

TESTIMONY
SB 709 SD 1
LATE

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 709, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 709, SD1. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii. The Department respects that the growing of taro is an integral part of the Hawaiian culture. However, this issue seems to have a broader implication reaching beyond the Hawaiian culture. Due to the risks to taro from invasive species and serious concerns that this measure may be used as a means to prevent research and use of biotechnology for other important crops, we must oppose this measure as proposed.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force was established with the signing of Act 211 in July 2008. This taskforce, comprised of taro farmers, cultural practitioners, regulatory agencies, and the scientific community is finally moving forward with meaningful discussion in hopes that satisfactory non-GMO solutions can be found to address many of the issues concerning taro farming in Hawaii.

Taro plants in Hawaii continue to remain vulnerable to the introduction of foreign pests and disease. Due to federal preemptions, the Department is not provided notification of arrivals or information on the origins of foreign taro that is allowed to enter Hawaii without State inspection. The Department will continue to work with our Congressional Delegation to

overcome federal policies even as we continue efforts to build and secure joint federal-state inspection facilities to deal with both foreign and domestic imports. Only then, will the department have the ability to inspect imported taro from foreign origins. These solutions will not happen quickly and given that the threats to taro and other crops are very real, we caution against limiting the tools available to combat these threats. Attached to this testimony are information received from the USDA reporting the pests intercepted on taro at U.S. ports-of-entry. Taro is grown throughout the world and imported into the U.S. and distributed domestically to the various states, including Hawaii.

Agriculture, from its beginning to present, has suffered from pest and disease infestation causing enormous, unpredictable losses in food production. Biotechnology is a critical tool used in many countries to combat crop threatening insects and diseases. Without the biotech development of the ringspot virus resistant papaya, all papaya production in Hawaii, both conventional and organic would have been devastated by the disease. There is a perception, promoted by opponents to biotechnology, that there is something inherently wrong with the technology which is contrary to what is widely accepted by the scientific community.

The loss of taro or any major industry in agriculture, by any means, would be devastating to Hawaii. However, advancements in biotechnology exist only through continued research. Passage of this bill will take away a valuable tool available to us which may prevent industry losses. Some threats have already arrived, while others are knocking at the door. We hope that serious consideration is given to the known threats of diseases and pests to taro versus the perceived fears of biotechnology.

Agriculture is already at a critical state as battles rage over water, land and limited resources. Instead of undermining ongoing efforts to seek alternative solutions, let us continue to support co-existence among all agricultural sectors.

Commodity Risk Assessment

97-98
LATE TESTIMONY

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aleurodicus dispersus Russell (Aleyrodidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Anomala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Anthomyiidae, species of	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Antigua and Barbuda	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphis gossypii Glover (Aphididae) *Non-Rep*	N	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cicadellidae, species of	Y	Cook Islands	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Delphacidae, species of	Y	Cook Islands	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Delphacidae, species of	Y	Tonga	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Diptera, species of	Y	Brazil	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Insect	Eurychitella sp. (Miridae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Ferrisia virgata (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Jamaica	FL Orlando PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Fulgoroidea, species of	Y	Cook Islands	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Costa Rica	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Hoplandrothrips flavipes Bagnall (Phlaeothripidae) *Non-Rep*	N	India	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	India	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Melanodermus sp. (Pentatomidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Parapulo sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pentatomidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Cook Islands	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	TN Memphis PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Opeas sp. (Subulinidae)	Y	Hong Kong	CA Long Beach PPQ	1
Weed	Mikania micrantha Humboldt Bonpland, Et Kunth. (Asteraceae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/1987	thru	01/01/1998

LATE TESTIMONY

Commodity Risk Assessment

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aleurodicus dispersus Russell (Aleyrodidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Araecerus fasciculatus (De Geer) (Anthribidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Clindiplosis sp. (Cecidomyiidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Colaspis sp. (Chrysomelidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dyscinetus sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL FL Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Dyscinetus sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dysmicoccus brevipes (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Eubulus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Heteroderes amplicollis (Gyllenhal) (Elateridae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Muscidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Cyprus	MA Boston PPQ	1
Insect	Mycetophilidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	CA Long Beach PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Jamaica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Plusinae, species of (Noctuidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	TN Memphis PPQ	2
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Portugal	MA Boston PPQ	1
Insect	Tenebrionidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Fiji	CA Los Angeles PIS PPQ	1
Weed	Tridax procumbens Linnaeus (Asteraceae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/1998	thru	01/01/1999

99-00

Commodity Risk Assessment

LATE TESTIMONY

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aleyrodidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Anaxipha sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Ancistrocercus sp. (Tettigoniidae)	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Grenada	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Atherigona sp. (Muscidae)	Y	Cameroon	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Camponotus sp. (Formicidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Catocalinae, species of (Noctuidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Chrysomelidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Conotrachelus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	NY Brooklyn CBP	1
Insect	Cydia sp. (Tortricidae)	Y	India	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Dolichopodidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Dyscinetus sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Honduras	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Homoptera, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Idiarthron sp. (Tettigoniidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Ligyris sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Margarodidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	TN Memphis PPQ	1
Insect	Miridae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Neopamera albocincta Barber (Rhyparochromidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Jamaica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Ozophora sp. (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Parapulo sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	4
Insect	Pheidole sp. (Formicidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Pheidole sp. (Formicidae)	Y	Nigeria	MI Detroit CBP	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Jamaica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	TN Memphis PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	TX Dallas/Ft. Worth PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Puerto Rico	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Sciaridae, species of 'Non-Rep'	N	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Tineidae, species of	Y	Cameroon	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Tipulidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Insect	Typophorus sp. (Chrysomelidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/1998	thru	1/01/2000

Commodity Risk Assessment

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Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Aphis gossypii Glover (Aphididae) *Non-Rep*	N	Hawaii	HI Hilo PPQ	1
Insect	Argyrogramma verruca (Fabricius) (Noctuidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aspidiella hartii (Cockerell) (Diaspididae)	Y	Nigeria	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Aulacaspis tubercularis Newstead (Diaspididae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Conoderus sp. (Elateridae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Crambidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Delphacidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Diaspididae, species of	Y	Laos	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dipropus sp. (Elateridae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dynastinae, species of (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Eurychilella sp. (Miridae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Heteroderes amplicollis (Gyllenhal) (Elateridae) *Non-Rep*	N	Jamaica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	Viet Nam	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Ligyris sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	2
Insect	Listronotus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Nitidulidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Odontomachus troglodytes Santschi (Formicidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Nigeria	MI Detroit CBP	1
Insect	Paragonatas divergens (Distant) (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Panama	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Paraputo sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Pheidole sp. (Formicidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Phyllophaga sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Nicaragua	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Grenada	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	St. Kitts and Nevis	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Psyllidae, species of	Y	Korea, South	AK Anchorage PPQ	1
Insect	Pyraustinae, species of (Crambidae)	Y	Jamaica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Spoladea recurvalis (Fabricius) (Crambidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Jamaica	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Insect	Spoladea recurvalis (Fabricius) (Crambidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Jamaica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Thrips fuscipennis Haliday (Thripidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Achatina (Lissachatina) fulica Bowdich (Achatinidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Veronicella sp. (Veronicellidae)	Y	St. Kitts and Nevis	VI St. Thomas CBP	1

LATE TISSUE

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2000	thru	01/01/2001

LATE TESTIMONY 01-02

Commodity Risk Assessment

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Disease	No identifiable pathogen found *Non-Rep*	N	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Acrolophidae, species of	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aleuroglandulus malangae Russell (Aleyrodidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Aleyrodidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Amnestus sp. (Cydniidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Anaxipha sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Camptomyia sp. (Cecidomyiidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Iran	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	3
Insect	Ceraspis sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cicadellidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cicadidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Conoderus falli Lane (Elateridae) *Non-Rep*	N	Brazil	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cylas sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Dallasiellus alutaceus Froeschner (Cydniidae)	Y	Brazil	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Delphacidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Diaphorina citri Kuwayama (Psyllidae)	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Dysmicoccus sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Jamaica	MO St. Louis PPQ	1
Insect	Fauslinus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Samoa	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Geococcus coffeae Green (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Geometridae, species of	Y	Mexico	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Limonia sp. (Tipulidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Lygaeidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Manduca sp. (Sphingidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Miridae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Paragonatas divergens (Distant) (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Phalacridae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Plectris sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Psychidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Spodoptera latifascia (Walker) (Noctuidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Tetramorium bicarinatum (Nylander) (Formicidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Levicepolis monodonta (Lea) (Xanthonychidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Succinea sp. (Succineidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2001	thru	01/01/2002

02-03

Commodity Risk Assessment

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Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Adetus sp. (Cerambycidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Hilo PPQ	1
Insect	Blapstinus sp. (Tenebrionidae)	Y	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cerambycidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Cicadellidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cicadellini, species of (Cicadellidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	3
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dyscinetus sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Dysmicoccus brevipes (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Metamasius sp. (Dryophthoridae)	Y	Dominican Republic	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Miogryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Molytinae, species of (Curculionidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	2
Insect	Myodocha sp. (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Norape argynorrhoea Huebner (Megalopygidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL FL Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Ozophora sp. (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pentatomidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pentatomidae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Phyllophaga sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Platynota sp. (Tortricidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Plectris sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Puerto Rico	PR Mayaguez Pre-Departure PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcus sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Rhizoecus sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	3
Insect	Scapteriscus sp. (Gryllotalpidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Scarabaeidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Scatopsidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Spodoptera latifascia (Walker) (Noctuidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Spodoptera sp. (Noctuidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Tominolus unisetosus Froeschner (Cydniidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Xyleborus ferrugineus (Fabricius) (Scolytidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Mollusk	Achatina (Lissachatina) fulica Bowdich (Achatinidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	Pomacea sp. (Ampullariidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Nematode	Ditylenchus sp. (Anguinidae)	Y	Japan	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Nematode	Dorylaimus sp. (Dorylaimidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

8

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2002	thru	01/01/2003

03-04

Commodity Risk Assessment

LATE TESTIMONY

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Disease	Fusarium sp. (Hyphomycetes)	Y	Jamaica	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	2
Disease	No identifiable pathogen found *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Disease	No identifiable pathogen found *Non-Rep*	N	Sierra Leone	NC Raleigh PPQ	1
Insect	Amphiacusta carabea Saussure (Gryllidae)	Y	Brazil	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Anurogryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Costa Rica	CA San Diego PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphis gossypii Glover (Aphididae) *Non-Rep*	N	Trinidad and Tobago	SC Charleston PPQ	1
Insect	Atta sp. (Formicidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cacographis osteolalis (Lederer) (Crambidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Collembola, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Azores	MA Boston PPQ	1
Insect	Conoderus sp. (Elateridae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	6
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Venezuela	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Dysmicoccus brevipes (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	CA San Diego PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Eurychilella sp. (Miridae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover (AFB) CBP	1
Insect	Gelechiidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Brazil	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Insecta, species of	Y	Jamaica	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	Nigeria	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Miogryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Myrmicinae, species of (Formicidae)	Y	Nigeria	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	3
Insect	Paraputo sp. (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pentalomoidea, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Bangladesh	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Spodoptera exigua (Hubner) (Noctuidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Thysanoptera, species of	Y	Bangladesh	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Tortricidae, species of	Y	Ghana	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
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Insect	Tortricinae, species of (Tortricidae)	Y	Nigeria	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Mollusk	No identifiable mollusca found 'Non-Rep'	N	Dominican Republic	NJ Newark Sea CBP	1
Mollusk	Praticolella griseola (Pfeiffer) (Polygyridae) 'Non-Rep'	N	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2003	thru	01/01/2004

04-05

Commodity Risk Assessment

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

LA 10-15-07 MO

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Jamaica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Blapstinus sp. (Tenebrionidae)	Y	Colombia	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Carabidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Cecidomyiidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Chrysomelidae, species of	Y	Colombia	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Cicadellidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	5
Insect	Delphacidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Eurychilella sp. (Miridae)	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Galerucinae, species of (Chrysomelidae)	Y	Colombia	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Galerucinae, species of (Chrysomelidae)	Y	Nicaragua	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Margarodidae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Melolonthinae, species of (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Miridae, species of	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Nitidulidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Jamaica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Otitidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Paraputo leverii (Green) (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Fiji	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Rastrococcus spinosus (Robinson) (Pseudococcidae)	Y	Philippines	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Rutelinae, species of (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Colombia	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Insect	Stenocrates sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Brazil	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Thripidae, species of	Y	Jamaica	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Typhaea stercorea (Linnaeus) (Mycetophagidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Colombia	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	1
Mite	Tetranychus sp. (Tetranychidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Kahului CBP	1
Weed	Colocasia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott (Araceae) *Non-Rep*	N	Mexico	AZ Nogales PIS PPQ	1

LATE 15.07.2007

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2004	thru	01/01/2005

25-06

Commodity Risk Assessment

TESTING

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Alegoria dilatata Laporte (Tenebrionidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	DE Dover PPQ	1
Insect	Aleurodicus dispersus Russell (Aleyrodidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aleurodicus dispersus Russell (Aleyrodidae)	Y	Hawaii	HI Kahului CBP	1
Insect	Aphididae, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Aphis gossypii Glover (Aphididae) *Non-Rep*	N	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Blapstinus sp. (Tenebrionidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cecidomyiidae, species of	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	7
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	TX Houston PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclocephala sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cyclorrhapha, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Diaspididae, species of	Y	Grenada	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Euxesta sp. (Olitidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	CA Port Hueneme CBP	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Unknown	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Heilipodus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Panama	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Heilipus sp. (Curculionidae)	Y	Nicaragua	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Heteroptera, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Histeridae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Ecuador	FL Port Everglades CBP	1
Insect	Lepidoptera, species of	Y	Unknown	IL Chicago PPQ	1
Insect	Neopamera bilobata (Say) (Rhyparochromidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Ecuador	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Opogona sp. (Tineidae)	Y	Azores	MA Boston PPQ	2
Insect	Opogona sp. (Tineidae)	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Paratrechina longicornis (Latreille) (Formicidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	PA Philadelphia PPQ	1
Insect	Plusinae, species of (Noctuidae)	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Cameroon	KY Erlanger PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Ecuador	CA San Diego PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Puerto Rico	PR San Juan PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Pteronemobius sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	China	CA Long Beach PPQ	1
Insect	Stenocrates sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Typhlocybinae, species of (Cicadellidae)	Y	St. Lucia	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Wasmannia auropunctata (Roger) (Formicidae) *Non-Rep*	N	South Africa	GA Atlanta PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Zopheridae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	DE Dover PPQ	1
Mollusk	Deroceas sp. (Agridimacidae)	Y	Azores	MA Boston PPQ	1

LATE TRAIL

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2005	thru	01/01/2006

06-07

Commodity Risk Assessment

LAIL STIM

Commodity: Colocasia esculenta

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Aphis gossypii Glover (Aphididae) *Non-Rep*	N	Honduras	FL Ft. Lauderdale PPQ	2
Insect	Bemisia tabaci Gennadius (Aleyrodidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Unknown	WA Blaine PPQ	1
Insect	Blapslinus sp. (Tenebrionidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Brachypnoea sp. (Chrysomelidae)	Y	Costa Rica	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Cecidomyiidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Cistalia sp. (Rhyparochromidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Clinodiplosis sp. (Cecidomyiidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	2
Insect	Copitarsia sp. (Noctuidae)	Y	Brazil	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Curculionidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	9
Insect	Dyscinetus sp. (Scarabaeidae)	Y	Nicaragua	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Dysdercus minus (Say) (Pyrrhocoridae) *Non-Rep*	N	Ecuador	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Dysmicoccus brevipes (Cockerell) (Pseudococcidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Wilmington CBP	1
Insect	Gryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami Sea CBP	2
Insect	Heteroptera, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu Pre-Departure PPQ	2
Insect	Homoptera, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu Pre-Departure PPQ	1
Insect	Insecta, species of	Y	Trinidad and Tobago	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Isoptera, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu Pre-Departure PPQ	1
Insect	Metamasius sp. (Dryophthoridae)	Y	Costa Rica	DE Dover PPQ	1
Insect	Miogryllus sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami Sea CBP	2
Insect	Nasutitermes sp. (Termitidae)	Y	Nicaragua	PR San Juan Sea CBP	1
Insect	Nitidulidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Bangladesh	OH Cincinnati CBP	1
Insect	Nitidulidae, species of *Non-Rep*	N	Costa Rica	NJ Linden PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Costa Rica	PR San Juan Sea CBP	1
Insect	Noctuidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Opogona sp. (Tineidae)	Y	Dominican Republic	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Prytanis oblonga (Stal) (Rhyparochromidae) *Non-Rep*	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Dominica	VI St. Thomas CBP	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Hawaii	HI Honolulu PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	India	TX Dallas/Ft. Worth PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Jamaica	NY JFK CBP	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Nigeria	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1

Pest Type	Pest	Rprt?	Origin	Location	Interceptions
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NY JFK CBP	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	United Kingdom of Great Britain and N. Ireland	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Pseudococcidae, species of	Y	Unknown	WA Blaine PPQ	1
Insect	Pleronemobius sp. (Gryllidae)	Y	Ecuador	FL Miami Sea CBP	1
Insect	Tenebrionidae, species of 'Non-Rep'	N	Dominican Republic	FL Miami PIS PPQ	1
Insect	Tortricidae, species of	Y	Dominican Republic	NY JFK PIS PPQ	1
Mite	Steneolarsonemus furcatus Deleon (Tarsonemidae) 'Non-Rep'	N	Costa Rica	NY JFK PIS PPQ	3
Mollusk	Achatina (Lissachatina) fulica Bowdich (Achatinidae)	Y	Hawaii	CA San Francisco PIS PPQ	1
Nematode	Rhabditidae, species of 'Non-Rep'	N	Unknown	WA Blaine PPQ	1

LATE TESTIMONY

Report Search Criteria

Host Genus:	Colocasia	Host Part:	
Host Species:	esculenta	Origin:	
Date Range:	01/01/2006	thru	01/01/2007



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
February 27, 2009 at 2:45 p.m.

by
James R Gaines
Vice President for Research, University of Hawai'i

SB 709 SD1 RELATING TO TARO SECURITY

The University of Hawaii opposes SB709 SD1as written and offers amendments.

The University of Hawaii (UH) is sensitive to and mindful of the spiritual and cultural significance of taro in Hawaii. By releasing its patents on non-Hawaiian, disease resistant, traditionally cross-bred, hybrid taro into the public domain and entering into an agreement to consult with the Hawaiian community before conducting any research on genetically engineered Hawaiian taro, the University has demonstrated not only its respect for the cultural significance of Hawaiian taro, but also its desire to expand and enhance its interactions with Hawaiian taro farmers and the native Hawaiian community.

UH is working on many fronts to establish trust with the Hawaiian community, including, among other efforts, its participation on the Taro Task Force. That Task Force, created by the Legislature as Act 211 in 2008, is currently meeting and driving positive dialogue to address the multitude of threats to taro in Hawaii. We believe it would be prudent for this Legislature to examine the outcomes of the Taro Task Force's efforts before supporting any further legislation regarding restrictions on taro research in our state.

Although the UH is a publically funded university, its research obligations reach around the world. Our expertise in ocean sciences, tropical ecology and Asian & Pacific languages not only make us the most prominent research institution in the state, but one of the most highly respected universities in the Pacific region. We believe that research on Hawaiian taro in Hawaii should only be done at the invitation of the Hawaiian community. We also believe that the research expertise of the UH and the use of the most modern and cutting edge tools of genetic engineering should not be legislated away from solving real problems of real people in developing nations, some of whom are confronted by the loss of their staple taro crops due to the invasion of new diseases, the effects of global warming and the pressures of overpopulation. These challenges and others like them are not cultural issues, but ones of humanity in the global community.

The UH proposes that this bill be amended such that research and development of non-Hawaiian taro varieties can be conducted in Hawaii within certain limits. These limits would allow laboratory and greenhouse development of new, non-Hawaiian, taro varieties, but would prohibit the testing of these varieties in unsecured facilities or release into the environment of Hawaii. Field testing and commercial propagation of successful new varieties would only be done outside of the state.

LATE TESTIMONY

The UH strongly believes that any legislation should use accurate and scientifically accepted definitions of terms. The definition of "genetic modification" as provided in this bill is scientifically inaccurate and serves only to add confusion to this issue. Furthermore, the term "release" is defined only in terms of genetic engineering. We suggest that the term "genetic engineering" and an appropriate definition replace the term "genetic modification" in this bill as we believe the restriction of genetic engineering in taro is the accurate intent of this legislation.

In closing, UH reiterates that it is not now, nor does it have plans to genetically engineer Hawaiian taro. The university does not want to impose its science on the Hawaiian community, but wishes only to reserve the ability to use the best science available to address imminent agricultural issues in the global community. UH has an agreement in place with the Hawaiian community regarding research on Hawaiian taro and UH has every intention of upholding the terms of that agreement. We look forward to continuing to participate in the Taro Task Force in order to both build trust and keep communication with the Hawaiian taro farmers clear and open. We firmly believe that by working together we can find a mutually respectful middle ground where culture is embraced and honored and where science progresses in a complementary way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

GMO TARO—A TARO FARMER'S PERSPECTIVE

Aloha, my name is Jim Cain, my family and I farm taro in Waipi'o Valley, island of Hawai'i. We also own and operate a family-run poi shop, King Laulau Brand Poi, where we process the taro we grow on our 6 acre farm, as well as taro we obtain from other farmers, providing poi for our Big Island community. I stand united with all the farmers of Waipi'o and strongly oppose the genetic modification of taro. My opposition to genetic engineering of taro is based on cultural, economic, and nutritional concerns.

The cultural concerns relating to the genetic manipulation of kalo cannot be overstated. Kalo's position as a high ranking family member in Hawaiian cosmology reflect deep rooted cultural values. These values, reinforced by kalo's role as a kinolau of Kane, show reverent respect for the natural world and kalo's ability to sustain and nourish people. These sacred family relationships can be traced back centuries to the very beginnings of Hawaiian culture, and every week when I deliver poi to my loyal customers, I am reminded of the importance of this ancestral food and its ability to nourish physically as well as spiritually. Genetic manipulation of Haloa shows utter disrespect for Hawaiian culture. In addition, recent attempts to patent and own taro hybrids derived from Hawaiian cultivars of taro are a cultural violation of these precious gifts that have been handed down to us generation to generation and are a direct link to our past.

Economically, genetic modification poses several risks to taro farmers and the poi industry. In recent years, there have been efforts to hybridize new varieties of taro in an attempt to produce disease resistance and increased yields. Cultivars of taro have been brought to Hawai'i from many places in the taro growing world to hybridize with Hawaiian varieties. After showing some initial promise, extensive testing by poi processors has shown that these hybrids produce inferior quality poi. Also, foreign cultivars of taro such as Palauan have been introduced into lo'i all around the state. While high-yielding, these varieties produce a low quality poi. Farmers have been left with no market for their crop, which takes over a year to produce, as poi millers universally reject these inferior taros. Subsequently, the availability of huli of the preferred Hawaiian varieties has been reduced. This has created both short-term and long-term economic hardships for taro farmers and poi processors and has contributed to the recent shortage of poi.

Of primary concern is the very real danger of contamination. A genetically engineered taro huli will look identical to the original Hawaiian variety from which it is derived. Once released into the lo'i, either controlled or by accident, recall will be impossible. Should problems arise, the effects of this contamination would be devastating to our industry. A history of contamination of other food crops world-wide by GE varieties has proven that containment, despite the reassurances of the bio-tech industry, is impossible.

Another economic concern of taro farmers is the issue of patenting of taro varieties. The traditional system of sharing huli between farmers is a proven way of ensuring the availability of planting material. The introduction of GE taro would seriously disrupt the ability of farmers to share huli and reduce the availability of suitable planting material.

LATE TESTIMONY

Recent attempts by the University of Hawai'i to patent and sell huli to farmers is seen as an unacceptable precedent to make money off those who can least afford it. The bio-tech industry is not here for community service, but is predicated on the goal of controlling the incredibly profitable seed supply.

Nutritionally, poi has a world-wide reputation as a pure and healthy complex carbohydrate. There are no known allergies to poi, it is a food that can be assimilated by anyone. As a poi maker, I am honored to provide this nutritious food to babies whose parents use our poi as the first food to nourish their children, to elders who have been eating poi all their life, and to a wide range of people in between. Also, poi plays such an important role in celebrating families' life events such as baby lu'aus, graduations, weddings and funerals. A lu'au is not complete without poi on the table. Genetic engineering of taro consists of imposing genes from other plants such as rice and wheat into taro's DNA. The resulting changes could have untold effects on the hypo-allergenic qualities of taro and poi. When researchers are asked if they can guarantee the safety of their work, they honestly answer no. The dangers posed to the nutritional quality of this ancestral staff of life are completely unacceptable.

From my perspective as a Waipi'o taro farmer and poi processor, the disagreement over this issue is really a clash of values. University researchers value and are concerned about their perceived right to academic freedom. The bio-tech industry values and is concerned about their perceived right to unregulated free-market economics. Waipi'o, where I come from, is a very traditional Hawaiian valley. The still intact protocols and values that have been handed down are based on the value of Kuleana—rights that are based in the concept of responsibility. While moving forward, it is important to remember our connection to the past. That is why, in Waipi'o, the titles that garner the most respect are not Dr. or Professor, but begin with Auntie or Uncle or Tutu. It is important to note that the UH researcher responsible for the GE research on taro has never even been to Waipi'o Valley. Technology is seen as a tool not as a guiding principle. Science can be a wonderful tool for advancement, but science without a conscience, without the guidance of the precautionary principle, can wreak havoc. There must be a balance. In other words, Go easy. Be respectful.

In these troubled times of global warming, resource depletion, and world-wide unrest, the buzz word in Hawai'i has become sustainability. Reducing our dependence on off-island petro-chemical control, and becoming self-sufficient in food production are of huge concern. The proven methods of producing taro and poi can be seen as a model for the future of sustainable agriculture in Hawai'i. Producing taro with little or no outside resources, and providing food for our local population is a practice that has a track record that is centuries old in Hawai'i and stretches back many thousands of years in the history of mankind. It is vitally important that we support farmers who are feeding our local population.

