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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DISCUSS ISSUES,  
STUDY IMPACTS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO  
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY.

1           WHEREAS, since the engineering of genetically modified  
2 organisms (GMOs) is a relatively new science, the public has  
3 asked for a long-term evaluation of potential effects on the  
4 health of humans, other living creatures, and the environment;  
5 and

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7           WHEREAS, Hawaii has more genetic engineering test sites per  
8 square mile than any other state in the nation; and

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10          WHEREAS, public and environmental health concerns about the  
11 testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, planting, growing,  
12 or releasing of genetically modified crops and seeds in the  
13 state have elicited extensive public comment during recent  
14 legislative hearings; and

15  
16          WHEREAS, these concerns include, but are not limited to,  
17 the risks of new allergens and toxins in foods, pollen drift,  
18 rising resistance rates of pests and weeds, crossing of new  
19 genes into wild relatives, and the potential contamination of  
20 aquifers, reservoirs, and fresh waterways; and

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22          WHEREAS, in 2008, the County of Hawaii enacted Ordinance  
23 No. 08-154, which prohibits any person from testing,  
24 propagating, cultivating, raising, planting, growing,  
25 introducing, or releasing genetically engineered or recombinant  
26 DNA taro or coffee in the County of Hawaii; and

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28          WHEREAS, given the growing public concern about GMOs in the  
29 state, it is necessary for the genetically engineered crop and  
30 seed industry, farmers, and the public to collaborate and  
31 discuss important issues relating to public and environmental  
32 health; and

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1           WHEREAS, this body finds that the state will benefit most  
2 from a task force composed of independent members who are  
3 familiar with the relevant health and environmental issues, and  
4 have expertise in the areas of human health, ecosystems,  
5 biosecurity, pest control, and water and soil quality, in  
6 addition to representatives from the genetically engineered crop  
7 and seed industry, non-GMO commercial farms, and organic farms;  
8 now, therefore,  
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10           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2009, that the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the  
13 Department of Health (DOH), and the President of UH are  
14 requested to co-convene a task force to review research studies,  
15 gather input, discuss issues, and recommend policies, regulatory  
16 needs, and legislative action relating to GMOs; and  
17

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also:  
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- 20           (1) Study the scope of the current and proposed use of  
21           GMOs in the state;  
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23           (2) Examine issues relating to farmer indemnity and how to  
24           reduce the likelihood of future litigation; and  
25  
26           (3) Study methods to allow the genetically engineered crop  
27           and seed industry to make the location and nature of  
28           genetically engineered crops transparent to the  
29           public;  
30

31 and  
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33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership be  
34 comprised of those representatives who are directly involved in  
35 the independent scientific review and evaluation of  
36 environmental and health impacts to the natural resources and  
37 people of the State of Hawaii; provided that the task force  
38 membership include:  
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- 40           (1) The Administrator of the DOA Plant Pest Control  
41           Branch;  
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43           (2) The Deputy Director of the DOH Environmental Health  
44           Administration;



- 1 (3) The Director of the DOH Office of Environmental
- 2 Quality Control;
- 3
- 4 (4) The Chair of the UH Institutional Biosafety Committee;
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- 6 (5) The Director of the UH Environmental Health and Safety
- 7 Office or the Director of the UH Environmental Center;
- 8
- 9 (6) The Director of the UH Office of Public Health
- 10 Studies;
- 11
- 12 (7) One non-GMO commercial farmer representative from each
- 13 county appointed by the respective mayor of each
- 14 county;
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- 16 (8) One organic farmer representative from each county
- 17 appointed by the respective mayor of each county; and
- 18
- 19 (9) One GMO farmer representative from each county
- 20 appointed by the respective mayor of each county;

21  
22 and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
25 report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no  
26 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular  
27 Session; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of  
31 Agriculture, Director of DOH, President of UH, the Attorney  
32 General, and the mayor of each county.

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35 OFFERED BY: 