

FEB 16 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND RETAILERS TO DEVELOP A CONSISTENT SYSTEM OF LABELING TO BETTER INFORM CONSUMERS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a strong interest in
2 promoting diversified agriculture as a means to help our island
3 state achieve greater self-sufficiency; and
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5 WHEREAS, the growth in genetically modified agricultural
6 production has been swift and pervasive throughout the nation,
7 but a quick acceptance of the new technology may pose serious
8 consequences for the health and safety of our citizens; and
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10 WHEREAS, the terms "genetically modified foods" or
11 "genetically modified organisms" (GMOs) most commonly refer to
12 crop plants created for human or animal consumption using the
13 latest molecular biology techniques in the laboratory to enhance
14 desired traits such as increased resistance to herbicides or
15 improved nutritional content; and
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17 WHEREAS, the best known example of this is the use of
18 *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) genes in corn and other crops,
19 which is a naturally occurring bacterium that produces crystal
20 proteins that are lethal to insect larvae; B.t. crystal protein
21 genes have been transferred into corn, enabling the corn to
22 produce its own pesticides against insects such as the European
23 corn borer; and
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25 WHEREAS, numerous nations, including countries of the
26 European Union, Japan, and the Republic of China, require
27 labeling of GMO foods; and
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29 WHEREAS, polls consistently demonstrate that seventy-two to
30 ninety-four per cent of United States citizens support labeling
31 of GMO foods, and a poll conducted by the University of Hawaii's
32 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources shows that
33 seventy-two per cent of Hawaii's residents feel that it is very
34 important that GMO fruit be labeled; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, recent collaboration between independent natural
 3 foods retailers and technical consultants has resulted in a
 4 consensus-based, industry-wide system for addressing GMO
 5 contamination and a "Non-GMO Project Verified" label; and
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7 WHEREAS, local agricultural producers and retailers could
 8 benefit from a consistent labeling system to better inform
 9 consumers of the varying methods employed to develop
 10 agricultural products; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
 14 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to facilitate
 15 increased cooperation between agricultural producers and
 16 retailers to address consumer concerns, including whether a
 17 product is GMO contaminated; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 20 and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and
 21 Human Resources are requested to work in cooperation with
 22 organic and natural food producers and retailers to evaluate and
 23 implement a labeling system for non-GMO products; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 27 Agriculture, the Dean and Director of the College of Tropical
 28 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii, the
 29 Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the
 30 Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Organic
 31 Farmers Association, the Chairperson of the Board of the Hawaii
 32 Farmers Union, the President of the Board of Directors of the
 33 Hawaii Cooperative of Organic Farmers, the Chief Executive
 34 Officer of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, the Chief
 35 Executive Officer of Down to Earth, the Cooperative President of
 36 Kokua Market, and the Manager of the Hawaii Whole Foods Market,
 37 Inc.
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 39
 40

[Handwritten signatures: John M., F. King, Carol Johnson, and Mike Gabbard]
 OFFERED BY: Mike Gabbard



S.R. NO. 40

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