The decline of taro production can be seen as a mirror duplicating the problems of self-sufficient food production in Hawai'i. The problems are rooted in availability of land and water and re-elevating the job of farmer to a viable occupation and way of life. Claims made by the bio-tech industry of impending devastating diseases are seen as scare tactics. Any good farmer knows that the key to crop health is soil fertility and it is in this direction we should be focusing our policies and research efforts. These are not new concepts, but lessons handed down to us from our kupuna. We just need to listen.

LATE TESTIMONY

There is nothing wrong with our Hawaiian taros. They were developed over centuries by some of the most respected farmers the world has ever known. The sad decline in the number of varieties of taro that was grown by our ancestors has nothing to do with disease, but lies in the fact that, over the last century, people have moved off the land and instead of growing their food, are now buying all their food. In the interest of Hawai'i's long term security we need to reverse this practice.

Support for the passage of HB 1663 and SB709 that calls for a ban on the genetic engineering of taro in Hawai'i has swelled as people have become educated about this issue. The Hawaiian community, the taro farming community, and the poi eating community will continue to be passionately vocal in their efforts to protect Haloa. This will not go away because this is ohana. Precedence for the careful regulation of biotechnology has been established at every level of government world-wide, and it is important that the decision makers in Hawai'i educate themselves about the risks associated with this potentially dangerous technology.

In conclusion, I advise people that the best way to identify a taro farmer is to look at their feet. No can help, us taro farmers have ugly feet, it's an occupational hazard. So when someone claims to be speaking in the interest of the taro farmers, look at their feet. Look at who they represent. Please support our local farmers. Please malama Haloa.

Jim Cain, Waipi'o Valley
775-9001
kinglaulau@hotmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY



**SB 709, SD 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE (GMO KALO
PROHIBITION)**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs

February 27, 2009
Room: 229

2:45 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 709, SD 1, which would prohibit any individual from developing, testing, propagating, releasing, importing, planting or growing genetically modified taro in Hawai'i. OHA supports this measure as an important recognition of a plant that has genealogical, spiritual and cultural links with Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i. Furthermore, kalo is integral to the identity of Native Hawaiians and, thus, the State of Hawai'i as a whole.

The traditional mo'olelo of Wākea and Papahānaumoku explains that the first kalo plant, Hāloanakalaukapalili, is the elder brother of Native Hawaiians. As the elder sibling, Hāloa provides sustenance to Native Hawaiians, and in return, we, the younger sibling, care for him and ensure that he flourishes. The bond that connects Native Hawaiians to kalo remains a sacred one, and our kuleana dictates that we preserve that bond and protect Hāloa. A living entity of this eminence cannot be modified or scientifically "improved." He must be honored and left alone.

OHA recognizes that Hāloa is facing many challenges today, including diseases, invasive species and a dearth of water and farmable land. However, we believe that there are natural alternatives to genetic engineering - such as fallowing lo'i, restoring stream flows and improving the overall health of the environment - that have yet to be fully explored. We suggest scientists work with kalo farmers and the Native Hawaiian community to conduct a complete and comprehensive examination of these natural methods, which are neither intrusive nor offensive to Hāloa or our culture.

OHA respectfully urges the committee to PASS SB 709, SD1, and we thank the committee for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

February 18, 2009

Aloha kakou.

O wau o Kana`i Dodge. Noho wau ma Wai`anae O`ahu. O Fred and Aiko Dodge ko`u ma makua. He makua wau me elua keiki nui a me ekolu mo`opuna. I`m Vince Dodge and I live in Wai`anae, O`ahu. My parents are Fred and Aiko Dodge. I have two grown children and three granddaughters. I am a part-time kalo farmer. I am a poi maker, cultural practioner and educator.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I understand that as decision makers you will be lobbied by the very powerful biotech industry and I remind you that you have been elected to represent us- the people, who are busy with all the responsibilities and necessities of daily living. We are not paid to lobby. We have entrusted you, our elected officials to make wise and practical decisions on our behalf and to protect us.

We need protection from GMO foods.

GMO technology is unnatural. It involves the forcing together of genes from plants, animals, bacterias, herbicides, pesticides, etc. to create an organism that is unnatural. Then this unnatural genetically modified organism (GMO), which is alive, is planted and set lose in the natural world. As a food GMOs have not been thoroughly tested for their effects on people. (This is totally the opposite of GMO medicines). This is not safe science. This is not operating on the "precautionary principle", which is the foundation of safe science, and this is why we need protection from GMOs. We are at risk here because these unnatural, scientifically unsafe GMOs are fed to us. They are fed to us as feed for the animals we eat or directly to us in the food we buy in the stores. Over 70% of the food in our stores contain GMO ingredients. **It is fed to us unlabeled.** If GMO foods are safe as the industry tells they are it makes sense that they would totally support the labeling of their products. The opposite is true. The GMO industry has spent millions of dollars fighting every attempt to have their products labeled. They don't want GMO foods labeled. *They don't want any responsibility for the effects their unnatural, poorly tested scientifically unsafe GMO foods will have on us.* **That is why we need protection from the GMO food industry. That is why at this time we need a ban on GMO taro.**

Mahalo nui loa to all you legislators who are making wise and practical decisions on our behalf and protecting us. We really appreciate and honor your service. This is a kakou thing- we are striving together to keep our home, our food safe and well. Please educate yourselves about the GMO issues. Please watch the DVDs "The Future of Food" and "Islands at Risk" or read Jeffrey Smith's book, "Seeds of Deception". I will be happy to get you copies. My contact information is below.

There are many other important reasons to reject the genetic modification of taro and support the ban on GMO taro. They include:

- The cultural significance of kalo/taro

- Real and imagined threats to taro growing and the industry
- Patenting and ownership of GMO crops
- Lawsuits against farmers whose crops are contaminated by GMO
- Public education about GMO
- The real beneficiaries of GMO

I am happy to get you information on any of the above issues or come and discuss them with you and/or your staff.

Ho`opiha kau `eke poi i ka manawa apau,
May your poi bowl be always full,

Vince Kana`i Dodge
Coordinator, `Ai Pohaku Workshop/Ma`o Farms/WCRC
Cell: 478-6492
Home: 696-9837
vince@maoorganicfarms.org

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 6:53 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: shigezawa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB709 on 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WTL 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM SB709

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: allison shigezawa
Organization: Individual
Address: 1329 lusitana st honolulu, hi
Phone: 8085363690
E-mail: shigezawa@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2009

Comments:

I oppose the ban on genetically engineered taro. Poi is expensive and can be in very short supply. Larger crops would encourage development of other taro uses. We need to continue research to provide hardy, nourishing, drought and disease resistant taro to Hawaii and the world.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 7:47 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: Karen@KarenChun.com
Subject: Testimony for SB709 on 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WTL 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM SB709

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Chun
Organization: Individual
Address: 87 Lae St. Paia HI 96779
Phone: 283-3049
E-mail: Karen@KarenChun.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2009

Comments:

Please ban GMO taro. And be sure not to weaken this bill by allowing genetic modification of nonnative taro.

It is important not to grow ANY GMO taro since cross contamination can occur with open air growing of any GMO crop.

Growing ANY GMO kalo will threaten our natural taro DNA with contamination.

From: meleana judd [meleanajudd@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 8:20 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: testimony in SUPPORT of SB709

LATE TESTIMONY

testimony in SUPPORT of SB709

Hawaii SEED Logo
PO Box 2352, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
hawaiiseed@hawaiiseed.org
promoting sustainable agriculture
educating about the risks of genetic engineering

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Friday, February 27, 2009
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Chairs & 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.

As you saw with last year's SB958 there is an overwhelming level of public interest in protecting Taro, our State plant and the Hawaiian Culture's ancestor, from technology that results in irreversible genetic alteration. Do not be confused with traditional plant breeding and genetic engineering, they are different and the majority of Hawaiian taro farmers are not asking for a genetically engineered solution. They are asking for appropriate resource allocation to grow healthy plants so they can perpetuate a history of sustainable farming practices. Please also support all efforts for language to apply to all taro, as there is no boundary between Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian taro varieties for interbreeding.

There is still much to learn about genetic engineering and its threat to our food supply and environment. We hope your staff has had the opportunity to share some of GMO health expert Jeffrey M. Smith's presentation at the Capitol on Tuesday February 24th on the documented health effects of eating genetically engineered food. One of Mr. Smith's challenges he raised across the State during his speaking tour was to consider doing a 30 days of eating no GMOs. If you do not already know what that challenge would entail, I encourage you to learn more about these issues before passing laws about GMOs. Hawaii SEED will help field any of your questions, and for now supports the passage of SB709, HB1663 and STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1226 which has yet to be assigned a hearing but would be a step in the wrong direction for democracy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malama Pono,
Meleana Judd
Meleanajudd@gmail.com
551-8132

Hawaii SEED
Hawaiiseed.org

--
Meleana Judd
808.551.8132
meleanajudd@gmail.com

Local.Organic.Vital.Energy
www.hawaiiseed.org
Solar.Hot.Water
www.solarsupply.com
www.sunearthinc.com

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 5:58 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: agres@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB709 on 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: SB709 taro wlah.doc

Testimony for WTL 2/27/2009 2:45:00 PM SB709

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Dean Okimoto
Organization: HFBF
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: agres@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/27/2009

Comments:



LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY

RE: SB 709SD1 RELATING TO TARO SECURITY

Chair Hee and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is Hawaii's general agriculture advocacy organization. We represent commercial farmers and ranchers across the State. HFBB is in strong opposition if SB709SD1 which prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

HFBB comes before you today in support of our commercial taro farmers across the State. These are the growers who provide the majority if not all of the taro you and I eat. Commercial farmers and ranchers are in constant search of new technologies to advance the long term sustainability and viability of their operations. Genetic modification of crops is the latest technology that has advanced the development of new varieties providing farmers with a tool to outpace the increasing costs faced by the industry. Contrary to frequent statements, GM crops are among the most tested to be introduced into the fields. They are subjected to experiments and analysis far beyond that for conventional or mutational breeding processes. For us in Hawaii, the results are tangible. Without GM, the papaya industry would not exist and the pockets of organic papaya would not be possible due to the prevalence of the Ringspot virus.

All of these technologies take time. When one recognizes the urgency to develop the technology because of a problem it will be too late. We urge the committee to consider all of the ramifications as decision on this measure is made. What is the decision between having a GM taro or having no taro? The preamble to this measure extols the value of taro. It truly is an incredible plant that everyone should be able to have access when and if they want it. It would truly be a shame if we are not doing all we can to make sure taro is available for everyone for many generations to come.

Despite statements to the contrary, techniques are available to protect the genetic integrity of culturally important varieties and we strongly support the implementation of those practices for cultural plantings in contrast to commercial plantings.

Hawaii Farm Bureau is in support of our commercial taro farmers who provide the majority of taro in the marketplace. They grow the poi everyone eats. We respectfully urge that SB709 be held. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Papaya Industry Association
PO Box 6959, Hilo, HI 96720
Voice @ 808-969-1160, Fax @ 808-969-1781
Email: dperry@papayas.net

Testimony

**Re, SB709 SD1,
strongly opposed**

Senator Clayton Hee Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Committee Members

The Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA) **strongly opposes this bill.**

While there has in fact been relatively fast acceptance of a limited number of crops, worldwide, there has never been found any hint of serious consequences to human health. Likewise, there have never been identified "adverse characteristics". If there had been adverse characteristics, the specific crop would never have been approved by USDA, FDA, and EPA, or the similar agencies around the world who recognize the value of this technology to their farmers and consumers.

Specifically on a moratorium on research on Taro to develop disease resistance: **The papaya industry knows first hand the value of proactive research to solve cultural problems. Agriculture is often at the mercy of the careless importation of new diseases and insects that, if not addressed, can destroy our ability to grow any one of our crops. Having the research available can cut many years off solutions that can save a crop from exotic pests.**

I have been a Taro farmer, growing Chinese and Japanese Taro in Mountain View. My grandmother planted her dryland Hawaiian poi taro next to ours for several years. She definitely felt strongly about growing her own taro for her family.

Our taro crop yielded below our expectations, and the phytophthora on it's leaves was above our expectations. Would it have been good to have disease resistant varieties available? For the commercial varieties, a definite yes, for the poi varieties probably not at that time.

The research done so far on Chinese Taro is appropriate. This commercial cultivar is a good variety to develop disease resistance. There are especially limited chances of out crossing. The time frame to developing new resistant varieties is very long, but we should not slow it down until the technology is understood and effective. Then, if necessary the deregulatory process can start. A moratorium unnecessarily puts the future of sustainable taro culture at risk. **Beginning research on salt tolerant non-Hawaiian varieties may be critical to some Pacific Island populations very survival.**

The future of many crops is going to be linked to the ability of farmers to overcome the pests and diseases that are coming to Hawaii at an alarming rate.

New variety development is a critical part of being sustainable into 2050. Appropriate research, vetted through a strong deregulation process will be one of the most important keys to feeding ourselves.

Sincerely,

Delan Perry
Vice President, Chair Legislative Committee



L A T E

Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club

President, Malia Nobrega
malianob@gmail.com

E HUKI LIKE!

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 709 SD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2009

Time: 2:45pm

Conf. Room: 229

Committee: Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

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

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 709 SD1** relating to agriculture and prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawai'i.

My name is Malia Nobrega and I'm the President of Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club 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.

Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports this bill because it calls for a **prohibition of any genetic modification of all taro here on our aina, our kulaiwi, our one hanau. It also calls for the prohibition of any testing, development, propagation, release, etc...**

Taro or kalo is a part of my genealogy as my elder sibling. It is not just food that we put on our table but a part of our 'ohana. We are appalled that researchers feel that they can genetically engineer our taro and play around with our genealogy and our family members. **'A'OLE!!!! NO GMOs!!!!**

Paoakalani Declaration Addresses This Issue

Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club helped to organize and participated in the two Ka 'Aha Pono-Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Rights Conference. This conference gathered Kanaka Maoli including kumu hula, elders, artists, teachers and academics, attorneys, and many others concerned about this very topic. Those gathered at Ka 'Aha Pono produced the Paoakalani

Declaration which is a unifying statement that collectively shares the responsibility to determine a pono future for Hawai`i nei, her culture, and indigenous peoples. The Paoakalani Declaration addresses the issue of bioprospecting and states 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.
- Biological samples are being transferred, traded, bought, and sold without the agreement or consent of our peoples, in violation of our inherent human rights.
- Although biological and genetic samples have been transferred, sold, patented or licensed, Kanaka Maoli never relinquished our rights to our biological and genetic materials and, therefore, call for the rightful repatriation of such samples and due compensation.
- We further support a moratorium on patenting, licensing, sale or transfer of any of our plants, animals and other biological resources derived from the natural resources of our lands, submerged lands, waters, and oceans until indigenous communities have developed appropriate protection and conservation mechanisms.

Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club's Commitment To Protect Hawai`i's Biodiversity

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has adopted four resolutions relating to research at the University, the collective intellectual property rights of Native Hawaiians, and the protection of Hawai`i's flora and fauna, over the past four years. One resolution adopted in 2002 calling for regulation of bioprospecting. Two others passed in 2003 related to the collective intellectual property rights of Native Hawaiians as well as a proposed Hawaiian Genome Project at the UH Medical School. In 2005, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urges the Hawai`i State Legislature to enact legislation to protect Hawai`i's flora and fauna. Collectively, these Civic Club resolutions and the Paoakalani Declaration evidence a strong conviction of the Hawaiian community to protect Hawai`i's biological resources and our related rights. The resolutions and the Declaration also indicate our concern regarding activities of the University and its researchers to undermine our rights.

In January 2006, the O`ahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has taken a position against the manipulation and patenting of our biodiversity, namely our kalo.

We continue to produce educational videos and organize community workshops related to protecting our biodiversity in Hawai`i and it's implications. We have committed ourselves to work to create legislation and continue educational efforts in the community regarding our biodiversity. In particular, the Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club offers its assistance to your committee.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify and share my mana'o regarding Hawai`i's biodiversity.

Aloha,
Malia Nobrega

L A T E

Kauai County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

P.O. Box 3895 • Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-332-8189 (phone/fax) 808-652-3217 (cell)

kcfb@hawaiiantel.net

The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture

LATE TESTIMONY



February 26, 2009

ATTN: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

RE: SB 709 SD1: Relating to Taro Security

HEARING DATE: Friday, February 27, 2009; 2:45pm, room 229

Aloha Chair Hee and members of the committee:

The Kauai County Farm Bureau opposes SB709 SD1 which prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

Affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Kauai County Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization representing over 300 farming families on Kauai united for the purpose of analyzing problems and formulating action to ensure the future of agriculture and promoting the well-being of farming.

As a general agriculture advocacy organization, we represent commercial farmers and ranchers around the island. Commercial farmers and ranchers are in constant search of new technologies to advance the long term sustainability and viability of their operations. Genetic modification of crops is the latest technology that has advanced the development of new varieties providing farmers with a tool to outpace the increasing costs faced by the industry. Research is an essential ingredient of innovation, not only to move the industry forward but also to help protect farmers from challenges that arise.

Please support our commercial Taro farmers on Kauai by supporting continued research in this area. GM has demonstrated some benefits already in this area related to other crops. Without GM the papaya industry would not exist and the pockets of organic papaya would not be possible due to the prevalence of the Ringspot virus. This kind of research can be an asset to all growers, even if these farmers never plant GM crops. Farmers already face many challenges to face in developing a viable commercial operation. We urge the committee to consider all of the ramifications as a decision on this measure is made.

Techniques are available to protect the genetic integrity of culturally important varieties and we strongly support the implementation of those practices for cultural plantings in contrast to commercial plantings.

Kauai County Farm Bureau is in support of our commercial taro farmers and respectfully urges that SB709 be held. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roy Oyama, President

On behalf of the Kauai County Farm Bureau board

Personal contacts: 808-332-9426 oyama_farm@yahoo.com

LATE TESTIMONY

**WE, THE TARO FARMERS OPPOSE SB709
AND HB1663 WHICH WILL PLACE AN
INDEFINITE MORATORIUM ON THE
RESEARCH OF NON-HAWAIIAN
VARIETIES OF TARO.**

**OUR OPPOSITION TO THESE BILLS DOES
NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE PRO GMO.**

**WE SUPPORT THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN
CULTURE AND AGREE THAT THERE BE
NO GMO RESEARCH ON HAWAIIAN
TARO.**

LATE TESTIMONY

NAME	FARM ACREAGE	YEARS FARMING
Ken A. Davis	19	17
Keith Wong	9	12
Bobby White	15	28
Wayne Tai	2	20
Alan Tarska	5	30
Alvin Tarska	5	15
Ken Tarska		
Dwight Montize	15	30
Chas. A. Keaton	6	15
Meter Zapata	3	5
Conrad Sherrill	5	15
James Marshall	9	30
Irvin Hargrave	4 1/2	26
Louis Hargrave		38
Russell Watson	6	29
Billy Tai Hook	8	44
Wilbert Tai Hook	8	44
HARRY K. Tai Hook	5	8
Clarence E. Kaone	6	45

LATE TESTIMONY

NAME **FARM ACREAGE** **YEARS FARMING**

GARY M KOGA	25	30
Charles H.K. Spencer	15	46
Flora m. Oile	11	37
Margaret Davis	2 1/2	40
Abner B. [unclear]	10	10

LATE TESTIMONY

NAME	FARM ACREAGE	YEARS FARMING
John Red	30	25
Mike Fitzgerald	25	34
Raymond Stamer	1 1/2	25
John Hammer	2	25
John Conrath III	3 1/4	35
George J. Ueda	1 1/2	70
Jim Deegan	11	14
Franklin Penning	7	25

LATE TESTIMONY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FARM ACREAGE</u>	<u>YEARS FARMING</u>
Toshio Wakimoto	2.55	60 yrs.
Clayton Weaver	2.5	50 yrs.
Shunichi Aoki	3.5	40 yrs.
Dale Agamine	2	30 yrs.
Alfred B. Palmer	Merged into Nagamine's Acreage	5 yrs.
Randall Uyehan	7	30 yrs.

LATE TESTIMONY

NAME	FARM ACREAGE	YEARS FARMING
Germaun Frankfort	1/2	8
Eunice Morner	1 1/2	15

396

LATE TESTIMONY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FARM ACREAGE</u>	<u>YEARS FARMING</u>
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LES NAKAMA	35	50
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* = KNOWN TARO FARMERS

(209)

RESOLUTION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TARO

We, the undersigned, TARO FARMERS are issuing the following resolution regarding genetically engineered taro, urging our local and state officials, the University of Hawaii, and other research institutions to take action to protect the integrity of taro.

We oppose the research and development of all varieties of genetically engineered taro.

Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments! or Need more info?
* Charles F. Reppun	<i>Charles F. Reppun</i>	47-410 Lulani St. Kaneohe 96744	2396123		
* Paul Reppun	<i>Paul Reppun</i>	47-415 Mahukou Rd. Kaneohe	2394223		
* DAVID REPPUN	<i>David S. Reppun</i>	1310 Pahoa	9604788		
* Jayson Mock Chew	<i>Jayson Mock Chew</i>	PO Box 627 Honolulu HI 96727	775-0816		
* Albert Mock Chew	<i>Albert Mock Chew</i>	P.O. Box 627 Honolulu, HI 96727	96727	Ph# 775-0815	
* Kalae Mock Chew	<i>Kalae Mock Chew</i>	P.O. Box 627 Honolulu, HI 96727	775-0815		
* Kualei Badua	<i>Dorothy Badua</i>	P.O. Box 5109 Kukuiahae 96727	96727	bdbadua@aol.com	
* Debbie Toko	<i>Debbie Toko</i>	P.O. Box 500 Kukuiahae 96727	775-9863		
* Donald Cooke	<i>Donald Cooke</i>	47146A Pulama Rd	2395873	mana ulo@hotmail.com	
David McEntee	<i>David McEntee</i>	157 Hanalei, HI 96714	635-0358		

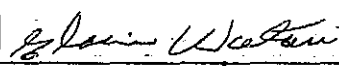


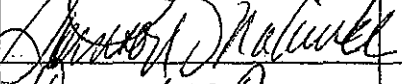


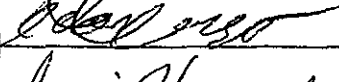
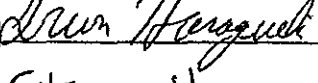

RESOLUTION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TARO

We, the undersigned, TARO FARMERS are issuing the following resolution regarding genetically engineered taro, urging our local and state officials, the University of Hawaii, and other research institutions to take action to protect the integrity of taro.

We oppose the research and development of all varieties of genetically engineered taro.

Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Address or Town/Island	Phone Number	Email	Signature	Would you like more info?
* Elaine Watari	P.O. Box 132 Hanalei, HI 96714	826-6748			
* B. Clarence Koon	P.O. Box 1289 Hanalei HI 96714	823-9569			
* Stacy Sprat-Bee	Wai'anae Foundation PO BOX 1189 Hanalei, HI 96714	689-1815	ssprat@hawaii.edu		
* Demetri Makuiki	Naena	826-6757			
* Demetri Rivera	P.O. Box 114, Kilauea 96754	826-7836			
* Gary Koga	P.O. Box 323	828-1489			
* Adam Asquith	4654 Hannalee Rd. Kapaemahu	823-6598			
* Irwin Haraguchi	P.O. Box 1606 Hanalei 96714	828-0087			
* Glenn Haraguchi	P.O. Box 88 Hanalei	826-6459		GLENN HARAGUCHI	
* Susan Makuiki	P.O. Box 861 Hanalei	826-1629			

RESOLUTION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TARO

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Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
* GLADYS KANA	<i>Gladys Kana</i>	PO B 791300 PAA, HI 96779	248-8449		<i>Parmer</i>
* Kualei Badua	<i>Dorothy Badua</i>	POB 5109 Kukuihaele HI	775-9894		
* Kāwika Winter	<i>KAWIKA WINTER</i>	PO BOX 808 HAWAII, HI 96714	826-1668		<i>Na Kōkou e malama iā Hāloa!!!</i>
* Paul Reppan	<i>Paul Reppan</i>	47-415 Mahalo Rd Kaneohe 96744	2394223		
* Keoki Fukumitsu	<i>Keoki Fukumitsu</i>	49-077 Johnson Rd Kaneohe HI 96744	277-1923		
* SAMSON SANTOS	<i>Samson Santos</i>	46-257 Pinnacles St Kaneohe HI 96744	342-3261		
* Ann Tsuha	<i>Ann Tsuha</i>	PO Box 38 WAILUKU, HI	242-4060		
* John L. Reppan	<i>John L. Reppan</i>	% 47-229 Niomiokp. Kaneohe, HI 96744	239-4810		
	<i>Luen Kim Gwen Kim</i>	PO BOX 300305 KAAHAWA HI 96730	2378673		
* Charlie Reppan	<i>Charlie Reppan</i>	47-410 Lulani St Kaneohe 96744	2396123		

RESOLUTION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TARO

We, the undersigned, are issuing the following resolution regarding genetically engineered taro, urging our local and state officials, the University of Hawaii, and other research institutions to take action to protect the integrity of taro.

We oppose the research and development of all varieties of genetically engineered taro.

Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
Justin Ledford-Castro	<i>Justin Ledford-Castro</i>	47-529 Melekula rd.	239-4663		
Kamaehu Lapili	<i>Kamaehu Lapili</i>	P.O. Box 10079 Hilo, HI, 96721	808-854-1258		
Kaleo Kamakea-Onalo	<i>Kaleo Kamakea-Onalo</i>	41-272 HULI ST 96745, HI	(808) 239-7452		
Moani Heimuli	<i>Moani Heimuli</i>	47-471 AFAU LOOP	239-6559	moaniheimuli@yahoo.com	
Shyla Pakele	<i>Shyla Pakele</i>	48-777 E Kam. Hwy. Kaneohe HI. 96744	223-9046		
Calvin Hoe	<i>Calvin Hoe</i>	PO BOX 5432	393 8762	calvinhoe_hlc@yahoo.com	Mahalo
Charlene Hoe	<i>Charlene Hoe</i>	P.O. Box 5432	235-9155	chhoe_hlc@yahoo.com	
Good Blanche	Donald Dean Cooke	47-146A POLAMARD 96744		manaulu@hotmail.com	
Rant Reppun	<i>Rant Reppun</i>	47-415 Mahakoa Rd. Kaneohe 96744	239-7223		
* Alex Bode	<i>Alex Bode</i>	1942-C-ALP LAF Kihikihi, MAUI HI 96752	283-0738		

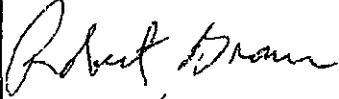
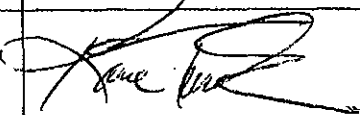
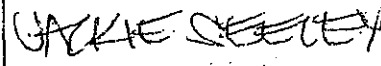
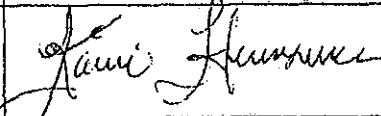
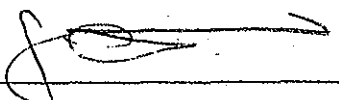
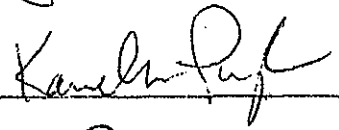
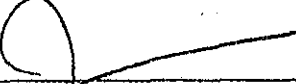
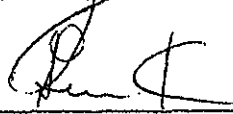
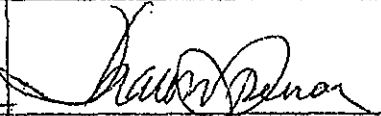
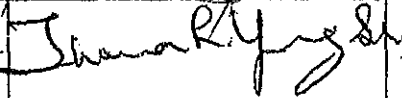
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Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
Robert Brown		1747A Hule ST.	599-2727		
Kane Turalde		PO Box 1022 Waimea HI 96796	6515984	Kateswahine @AOL.COM	
JACKIE SEELEY		51-215 KE NUIRD #E HALEIWA, HI. 96712	343-4414	bluuuuuu@ hotmail.com	
Kalimi Hermosua		P.O. Box 202 Hanalei HI 96714	346-7870		
Keoni Hookano		4344 Anahala Rd	348-1478	hookano@ maui	
Kawewehi Pundya		P.O. Box 880361 Kalahehi 96786	757-2556	Maoliola@ hotmail.com	
Nearka Husky		44139 Kahaione Ln Kaneohe HI 96744	271 2843	ihusky@ hawaii.edu	
Sue Kim		PO Box 300300 Kailua, HI 96730	2378672	shank	
Sharon Spencer		P.O. Box 678 Hanalei HI 96717	953 0257	/	
Thomas L Young Sr.		46-193 Lilipuna Rd Kaneohe, HI 96744	381-9221	Kalogizer @yahoo.com	

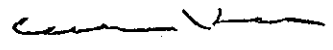

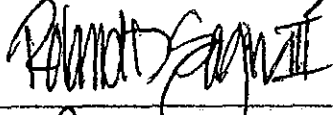


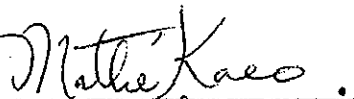

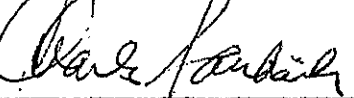


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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
* Emerson Leung		P.O. Box 957 Hanalei 96714	639 0230	KANUHI 759) 487 KULL	
Scott PamFry		PX 345 KILAUEA 96754	639-8030		
Roland D. SABUM III		P.O. BOX 958 LAWAII, HAWAII	(808) 580-6280	ROB3 @ Kikoadi.com	
MICHAEL KALEIKINI		PO BOX 30 PAHOA, HI 96778	808.965.6233		
Marti Townsend		P.O. Box 270112 Honolulu 96827	808-524-8220	martie@ kalea.org	
MATTIE KAE0		38 Kaulawehi Pl. Kula 96790	298-3793	Mattiekaeo@gmail.com	AWESOME!
ORRIN KUPAU		694 N. KUAKINI ST. HON. HAWAII 96817	585-0755	okupau@ hotmail	
Charles Kanehara		891157 Pihaiolena St Wai'anae 96792	375-7580	putaa1950@ yahoo.com	
Melie Celho		1246 MOWAII ST. KAILUA HI. 96734	285-2450	cjmelie@ hotmail.com	
Juanita Kawamoto - Brown		1747A Huli St. Hon., HI. 96817	808-429-3813	Juanita @ farmtechhawaii.com	

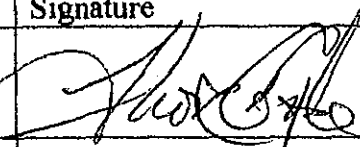
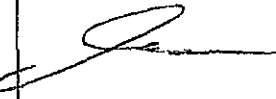
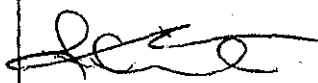
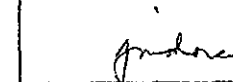


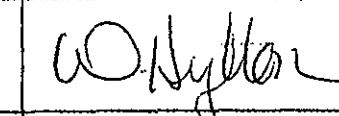
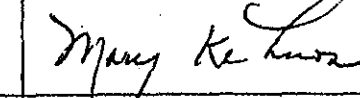
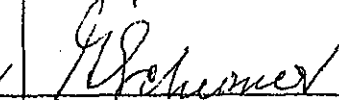

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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
Z Hor Basko		6240 Helen Kapaa	822-4229	drbwave vet@hawaii .net	
Quinn Leani		Box 957 HAWAII	639 0230		
Quinn Quinn		Box 19 HAWAII	639 3698		
JULIANA DONA		Box 19 HAWAII	634-7037		
NED WIFITZOCK		PO BOX 689 KILAUEA HI 96754	651-1446		
Charlotte Kaai		5116 Kawaihau Rd Kapaa HI 96746	822-4168		
Wu Hylton		1644 Kaneohe rd. Kapaa	822-1590		
MARY KEKUEWA		P.O. Box 1782 Pahoa, HI 96778-1782	(808) 965-1688		
Luise Schumert		PO Box 1492 5116 KAWAII RD KAPAA, HI 96746	808 245 2038		
MARIE DAR		5116 KAWAII RD KAPAA, HI 96746	822-4168		

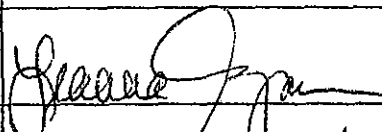
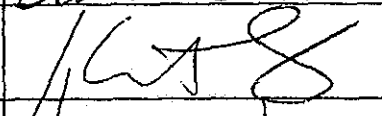
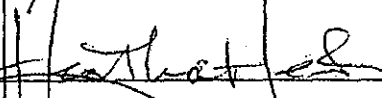




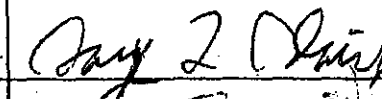
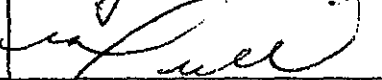
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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Occupation/Comments Need more info?
* Leanna Campos		P.O. Box 1096 Waimoa HI 96796	935-0075	keraimalu_2@yahoo.com	KTGA *
Derrick Baranishou	Danitz Barin	P.O. Box 1096 Waimoa HI	335-0075	" "	
Keith Edwards		6801 F Wiponiki Kapaa HI 96746	246-0233	kerithie@ischool.org	Teacher @ T. School
Heather Hufman		7060 Kapaunard Kapaa HI 96746	651-1671		
Sill Richardson		1659 Wanaaw Kapaa HI	651-0717	Jr. @ Kawainature.com	Conservation TART
Richard DeMarco		PO Box 1797 Kapaa HI 96746	822-0804		
Hope DeMarco		6719 Wai'anae LAPA HI	822-4723		
Suzanne Kashiwada		POB 862 Kalaheo 96741	3328406		SW
GARY BLAICH		POB 1434 Kilauea, HI 96754	8281438		
* DEAN NICOL NONAKA		PO Box 227 Haalele	335-5136	nonaka6@aol.com	KTGA *

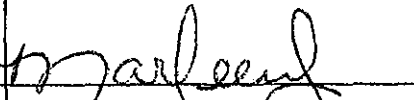
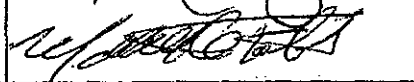
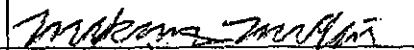
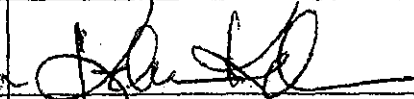


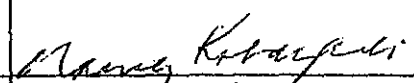

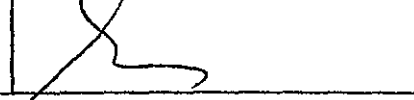
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We oppose the research and development of all varieties of genetically engineered taro.

Specifically,

We call for a statewide ban on any research or release of all varieties of genetically engineered taro and a ban on any patents involving taro.

Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Occupation/Comments Need more info?
Marleen Fu		Box 581 Hanalei	826-0162	hanalei_girl@msn.com	
* Matthew Field		Box 229 Kilauea	6511084	—	TARO FAN
* MUKONO MARTIN		Box 1172 Hanalei	826-6948		"
Kehaulani Kekua		POB 1761 Kapaa	346-7514	Kauaiheritagecenter@kairie.org	
JWP	JAMES W. J. PARSONSON	P.O. Box 1337 Koloa			
DESICEE DULLAYAN PARSONSON		Box 1333 Koloa	346-1052	jdparsonson@hotmail.com	
Schar Freeman		Box 261 Eleele HI 96705	639 2670	scharbeard@yahoo.com	Artist
Blanca Kobayashi		Box 44 Hanalei	826 7836		
MICHAEL SUGGAM		907 LEANING	822-1644		
Sherrie Orr		P.O. Box 119 96796	335-6868		

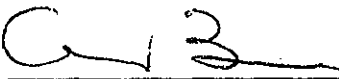
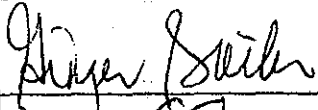


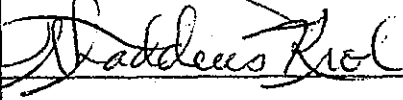
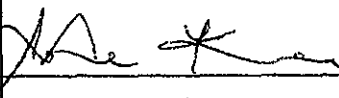
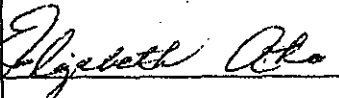
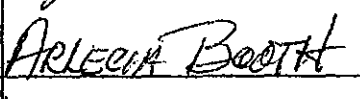
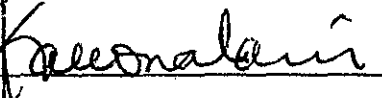
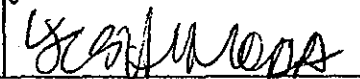
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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Occupation/Comments Need more info?
Carrie Brennan		6050 A Kapahi Rd. Kapaa, HI 96748	822-4123	carriebrennan @hotmail.com	naturopathic physician
Ginger Sairi		332 Kihapai St. Kapaa, HI 96746	822-7346	gsairi@ hawaii.vv.com	—
NICK GOOD		4669 KAHAWA Kona, HI 96741	828 1706	nickgood@ successultra.com	—
Daniel Mcarty		2735c ana'o Rd. Kaloa 96756	6340348	daniel@ ooh@hawaii	*network notify
Thaddus Krol		P.O. Box 306 Friday Harbor WA	360 3786938		Self emp.
*JoAnne Kaona		P.O. Box 98250 1289 Hanaki HI 96714	(808) 652-1159	jkaona@hawaii. edu	
Elizabeth Aka		P.O. Box 1584 Kapaa, HI 96746	822-5606		
Arleena Booth		6412 Kaahole St Kapaa HI 96746	822-1702	—	SELF-EMP.
Kale		P.O. Box 624 Anahoa	634 5038	gassututu @excite.com	KUMU KOKUC
Linda Shimoda		20920 Mananalea Lihue HI 96746	249-9818	ljs@shimoda	artist

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Name (Print)	Address or Town/Island	Phone Number	Email	Signature	Would you like more info?
David B. Hamaea	P. Box 23 Anahulu	82205854		David B. Hamaea	
CHARLES B. PEREIRA	P. BOX 441 ANAHULU	822 8945		Charles B. Pereira	
Danny Apana	P.O. Box 104 Kapaa			Danny Apana	
Cathy Han Young	Box 232 Hanalei	8266265			
Jan # Han Young	Box 232 Hanalei	8266265			
Richard Han Young	" " "	8269279			
Dudley Han Young	" " "	8267678			
Shain Han Young	" " "	8264717			
Allen Han Young	" " "	8266097			
Crys Han Young	" " "	8267285			

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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments! or Need more info?
* Kari Shozuya	<i>Kari Shozuya</i>	1540 Waianuenuue Ave Hilo, HI 96720	808-256-0816	shozuya@hawaii.edu	
* Ryan Like	<i>Ryan Like</i>	489 P.O. Box 1139, Hanalei HI 96714	808-984-0848	rlike@hawaii.edu	
* Penny Levin	<i>Penny Levin</i>	224 ATINAHOU PLACE WAIAWAKU, HI 96793	808-285-3947	pennysf@hawaii.rr.com	
Leven Kim	<i>Leven Kim</i>	P.O. Box 300308 Kaanapali, HI 96730	2378673 # 2938577 0	gkim@glcc.org	
Mele Coelho	<i>Mele Coelho</i>	333 Aoloo St. # 318 Kailua, HI 96734	285-2450	cjmel@hotmail.com	
* SAMSON SANTOS	<i>Samson Santos</i>	46257 Pinnawal St Kaneohe HI 96744	247-1063	FishN.pai 4-me.com	
Torao Nakamura	<i>Torao Nakamura</i>	5361 A Hana'ala Rd	821-2521		
Daniel Angulo	<i>Daniel Angulo</i>	5-5522 Kuhio Hwy Hanalei HI 96714	826-1065	Fullin@yahoo.com	
Kathleen Davis	<i>Kathleen Davis</i>	616 Partee Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81504	970-242-4515	—	
James Ornelas	<i>James Ornelas</i>	P.O. Box 153 Kilauea Kauai HI 96754	808-1521	—	

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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Occupation/Comments Need more info?
Harmonie Hawthorne		PO Box 969 Kilauea 6721 Kawaihau Rd.	635-5735 822-3894	Bakingir1@msn.com SuryaFillsinset @hotmail.com	chef
Sonia Gordines					
* Catherine X Han Young		PO Box 222 Hawaii 96714	6520485 8766865		
* Stacy Sprout-Ber		Box 596 Hawaii 96714	639-1815	s.sprout@ hotmail.com	
JNA ROESSLER		PO BOX 223749	828 1760	US @KAUAI GENS.COM	
NORBERT ROESSLER		"	"	"	
Melissa Hosano		9084 Albert Promerville		melhosano@msn.com	
Mason Edmonds		4701 Waiakalanu Ad.		macedoggo5@yahoo.com	
ROBERT DAY		4136 NALANI LN.	826-9714	bob day 1@ hawaiiia.tel.net	
Koko DAY		4136 NALANI LN.	8269714	bob day 1@ hawaiiia.tel.net	

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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments! or Need more info?
Warren Isip	Warren B Isip	46-260 Heeia St Kāneohe, HI 96744	(808) 358-0495 (808) 247-7249	kimi-warren @hotmail.com	
X STEVEN HOOKANO	[Signature]	245 WAILUA RD. HAIKU HI 96708	248-7847	1 pauahi @ Yahoo.com	
A Shawn Reed	Shawn Reed	P.O. Box 277 Hana, Maui 96713	248-8410		Stick to Your Roots
John Zink	John Zink	P.O. Box 254	248-8974		
Pauahi Beggs	[Signature]	245 Wailua Rd Haikū HI 96708	248-7847	1pauahi@ yahoo.com	
A Alapaki Luke	[Signature]	P.O. Box 11085 Honolulu, HI 96820	945-1413		
Kew Sotomura	[Signature]	52-234 Kymaukuahe Wailua, HI 96717	237-1231		
#9 Donald Cooke	[Signature]	4714 A PULAMA Rd 96744	234-7770	beenhad, again@hot mail	
DAVID STRACH	[Signature]	CITIZEN AVENUE ST HONOLULU 96822	956-1697	strach@ greenhopstacks.org	
Virginia McMenamin	VIRGINIA McMENAMIN	22 W. Union Av Burlington, NJ 08016	609-386 -9640	V.MCMENAMIN@ comcast.net	

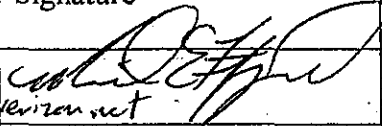
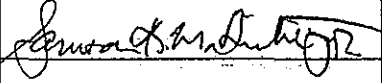

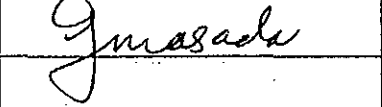
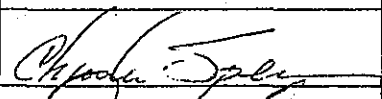
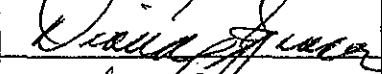
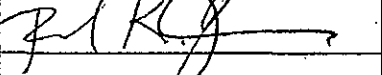



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Name (Print)	Address	Phone Number	Email	Signature	Would you like more info?
* Michael Fitzgerald	P.O. Box 816 Hanalei, HI	634-7540	mfitzgerald@environment		
* Samsan Mahuki Jr	P.O. Box 861 Hanalei HI	826-1629			
* Marvin Masada	P.O. Box 284 Kilauea	828-1081			
* Gary Masada	" " "	"			
* James Masada	P.O. Box 128 Hanalei HI	826-9874			
* Charles Spencer	P.O. Box 98 Hanalei	826-6247			
* Diana Spencer	P.O. Box 98 Hanalei	"			
* Reid K. Yoshida	P.O. Box 73	652-9930			
* Chris Kobayashi	PO Box 135 Hanalei	826-7836			
* Demetri Rivera	P.O. Box 114 Kilauea	826-7836			

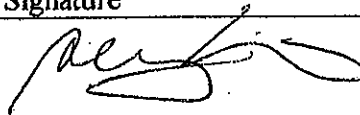
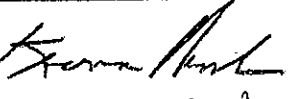
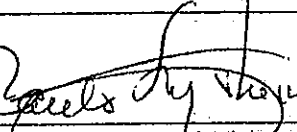
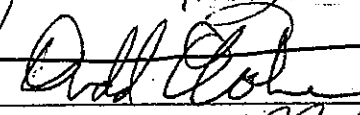
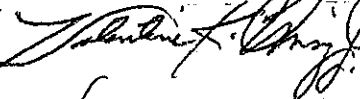
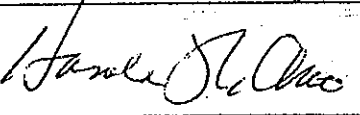
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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
* PENNY LEVIN		224 ANAHOA PL WAILUKU, HI 96793	(808) 285-3947		appearance farewell.
* KEONA MARK		P.O. Box 2 HALEIWA HI 96712	637-2778	Haitalo@ aol.com	
* PAUL FUJISHIRO		P.O. Box 1967 WAILUKU, HI 96793	357-8814	popkama@hawaii.rr.com	KISU, COM
9 * DONALD D. COOKE		47146A PULAMA RD. KANEIHEHE HI 96744		been kadagain @hotmail	
* VALENTINE CHING V.		41 KANEIHEHE BOUL. DR. KAILUA, HI 96734	2542590	makua@hawaii. rr.com	
* HAROLD W. ANO		P.O. Box 713 ANAHOA, HI, 96703	823-9776	STEPHANIE ANO@AOL. COM	

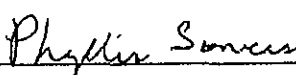
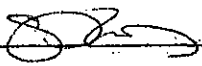
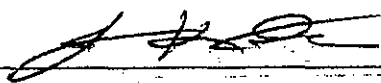

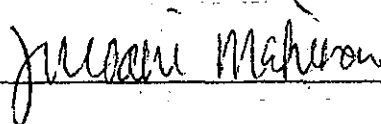
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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Occupation/Comments Need more info?
Phyllis Somers		4334 Tokua St.		p.somers@ntbg.org	Public Outreach Spec
Stephanie Ramsey		2290 Kahaou St P.O. Box 311	651 6978	ramseykawai@hawaii.edu	
* Jason K. Ito		HANALEI HI 96744	650 1760	jkenj@hawaii.edu	
MONIKA SEIZ		P.O. BOX 876 KILAUEA 96754	635 7317	monikaloha@earthlink.net	LMT
Moani Mahiron		POB 292 Aiea HI 96706	346 0271	SMO_MAHIRON@yahoo.com	

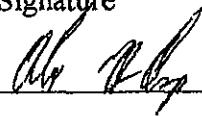
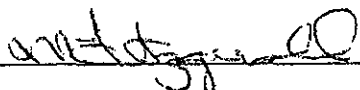
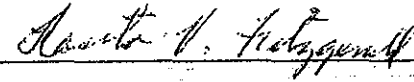
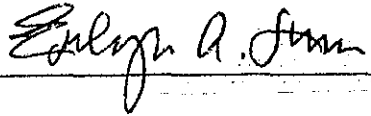
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Name (Print)	Signature	Address	Phone Number	Email	Comments?
* HLEX DEEG		P.O. Box 223352 PINEVILLE, HI 96720	(808) 826-7587		
* Michael K. Fitzgerald		9614 P.O. Box 154 Hanalei	808 826-6468		
* Rosalee V. Fitzgerald		9674 P.O. Box 154 Hanalei	808 826-6468		
EVELYN A. LUM		P.O. Box 163 Kilauea, HI 96754	(808) 639-1362		

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TARO *
Farmer

Name (Print)	Address	Phone Number	Email	Signature	Would you like more info?
Bernard Mak	Waimoa Box 212	337-1557		Bernard Mak	
Raulias K. CHAN	P.O. Box 927 Kula	337-1428		Raulias K. Chan	
Linda Dusenberry	P. Box 404 Waimoa	338-1075		Linda Dusenberry	
JOHN K. AANA	P.O. Box 734 Waimoa	335-3588		John K. Aana	
Jimmy Tyler	PO Box 812 Waimoa	338-2429		JT	
Tyson Nakamitsu	P.O. Box 14 Waimoa 96796	338-8326		T.N	
Michael Karratti	P.O. Box 601 Waimoa	337-9927		Michael Karratti	

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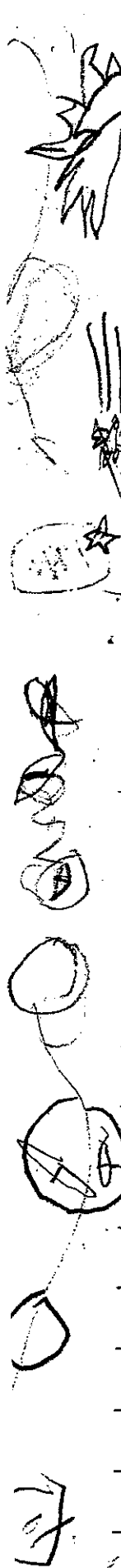
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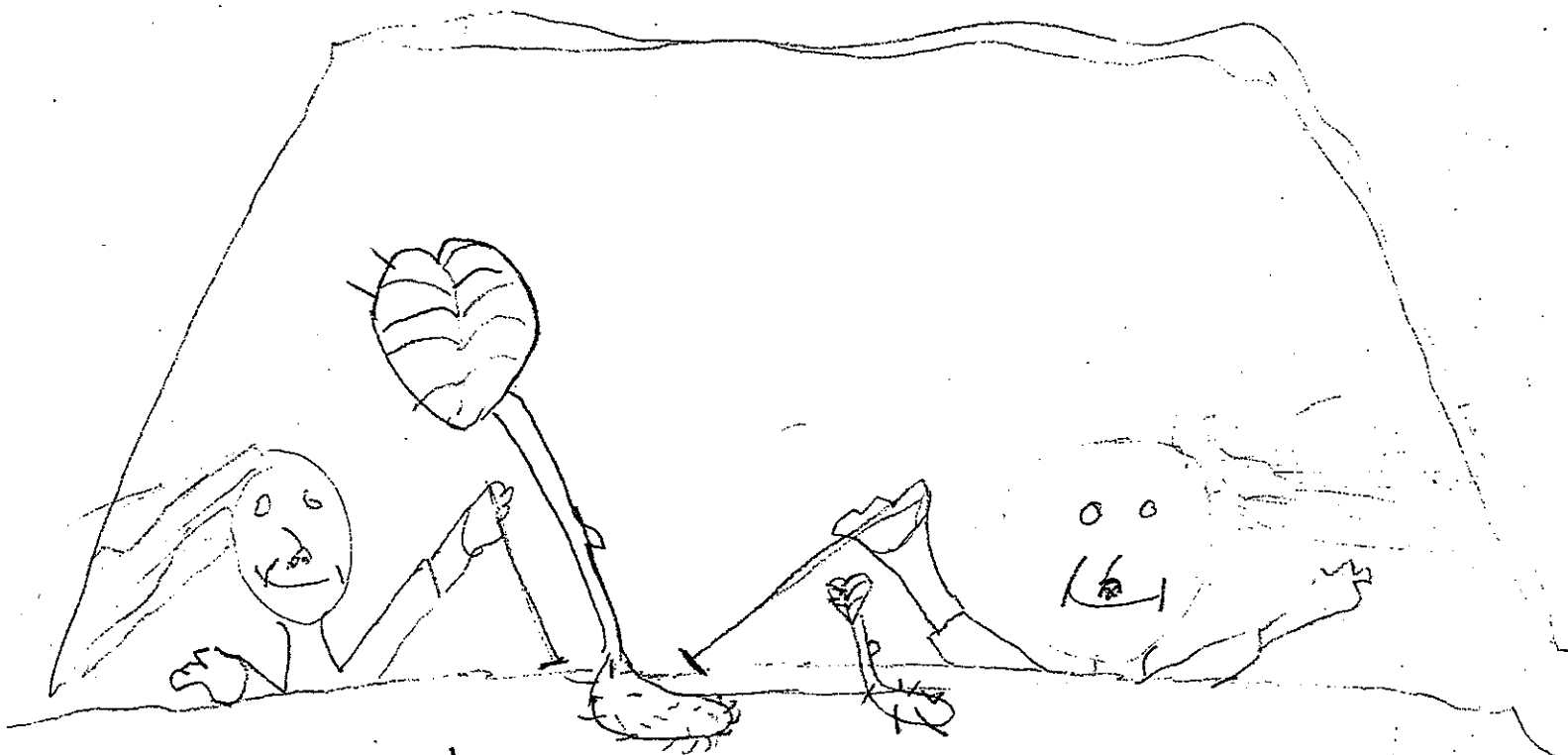
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Name (Print)	Address	Phone Number	Email	Signature	Would you like more info?
* Thelma Aana	P.O. Box 1151	338-1810		<i>Thelma Aana</i>	
* WILSON A. AANA	P.O. Box 1151	338-1810		<i>Wilson Aana</i>	
* Kane Turalde	P.O. Box 1072	651-5984		<i>Kane Turalde</i>	
* Kane Turalde	P.O. Box 342	338-9787		Kane Turalde	
* WAKOON AANA	P.O. Box 734	335-3508		<i>Wakoon Aana</i>	
* Kiyoshi Ueda	P.O. Box 145	334-1438		<i>Kiyoshi Ueda</i>	
* BERNARD MAKUAOLE	Box 212	337-1557			
* RAWLINS CAAR	Box 927 KEKAAHA	337-1428			
* LINDA DUSENBERG	Box 404 WAIMEA	338-1075			
* JOHAN K. AANA	Box 734 WAIMEA	335-3508		<i>Johan K. Aana</i>	

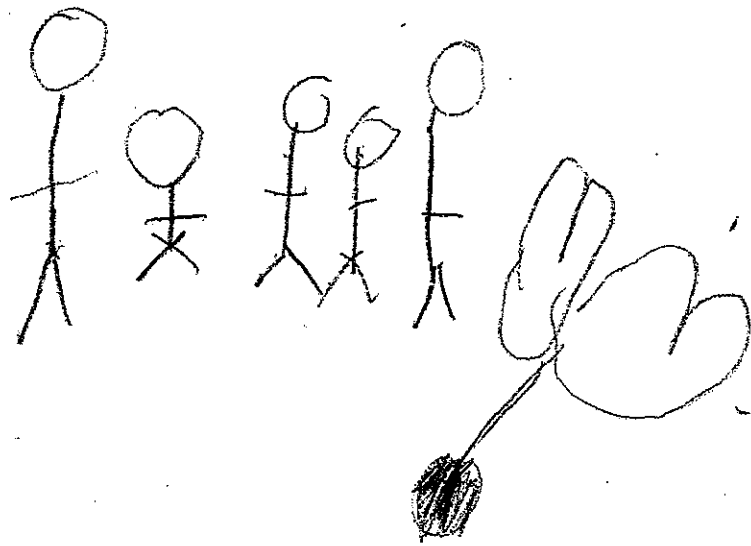


Dear Law makers, We are trying to help Kalo. Other
People want to make Kalo a Super Plant but God thinks
its perfect. It is the only Food that will
not give people the AIDS. But people are making
it worse. That's why we need to protect it from Gmo.
Pretty soon there won't be any Kalo left for
the people of Hawaii. Gmo is not
good for the Kalo and it can kill it. We are trying
to stop Gmo but the people won't
listen to us at all. We are running out of
Kalo. Soon there won't be any Kalo at all.
We need to protect Kalo and not let them
hurt them. Lets help the Kalo.

