
- g) New products involving GMOs be certified as safe by the FDA in testing done independently of the patent holder, at the specific patent holder's expense before being allowed on the market. Such testing is to be done at the expense of the specific patent holders seeking to market such products;
- h) Legislation requiring that patent holders or owners of GMO technology be held strictly liable for damages caused by genetic trespass including safety, health, economic and environmental effects. Farmers are not to be held liable for food safety, human health or environmental problems, including cross pollination, related to the use of GMOs as long as generally accepted crop production practices are followed;
- i) Congressional action to regulate the biotech industry's technology agreements. Farmers should not have to sign away their fundamental rights, including, but not limited to, a jury of their peers in court in exchange for the privilege of growing biotech crops. Grievances should be settled in the home state of the farmer, not the state of the biotech corporation;
- j) Any damages caused to farmers through lower prices, lost markets or contamination shall be fully reimbursed to farmers, including legal fees, by the company producing the genetically modified product;
- k) All data used in the analysis of the health and environmental effects of GMOs be public record, and that criminal penalties be established for the willful withholding or altering of such data;
- l) Prohibiting government regulatory agencies from licensing genetically modified

- products that are not acceptable for both human consumption and animal feed;
- m) Until USDA and FDA improves oversight and regulation of pharma crops, NFU cannot endorse or support pharma farming based on economic, environmental, food safety and liability risks to producers and consumers;
 - n) Requiring government regulatory agencies and input suppliers to ensure that farmers are informed of all potential market risks and segregation requirements associated with planting any licensed genetically modified crop;
 - o) Government regulatory agencies shall consider domestic and foreign consumer acceptance of the product when licensing;
 - p) Requiring all GMO seed to be clearly labeled with the following information: 1) markets (foreign or domestic) where the product is not accepted; and 2) all planting restrictions;
 - q) Development of a paper verification system and a storage and marketing plan to aid farmers with non-GMO grains;
 - r) Identity-preserved systems and insist they receive protection from cross contamination; and
 - s) Requiring genetically altered or engineered food products to be appropriately labeled to inform consumers. Food products derived from cloned animals should be labeled at the retail level.

testimony

From: Mary Lacques [hokuokekai50@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 9:59 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR229 in support with amendments

1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

From: Mary Lacques
P.O. Box 14
Hale'iwa HI 96712

To:
Senate Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Senators Mike Gabbard, Clayton Hee, Russell Kokubun, Sam Slom

Senate Energy and Environment Committee
Ron Menor, Chair
Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair
Senators Lee Ihara, Jr., Russell S. Kokubun, Gordon Trimble

Dear Senate Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Environment Committee Members,

In the spirit of overwhelming public support of HB958, I am respectfully requesting that your proposed Working Group on Genetically Modified Crops consist of a taskforce including a broader spectrum of stakeholders in the Hawaiian agricultural community. For example, HOFA, the largest and oldest organic certifier in Hawai'i would be an obvious choice. Please amend this resolution to include those who, for example, have been (organic papaya farmers) and those that would be (organic coffee farmers) most adversely affected by inevitable GMO contamination. As you are well aware, incidents of contamination of our food supply continue to occur with increasing regularity. We must safeguard our local, organic food supply which carries cultural as well as economic implications.

Whole Foods will be opening soon in Hawai'i as the organic food industry continues to grow by 20% a year. Paralleling this consistent growth is the awareness of food sovereignty issues, and how they relate to sustaining cultural and basic human rights. Hawai'i must become as self sufficient as possible, as mandated in the 2050 Sustainability Task Force.

Please acknowledge the public's educated and well informed concerns, and our overwhelming support for you, our elected officials, to protect the constituents and fragile environment of these islands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,
Mary Lacques

Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and the
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
April 3, 2008
1:15 p.m.
by
Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto

LATE

SCR 229, 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.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, Chair Menor, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 229, which asks 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. This testimony is presented from the perspective of the dean of CTAHR. It does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i.

I support SCR 229.

I strongly believe that all forms of agriculture—conventional farming, integrated pest management, organic farming, and genetic engineering—can coexist and thrive on a sustainable, long-term basis. Each of these methods of farming has value and presents some unique challenges. To serve all of our stakeholders in the agricultural community, CTAHR researchers and extension personnel use tools suited to each of these farming methods to improve crop yields, reduce farmers' costs and risks, protect crops from pests and diseases, and support Hawai'i's agricultural industries.

The development and adoption of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Hawai'i has been a contentious subject in recent years. I believe that we can facilitate agricultural coexistence and find common ground on issues relating to GE crops through education, collaboration, and respectful discussion. The working group proposed in SCR 229 is consistent with this approach and would be a positive step forward. CTAHR stands ready to assist the working group's efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.