Love,
Bronson



Dear Lawmakers, we support SB 709.
Leave kalo the way God made it.
Some people can only
eat kalo. It's pure and good. If we
add things into it, it
may make you sick.
Ka'ikea Ahuna



Dear law makers

su p... SB 709 ka ho needs
to be safe...

It needs to be protected.

We like Haloa naka lili

Kapa lili. Kalo is natural

Haloa is strong because

God gave us. He made it perfect

pure and sacred. If you add

any stuff, it's not

God you will get sick.

Aloha kea Oa Go ovin

★ Dear Law makers

to keep kalo pure and safe
kalo can grow strong and green
and big so it can be healthy
so if people eat it
they can be really healthy
so they can have energy to plant
and to do other stuff and if the
kalo don't die and make people sick
and die so protect the kalo and
if you take care of the kalo it will
take care of you and if you give it
bad stuff the kalo might die and
give the kalo lots of water or
if you don't the kalo will
dry up so give them water every
day so the kalo can be healthy
and strong. From
Seth Drake Williams

Dear, Senators and Law makers,
Me and my class would like to
save Hāloa and not use fertertilizer
and G.M.O. for plants just to make
a super plant. Kawaihae's School wants
to save Hāloa. If we don't take
care of Hāloa he won't take care
of us. Then when we eat it will make
~~us~~ sick. Then people will die, and the
amount of people will shrink and
shrink. Please help us save Hāloa.
God gave us Hāloa as a gift. We are
going to have to respect God's gift.

To: Law makers
from: Kaciobu Gonsaves

Water
Kalo is a good Food
Daha its a healthy Food
We should protect ALL
the diseases kind of
Kalo we need to keep Kalo
natural and pure Lets
make sure we keep Kalo
SAFE and good for everyone.
Kainon k- all i and
ALLHA

doing
STOP ~~doing~~ BAD THINGS

SO KALO CAN GROW.

IF YOU DONT STOP KALO
WONT GROW.

IF YOU DO
KALO WILL GROW

IF WE DO
AND KEEP DOING

IT ALL OVER THE WORLD.
KALO WONT GROW BECAUSE

THEY DIERING SO DONT ~~do~~
BAD THINGS FOR KALO
WILL DIER SO MY

CLASS IS TRYING TO NOT DO THAT
AND SKALO IS THE ONLY FOOD

THAT NO ONE IS LOGIC TO

SO THAT IS WHY WE
SHOULD KEEP KALO SAFE

LOVE NOHA

Cam a



Dear law make fcs we s u apart
 3 B 700. Protect the plant Kalo
 and the other. If you take care
 of Kalo he will take care of you
 so don't give the Kalo G. m. o. If you
 don't give Kalo G. m. o. then it is go
 ing to be fine. Love kamawon g.

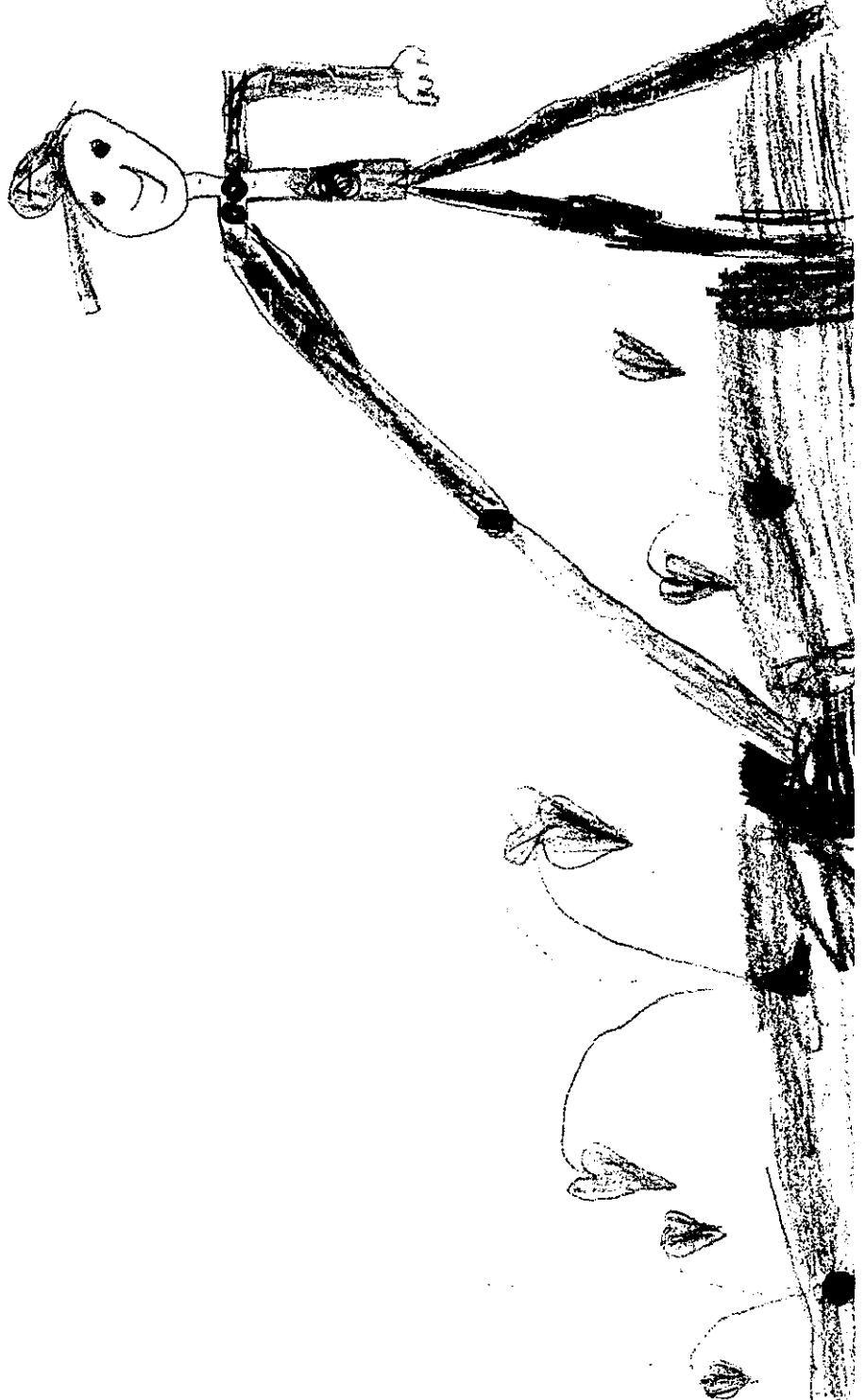
Dear law makers. Please make
Haba Safe GOD made Haba so every
Body can eat it. Kalo is good
medicine too.
Please keep Haba safe and
keep Haba healthy. My
Dad is Kalo farmer, he has a
kalo field at his house. My
Dad takes care of it.
There are many different Kalo.
GOD gave us Haba to take
care of it and GOD gave us
Kalo to eat. Kalo is important to
everyone in the world. Kalo
is healthy for all. So let's
keep it this way forever. Let's
never put gold in Kalo
land.

Love Aali



Dear ...

1) We need to help Kalo grow. 2) We need
to protect Kalo because people keep
putting stuff into it with g.m.o.
people are getting sick from it 3)
if people keep on putting ingredients
into the Kalo, it won't be safe then
the people who can eat Kalo safely
now will get sick. God made it special
for us to eat 5) Kalo is special because
it is a pure food and it feeds us. 6) Kalo
is the only food that nobody is allergic
to that's why we need to keep it
pure safe and natural.
Thank you for ...



Dear Lawmakers we should

not let the world think my name is

just a name which is

there is a reason I understand

the world is not one person

it is a lot of people can be

some things are not

people can be taken care of

if you take care of it it

will not take care of it and

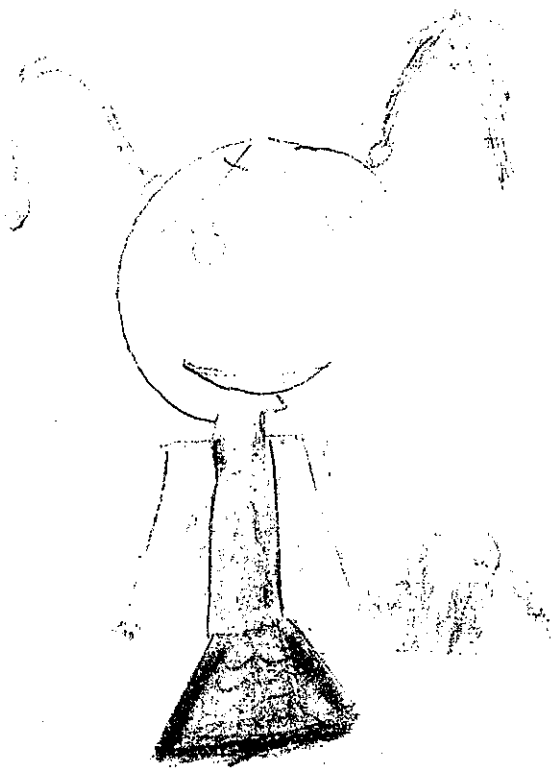
people will not be able to

things in it is called GMS.

Please take care of it and

Ure.

Lawmakers



Dear senators and Law makers,

We support the law because we should protect Kalo because Kalo is a very good plant because it feeds people and they take care of Hāloa. Hāloa is my favorite food because it is really healthy for me. Hāloa is a Gift from God. We don't need to change it because it's already perfect, pure, and safe. So we need you to take care of Hāloa then we will take care of you.

Then we will be strong and we like to take care of you and it is a work out for you.

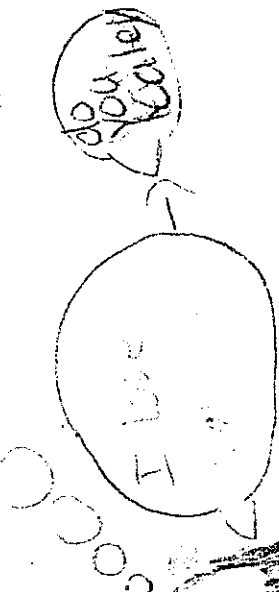
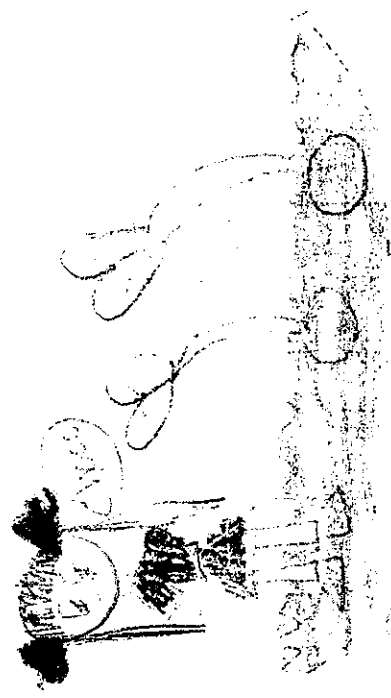
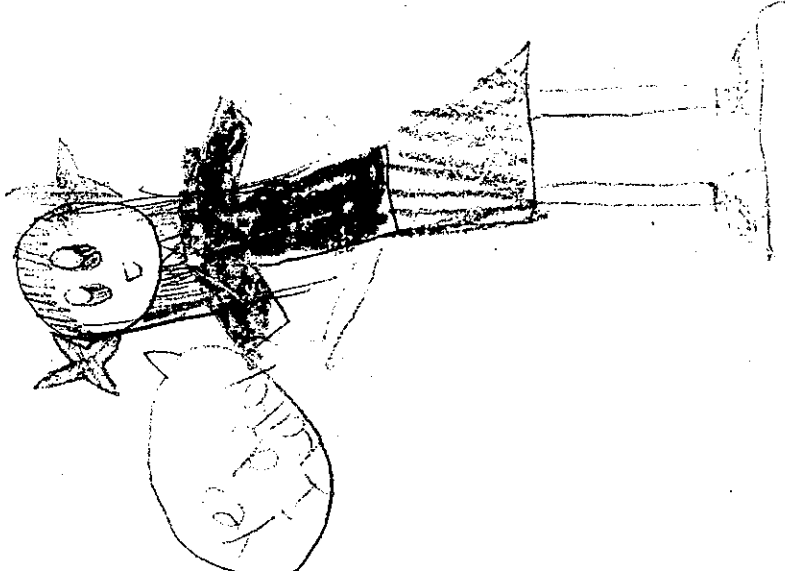
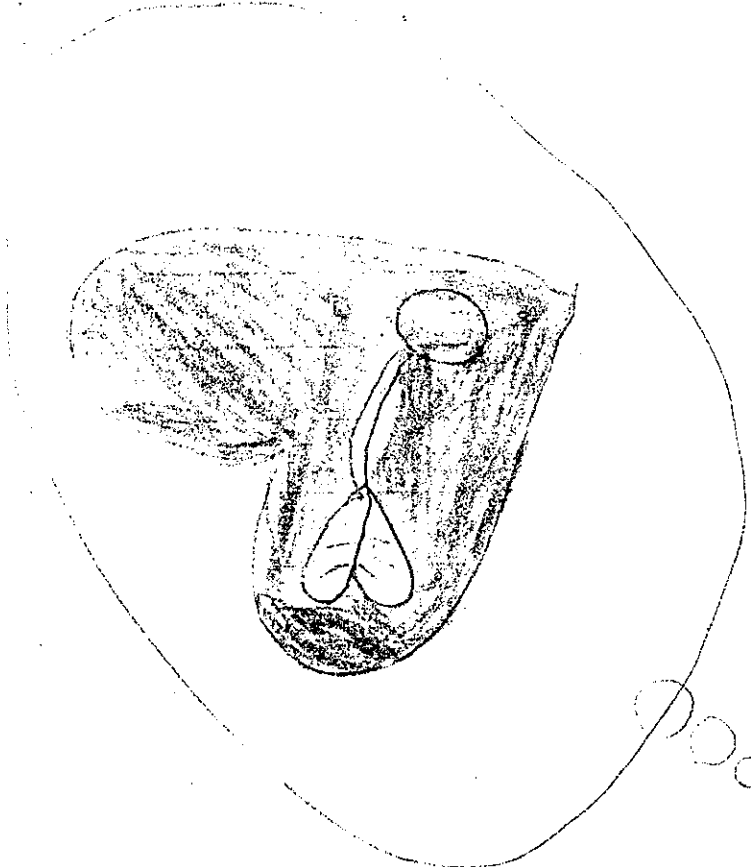
It helps us to do more things. Hāloa is very special because it is food and we need it to live. Please give us the law that we need.

Thank you for your help. Great Law makers.

I am a student at the University of Hawaii.

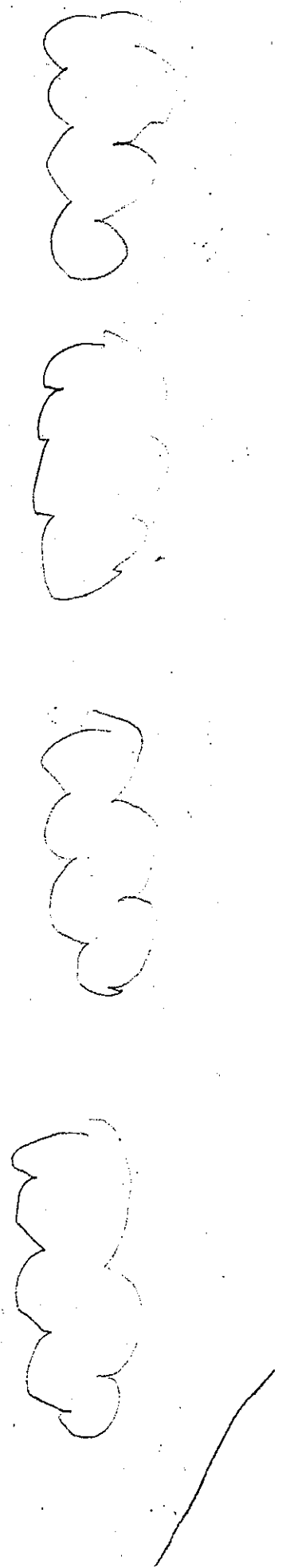
My name is ^{ehua} [unclear]

Look in
the back →



Dear lawmakers, please make a
law that will stop the people that
are putting stuff in kids. Kids
is the worst food. - if people
are allergic to stuff they can
kids. If you put stuff in the kids,
when people eat kids they will get
sick. Also you don't need to
change gods food that he
eat - or us because it is
perfect and made for us
to eat not you don't need to
make gods food better than
he makes it. pure safe and
Healthy.

Aloha: mailani wong



LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Senators,

I am in strong support of SB 709, Ban on GMO taro in Hawaii.

My parents and grandparents farmed taro since the early 1940's. I grew up surrounded by taro fields. I attended the University of Hawaii and got a B.S. in Agriculture. I didn't know at the time that I would be the one to take over the farm after my dad retired.

If my dad was here today, he would say that we need to protect and take care of the taro. He was the one who taught me how to select for the best *huli* (vegetative propagative piece) for the next planting. Sometime in the '60s and '70s, there was this "disease" called Guava Seed. Not even the CTAHR researchers knew the cause of it. There seemed to be no cure. My dad, in his wisdom, felt strongly that selection of *huli* played a huge part in eliminating that "disease". Today, it is rare to see Guava Seed in our plantings. Selection of *huli* means being observant of the plants and of their many good and desirable qualities in the field as they respond to the seasons and other environmental factors. This is what all the Kanaka Maoli Kahu o Haloa who came before all of us did. It is through their astute observations and abilities to select and breed that we have the different Hawaiian varieties today.

Through observation, it seems that the production and quality of taro started to decline rapidly in the late 1980's and early 1990's. To me, it was similar to the stock market crash. I think. But in our case, it was the Soil Fertility Crash. I spoke to an agronomist at UH but he didn't seem to agree with me. I believe we had different perspectives of what a healthy soil is.

If one looks at how commercial taro is being farmed today, one will see that the field barely has time to rest and fallow or grow a rotational crop in between, before taro is once again planted in the same field. If there is disease present, continuous planting will just increase the disease presence. We must break the disease cycle. Change the environment so that the beneficial microorganisms can multiply.

There are many many applications that we can try in growing taro. Most are not new. They are simply being rediscovered. Our ancient elders and kupuna knew of them. Farmers who are in touch with the natural cycle of the earth know of these secrets to growing healthy and nutrient dense food.

GMO taro will not save taro or our commercial farmers. Making the taro resistant to one disease may make it vulnerable to another. Farmers who say that they will not plant or eat the GMO taro but want the research to continue just in case, will end up planting it because if they continue to farm with out regard for true soil fertility, their crops will not be healthy and prone to disease and they will think that they have arrived at that "just in case" time.

My point is that, we need to provide a healthy environment for the taro. Just like us human beings. When the flu is going around, not everyone gets it. Why? Because of what we feed ourselves that help to boost our immune systems. Likewise, the ones who get sick probably have some kind of stress on their bodies. So simple. Let's not unleash a GE live organism that we could never recall if it is later determined that they cause harm.

Also, I don't believe that there are enough regulations to keep this kind of experiment in the lab or greenhouse. Who will be liable? Dr. Susan Miyasaka? UH? HARC? The lab assistants? DOA? USDA? The farmer who plants it? With the demand for organic food growing, will consumers want to buy and eat GMO taro or poi? Would you feed it to your baby? Or your elderly parent?

As a farmer, I know that taro varieties can and will get easily mixed up besides getting crosspollinated naturally or purposely. And gmo taro? That's on a microscopic level and we'd definitely not be able to see the difference. What about the farmer who chooses to grow non gmo taro? What about the consumer who hopes that the organic or non gmo taro really is non gmo taro?

Please help to support keeping taro pure; keeping its nutritional and medicinal qualities intact; it's genetic integrity pure.

Mahalo nui,
Chris Kobayashi, Kalo farmer
Wai'oli, Hanalei, Kaua'i

From: Elmer Kaai Jr. [elmerk@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 2:56 PM
To: Morisaki, Eunice; WTLTestimony
Cc: Hashimoto, Andrew G.; Kevin Kelly; Sandra Shitanishi; Gregg Takayama
Subject: RE: SB 709 SD1 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thank you Eunice.

From: Morisaki, Eunice [mailto:MorisakiE@ctahr.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 1:50 PM
To: WTLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: Hashimoto, Andrew G.; Kevin Kelly; Elmer Kaai Jr.; Sandra Shitanishi; Gregg Takayama
Subject: SB 709 SD1 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Attached is personal testimony on SB 709, SD 1.

Eunice E. Morisaki
Assistant to the Dean
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LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

To: State Senate
State House of Representatives
Re: Testimony in support of ban on GMO Kalo

From: John Keikiala Aana
Taro Farmer- 30 yrs.
Former owner- Makaweli Poi Mill, Inc.
Former Vice President- Kauai Taro Growers Assoc.
President- West Kauai Taro Farmers Co-op.
Member- State Task Force on Taro Security and Purity
Kanaka Maoli

Aloha,

I am a descendant of the Makuaole family, from Makaweli Valley, formerly known as Olokele Valley. Our family has a history of growing kalo in this area that can be traced back to pre-western contact. Unlike many Kanaka Maoli families, who were dispossessed from their kuleana lands, we have managed to hold on to our land, and continue to this day, to plant kalo, and to care for the very same aina that our ancestors cared for. We, as Kanaka Maoli, are direct descendants of Haloa, and Kalo.

We, as the indigenous people of this land, have had our lands stolen illegally, have been made to be second class citizens in our own land, and now are being attacked at the very essence of our spirit. Would we think of going to Japan or China, or any other country, and tell those people that we want to Genetically Modify their ancestors? Would the people of those countries allow that? I don't think so. But that is exactly what they are trying to do to us. This is no longer just a taro farmer issue. This is a Kanaka Maoli issue.

The Kanaka Maoli were conservationists. They practiced sustainability. They understood that what we do today will directly affect the generations to come. That is why they practiced kapu sytem, to guarantee the sustainability of their resources. They took only what they needed to sustain themselves, and left the rest to restore and replenish that resource. By doing that, they guaranteed their own survival and existence into the future.

As a commercial taro farmer for the past 30+ years, and as a poi miller for 15 yrs., I understand the economics of taro and poi production. I have seen the results of leaf blight and pocket rot, and the devastation caused by apple snails. I have seen poor quality soil and taro, resulting in decreasing yields of both taro and poi. But at the same time, I have also seen beautiful, solid taro, with no pocket rot. I have seen promising results with some hybrid taro, with old Hawaiian varieties, and with wild varieties taken from the mountains of Kauai. I know from my own experience that we can grow strong, healthy taro without genetically modifying it. GMO taro is not the answer to our problems. There are other scientific methods to develop disease resistant varieties. We as farmers, need to rotate and fallow our patches, and take the time to replenish the soil organically. If the soil is healthy, the taro will grow healthy and high yields.

LATE TESTIMONY

But this is the problem. Large commercial farmers only grow one variety of taro and do not fallow their patches. They do not take the time to rest and replenish the land. They have kept on planting large areas just to force profits, but now they are getting more disease, snails and lower yields. There are those that think that a GMO taro is the answer to their problems, so that they can continue high intensive, mono-cropping practices, which are unsustainable into the future. Allowing GMO taro to be produced would be the beginning of the end of the taro industry. Plus, the apple snail can still eat 50% of a GMO taro. Get rid of the apple snail and production will increase by 50%. Think about it.

No one knows what the future will bring, but I hope that we can learn from the practices of our ancestors. We Hawaiians, farmers and non-farmers, know what is pono in our hearts. It is not a future based on GMOs. It is a future based on sustainability and conservation. We need to put a kapu on GMOs. We humbly ask you to support the ban on GMO research on kalo.

Mahalo for your Kokua,

John Keikiala Aana

LATE TESTIMONY

To: State Senate
State House of Representatives
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of ban on GMO Kalo (HB1663 & SB709-SD1)
From: West Kauai Taro Farmer's Co-op
President- John Keikiala Aana
Taro Farmer- 30yrs; Former owner- Makaweli Poi Mill, Inc; Former Vice President- Kauai Taro Grower's Assoc.; Member- State Task Force on Taro Security and Purity; Kanaka Maoli

Aloha,

The West Kauai Taro Farmer's Co-op represents taro farmers from the west side of Kauai, mostly from Waimea and Makaweli Valleys. Our taro production is included in the 70-80% of the state's taro supply that Kauai produces. We also are the farmer's that have lasted through the generations and generations, and continue to produce taro against great odds, because we are the living Hawaiian culture. We continue to plant taro because it is who we are, and it is a legacy that has been passed on to us by our kupuna.

Our members are mostly small commercial taro farmers. Our taro production mostly goes to supply the poi market on Kauai. While we are considered commercial farmers, one thing that we have in common is that we don't farm taro for just the money. My uncle and mentor, Bernie Char, used to say, "You cannot grow taro for just the money. It has to come from in you. You have to love to do it."

While we might represent a smaller proportion of the Kauai's taro production than the larger commercial farmers, we are no less important. There are many other small taro farmers throughout the state, who oppose any kind of GMO research, on any kind of taro. The West Kauai Taro Farmer's Co-op. supports the ban on GMO Kalo.

Please Kokua,

John Keikiala Aana

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators and Representatives

-Kalo is a hypoallergenic food.

If you mess around with that, it ain't going to be hypoallergenic anymore.

-GMO kalo will contaminate our organic taro.

Take away our livelihood.

We cannot coexist.

-GMO proponents are only thinking about chemicals and their pockets.

-It's not going to be a pure taro anymore.

Pure taro is going to be like an artifact.

You will only find it in the museum.

Please support a BAN on GMO KALO in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Demetri Rivera

Kalo farmer

Wai`oli, Hanalei, Kaua`i

Member of Onipa`a na Hui Kalo, an inclusive statewide organization.

Presently member of Kauai Taro Growers Association (KTGA),

which does NOT represent my views on kalo.

demetri rivera

p.o.box 114

kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

In SUPPORT of HB1663 and SB709-SD1

Vince Kana`i Dodge
Coordinator, `Ai Pohaku Workshop/Ma`o Farms/WCRC

Aloha kakou.

O wau o Kana`i Dodge. Noho wau ma Wai`anae O`ahu. O Fred and Aiko Dodge ko`u ma makua. He makua wau me elua keiki nui a me ekolu mo`opuna. I`m Vince Dodge and I live in Wai`anae, O`ahu. My parents are Fred and Aiko Dodge. I have two grown children and three granddaughters. I am a part-time kalo farmer. I am a poi maker, cultural practioner and educator.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I understand that as decision makers you will be lobbied by the very powerful biotech industry and I remind you that you have been elected to represent us- the people, who are busy with all the responsibilities and necessities of daily living. We are not paid to lobby. We have entrusted you, our elected officials to make wise and practical decisions on our behalf and to protect us. We need protection from GMO foods.

GMO technology is unnatural. It involves the forcing together of genes from plants, animals, viruses, pesticides, etc. to create an organism that is unnatural. Then this unnatural genetically modified organism (GMO), which is alive, is set lose in the natural world. It has not been thoroughly tested for its safety (unlike GMO medicines). This is not safe science. This is not operating on the "precautionary principle", which is the foundation of safe science, and this is why we need protection from GMOs. We are at risk here because these unnatural, scientifically unsafe GMOs are fed to us. They are fed to us as feed for the animals we eat or directly to us in the food we buy in the stores. **It is fed to us unlabeled.** If GMO foods are safe as the industry tells they are it makes sense that they would totally support the labeling of their products. The opposite is true. The GMO industry has spent millions of dollars fighting every attempt to have their products labeled. They don't want GMO foods labeled. *They don't want any responsibility for the effects their unnatural, poorly tested scientifically unsafe GMO foods will have on us.* **That is why we need protection from the GMO food industry. That is why at this time we need a ban on GMO taro.**

Mahalo nui loa to all you legislators who are making wise and practical decisions on our behalf and protecting us. We really appreciate and honor your service. This is a kakou thing- we are striving together to keep our home, our food safe and well. Please educate yourselves about the GMO issues. Please watch the DVDs "The Future of Food" and "Islands at Risk". I will be happy to get you copies. My contact information is below.

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There are many other important reasons to reject the genetic modification of taro and support the ban on GMO taro. They include:

- The cultural significance of kalo/taro
- Real and imagined threats to taro growing and the industry
- Patenting and ownership of GMO crops
- Lawsuits against farmers whose crops are contaminated by GMO
- Public education about GMO
- The real beneficiaries of GMO

I am happy to get you information on any of the above issues or come and discuss them with you and/or your staff.

Ho`opiha kau `eke poi i ka manawa apau,
May your poi bowl be always full,

Vince Kana`i Dodge
Coordinator, `Ai Pohaku Workshop/Ma`o Farms/WCRC
Cell: 478-6492
Home: 696-9837
vince@maoorganicfarms.org

LATE TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT OF HB1663 and SB709-SD1

Hector Valenzuela, Ph.D.
94-1070 Anania Cr. No. 107
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RE: TESTIMONY- IN SUPPORT for Ban on GMO-taro
Ban research and planting of GM taro in Hawaii

Dear Members of the State Legislature:

I write this testimony in strong support of bills HB1663 and SB709-SD1, which would ban the research and field planting of genetically modified (GM) taro in Hawaii

I have worked as a UH-Manoa Professor and Crop Production Specialist for 18 years, but write this on a personal capacity. My research is in the area of sustainable and ecological agriculture. As someone who supports sustainable agriculture, I have become increasingly concerned about the unregulated open-field plantings of GM crops in Hawaii. In general I have concerns about the health risks, about environmental risks, and also about the long-term cultural and socioeconomic impacts on our communities.

Below I summarize my key positions:

1. Lack of data showing the safety of GM crops.

Statements made by GM proponents are not backed by scientific, peer-reviewed data. No studies have been conducted in Hawaii or elsewhere to evaluate the short- or long-term effects on humans from having consumed GM crops over the past 12 years.

2. Lack of oversight/regulations.

GM crops are poorly regulated or even deregulated. Our federal courts and internal USDA and FDA reports have found that our regulatory agencies are often incapable of detecting potential side-effects from the consumption or planting of GM crops.

3. Unintended Consequences (see references below).

Recent findings in the scientific literature have shown that GM crops do indeed pose potential health risks, environmental risks, and that the benefits to farmers have not always been matched with the promises made by GM proponents.

a. A comprehensive literature review published this month in a scientific journal documents a large number of potential health side effects from the few animal feeding studies that have been conducted to date (Dona and Arvanitoyannis, 2009).

b. A recent refereed publication showed that the commercial planting of GM cotton was NOT more profitable than that of conventional varieties (Post et al. 2008). Similarly, several publications have shown that the yields of GM crops are similar or lower than that of conventional crops.

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c. A recent publication from Spain showed that contamination was inevitable and that the principle of co-existence was not working in that country (Binimelis, 2008). Contamination has occurred in all regions where GM crops have been planted. GM corn contamination has been documented in several states of Mexico, even though there is a ban on GM plantings in that country.

d. There are still many unknowns about potential environmental risks. For instance the toxic Bt from GM crops was found to affect non-target organisms in nearby aquatic habitats (Harwood et al. 2005; Rosi-Marshall, 2008). Also, antibiotic genes from Bt crops were found to transfer to microbes in nearby aquatic habitats and aquifers (Koike et al 2007). As another example the Bt toxin from GM corn was found to affect the growth of earthworms in the soil (Zwalhen, 2003).

4. GM taro is not the answer for Hawaii.

My overall assessment is that GM taro is not the answer for farmers in Hawaii, and that GM taro would not contribute toward our self-sufficiency and sustainability. The only plant disease epidemiologist at UH-Manoa concurs, having stated that we already have all of the tools at our disposal to manage the major pests and diseases in taro- by following traditional pest control strategies.

Mahalo for your consideration in support of HB1663.

Sincerely,

Hector Valenzuela
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Mililani, HI 96789
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Professional Bio:

Dr. Hector Valenzuela a full Professor and Vegetable Crops Specialist at the University of Hawaii-Manoa received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Dr. Valenzuela has conducted applied agroecology research for 23 years in support of commercial farmers, organic farming, and sustainable agriculture. He has authored over 380 technical and educational publications, has conducted over 200 field research trials with over 60 different vegetable and cover crop species, has organized over 60 field days and workshops for farmers in Hawaii and the Pacific Region, given over 200 presentations, and has participated in 13 international assignments. A staunch supporter of organic and sustainable farming in Hawaii, Dr. Valenzuela established the first long-term organic research plots in Hawaii in 1993, the longest-running organic research project in the Pacific Region, and established the first Web sites to assist vegetable farmers (1998) and organic farmers (2005) in the Pacific Region.

Professional contact Information

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Taro Farmer- Wailua ‘Auwai lo‘i in Kahana Valley, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Papa Lo‘i o Kānewai, ‘Onipa‘a Nā Hui Kalo, Geography Dept at Honolulu Community College, and the East-West Center International Board

TESTIMONY- IN SUPPORT

Ban of Genetically Modified Taro (HB1663 & SB709-SD1)

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

For over 1200 years farmers in Hawai‘i have cared for and have protected the most extensive collection of varieties of taro on the planet. In Hawai‘i, taro is the plant of the people- it is our living culture and ancient history, native nutrition and ecological tradition. Taro provides a beloved and unique hypoallergenic food, medicine, sustainable agriculture, and industry for Hawai‘i. Genetically modifying any variety of *kalo* (taro) is culturally disrespectful and also poses irreversible and irresponsible dangers to our food, health, environment and economy.

Native planters of the *wā kahiko* (old days) were proficient in managing over 300 varieties of *kalo* tailored for different uses, these varieties were acquired through natural propagation and farming. From these *kūpuna* (ancestors and elders) we have been fortunate to receive their *‘ike* (knowledge) and live a lifestyle that is perpetuated with planting *kalo*, researchers and corporations are willing to disrespect this tradition that has been working of many generations. Each variety has qualities suited for different environments and uses, therefore satisfying sustainability and longevity. Other work around the world with genetically engineered crops have unfolded inevitable risks, such as elimination of diverse crops, and risk of famine due to catastrophic loss of crops that are the sole surviving species. These unknown risks are alarming, and at the same time ownership of the only surviving variety of *kalo* will result in a monopolized control of our most valuable source of the Hawaiian culture.

I support sustainable farming & precautionary scientific research that does not expose the taro species to the disrespect and risks of genetic engineering. I ask that the lawmakers actively support farmers/scientists in publicly accepted and safely advanced methods of protecting *kalo* by addressing land & water issues and controlling invasive pests & diseases. I also ask that the legislators pursue other avenues such as more public lands to grow *kalo* and more access to the water for growing *kalo*. I also ask the legislators to really find the truth behind the research in genetically modified organisms (GMO) of *kalo*, do they really want to help the farmers, or are there other reasons, what’s at stake for these entities, do they enjoy eating poi? Do they have fame and money as their number one priority? Certain entities that are focused on pursuing genetically modification of *kalo* have given reasons that resemble scare tactics, they seem to know what the *kalo* planter needs, even though they aren’t the taro farmers in the fields who really understand the real situation. They claim that they can combat the apple snail, the number one reason for crop yield declines, are their GMO varieties made of plastic or are they going to be toxic? I don’t see how they can create a variety that will combat this invasive pest that was introduced by people who had a “bright idea” to help Hawai‘i, how many times has this happened

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and been catastrophic? Are they willing to give up their royalties and patents of ownership of our living ancestor, because they “really” want to help the *kalo* industry and the people who enjoy the poi? Because of the resistance encountered from many people and organizations in recent years, GMO proponents are no longer wishing to genetically modify Hawaiian varieties, now they pursue other non-Hawaiian varieties. As scholars, I would think they know the origin for all taro, which came with the voyagers from the same place, what makes the Hawaiian varieties different from the others? More importantly, if allowed to genetically modify the non-Hawaiian varieties here in Hawai‘i, where are they going to plant these synthetic varieties, here in this *‘āina* (land & environment), of Hawai‘i? This wouldn’t be *pono* (proper) and would be very disrespectful to contaminate this *‘āina*, and to also be deceptive about their intentions while carrying this out!

Kalo is an incomparably sacred and valuable part of our island community. We join *mahi'ai* (farmers) of Hawai‘i in calling on you and your fellow legislators to protect all of us and Hawai‘i's unique culture and resources by passing a law to provide a ban on the genetic modification and patenting of taro. As faculty and staff who teach the Hawaiian culture and the importance of the *‘āina* which is the source of the culture, how should I explain to my students that the Hawaiian culture is not respected by Hawai‘i’s government? How do I tell them that the very foundation of Hawai‘i’s heritage is being altered by greedy and irresponsible scientific research?

In conclusion, please consider my plea for Hawai‘i to preserve our heritage and the integrity of the *kalo* plant. I am in favor of banning research and growing of GMO taro.

Mālama Pono,

Me ka ha‘aha‘a (with humility),

Mark Alapaki Luke

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Honolulu Community College

& Ka Papa Lo‘i o Kānewai

2645 Dole Street

Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

In SUPPORT OF HB1663 & SB709-SD1

Walter Andrade

Kona and Kalopa Farmer

To the Hawaii Legislators:

RE: GMO Legislation in State of Hawaii.

For once can we just use common sense in making long terms decisions that affect the health and welfare of our people...

As publicly elected officials you have a responsibility to protect the people of Hawaii. Caution is strongly advised on allowing GMO to taint our food supply.

Unfortunately, pollinating GMO strains become invasive when released into the environment. By their virulent nature GMO strains infect and dominate the gene pool forever. You CAN NOT recall a GMO strain once introduced. Case in point is the accidental release of GMO rice after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the GMO testing facility, cross pollination of soybean in Canada, accidental mishandling and release of GMO corn seed to Central American countries and the list goes on. The fact remains that you CAN NOT recall a GMO strain once introduced.

It is all too common that a well meaning scientific community together with profit oriented corporations makes hasty decisions with disastrous consequences. Case in point, DDT, Pesticides, CFC's, Cigarettes and Hydrogenated Oils, all market driven profit centers for large corporations and allowed without through study or applying the Precautionary Principle. Twenty years from now if we find that trans-genetic organisms in the food supply cause cancer, birth defects, immune deficiencies or worse, we would struggle to mitigate the consequences because we CAN NOT recall those GMO strains from the gene pool.

Please apply the Precautionary Principle... it is there for a reason... it's just common sense.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary_principle

I understand the pressures you have in making this decision as evidenced by the number of Bills being generated to address the GMO issue... You are not the first to be faced with applying the Precautionary Principle to this GMO dilemma. <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/prec.php> and you are not alone on this issue, 68 nations, 828 scientists from 38 countries support rethinking of GMO testing and propose a 5 year moratorium on GMO testing until further study can be done. <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/list.php#list>. Please review the white paper from The Bio Safety Protocol and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity <http://philosophy.wisc.edu/streiffer/CourseFolders/HOM565S01Folder/Biosafety%20Position%20Paper.pdf>

Just because multinational corporations have top down political clout and influence through established financing mechanisms at the university and land grant colleges with the support of federal and international regulatory agencies, doesn't make GMO a wise course to follow... Sometimes being cautious and saying no to money interests is the right answer.

My opinion, as a coffee and vegetables farmer, is the GMO approach to solving our agricultural challenges is extremely risky, not well thought out, is seriously under studied, and controversial for many valid reasons...

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My position, as a coffee and vegetables farmer is simple. GMO strains released accidentally or intentionally take away my freedom of choice to consume, grow, market and sell non GMO food products. Any GMO introduction will destroy my market for specialty Kona Coffee. My coffee sold at commodity grade prices \$3.00 lb will force me into bankruptcy as well as other growers involved in meeting the expanding markets for non GMO or Organic Foods. There is no current way to contain pollen drift and consequently no way for Non GMO and Organic farming to coexist GMO farming.

Agriculture is really pretty simple as understood and practiced for thousands of years by large sophisticated cultures. It starts with the soil... A healthy, fertile soil is a dynamic organism, full of microbial and fungal life that transforms organic matter into humus. Humus is a stable byproduct that provides all the nutrients, trace minerals and gases necessary for sustained vegetative outputs. If you acknowledge that fact and support soil fertility in your agricultural practices, food production becomes sustainable and profitable. Healthy soils produce healthy plants, which when consumed produce healthy people and animals. On the other hand, a sick unbalanced soil produces dis-ease, first in the soil, then in the plants and then in the animals and people who consume them.

Until we get back to applying this knowledge in agriculture we will be chasing the problems, we created, with back end solutions like GMO and oil based chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Sick plants from sick soils are stressed and attract pests, who by the way are only doing their job of eliminating weakness in the natural ecosystem.

- o Amory Lovins, CEO of Rocky Mountain Institute, "If we don't understand how things are connected, often solutions become the problem".

While the Biotech Industry has made significant contributions in medical research, and I am not saying there isn't a place for them or the "tools" they develop in Agriculture, I just don't believe that GMO in our food supply is a good idea, especially when the testing has not been done and the consumer is not given the choice. The potential risks far outweigh the potential benefits. Caution is strongly recommended. The UH can and will find other agricultural problems to study and make meaningful, less risky contributions to our ag economy until the GMO issue can be worked out.

Even though I do not support GMO in agriculture... If you folks enact laws that allow Hawaii to continue with GMO research, testing and field trials, we must demand, through legislation, that GMO research, testing and field trials follow the established Control Group Protocol used in all valid experiential testing. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control_group

Due to the invasive nature and permanence of GMO strains in the food chain it would be prudent to establish the entire Big Island as the Control Group for any ongoing GMO research, testing, and field trials. Being upwind of the other Hawaiian Islands may give us some measure of protection against pollen drift cross contamination and physical isolation from experiments gone wrong. This way the Big Island can make a significant contribution to Hawaii's food security and agricultural research at the same time.

- o We must establish the Big Island as a GMO Free Zone for all research, testing and field trials related to human and animal food and or seed production.
- o Exemption to the law would be allowed for non-food related agricultural industries like

LATE TESTIMONY

orchids and other cut flowers as well as for the Papaya industry, because GMO strains have already been released and are found widely in the wild plant population.

If you folks don't demonstrate respect for GMO risks to public health and safety, the cultural aspects of taro and the economic aspects of non GMO related farming, you may be committing political suicide. Basically you can piss off a few multi national companies and UH researchers or you can piss off a whole lot of voters...

Just follow the Precautionary Principle and you can put the responsibility back on the GMO companies where it belongs and protect yourselves, your kids, your grand kids and neighbors from eating questionable foods.

Aloha nui,

Walter Andrade

Kona and Kalopa Farmer

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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Ed Wendt
Taro Farmer, Wailuanui East Maui

In Support of Senate Bill 709-SD1 and HB1663

Dear Committee Members:

Please support Senate Bill 709-SD1 and House Bill 1663, that would impose a moratorium on all testing, propagating, cultivating, growing and raising genetically engineered taro in Hawai'i, and apply to genetically-modified plants brought in from outside Hawai'i as well. Passage of this bill will ensure the safety and perpetuation of our native kalo, and I urge your support.

Our `ohana have been full-time kalo farmers in Wailuanui, East Maui for many generations. My sons and grandchildren work lo`i kalo alongside me and my brother. The species of kalo that we farm have been cultivated in our village families for many generations. The kalo is strong, nutritious and although our `ohana has encountered many challenges (various diseases, foreign snail infestations, lack of water), we have preserved and continue to grow kalo for our families. Allowing GMO kalo would put our lo`i kalo at great risk and adulterate Hawaiian kalo species that our families have been cultivating for many generations. There is data which suggests there is no way to secure existing species from contamination once GMO experimentation is permitted.

We urge your support of S.B. 709-SD1 and H.B.1663 in order that we can continue to perpetuate, practice and honor our Hawaiian traditions and culture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ed Wendt
P.O. Box 961
Haiku, Hawai'i 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Leslie Yee Hoy, Taro Farmer, Halawa Valley- Molokai

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou,

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

LATE TESTIMONY

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Leslie YEE hoy
Halawa Valley
Molokai, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Kaloman

February 17, 2009

Governor Linda Lingle
Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
House of Representatives
Senate Representatives

Re: Legislative Bills on Taro and Water

Aloha,

As one of the few Hawaiian Taro farmers, 7th generation mahi`ai and lawai`a, I appeal to you to support our cause to maintain the purity of the Hawaiian taro, increase water access, provide more land and provide financial assistance and disaster insurance.

What we need is to become more sustainable, as were our kupuna of days of old. What we need today is for leaders such as yourselves to be bold, to stand up for what you know is pono and not yield to compromise that will undermine the life of our lands. For Ke Akua says, do not commit blasphemy against the land, for this will be an abomination.

Support our cause to maintain the purity of the Hawaiian taro and kalo lifestyle.
Support the increase of water access in favor of the mahi`ai.
Support the provision of more lands for farming.
Support financial assistance and disaster insurance in favor of the mahi`ai.

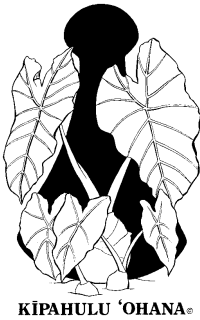
Our Ali`i knew that their success was dependant on the foundation of its people, for indeed the *"life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"*. Thus the Hawaii State Constitution placed the kuleana of the lands above all things. Doing pono and making pono for all things upon the land increased the prosperity of its people. As Kumu John Kaimikaua stated so well, "when the land flourishes, so does it's people".

On May 1, 1959 our state motto was adopted by Joint Resolution No.4 of the 30th Territorial Legislature.

Today in this 2009 Legislature you are the centennials that stand watch upon the land and its people. Do not let us be ambushed. Stand firm upon the aina, with and for its people.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono ...The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

George Keoki Ruisuki Fukumitsu
Mahi`ai a me Lawai`a
Hakipu`u Ahupua`a
Ko`olaupoko ~ Oahu Island



Kipahulu 'Ohana

PO Box 454, Hana, HI 96713
www.kipahulu.org

Hawaii State Legislature

February 18, 2009

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of the Kipahulu Ohana to urge your support of a ban on the genetic modification of kalo in Hawai'i.

Kipahulu Ohana is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 by descendents of the Kipahulu moku in East Maui in order to promote the practice of traditional ahupua'a management, restoration and education. Since 1995, through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service, we have operated Kapahu Living Farm within the Kipahulu section of Haleakala National Park where we farm over three acres of ancient kalo lo'i that has been restored to active production.

Kapahu Living Farm is managed by our Project Director and traditional konohiki John Lind. Through the knowledge passed down to him and his personal experience, Lind has identified several varieties of Hawaiian kalo that he chooses to cultivate, because they are hearty and make high quality poi.

Our production is completely organic—we use no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. While we do have minor challenges with some diseases, Lind has found that these challenges can be adequately addressed by ensuring a plentiful flow of cold water around and through the lo'i, using green manure (weeds) buried in the lo'i to feed the kalo plants along with other natural fertilizers, and other traditional techniques.

From a practical standpoint, we have no interest or need for genetically modified varieties of kalo. From a cultural and spiritual standpoint, we want to emphasize the deep connection Hawaiians have with Haloa, and strongly oppose the genetic modification of this plant that is the single most important plant in the Hawaiian culture, considered as the elder brother of the Hawaiian people.

We ask that you support measures to prohibit the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,



Scott Crawford
Executive Director

LATE TESTIMONY

Support for Ban on GMO-Taro
From Joan Lander (Taro Grower)

Aloha mai,

We live in Ka'u on Hawai'i island and plant taro in our yard.

We are very happy that our county council listened to the voices of taro growers and consumers and passed a ban on GMO taro on our island.

Now this ban needs to be extended to all islands.

This food plant is too important to our health to be interfered with.

We all need to consume taro in its pure form.

If you allow people to tinker with taro's genetics, we can never again be sure that the taro we eat is safe.

Growers will not exchange huli anymore for fear of planting taro that is unsafe, thus breaking down a centuries-old tradition of sharing huli.

Why would you want to destroy the solidarity of our taro-growing communities and introduce fear and anxiety into the most important agricultural activity in Hawai'i?

You as lawmakers must act on behalf of the people, not the few determined to manipulate the basic foods we eat, no matter the cost.

Do the right thing and protect, at the very least, this plant that is the heart and soul of Hawai'i.

Joan Lander
PO Box 29
Na'alehu, Hawai'i 96772-0029

LATE TESTIMONY

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Daniel Bishop & 'Ohana- Taro Farmers

My name is Daniel Bishop and, together with my wife, four sons, and their families, are Kalo farmers in Waiahole valley. We have also been members of Onipaa Na Hui Kalo since it's beginning. I am writing this letter to voice our support for a ban on any type of research which has to do with genetically modifying any Kalo .

Respectfully submitted;

Daniel Bishop

LATE TESTIMONY

February 9, 2009

To: Hawaii Legislators

From: Walter Andrade, Farmer

RE: SUPPORT GMO Legislation in State of Hawaii.

For once can we just use common sense in making long terms decisions that affect the health and welfare of our people. As publicly elected officials you have a responsibility to protect the people of Hawaii. Caution is strongly advised on allowing GMO to taint our food supply.

Unfortunately, pollinating GMO strains become invasive when released into the environment. By their virulent nature GMO strains infect and dominate the gene pool forever. You CAN NOT recall a GMO strain once introduced. Case in point is the accidental release of GMO rice after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the GMO testing facility, cross pollination of soybean in Canada, accidental mishandling and release of GMO corn seed to Central American countries and the list goes on. The fact remains that you CAN NOT recall a GMO strain once introduced.

It is all too common that a well meaning scientific community together with profit oriented corporations makes hasty decisions with disastrous consequences. Case in point, DDT, Pesticides, CFC's, Cigarettes and Hydrogenated Oils, all market driven profit centers for large corporations and allowed without through study or applying the Precautionary Principle. Twenty years from now if we find that trans-genetic organisms in the food supply cause cancer, birth defects, immune deficiencies or worse, we would struggle to mitigate the consequences because we CAN NOT recall those GMO strains from the gene pool.

Please apply the Precautionary Principle... it is there for a reason... it's just common sense. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary_principle

I understand the pressures you have in making this decision as evidenced by the number of Bills being generated to address the GMO issue... You are not the first to be faced with applying the Precautionary Principle to this GMO dilemma. <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/prec.php> and you are not alone on this issue, 68 nations, 828 scientists from 38 countries support rethinking of GMO testing and propose a 5 year moratorium on GMO testing until further study can be done. <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/list.php#list>. Please review the white paper from The Bio Safety Protocol and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity <http://philosophy.wisc.edu/streiffer/CourseFolders/HOM565S01Folder/Biosafety%20Position%20Paper.pdf>

Just because multinational corporations have top down political clout and influence through established financing mechanisms at the university and land grant colleges with the support of federal and international regulatory agencies, doesn't make GMO a wise course to follow... Sometimes being cautious and saying no to money interests is the right answer.

My opinion, as a coffee and vegetables farmer, is the GMO approach to solving our agricultural challenges is extremely risky, not well thought out, is seriously under studied, and controversial for many valid reasons...

My position, as a coffee and vegetables farmer is simple. GMO strains released accidentally or intentionally take away my freedom of choice to consume, grow, market and sell non GMO food products. Any GMO introduction will destroy my market for specialty Kona Coffee. My coffee sold at commodity grade prices \$3.00 lb will force me into bankruptcy as well as other growers involved in meeting the expanding markets for non GMO or Organic Foods. There is no current way to contain pollen drift and consequently no way for Non GMO and Organic farming to coexist GMO farming.

LATE TESTIMONY

Agriculture is really pretty simple as understood and practiced for thousands of years by large sophisticated cultures. It starts with the soil... A healthy, fertile soil is a dynamic organism, full of microbial and fungal life that transforms organic matter into humus. Humus is a stable byproduct that provides all the nutrients, trace minerals and gases necessary for sustained vegetative outputs. If you acknowledge that fact and support soil fertility in your agricultural practices, food production becomes sustainable and profitable. Healthy soils produce healthy plants, which when consumed produce healthy people and animals. On the other hand, a sick unbalanced soil produces disease, first in the soil, then in the plants and then in the animals and people who consume them.

Until we get back to applying this knowledge in agriculture we will be chasing the problems, we created, with back end solutions like GMO and oil based chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Sick plants from sick soils are stressed and attract pests, who by the way are only doing their job of eliminating weakness in the natural ecosystem.

- Amory Lovins, CEO of Rocky Mountain Institute, "If we don't understand how things are connected, often solutions become the problem".

While the Biotech Industry has made significant contributions in medical research, and I am not saying there isn't a place for them or the "tools" they develop in Agriculture, I just don't believe that GMO in our food supply is a good idea, especially when the testing has not been done and the consumer is not given the choice. The potential risks far outweigh the potential benefits. Caution is strongly recommended. The UH can and will find other agricultural problems to study and make meaningful, less risky contributions to our ag economy until the GMO issue can be worked out.

Even though I do not support GMO in agriculture... If you folks enact laws that allow Hawaii to continue with GMO research, testing and field trials, we must demand, through legislation, that GMO research, testing and field trials follow the established Control Group Protocol used in all valid experiential testing. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control_group

Due to the invasive nature and permanence of GMO strains in the food chain it would be prudent to establish the entire Big Island as the Control Group for any ongoing GMO research, testing, and field trials. Being upwind of the other Hawaiian Islands may give us some measure of protection against pollen drift cross contamination and physical isolation from experiments gone wrong. This way the Big Island can make a significant contribution to Hawaii's food security and agricultural research at the same time.

- We must establish the Big Island as a GMO Free Zone for all research, testing and field trials related to human and animal food and or seed production.
- Exemption to the law would be allowed for non-food related agricultural industries like orchids and other cut flowers as well as for the Papaya industry, because GMO strains have already been released and are found widely in the wild plant population.

If you folks don't demonstrate respect for GMO risks to public health and safety, the cultural aspects of taro and the economic aspects of non GMO related farming, you may be committing political suicide. Basically you can piss off a few multi national companies and UH researchers or you can piss off a whole lot of voters...

Just follow the Precautionary Principle and you can put the responsibility back on the GMO companies where it belongs and protect yourselves, your kids, your grand kids and neighbors from eating questionable foods.

Aloha nui,
Walter Andrade
Kona and Kalopa Farmer
P.O. Box 586
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE TESTIMONY

Attention: State of Hawai'i Legislators
STRONG SUPPORT FOR BAN ON GMO-TARO

From: Robert Kealohapumehana Domingo (Kalo Planter)
O O'ahu Kakuhihewa ka moku
O Ko'olauloa ka moku
O Ka'a'awa ke 'ahupua'a

Aloha mai kakou,

O wau o Robert Kealohapumehana Domingo and I am writing to strongly encourage all legislators and lawmakers to support and pass SB709 moratorium on developing, testing, propagating, cultivating, growing and raising genetically engineered taro in the state of Hawai'i.

It is well known and documented within the Hawaiian genealogy chant or Kumulipo, that taro, kalo, or colocasia esculenta, honored Kupuna Haloa Nakalaukapalili is said to be the elder brother of Kanaka or mankind. As a Kanaka Maoli or native Hawaiian, Hawaiian cultural practitioner, head of household, husband, father of three children, haumana mahi'ai kalo, traditional style poi maker or ku'i 'ai practitioner, kalo grower and consumer, supporter and parent of the Hawaiian language immersion schools, taxpayer and voter, I must make my voice and mana'o or opinion heard loud and clear: *Genetic modification of kalo is DISRESPECTFUL !! GMO taro is NOT PONO! It is not necessary and not wanted. Genetic engineering of Hawaiian kalo should not be allowed within these islands or anywhere else for that matter.*

Kalo, not only a spiritual center or piko of Hawaiian culture, a traditional symbol of the 'ohana structure, has been the staple food of Hawaiians since the beginning of time, and for many other cultures in more recent years. We the Kanaka Maoli for well over a thousand years have been growing and have been sustained and nourished by kalo planted in the traditional methods. Especially in the form of poi, kalo was eaten by all branches of the 'ohana from the oldest kupuna perhaps in their deathbed to the newest of infants still upon their mother's breast. Poi was widely known by the po'e kahiko or people of the past, to have many benefits: tremendous nutritional value, ease of digestion (complex carbohydrate), it is also hypoallergenic thus eliminating the concern for allergic reaction. It would be disastrous to allow such an extremely valuable and irreplaceable resource to become contaminated, mutated and exposed to the risk altering its proven "super-food" qualities. Genetic modification is commonly known to inherently introduce undesirable properties including possible allergens and antibiotic resistant genes. Keep kalo pure! Altering taro is unsafe and is BAD SCIENCE!

The po'e kahiko were extremely knowledgeable of the 'aina and of our fragile yet bountiful environment. They knew how to properly utilize the resources and viewed the land as a sacred. "Ua mau ke 'ea o ka 'aina i ka pono: the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness" If we disturb the pono or balance of the 'aina, we are destined to suffer the consequences. It has been documented that the kanaka maoli once had upwards of 300 varieties of kalo developed naturally through generations of a natural conventional hybrid process. Today there is said to be only approximately 80 varieties remaining. The modern colonized ideals of profit, ownership, convenience, overdevelopment, misuse of land, water and other natural resources, overall short sightedness and a lack of due care has begun to outweigh our traditional values and has taken a toll on our 'aina and ultimately our beloved Kalo. Lo'i kalo or traditional wetland taro patches, once had thriving veins of cold water fed by a clean and well maintained kahawai or stream. Today, our streams are reduced, many to a trickle, some have gone dry. Mahi'ai kalo once had enough acreage to allow them to let their patches lay fallow after harvest in order to replenish natural nutrients, rather than immediately replanting time and time again in depleted soil compensated with large amounts

LATE TESTIMONY

of fertilizers and chemicals, a common practice today due to limited access to lands suitable for taro farming.

Another particularly interesting part of traditional methods of planting has actually been under review again in recent times, diversification. Planting many taro varieties with different characteristics that may adapt to various conditions such as higher salinity in lower elevations closer to the ocean, heat and drought resistant varieties, varieties that could be left without being harvested for extended periods of time. Another poor practice common in taro farming today is known as mono-cropping, of course the exact opposite of the traditional theories of diversification, single or limited varieties planted to fit commercial guidelines are forcing farmers to plant crops not ideal for their individual farm environments and conditions thus limiting proper growth and reducing crop volume and quality. These factors contribute to many of the struggles faced by taro farmers today. The poor practices of misuse and neglecting the 'aina need to be modified, not our kalo! GMO kalo is UNECESSARY!!

Our kupuna were truly the greatest scientists. They had hundreds of names for different winds, they studied thousands of different native plants and had thousands of different uses, they navigated the Pacific using the winds, stars and currents, in hand crafted vessels with hand made tools, they could build homes, fishponds, great altars and dry stacked stone walls that stood firm for centuries, they knew that in order to survive, they had to use what the 'aina had to offer, and that they did. It's time that we look to the past to learn for the future.

In closing, I have discussed only a few of the many reasons to protect our beloved elder brother Haloa Nakalaukapalili, the taro. I strongly feel that a BAN on GMO taro as described in SB709 is imperative.

Let us remember that the 'aina is a limited resource and our decisions today will have great impacts for the generations of tomorrow. Keep our kalo pure and preserve it for generations to come. I sincerely hope that you, the elected lawmakers of this state, will heed my recommendation. It is time that we the people of Hawai'i heed the advice of our Kupuna. "He ali'i ka 'aina, he kauwa ke kanaka; The land is the chief and we the kanaka are the servants"

Malama 'aina, Malama Haloa Nakalaukapalili!
Robert Kealohapumehana Domingo

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Chris Kobayashi- Organic Taro Farmer
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou,

We want a ban on GMO-taro for all varieties of taro in Hawaii.
Contamination is forever. Coexistence is impossible.

There are those who say they simply want the research to continue just in case. And they also claim they would never plant it. Do you really believe that? Do you think that this research and technology would stay "safely" in the lab? For the safety of all of us who kanu taro, who cherish it as a family member because it provides and feeds us, for our aina - the land and water- which supports the growing of our food. It is time to stop and think what we are doing to all that is real and all that matters to us as human beings on this planet. Money and the drive to own and control does not make for anything healthy.

Malama Haloa. Malama kalo. Malama `aina.
One earth, one land, one air, one people.
Mahalo ke akua.

chris kobayashi
p.o.box 135
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Demetri Rivera- Organic Taro Farmer
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou,

Ban GMO taro research and growing in Hawaii.
Contamination is real.
Contaminate one, you contaminate all.
Just look at the papaya industry.

I am an organic kalo farmer and this is my livelihood.
We cannot coexist with GMOs.

Malama Haloa
Malama `aina
Mahalo

Demetri Rivera
P.O.Box 114
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Mark S. Alapaki Luke (kalo planter in Kahana Valley)
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou,

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Mark S. Alapaki Luke (kalo planter in Kahana Valley)

Kumu (Teacher)

University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaiian Studies) & Honolulu Community College (Hawaiian Studies & Geography)

Mark Alapaki Luke

P.O. Box 11085

103A

Honolulu, HI 96828

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Ed Wendt, East Maui Taro Farmer

In Support of House Bill 1663

Dear Committee Members:

Please support House Bill 1663, that would impose a moratorium on all testing, propagating, cultivating, growing and raising genetically engineered taro in Hawai`i, and apply to genetically-modified plants brought in from outside Hawai`i as well. Passage of this bill will ensure the safety and perpetuation of our native kalo, and I urge your support.

Our `ohana have been full-time kalo farmers in Wailuanui, East Maui for many generations. My sons and grandchildren work lo`i kalo alongside me and my brother. The species of kalo that we farm have been cultivated in our village families for many generations. The kalo is strong, nutritious and although our `ohana has encountered many challenges (various diseases, foreign snail infestations, lack of water), we have preserved and continue to grow kalo for our families. Allowing GMO kalo would put our lo`i kalo at great risk and adulterate Hawaiian kalo species that our families have been cultivating for many generations. There is data which suggests there is no way to secure existing species from contamination once GMO experimentation is permitted.

We urge your support of H.B. 1663 in order that we can continue to perpetuate, practice and honor our Hawaiian traditions and culture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ed Wendt
P.O. Box 961
Haiku, Hawai`i 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to tamper with the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Keoki Kahumoku
358 ululani street
Hilo, HI 96720

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Malama 'Aina,

Leslie Yee Hoy
1305 Hele
Kailua, HI 96734

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Jason Ito
5-5435 Kuhio HWY
Hanalei, HI 96714

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

We are an organic farm called Sunny Kapoho Citrus in the Kapoho area of Puna on the Big Island. We produce oranges and banana but not papaya because the environment here is polluted with GMO papaya.

We began growing taro when Hawaii County Council bill# 361 was passed to prevent the environment from being polluted with GMO taro. We are so glad for this because taro is growing better than other vegetables here.

Here in paradise where nature provides so abundantly we can choose exclusively from Naturally Evolved Organisms (NEO). Those who would choose GMO instead would pollute the environment at our expense, externalizing their costs for monetary gain, and that would be irresponsible behavior.

Malama Aina,

David Webb
PO Box 2167
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Nalei Kahakalau
P.O. Box 1764
Honokaa, HI 96727

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been growing taro in Kurtistown for nearly 30 years, and before that I grew taro on Oahu. On Our Malu-Aina farm we have more than 30 varieties of taro. Today we marketted organic taro leaves and root to Island Naturals Hilo store. Last Wed. we donated 50 pounds of taro leaf for the new Hawaiian pastor's luau at Ola'a Hawaiian Congregational Church in Kurtistown.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Jim Albertini
P.O. Box AB
Kurtistown, HI 96760

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Malama Aina,

Kane Turalde
PO Box 1022
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Waimea, HI 96796

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Steven Hookano
245 wailua road
haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a beekeeper, I understand all too well the dangers of genetically engineered organisms contaminating the pollen collected by honeybees, and through them spreading into non-gmo crops. Pollen are microscopic particles and very difficult to contain. There is no need for genetic modification on such a healthy, and culturally sacred plant. There is no room in this already devastated ecology for mistakes! And mistakes always happen... killer bees, varroa mites, coqui... and these are all large organisms!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

alison yahna
po box 679
ka'alualu rd
na'alehu, HI 96772

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Donald Cooke
47-146 APulama Rd
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kyle Nakanelua
Kauhikoalani Pl.
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Mele Coelho
230 Kaelepulu st.
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Representing the collective voice of many residents from the island of Molokai, I am asking our Hawaii State Legislature to protect our island as well as the State of Hawaii from the potentially damaging effects occurred by the introduction, propagation and experimentation of genetic modification of all taro varieties grown within the State of Hawaii.

The introduction of genetically engineered taro has the potential of creating irreversible damage to our native ecosystems, demonstrates a complete disregard for Native Hawaiian Culture and allows for privatized patenting of Hawaii's natural resources.

The genetic modification of crops in general is an infant science whose complete effects are yet to be known. Many documented cases of the harmful health effects on humans of GMO crops exist including- allergenic problems, respiratory problems, intestinal reactions and skin problems. Further conclusion through reasonable scientific deduction suggests increases in miscarriages, birth defects and cancer. Regardless of these evidences, adequate studies in regard to the effects of GMO crops on humans have not been conducted.

In laboratory tests on mice and rats scientific laboratory tests unequivocally reveal that genetically modified crops have caused damage to kidneys, stomach lesions, sterility, excessive cell growth to the small intestine and even death. Field studies on cows, goats, sheep and pigs have revealed similar devastating results.

Taro remains the world's only allergy-free carbohydrate and contributes significantly to the welfare and health of human life. On the other hand the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus, any transgenic contamination to indigenous varieties of taro as well as to other natural growing varieties of taro, has the potential of robbing Native Hawaiians and consumers alike of this uniquely important medicinal food source.

At this time we understand there to be no proven benefits of GMO Taro to taro farmers or consumers and all proposed benefits remain to be purely speculative. The Taro Security and Purity Task Force, established under Act 211, has acknowledged that GMO Taro is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming or the most suitable option in protecting consumers in Hawaii. Options for the control of taro disease include cold water induction, reduction of over planting and recent developments which include the introduction of non contaminating fish toxins to successfully control such diseases.

In representing the community of Molokai, we will not tolerate such disrespect of our culture, blindly except the potential damaging consequences to our 'aina or except the health risks placed upon our people .

Mahalo,

LATE TESTIMONY

Steve Morgan/ Hui Ho'opakele 'Aina

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Steve Morgan
P.O. Box 72
Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is Seth Raabe. I am a farmer at Kikoo in Kipahulu on the Island of Maui. I plant kalo along with many other things in a natural way. There is always abundance so we are supported economically as well as physically nourished.

I firmly believe that a viable future for these Islands can only be achieved by returning to balance with our environment.

This is why I am calling out to all of you to support the bill banning genetic modification of our life staple. To not protect our main food source in a natural state would be sheer stupidity. Look around the world. Look at Mexico... contaminated beyond repair. Hawaii nei is the heartland of the kalo plant; by far the greatest diversity of varieties in one place on Earth. I hope this is common knowledge for all of you making this decision.

So I respectfully ask each and every one of you voting on these bills to look into your heart and ask what is more important for our future: continuing the natural legacy of the kalo plant, or giving it up for an elite sector to gain patent rights and power to alter our life staple. Think of the consequences of both paths.

From Kipahulu,

Seth Raabe
HCR1 Box 170
Hana, HI 96713

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Thomas Young
46-193 Lilipuna Rd.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Thomas Young
46-193 Lilipuna Rd.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My husband and I farm taro on the East side of Maui in Wailuanui. We strongly urge you to support and pass the ban on genetically modified taro. Not only is this culturally appropriate, it is a matter of protecting the one type of hypoallergenic starch IN THE WORLD. it is for this reason alone that the taro ban should be in effect for ALL TYPES OF TARO, not just the hawaiian varieties.

Taro, Haloa, is something that is close to the heart of every hawaiian, and this battle even inspired me to go back to school and complete my master's degree, and I have begun a phd program at the university, the passion that has been stirred up within me as a result of this fight for our food for our people is something that I know and understand within my na'au that will never be extinguished.

In the words of my kupuna, James Kauli'a, "forever protest until the last aloha 'aina," although this was spoken in regards to annexation (which is another pressing issue today) I see the genetic modification of our food as yet another form of annexation and usurpation. I will continue to resist, to fight for our identity as a people, which in this culture as with all, is expressed in the food that we eat.

na'u no me ke aloha 'aina mau a mau,
na Pauahi Ho'okano

pauahi hookano
91-1084 Kauiki st
ewa beach, HI 96706

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Eva Kapelaonaalii Collins
89-327 Palikea St.
Wai?anae, HI 96792

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am the author of the book *Uncertain Peril, Genetic Engineering and the future of seeds* and I have studied this topic for 15 years. The public policy, the science, the environmental and the ethical/cultural issues demand that legislative action be taken to protect taro for both being genetically engineered and patented.

I submit my book, particularly pages 188-190 which deal with taro in Hawaii as part of my testimony here, I will send it in separately. But I urge the legislature to join all the other countries in the world that are banning, studying, labeling, and regulating gmo plants and have the courage to stand up for the traditional farmers in Hawaii and against the predatory practices of agrochemical corporations who do not have the state's best interests in mind.

It is the duty of government to protect the health, safety and food security of its people. I have read the following message and I adopt it as part of my own.

Claire Hope Cummings

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

LATE TESTIMONY

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Claire Cummings
335 Newton Way
Angwin, CA 94508

LATE TESTIMONY

Support for Ban on GMO-Taro

Hanalei Fergerstrom
Moku o Keawe

Re: Haloa

Aloha,
In the foundation of the Gods, Lono is the third to appear.
He Lono
He Lono
He Ulu ta mea ai O te po'e honua

You, Lono are responsible for the staff of life for all the people of the earth.

That is the relation of Lono and Haloa.

It is therefore a matter of religious covenant between the Hawaiian People and their Gods.

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF TARO FARMERS REGARDING

HB 1663 RELATING TO TARO SECURITY

Hearing date, time and place:

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 9:10 a.m. Conf. Rm. 329

Aloha Chairperson Carroll, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, as well as Chairperson Tsuji, Vice-Chair Wooley and House Committee on Agriculture. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1663, which prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawai`i.

`Imi Hale – Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, is one of 25 Community Network Programs funded by the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities to address the cancer health disparities among Native Hawaiians. `Imi Hale is a program of Papa Ola Lōkahi, a federally recognized community-based organization focused on improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. Operating on the principles of community-based participatory research, `Imi Hale emphasizes community involvement, capacity building, and respect for cultural values with tangible benefits to the community.

`Imi Hale and Papa Ola Lōkahi support taro farmers in their efforts to protect and preserve Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practices as it relates to taro. This position is supported by cultural protocol, scientific evidence and ethical reasoning, and calls for sanctions against bioprospecting, misappropriation of natural resources, and the development or patenting of Native Hawaiian genetic material, including taro.

The Paoakalani Declaration, written by kanaka maoli, the indigenous people of the Hawaiian archipelago, as an expression of their collective right to self-determination in the perpetuation of their culture, under threat of theft and commercialization of traditional knowledge states:

“In Hawai`i, bioprospecting and biotechnology institutions and industries are imposing western intellectual property rights over traditional, cultural land-based resources. This converts our (kanaka maoli) collective cultural property into individual property for purchase, sale and development. The biogenetic materials of our peoples, taken for medical research for breast cancer and other diseases attributable to western impact have been obtained through misrepresentation, and without the free, prior, or informed consent of our people. We view these activities as biopiracy and condemn these acts as biocolonialism.”

Moreover, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, a confederation of fifty-two (52) Hawaiian Civic Clubs throughout the States of Hawai`i, Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington State passed Resolution 2005-23 on October 5, 2005, which resolved that the legislature of the State of Hawai`i and the University of Hawai`i impose

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policies to safeguard and protect Hawai`i's public trust resources from genetically engineered and bioprospecting threats, in consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations.

We ask that you support taro farmers in their efforts to protect and preserve Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practices as it relates to taro by passing HB 1663 out of committee.

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Environmental Management Committee,

Please support all bills to ban the genetic modification of (GMO) taro in Hawai'i. As someone who eats organically grown food, the importance of these bills is loud and clear. Protect crops like kalo before they are altered.

Once someone like UH maps the genome and is successful at doing a genetic cross, another company will come along and purchase their work and make it round up ready and patent it. Let's call these GM companies what they are "the world's largest producer of herbicides and pesticides." They already control 1/3 of the global commercial seed market. Do you know that the United States has not banned a chemical in 17 years?

Protecting Kalo from falling into the category of a controlled use plant is the right thing to do. Right now there is nothing to protect them from being patented. If they were allowed to experiment on our islands, the federally granted permits from APHIS would not give you a county or state right to the disclosure of where, what or when these test were happening.

The 2050 sustainability plan stresses the critical nature of preserving Hawaiian culture and resources. Protecting kalo, protecting Haloa is our kuleana. As we embrace the importance of food security, let's protect the interest of the Hawaiian people.

The precautionary principle says that when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established. We enact the essence of precaution when (#1) we have reasonable suspicion of harm and (#2) scientific uncertainty about cause and effect, then (#3) we have a duty to take action to prevent harm.

We do not have to prove harm, we are obligated to act when safety is unknown.

This is especially important here on Kaua'i, as we have so many acres in taro. We look to Hawai'i to lead the way in passing this legislation, so Kalo will be protected on all of the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,
Tara White
P.O. Box 1696
Hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Caitlin Ross Odom
Kaua'i resident artist
Kilauea, HI 96754
caitlinrossodom@mac.com

Aloha Legislators,

I am in support the 10 year moratorium on the genetic modification of taro and wish this sacred food never to be gmoed in our environment. We have already been threatened for years with the unknown effects of gmo testing in Hawai'i and the use dangerous chemicals that goes along with these big agribusiness practices. I say enough is enough! When are the legislators of Hawai'i going to do what is best for the health and culture of Hawai'i and not big business? Recognize this is a sacred plant and show respect for the people of this land. Support sustainable farming practices in Hawai'i and stop using the land for freaky experiments which the damaging effects are still not known.

I join the mahi'ai of Hawai'i in calling on you and your fellow legislators to protect all of us and Hawaii's unique culture and resources by voting 'ae! for the 10 year moratorium on the genetic modification and patenting of all varieties of the taro plant species.

malama haloa! malama pono,

Caitlin Ross Odom

LATE TESTIMONY

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Dr. Lorrin Pang

State Legislators,

Thank you for the chance to be heard.

Some in support of Industry's position on genetic engineering (GE or GMO's) have claimed that they do not believe in the Precautionary Principle. For the rest of us who practice it and realize that there is no viable alternative to this principle, I would like to argue for a halt to the genetic engineering of Kalo. The Precautionary Principle says that we do not expose the public to products until we know and agree upon the hazards and the benefits. This is especially true if the product, like genetically engineered crops cannot be easily "recalled" or contained. There was recent widespread, costly contamination in the US with GE long grain rice. After lengthy investigation we still do not know how contamination occurred in this 1.2 billion dollar mistake.

It is curious that those who oppose a Kalo ban now propose an alternative "study group". This is an admission that hazards/benefits have not yet been determined. This is a general concern of GE crops cited during a recent international meeting reported in 29 Sept 2008 of Newsweek " (Biotech companies withdrew from the project in protest.) The problem? Yields for GM varieties...are unpredictable and often lower...patent protected, cost more...". If data is inadequate enough to warrant a study group then, according to the Precautionary Principle, a ban should be put in place until the group's work is completed and reviewed.

While it is true that I have worked on and endorse GE pharmaceuticals it must be pointed out that the GE bacterial/yeast involved are contained in laboratories. It is the products of the bacteria, not the life forms themselves which leave the laboratory. In general these products are: not alive, tested in human studies prior to marketing, labeled, targeted to only those with medical indications, tracked after marketing often with additional warnings notices, and sometimes recalled. Contrast this to what has happened in Hawaii with GE crops.

Proponents of GE crops feel that enough is "known" to allow at least laboratory research with the concession that more might be needed prior to field studies and marketing. What is the basis for this position? Regarding health issues they cite the position of the FDA, the federal agency with ultimate responsibility and liability. Yet in November of 2007 a scientific review of the FDA by its own scientists (on the internet, FDA: Science and Mission at Risk, Nov 2007) showed long standing problems with the FDA's science and lack of a scientific approach. Specifically there needs to be more emphasis on the "....." science of safety...although there are many needs... in all Centers and programs, ...none is as time sensitive and critical as surveillance and risk management". It would be one thing if the FDA had required data which could be re-examined but FDA's position regarding GMO's has been based on their misguided opinions.

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Ethical review committees which have exempted or approved of GE products need to reconsider their positions (and liability) in light of the FDA report. This is typical of pharmaceuticals. If new hazards are found or one finds that there is no grounds for previous assurances of safety – all exposed must be notified. Was bad science done out of ignorance or was there an underlying agenda? Since 2005 before a US Senate investigation committee testimony by FDA insiders point out the widespread problem of conflict of interest (summary article in Reader's Digest April 2008).

There needs to be a halt on GE products (including Kalo) until definitive studies are complete. But who will determine the adequacy of the studies? In light of previous reports of poor science and conflict of interest in our lead regulatory agency for health, the public can only ask for transparency and rigorously policing for conflict of interest. In a normal regulatory processes financial “stakeholder” status is synonymous with conflict of interest. Those in this position must be removed from major decisions or influence peddling. I have heard that there will be an effort at the State level to again preempt County/home rule input on GMO's in Hawaii. This misguided effort simply recreates all the pitfalls playing out in our federal regulatory agencies, including our FDA – lack of transparency, bad science and conflict of interest. Unfortunately it is now the local regulators at the state level and most recently the Big Island county council which have to enforce precautionary policing. Grassroots, environmental activism/science are an emerging American phenomenon as communities are force to “look out for themselves” – Discover, August 2008 pages 68-71.

You have my scientific and health credentials. I have no conflict of interest. Those who continue to support my presence at these meetings and who continue to question my absence at special “study groups” will continue to express our concerns in public, transparent venues...legislative and court hearings. But why do conflicted testifiers get to speak? The New England Journal of Medicine has shown that in spite of denial, those with conflict of interest cannot put theirs aside.

Again, thanks for bringing this important issue to the table.

As private Citizen
Lorrin Pang, MD, MPH
America's Best Doctors List 2007-9
Retired Army Medical Corp
Consultant to the World Health Organization

LATE TESTIMONY

February 17, 2009

TO: House Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Representative Mele Carroll, Chair

FROM:

Hector Valenzuela, Ph.D.
94-1070 Anania Cr. No. 107
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
Tel. 808-625-1277
hectoruh@yahoo.com
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~hector/>

RE: TESTIMONY- IN SUPPORT for HB1663- Ban on GMO-taro
Ban research and planting of GM taro in Hawaii

Dear members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

I write this testimony in strong support of bill HB1663, which would ban the research and field planting of genetically modified (GM) taro in Hawaii

I have worked as a UH-Manoa Professor and Crop Production Specialist for 18 years, but write this on a personal capacity. My research is in the area of sustainable and ecological agriculture. As someone who supports sustainable agriculture, I have become increasingly concerned about the unregulated open-field plantings of GM crops in Hawaii. In general I have concerns about the health risks, about environmental risks, and also about the long-term cultural and socioeconomic impacts on our communities.

Below I summarize my key positions:

1. Lack of data showing the safety of GM crops.
Statements made by GM proponents are not backed by scientific, peer-reviewed data. No studies have been conducted in Hawaii or elsewhere to evaluate the short- or long-term effects on humans from having consumed GM crops over the past 12 years.
2. Lack of oversight/regulations.
GM crops are poorly regulated or even deregulated. Our federal courts and internal USDA and FDA reports have found that our regulatory agencies are often incapable of detecting potential side-effects from the consumption or planting of GM crops.
3. Unintended Consequences (see references below).
Recent findings in the scientific literature have shown that GM crops do indeed pose potential health risks, environmental risks, and that the benefits to farmers have not always been matched

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with the promises made by GM proponents.

a. A comprehensive literature review published this month in a scientific journal documents a large number of potential health side effects from the few animal feeding studies that have been conducted to date (Dona and Arvanitoyannis, 2009).

b. A recent refereed publication showed that the commercial planting of GM cotton was NOT more profitable than that of conventional varieties (Post et al. 2008). Similarly, several publications have shown that the yields of GM crops are similar or lower than that of conventional crops.

c. A recent publication from Spain showed that contamination was inevitable and that the principle of co-existence was not working in that country (Binimelis, 2008). Contamination has occurred in all regions where GM crops have been planted. GM corn contamination has been documented in several states of Mexico, even though there is a ban on GM plantings in that country.

d. There are still many unknowns about potential environmental risks. For instance the toxic Bt from GM crops was found to affect non-target organisms in nearby aquatic habitats (Harwood et al. 2005; Rosi-Marshall, 2008). Also, antibiotic genes from Bt crops were found to transfer to microbes in nearby aquatic habitats and aquifers (Koike et al 2007). As another example the Bt toxin from GM corn was found to affect the growth of earthworms in the soil (Zwalhen, 2003).

4. GM taro is not the answer for Hawaii.

My overall assessment is that GM taro is not the answer for farmers in Hawaii, and that GM taro would not contribute toward our self-sufficiency and sustainability. The only plant disease epidemiologist at UH-Manoa concurs, having stated that we already have all of the tools at our disposal to manage the major pests and diseases in taro- by following traditional pest control strategies.

Mahalo for your consideration in support of HB1663.

Sincerely,

Hector Valenzuela
94-1070 Anania Cr. No. 107
Mililani, HI 96789
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~hector/>
tel. 808-625-1277

References

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Professional Bio:

Dr. Hector Valenzuela a full Professor and Vegetable Crops Specialist at the University of Hawaii-Manoa received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Dr. Valenzuela has conducted applied agroecology research for 23 years in support of commercial farmers, organic farming, and sustainable agriculture. He has authored over 380 technical and educational publications, has conducted over 200 field research trials with over 60 different vegetable and cover crop species, has organized over 60 field days and workshops for farmers in Hawaii and the Pacific Region, given over 200 presentations, and has participated in 13 international assignments. A staunch supporter of organic and sustainable farming in Hawaii, Dr. Valenzuela established the first long-term organic research plots in Hawaii in 1993, the longest-running organic research project in the Pacific Region, and established the first Web sites to assist vegetable farmers (1998) and organic farmers

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(2005) in the Pacific Region.

Professional contact Information

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<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/organic/>

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators,

Please change the language of SB 709, a moratorium on the genetic modification of Hawaiian varieties of taro, to that of HB 1663 which calls for a ban on gmoms on ALL varieties of taro.

A ban on Hawaiian varieties of taro is not enough.
We want a ban on all varieties of taro in Hawaii.
Contamination is forever. Coexistence is impossible.

There are those who say they simply want the research to continue just in case. And they also claim they would never plant it. Do you really believe that? Do you think that this research and technology would stay "safely" in the lab? For the safety of all of us who kanu taro, who cherish it as a family member because it provides and feeds us, for our aina - the land and water- which supports the growing of our food. It is time to stop and think what we are doing to all that is real and all that matters to us as human beings on this planet. Money and the drive to own and control does not make for anything healthy.

Malama Haloa. Malama kalo. Malama `aina.
One earth, one land, one air, one people.
Mahalo ke akua.

nancy kobayashi
p.o.box 44
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I was born in Honolulu and started my life precariously, thriving under the care of the doctors and nurses at Kapi`olani, and with the help of Hawaiian friends and neighbors. I learned the value of poi and its incredible nutrition.

Although I live far away, I still buy Hawaiian poi when it's available. It is an incredible food that can be given infants to help them thrive. It should not be tampered with!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro.

Too often we change things, not realizing the harm we're doing. For example, cars became preferred over horses, even though at the time they were not as fast, simply because they did not soil the streets with manure. Instead, we have learned they poison our air with fumes. We do not always know how changes will impact us in the future.

I stand with those who ask me to say, and I repeat their words, because they are speaking eloquently:

I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat.

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Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no inherent need to alter the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,
Donna Beth Weilenman

Donna Weilenman
10 Morello Heights Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am concerned about possible GMO experimentation on all crops and especially taro. Taro is a crop that is an important part of Hawaiian culture. Since they are against experimenting on their national crop, it should NOT be done.

Therefore please vote for SB709 and HB1663 to protect the Hawaiian people's most important crop.

Margery Freeman

6448 Kaahele Street

6448 Kaahele Street

Kapaia, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My husband Norbert Roessler and I Ina Roessler are fulltime residents of Kauai. We support the ban on GMO Taro and specifically ALL varieties of Taro not just Hawaiian varieties.

Malama 'Aina,
The Roesslers

Ina Roessler
4184 kekuanaoa
princeville, HI 96722

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Although the wording of my message (below) is taken directly from the generic message eloquently composed by Na Kahu o Haloa, I totally agree with every point and could not have phrased it any better.

Please listen to the people of Hawai'i!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic

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modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no inherent need to alter the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Joan Lander
PO Box 29
Naalehu, HI 96772-0029

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

GMO Free Kaua`i represents over 3000 concerned citizens on Kaua`i. Kaua`i produces the most taro in the state. Most people here grow taro in their yards for their family and friends.

We join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. We are deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no inherent need to alter the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming on Kaua`i and in Hawaii, we ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Jeri Di Pietro
PO Box 338
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Kakou --

As an advanced student of la'au lapa'au, a professional with a background in Public Health, a descendant of maka'ainana who grew kalo for generations, a peacemaker and a mother, I ask that you support the protection of kalo through the passage of SB709 with amendments that include all varieties of kalo, to reflect the protections articulated in HB1663. No GMO's, please!

Mahalo nui to all who have worked on this effort.

Me ke aloha,

Laulani Teale, MPH

Laulani Teale
45-666 Uhilehua St.
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

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Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am against the genetic modification of all taro varieties. I was deeply disturbed last year when some members of the legislature changed the bill that was submitted to them. It showed, at best, a lack of understanding of the issue of genetically modified Taro and, at worst, it showed that some members were willing to give in to greed by changing the bill to reflect the methods and ideas of others.

Please support this bill without adding improper changes to it such as the ones made last session.

Yours truly,
Vicki McCarty
Honokohau Valley, Maui, HI

Vicki McCarty
30 Kahana Place
30 Kahana Place
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have severe food allergy and have researched GMO foods because of this. ALL literature and research on the subject done by independent scientists points to the very real existence of allergic responses. Not only that but GMOs are being released into the wild and contaminating other plants.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to tamper with the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I urge you to add the amendments suggested by the taro farmers. There is no crop, including taro, that requires any genetic modification. We have seen all too many times how the most well intentioned efforts of scientists have nonetheless caused inestimable damage to our planet.

I reject all GMO and urge you to do likewise.

Thank you for your time, and attention to my concerns.

Aloha,

Vicki Vierra
HC 1 Box 5077
Keaau, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha,

We want "REAL" food! I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such

LATE TESTIMONY

healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Shannon renee Rudolph
P.O. Box 243
P.O. 243
Holualoa, HI 96725

808-322-6604

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

On the first day of the school year, we each planted a kalo plant to watch grow as we grow through the year. I feel very strongly connected to kalo and it's health parallels mine. Taro is a food of life! Please protect it.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Miranda Lewitsky
44-330 Pua'Olena St
Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I strongly support the ban on GMO taro. Taro is a natural food and common sense tells us that man meddles with its genetic makeup at the peril of our health — and future economic well being as well, because once those companies or organizations have the patent and our natural taro has been compromised through contamination from their patent-held GMO taro, we can look forward to them charging what the traffic will bear for that taro.

Those who stand to make a profit on GMO taro assure us that they are the scientific experts, know better than us and that there is no threat to our health. "Trust us" is the theme. How many times have we heard similar refrains and been the loser for it?

The high risks to our health, escalation in taro prices because of the profits going to those that hold the GMO patents, and the lock they will have on our taro through enforceable patents, is a big step in the direction of a lower quality of life for we the people. Companies or people controlling our food through patents? How is this an improvement over what in the past nature has freely given us?

We have already seen what Monsanto has done to farmers whose crops have been accidentally or deliberately contaminated by their patented GMO crops, such as corn. What more do we need to dissuade us from GMO taro?

Taro is the unique and basic staple of true Hawaiians. We will be the lesser if it changes into a form of Frankenfood through genetic modification. Let's keep it as the highly nourishing, healthy, delicious and natural food that it has been to those in Hawaii for over a thousand years, a food we can enjoy without reservations about its healthy effect on our bodies. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Rachel Winkler
410 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, HI, HI 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Research sustainable traditional farming, not genetic mutilation!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Cory (Martha) Harden

P.O. Box 10265

P.O. Box 10265

Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

For the third year in a row I implore you to ban genetic modification of our state plant, kalo. Thank you,
Beryl Blaich

Beryl Blaich
PO Box 1434
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Please reject the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Mahalo,

Jeff Haun

Jeff Haun
PO Box 248
Hakalau, HI 96710

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about cultural disrespect, patenting and bio-prospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Spencer Leineweber
2410 Campus Road
Architecture
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-956-4704

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I support a ban on GMO-taro. It is completely unacceptable to introduce GMO-taro onto even 1 inch of hawaiian soil.

Malama Aina,

Sylvia Partridge
P. O. Box 1255
Hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Gee. . . why don't we take YOU and tweek you genetically 'cause you're not quite good enough the way Creator made you. Then we can clone you and make a billion of you and make lots of money because there will be a patent and we can play God because no one else will be able to recreate you. Sacredness can NOT be manufactured, so 'enuf already'!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Skye Loe

xxx

Kihe'i, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Mary Baker
P.O. Box 644
Waimanalo, HI 96795

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

We are an organic farm called Sunny Kapoho Citrus in the Kapoho area of Puna on the Big Island. We produce oranges and banana but not papaya because the environment here is polluted with GMO papaya.

We began growing taro when Hawaii County Council bill# 361 was passed to prevent the environment from being polluted with GMO taro. We are so glad for this because taro is growing better than other vegetables here.

Here in paradise where nature provides so abundantly we can choose exclusively from Naturally Evolved Organisms (NEO). Those who would choose GMO instead would pollute the environment at our expense, externalizing their costs for monetary gain, and that would be irresponsible behavior.

Malama Aina,

David Webb
PO Box 2167
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Personal Note:

I'm currently studying Environmental Safety and you can't imagine all the things we are paying for from the past. I hope my voice is heard.

Mahalo

Alexis Horio

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

LATE TESTIMONY

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Alexis Horio

98-1034 Moanalua Rd

LATE TESTIMONY

Apt 203
Aiea, HI 96701

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Without reservation I join the communities across our State in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties. The banning of GMO-taro is pono! I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Our God given, Naturally grown taro deserves the best available science- To alter the natural being of our Hawaiian staple, taro is not a road we'd loke to travel. We shouldn't tamper with Mother Nature's perfect package and we must remain steadfast in the ways we've fed generations past and those to come. We see the effects of growth hormones and the "progress of science" in our children and grandchildren today. The onset of puberty starts years before it should in may of our keiki. To say that we must prevent diease in taro is not reason enough to cause the irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations in our naturally-grown staple is unacceptable and a potential danger to all. It is essential to protect our unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farms and water sources-- without GMOs. .

Malama Aina,

EVELYN SOUZA
92-848 Palailai Street
Kapolei , HI 96707

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am deeply concerned for the current and future generations regarding the genetic modification of foods.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

laura and andrew BINSTOCK
po box 1268
haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Gwen Ilaban

76-6182 Alii Drive

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I urge you to reject all genetic modification of taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. There are unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

I am not going to give you more detailed reasons of why there should be a ban on GMO-taro, as I know you have received such information already. Please thoroughly read that info and take it seriously, as you think about your vote on GMO-taro.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Malama Aina,

Marjorie Erway

PO Box 2807

Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Taro is, without doubt, the Staff of Life in the Hawaiian Islands. This applies to all of us who reside here. As such, it is of utmost importance that the genome of taro remain whole and unbroken from genetic modification. Changing the life pattern and blueprint of taro is a violation against humanity.

I voice my concern to any who would consider the taro plant our property and not our partner in the cycle of life. Without our major food crops, we will not live, and changing their inherent nature is a setup for failure, starvation, and manipulation of the balance of power through controlling food sources.

Stop genetic modification in the Hawaiian Islands now.

Peace,

Eliza W. Goodhue

Eliza Goodhue
P O Box 791469
Paia, HI 96779

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

-Protect Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

I don't buy any GMO product. If there is GMO taro, I don't buy it. Most of people who I know are not consuming any GMO food or product, so they won't buy GMO taro, too.

Many of akamai people know what is pono, and what is not pono. Making GEO taro is not pono.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina, Malama pono,

Mayumi Marks

3109 Mapu PI Kihei

Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Do not allow such unnatural practices to pollute Hawaiian taro or our sacred land. These false ways of farming are not wanted or needed.

For love of Mother Nature & good crops the way nature intended, Linda Lee Evans

Linda Lee Evans
387B Ocean Ave
387B Ocean Ave, Monterey, CA
Monterey, CA 93940

831-655-4979

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

From across the Pacific, I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro. The unique, fragile ecosystem of Hawai'i is NOT the place to experiment with genetically-modified crops; rather, the historic and present importance of taro should be protected for current and future generations.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes

LATE TESTIMONY

an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

I am fortunate to have visited the islands a few times in my life, and with each visit, I gained a deeper and richer appreciation of the culture, people, history, language, flora and fauna, land and water. I also firmly support measures to protect and sustain Hawai'i's unique ecosystem. As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Katy Fogg
3737 Central Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

In my family we eat poi every week.

Please do not genetically alter this staple of our diet and our culture. I support taking care of the land from which the taro grows. Please help to assure steady, clean water sources for nourishing haloa. Please do change the plant's genetic structure.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lori Fernandez
P.O. Box 11197
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I object to any genetically modification of taro. If this was a grass roots effort on the part of Hawaiians requesting research to be done, then it would be a different story. But this is science being crammed down the throat of Hawaiians. This science ignores the cultural significance of the taro as a food staple. The science ignores the relationship of taro to the Hawaiians as the "older brother", as a family member. Instead it is as if an surgical experiment is being preformed on a live conscious human being with the same amount of horror being expressed by the Hawaiian people.

Taro breeding programs are the best route to go, but genetically modification is unacceptable.

Catherine Aki

P.O. Box 788

Kauanakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Please do not support genetic testing on Taro in Hawaii. We already have contamination of organic crops by these biogenetic species in this state, and many studies show the harmful effects of genetic testing.

Sincerely,
Andrea Baer
Maui

Andrea Baer
Mapu Place
Mapu Place
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

It is unacceptable that the State puts in meager resources into biosecurity --- protecting Hawaii from alien plants, animals, and pathogens --- and as a consequence has new plant diseases that attack endemic, Polynesian, and agricultural plants and animals. The response should not be genetic engineering of the plants, which is a radical alteration of the genomes and population genetics of the species, with unknown consequences.

Growing studies show that GMO genes are impossible to contain, and spread out of control into populations where consent for the presence has not been given.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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LATE TESTIMONY

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lee Altenberg

LATE TESTIMONY

2605 Lioholo Place
2605 Lioholo Place
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha, my name is Walter Ritte and I am in strong support of protecting Kalo (Haloa) from GMO. I am speaking as a Hawaiian who grows and eats Kalo, and a Hawaiian who has a serious kuleana to protect my eldest brother Haloa, the first born of our people.

Our culture, geneology and traditions have been ignored by the University of Hawaii and the Biotec Industry. Our first born has been genetically modified and patented by the University of Hawaii without the consent of the Hawaiian people.

We demand protection, Hawaiians and taro farmers want legislative protection for Haloa, we have petitions with over 6,000 signatures.

This issue has become an embaressment to this state as the health, safety and culture of the people is being jeapordized to protect the Biotec Industry.

To not place rules, protections and guidelines for a new industry breeds mistrust.

Hawaiians like my self will not go away, we have been here for thousands of years. We will not accept industries that threaten our lands, our families our existence.

We demand and we will not stop demanding until Haloa is protected by law. Walter Ritte

walter ritte

po box 486

kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Mahalo for the opportunity to declare my support for a ban of any genetic modification of taro in the state of Hawai'i. The mere rumor of genetically modified taro on Kaua'i has tainted the perception of all taro on our island. Farmers, growers and consumers, have begun questioning where huli is coming from. Since you cannot tell by looking and DNA testing is not an option without knowing which genetic construct has been forcefully inserted, people are beginning to steer away from sharing planting material. As we grow into sustainable food security, we do not want to create future roadblocks for farmers and growers by having to contend with a living pollution such as GE plants.

This technology has placed a burden onto growers to protect their crops from contamination, instead of the purveyors of this plant modified with unrelated species to be contained by the patent holder. We have seen with GMO papaya that markets are lost, seed banks are contaminated and pollen travels to organic farms.

Never before in the history of mankind have we crossed plants with unrelated plant DNA, or plants with animal DNA, and even plants with human DNA. This science is in question in many countries around the globe. To allow GM food into our food supply and onto store shelves without labeling, goes against consumers trust.

We are what we eat, and eating healthy is our first line of health insurance. For mothers with children who have food allergies, taro is a safe and nutritious food that they can depend on.

It is more important for us to fallow and feed the soil with green manures, and keep taro healthy and productive in our state. Alternatives to chemical farming do exist and are healthier for the land and the people

Farmers don't want genetically engineered huli, Hawaiians do not want their ancestor's DNA altered by forceful gene manipulation, and consumers don't want to eat it. Changing the genetics of a hypo allergenic food is a very bad choice. I cannot name another food that is hypo allergenic, can you?

We are seeing an increase in food allergies related to the crops that have been genetically manipulated in the lab, like corn, soy, canola and wheat. There is something inherently dangerous about inserting a gene randomly with attached viral promoters that turn on all coded traits, some traits are certainly better left off in the case of dormant disease genes.

Please protect all varieties of taro in our state of Hawai'i for future generations. This crop has a large market, and genetic engineering would only hurt us economically, as well as culturally and environmentally.

Please malama Haloa, so that Haloa can malama us.

LATE TESTIMONY

Malama Aina,

Jeri Di Pietro
PO Box 338
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

GMO Free Kaua'i is a group of over 3000 people concerned about the lack of science and regulation regarding genetically engineered food crops and the patenting of seed.

As we work towards meaningful ways to achieve food sovereignty, genetically engineered test fields are limiting our choices and steering jobs away from our island.

We support a ban of any genetic modification of taro in the state of Hawai'i.

Since you cannot tell a genetically engineered plant by looking, and DNA testing is not an option without knowing which genetic construct has been forcefully inserted, people are beginning to steer away from sharing planting material.

As we grow into sustainable food security, we do not want to create future roadblocks for farmers and growers by having to contend with a living pollution such as GE plants.

This technology has placed a burden onto growers to protect their crops from contamination, instead of the purveyors of this plant modified with unrelated species to be contained by the patent holder.

We have seen with GMO papaya that markets are lost, seed banks are contaminated and pollen travels to organic farms.

Never before in the history of mankind have we crossed plants with unrelated plant DNA, or plants with animal DNA, and even plants with human DNA. This science is in question in many countries around the globe. To allow GM food into our food supply and onto store shelves without labeling, goes against consumers trust.

It is more important for us to fallow and feed the soil with green manures, and keep taro healthy and productive in our state. Alternatives to chemical farming do exist and are healthier for the land and the people and wildlife.

Farmers don't want genetically engineered huli, Hawaiians do not want their ancestor's DNA altered by forceful gene manipulation, and consumers don't want to eat it. Changing the genetics of a hypoallergenic food is a very bad choice.

We are seeing an increase in food allergies related to the crops that have been genetically manipulated in the lab, like corn, soy, canola and wheat. There is something inherently dangerous about inserting gene randomly with attached viral promoters that turn on all coded traits, some traits are certainly better left off in the case of dormant disease genes.

Please protect all varieties of taro in our state of Hawai'i for future generations. This crop has a large

LATE TESTIMONY

market, and genetic engineering would only hurt us economically, as well as culturally and environmentally.

Please malama Haloa the taro.

Friends of GMO Free Kaua`i
PO Box 343
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

You must realize, that there is no way, as Hawaiians, that we will allow you to touch, change, or shake up the gene of the Taro!

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown, taro is the sacred foundation of our agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people.

If you so boldly disrespect or desecrate Taro, you will have to face the out come.

Donna Morgan

Steve Morgan

P.O. Box 72

Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii, I would like to point out that I NEVER buy anything I know to be genetically modified.

At some point soon, people the world over are going to notice that nature must be honored if we are to survive. Genetic Modification is not only a profanity, it serves no one but corporations like Monsanto.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Richard Welker
1303 Luana Street

Santa Fe, NM 87505

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I enjoy fresh taro and a variety of products currently using taro grown in Hawai'i. I join farmers and consumers in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. Like many citizens, I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harm to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Other countries have outlawed GMO for all farm products until those risks are established. As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by passing SB 709 and HB 1663 which ban GMO-taro.

Sincerely,

Pam Haight
2821 Orange St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am against GMO taro, and extremely upset about the health consequences as a result. There should be no tampering of a natural plant, and especially because in our Hawaiian culture, the kalo is representative of our ancestry.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

--Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state

LATE TESTIMONY

or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lei Kihoi
P.O. Box 1746
P.O. Box 1746
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I would like to add my voice to the chorus supporting a ban on the genetic modification of all taro varieties in Hawaii. I feel it is arrogant to allow this level of cultural disrespect. Taro is not just a plant to the native Hawaiian's; it is a fundamental part of their culture. Furthermore, genetic modification of food plants exposes us to unknown health risks and potential harm to our local farming economy.

Abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of Hawaii's traditional culture. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the plants we depend on for nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dawn Boucher
962 Iulani Street
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Kalo is our elder. How could anyone genetically modify an elder? Might as well try to genetically modify your grandmother.

Leave the taro the way the kapuna left it.

Say no to GMO.

Thanks,

Jason Winnett

Kalapana

Jason Winnett

Chain of Craters Rd

Kalapana, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro..

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Robin Stetson
RR4, Box 2333
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is PuaNani Rogers, and I live on Kauai where most of our kalo from poi is grown. Poi is a most important food for me, my family and especially our na keiki. Please do not allow scientist to genetically modify any taro varieties. It would make us hesitate about feeding it to our na keiki, our na mo`opuna.

I support any science that will protect our kalo from disease, apple snails, water studies to replenish and purify our streams and rivers that feed our lo`i.

Therefore, I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Please listen to the people of our community, I am a kupuna and am speaking for my generation as well as for the next, and the next, and the next generations yet to be born.

Mahalo for voting NO to GMO-kalo!

Puanani Rogers
4702 Mailihuna Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

821-2267

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kamaka Jingao

Kamaka Jingao
1809 B Lanakila Ave
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Lawmakers need to read two informative books on the subject of GMO's written by Jerry Smith "Seeds of Deception" and "Genetic Roulette". As a parent and grandparent, I am very concerned about the effects of GMO's on our food supply, and I want the choice of being able to eat NON-GMO as well as feed my keiki and moopuna NON-GMO. The eating of poi is a daily thing in our ohana and I want the reassurance of knowing that I am feeding my family pure kalo, the way my ancestors have been eating it for hundreds of years. The scientific community cannot guarantee that the Hawaiian varieties of Kalo will not become contaminated by any GMO varieties released into the environment in the future. I support fully a complete ban on any research, testing or cultivation of GMO Kalo.

Malama Aina,

LATE TESTIMONY

Lynlie Waiamau
PO Box 3723
Lihue, HI 96766

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been researching genetic modification and am thoroughly convinced that it is a TERRIBLE idea. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

LATE TESTIMONY

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

andrew binstock
po box 1268
haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

While I am a transplant to this wonderful state, I believe in respecting the host culture and its wisdom and contribution to the land and the community. I moved here thirty one years ago and first tasted taro then. I love it and it is perfect the way it was created by nature and tended by the local people who grow it. Don't mess with something that has no business being touched. After viewing the film King Corn and seeing that one cannot even eat GMO corn (used for corn syrup) and it is replacing the majority of natural strains of corn on the mainland - sickens me no end. Scientists in Norway are storing seeds of native food plants for the purpose of replanting in case of the devastation to food crops that have no alternative. GMO's are becoming the main strain and that is not necessarily a good thing. Nor do I like the tactics that Monsanto has done in the communities where it operates. It has become a huge corporate giant and manages to get what it wants no matter what. Do not allow these people to alter Taro. This is not right culturally or scientifically. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

LATE TESTIMONY

Malama Aina,

Bettina Jones
P.O. Box 803
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

i am Rino Kalamalino'lino'onalani Geremen, better known as Lino. I am the hawaiian studies makua at kuhio elem. i strongly support this bill for no gmo in kalo.

please put a stop to this and make it pono. leave our kalo alone don't try to mess it up. kalo is our ohana.

how would yall feel if we did something stupid to something yall own? would that be okay with you? i don't think so. once again leave our kalo alone.... no gmo...

hewa....

Rino Geremen

2250 ahe st. 52 a

honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Stephen Dinion
1441 Victoria St. #505
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Legislator,

I write to you as a scientist with several peer-review research papers in the field of ecology, and many more published research papers in other areas of science. I'm usually supportive of new technology, but in this case I'm not.

GMO taro is a bad idea. Our nation's experience with corn has amply demonstrated that genetic modification reduces genetic diversity, robustness to unknown diseases and nutritional value. To genetically modify taro for any use outside the laboratory would only make Hawaii's food supply more dependent on large mainland corporations.

Mahalo for your service to our state, and may you decide wisely for the Hawaii our keiki will inherit.

Neil Frazer, PhD
112 Haokea Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I would like to add my voices to the many calling for the banning of all GMO taro and other GMO experimentation in Hawai'i.

We can't afford to fall victim to false assurances about the safety of these experiments; we literally have no where to go.

David Adam Edelstein
11336 23rd Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98125

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Dear Senators,

I support SB709, with amendments, to protect all natural taro, and to ban genetically altered taro. I support the amendments that the taro farmers themselves are proposing, by changing the bill language to reflect that of HB1663. The amendments protect all varieties of taro and the economic viability of the local taro industry. The health of our communities and our visitor industry will also be protected from the unknown risks of this untested technology. We cannot assume that genetically engineered taro is safe until proven so.

We cannot risk the loss of any more biodiversity throughout our island ecosystem.

We must respect the cultural beliefs of native Hawaiians, and leave these sacred ancestral roots intact. Hawaiian farmers have maintained the largest number of taro varieties for over 1200 years. Please, support this living legacy.

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

Teacher Mary Lacques

Teacher

P.O. Box 14

P.O. Box 14 Hale'iwa HI 96712

Haleiwa, HI 96712

783-8400

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

J. Zender
P.o. Box 10897
Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

David M. K. Inciong, II
1107 Acacia Road # 113
Pearl City, HI 96782-2581

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Gary Gunder
61-470 Kam Hwy
Haleiwa, HI 96712

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Carrie Brennan
6050 A Kapahi Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators,

Ban GMO taro research and growing in Hawaii.

Contamination is real.

Contaminate one, you contaminate all.

Just look at the papaya industry.

Please change the language of this bill SB 709 so that it bans all GMO taro in Hawaii.

I am an organic kalo farmer and this is my livelihood.

We cannot coexist with GMOs.

Malama Haloa

Malama `aina

Mahalo

nancy kobayashi

p.o.box 44

hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

Preserve haloa! No Frankenstein farming!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Cory (Martha) Harden

P.O. Box 10265

P.O. Box 10265

Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators,

Please change the language of SB 709, a moratorium on the genetic modification of Hawaiian varieties of taro, to that of HB 1663 which calls for a ban on gmOs on ALL varieties of taro.

A ban on Hawaiian varieties of taro is not enough.
We want a ban on all varieties of taro in Hawaii.
Contamination is forever. Coexistence is impossible.

There are those who say they simply want the research to continue just in case. And they also claim they would never plant it. Do you really believe that? Do you think that this research and technology would stay "safely" in the lab? For the safety of all of us who kanu taro, who cherish it as a family member because it provides and feeds us, for our aina - the land and water- which supports the growing of our food. It is time to stop and think what we are doing to all that is real and all that matters to us as human beings on this planet. Money and the drive to own and control does not make for anything healthy.

Malama Haloa. Malama kalo. Malama `aina.

One earth, one land, one air, one people.

Mahalo ke akua.

nancy kobayashi

p.o.box 44

hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Kamuela Meheula Naihe
76-436 Kealoha ST
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Kaeo Bradford
6938 Lekia Pl.
Kapaa, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Cha Smith
4117 Black Point Road
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I was born in Honolulu and started my life precariously, thriving under the care of the doctors and nurses at Kapi`olani, and with the help of Hawaiian friends and neighbors. I learned the value of poi and its incredible nutrition.

Although I live far away, I still buy Hawaiian poi when it's available. It is an incredible food that can be given infants to help them thrive. It should not be tampered with!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro.

Too often we change things, not realizing the harm we're doing. For example, cars became preferred over horses, even though at the time they were not as fast, simply because they did not soil the streets with manure. Instead, we have learned they poison our air with fumes. We do not always know how changes will impact us in the future.

I stand with those who ask me to say, and I repeat their words, because they are speaking eloquently:

I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,
Donna Beth Weilenman

Donna Weilenman
10 Morello Heights Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Craig Elevitch
P.O. Box 428
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am concerned about possible GMO experimentation on all crops and especially taro. Taro is a crop that is an important part of Hawaiian culture. Since they are against experimenting on their national crop, it should NOT be done.

Therefore please vote for SB709 and HB1663 to protect the Hawaiian people's most important crop.

Margery Freeman

6448 Kaahele Street

6448 Kaahele Street

Kapaia, HI 96746

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no inherent need to alter the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Lisa Ann Hookano
911085 kauiki st
ewa beach, HI 96706

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My husband Norbert Roessler and I Ina Roessler are fulltime residents of Kauai. We support the ban on GMO Taro and specifically ALL varieties of Taro not just Hawaiian varieties.

Malama 'Aina,
The Roesslers

Ina Roessler
4184 kekuanaoa
princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Lorilani Keohokalole-Torio

POB 675

Anahola, HI 96703

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Malama 'Aina,

Joan Lander
PO Box 29
Naalehu, HI 96772-0029

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

GMO Free Kaua`i represents over 3000 concerned citizens on Kaua`i. Kaua`i produces the most taro in the state. Most people here grow taro in their yards for their family and friends.

We join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. We are deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming on Kaua`i and in Hawaii, we ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Jeri Di Pietro
PO Box 338
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Marie Brown
430 Keoniana St.
Apt. 301
Honolulu, HI 96815

282-2758

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Ingrid Tillman
HCR2 Box 6954
HCR2 Box 6954
Keaiaua, HI 96749

808-966 5093

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

gia baiocchi
po box 30899
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Kakou --

As an advanced student of la'au lapa'au, a professional with a background in Public Health, a descendant of maka'ainana who grew kalo for generations, a peacemaker and a mother, I ask that you support the protection of kalo through the passage of SB709 with amendments that include all varieties of kalo, to reflect the protections articulated in HB1663. No GMO's, please!

Mahalo nui to all who have worked on this effort.

Me ke aloha,

Laulani Teale, MPH

Laulani Teale
45-666 Uhilehua St.
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to tamper with the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Cathie alana
PoBox 17418
honiolulu, HI 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Bernard Fickert
141 Kuloli Place
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Walter Andrade
P.O. Box 586
Holualoa, HI 96725

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Malama 'Aina,

Dayle Bethel
1441 Victoria Street, #402
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am against the genetic modification of all taro varieties. I was deeply disturbed last year when some members of the legislature changed the bill that was submitted to them. It showed, at best, a lack of understanding of the issue of genetically modified Taro and, at worst, it showed that some members were willing to give in to greed by changing the bill to reflect the methods and ideas of others.

Please support this bill without adding improper changes to it such as the ones made last session.

Yours truly,
Vicki McCarty
Honokohau Valley, Maui, HI

Vicki McCarty
30 Kahana Place
30 Kahana Place
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Abilynn Rita
P.O. Box 594
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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I have severe food allergy and have researched GMO foods because of this. ALL literature and research on the subject done by independent scientists points to the very real existence of allergic responses. Not only that but GMOs are being released into the wild and contaminating other plants.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to tamper with the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Tracey Schavone
POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Diana Bethel
1441 Victoria St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Kiope Raymond
310 Kaahumanu Avenue
Kahului, HI 96732-1617

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Kamuela Kala'i
46-337 Kahuhipa Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I urge you to add the amendments suggested by the taro farmers. There is no crop, including taro, that requires any genetic modification. We have seen all too many times how the most well intentioned efforts of scientists have nonetheless caused inestimable damage to our planet.

I reject all GMO and urge you to do likewise.

Thank you for your time, and attention to my concerns.

Aloha,

Vicki Vierra
HC 1 Box 5077
Keaau, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join others from across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

LorrieAnn Santos
45-41 Lolii Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

clare Ioprinzi
po box 400
holualoa, HI 96725

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Haunani Francisco
1025 Ala Liliko'i St
Honolulu, HI 96818

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Testimony

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hannah bernard
2626 alohia pl
haiku, HI 96708

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Malama 'Aina,

Andrea Brower
POBox 220
Anahola, HI 96703

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Christy Rose Ferreira
Frear Hall Room 904B
2569 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Michael Saiz
PO Box 562
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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1216 wilder ave. apt 202
honolulu , HI 96822

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Malama 'Aina,

Erica Taniguchi
4841b hokualele rd
Anahola, HI 96703

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Testimony

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1322 Kaupakalua Road
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Ronna McEldowney
po box 450
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Kehaulani Wong
3513 Pakui St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Deborah DiPiero
5221 I Kohi Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

miwa tamanaha
9999 9st
999, HI 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Kathleen Carr
PO Box 335
Honaunau, HI 96726

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

CarolLee Averill
538 Pohai St
Kahului, HI 96732

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama 'Aina,

Katherine Ross
PO Box 603
Papaikou, HI 96781

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Mahealani Jones
24 Alae Street
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Lehua Kaulukukui
68-1756 Puwalu St.
68-1756 Puwalu St. Waikoloa, HI 96738
Waikoloa , HI 96738

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Teri Skillman
1720 Perry St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

841-5011

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Odette Rickert
PO Box 12
PO Box 12
Hilo, HI 96721

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Laurie Kahiapo
PO Box 322
Waimanalo, HI 96795

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama 'Aina,

isobel storch
1105 DeVictor Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1704

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Scott Jarvis
PO Box 1664
Hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Chasity Cadaoas
146 Ehilani St.
Pukalani, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Janet Codispoti
RR-3 Box 1354
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Shannon renee Rudolph
P.O. Box 243
P.O. 243
Holualoa, HI 96725

808-322-6604

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Curt Sumida
41-1009 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
41-1009 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Waimanalo, HI 96795

783-2440

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Tristen Wanke
P.O. Box # 2
makawao, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join my community in Hana, Maui , Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Leimamo Lind
1202 S Washington st.
#621C
Alexandria, VA 22314

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Miranda Camp
29 Kuponu St
Paia, HI 96779

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Alison Hartle
2646 Pamoia Road
2646 Pamoia Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Janice palma-glennie
Pobox 4849
Kailua-kona, HI 967454849

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Testimony

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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to tamper with the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Keoki Kahumoku
358 ululani street
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Leslie Yee Hoy
1305 Hele
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Kathy-Lyn Allen
2702 High Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of ALL plants and animal including papaya and all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO and GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Sara McCay
62-2219 Ouli Street
Kamuela, HI 96743

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Roger Harris
RR 2, Box 3902
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

chaunnel salmon
84-849 Fricke St.
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Bobbie Alicen
HCR 2, Box 6824
Kea'au, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Tracey Schavone
POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Mahealani Carvalho
P.O. Box 612
Volcano, HI 96785

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

429-0479

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama 'Aina,

Mara L. B. Chang
45-251 Kulauli Street
Kāne`ohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I reject the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Ralph Theron davis
57581 Alder Creek Rd
Scappoose, OR 97056

503-246-7898

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Ron Dixon
po box 223403
Princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Shawn White
PO Box 2502
Honolulu, HI 96804

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Luella Crutcher
P.O. Box 928
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

robert mceldowney
po box 450
laupahoehoe, HI 96764

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Forest Shomer
PO Box 639
Port Townsend, WA 98368

LATE TESTIMONY

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5-5435 Kuhio HWY
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Frederika E Ebel
PO Box 701
Flemington, NJ 08822

908-391-0949

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Corey Ann Lewin
923 N. San Vicente Blvd #7
West Hollywood, CA 90069

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Richard Powers
P.O. Box244
Naalehu, HI 96772

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

robin Torquati
PO Box 1039
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

For the third year in a row I implore you to ban genetic modification of our state plant, kalo. Thank you,
Beryl Blaich

Beryl Blaich
PO Box 1434
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Bobbi Lempert
PO Box 791881
Paia, HI 96779

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Zachary Klaja
3230 Eastlake Ave E #204
Seattle, WA 98102

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Caroline Ginnane
1505 Kewalo Street #301A
Honolulu, HI
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Malama 'Aina,

Lorraine Kohn
74-873 Hauoli Place
Kailua Kona 96740
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

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Malama 'Aina,

Gemma Lila
P.O. Box 143
Pahoa, HI 06778

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Malama 'Aina,

Michelle Baydo
P.O. Box 6240
Kamuela, HI 96743

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Elisha Belmont
10491 Cunningham
Westminster, CA 92683

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Momi Kaikala
285 Liliuokalani Street
Pukalani, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Rebecca Miller
6020 Koolau Rd.
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Jeffrey Lagrimas
66 Amaulu Rd. #4
PMD 432, 200 Kaneolaehua Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Gary Wiseman
515 Pualani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

suzanne garrett
2023 lime st. #J
honolulu, HI 96826

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Mahalo,

Jeff Haun

Jeff Haun
PO Box 248
Hakalau, HI 96710

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Denise Lytle
73 Poplar St.
Fords, NJ 08863

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Katie Winchell
16942 Lynn St., Unit E
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

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476 Cane St. #8
Larkspur, CA 94939

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CHRISTINE Kauahikaua
PO BOX 50
WAIMANALO, HI 96795

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Malama 'Aina,

Miguel Godinez
P.O. Box 508
P.O. Box 508
Hanalei, HI 96714

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11891 Lake Blvd
Felton, CA 95018

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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Bryan Milne
486 Rodney St.
Apt. #2
Brooklyn, NY 11211

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Malama 'Aina,

Helen anne Schonwalter
P.O. Box 791082
Haiku, HI 96708

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Mary Lu Kelley
P.O. Box 670
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Kalaheo, HI 96741

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Michelle Hillen
40 Mokuhala Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Joy bannon
423 Morton St Ashland, Or
ashland, OR 97520

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Vickie Innis
538 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Mimi Forsyth
POBox 970968
Waipahu, HI 96797

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Ron Whitmore
113 Alae Street
Hilo, HI 96720

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Malama 'Aina,

Carolyn Moore
5402 McKellips Rd. Lot 289
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Mesa, AZ 85215

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Glen Venezia
176 Calle San Jorge Apt 2A
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Leslie Santos
2448 Blue Spruce Court
Merced, CA 95340

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

donnalene sing
pob 10305
honolulu, HI 06816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

jennifer jensen
1436 w. Kuiaha RD.
HAiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Amy Wiecking
P.O. Box 4526
P.O. Box 4526
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Janice Brencick
P.O. Box 7038/ 64-5308 Puu Nani Drive
P.O. Box 7038/ 64-5308 Puu Nani Drive
Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Frances Pitzer
14 Hakoi Hema Place
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers

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in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Brooke Lind
22145 E Calle De Flores
Queen Creek, AZ 85242

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Do not approve GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago, IL 60680

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Desdra Dawning
25626
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Stepahine Eike

Orinda

Orinda, CA 94563

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Cathy Robinson
774 Willow Springs Drive
Mobile, AL 36695

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

sandra J phillips
15751 s eaden rd
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

9712235712

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Testimony

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

I am strongly against all genetically modified food in all aspects and the GMO projects should be banned!!

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Jesse Fujimoto
60 Nohea street
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama 'Aina,

Susan James
PO Box 642
Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Sandra morey
3461 Laguna Ave
Oakland, CA 94602

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Karsten Zane
2224 Makanani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Elin Sand
HCR 3 Box 10056
Kea'au, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

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Desdra Dawning
25626
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Claudia Portocarrero
2555 Dole St.
914 Punahou Street Honolulu HI 96826
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Cindy A. Lance
2711 Anuenue St.
Cindy
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-988-4408

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

On the first day of the school year, we each planted a kalo plant to watch grow as we grow through the year. I feel very strongly connected to kalo and it's health parallels mine. Taro is a food of life! Please protect it.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Miranda Lewitsky
44-330 Pua'Olena St
Honokaa, HI 96727

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Teri Holter
PO Box 458
Makawao, HI 96768

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Dona van Bloemen
1117 3rd. Street
Apt. 5
Santa Monica, CA 90403

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Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

katharine madjid
PO Box 644
volcano, HI 96785

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Noel Barrett-Tau
Wai'alaie Ave
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

kehaulani kea

1511 nuuanu ave # 14

honolulu, HI 96817

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Malama 'Aina,

kelly prince
2395 s. kihei #202
kihei, HI 96753

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Malama 'Aina,

Ellen Posner
146 Kohola
Hilo, HI 96720

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874 Dillingham Blvd.
Honolulu, ID 96817

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

leilea satori
po box 1200
honoka'a, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Daine Texidor
814 Kinau Street #308
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Dana Keawe
P.O. Box 1593
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Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Monika Seiz
P.O.Box 876
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

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1720-A Makaleha Pl.
Kapaa, HI 96746

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HONOLULU, HI 96806

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

paul strauss
1063 Lower Main Street
Apt. #407
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Meghan Au
41-582 Inoa'ole St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I strongly support the ban on GMO taro. Taro is a natural food and common sense tells us that man meddles with its genetic makeup at the peril of our health — and future economic well being as well, because once those companies or organizations have the patent and our natural taro has been compromised through contamination from their patent-held GMO taro, we can look forward to them charging what the traffic will bear for that taro.

Those who stand to make a profit on GMO taro assure us that they are the scientific experts, know better than us and that there is no threat to our health. "Trust us" is the theme. How many times have we heard similar refrains and been the loser for it?

The high risks to our health, escalation in taro prices because of the profits going to those that hold the GMO patents, and the lock they will have on our taro through enforceable patents, is a big step in the direction of a lower quality of life for we the people. Companies or people controlling our food through patents? How is this an improvement over what in the past nature has freely given us?

We have already seen what Monsanto has done to farmers whose crops have been accidentally or deliberately contaminated by their patented GMO crops, such as corn. What more do we need to dissuade us from GMO taro?

Taro is the unique and basic staple of true Hawaiians. We will be the lesser if it changes into a form of Frankenfood through genetic modification. Let's keep it as the highly nourishing, healthy, delicious and natural food that it has been to those in Hawaii for over a thousand years, a food we can enjoy without reservations about its healthy effect on our bodies. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Rachel Winkler
410 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, HI, HI 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Margaret Primacio
480 New Camp
P.O. Box 92
Kahuku, HI 96731

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Mark Lewis
P.O. Box 10219
Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Cynthia Gillette-Wenner
P.O. Box 895
Volcano, HI 96785

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Leona Toler
195 Todd Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720-4850

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama 'Aina,

Paul Moss
1849 Whitaker St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

Research sustainable traditional farming, not genetic mutilation!

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama 'Aina,

Cory (Martha) Harden

P.O. Box 10265

P.O. Box 10265

Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama 'Aina,

Ken Taylor
1720-A Makaleha Pl.
Kapaa, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama 'Aina,

Bridget Mowat
P.O. Box 315
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Maria Gallo
PO Box 515
Lothian, MD 20711

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,
Malia Akutagawa

Malia Akutagawa
8787 Kamehameha V Hwy
PO Box 1715
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Tracey Schavone
POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama 'Aina,

Cheryl Sakamoto
PO Box 344
Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Val Hertzog
P.O. Box 385
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama 'Aina,

Kristin Bathen
PMB 256, Suite A
111 Hekili Street
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Prohibit genetic modifications to Taro in the State of Hawaii.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama 'Aina,

Tim Andres
p.o.box1098
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Carmen L

Madrid

Madrid, ot Spain

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Jennifer Ire
6645 Waipouli Rd
Kapa'a, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

Frederika E Ebel
PO Box 701
Flemington, NJ 08822

908-391-0949

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Scott Foster
68-055 Akule #310
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Waialua, HI 96791

808-637-9822

LATE TESTIMONY

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Margaret L. Rydant
335 Church Street
Northborough, MA 15321229

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2034 Hilltop Dr.
Arnold, MO 63010

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Shawn White
PO Box 2502
Honolulu, HI 96804

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Spencer Leineweber
2410 Campus Road
Architecture
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-956-4704

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Malama Aina,

Raymond Tokareff
45-3474 Kawila St, box 1967
box 1967
Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

daniel greider
1747 billview dr
lancaster, PA 17601

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Malama Aina,

tom jackson
1124 s king st
denver, CO 80219

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julie signore
321 upper kimo dr
kula, HI 96790

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Valerie Tweiten
15-1822 7th Ave
HPP
Keaau, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Laura Giubardo
261 Awalau Road
Haiku, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

Chelice Gilman
P.O. Box 277
P. O. Box 277, Bonita, CA 91908
Bonita, CA 91910

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Malama Aina,

Wandalea Walker
P.O. Box 690
4393 Uluu St.
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Forrest Hurst
415 South Union Street
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212 Fairfax Road
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kathleen U'ilani Campana
153 Hillcrest Rd.
San Carlos, CA 94070

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I support a ban on GMO-taro. It is completely unacceptable to introduce GMO-taro onto even 1 inch of hawaiian soil.

Malama Aina,

Sylvia Partridge
P. O. Box 1255
Hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

anita wintner
6689 Makena Rd
kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Florence Eli-Adam
84-740 A Farrington Hwy
NA
Waianae, HI 96792

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Gee. . . why don't we take YOU and tweek you genetically 'cause you're not quite good enough the way Creator made you. Then we can clone you and make a billion of you and make lots of money because there will be a patent and we can play God because no one else will be able to recreate you. Sacredness can NOT be manufactured, so 'enuf already'!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Skye Loe

xxx

Kihe'i, HI 96753

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Janet Smith
P O Box 1361
5309 NE 76th Street
Vancouver, WA 98666

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Charles Lawson
27400 132nd ave se #F302
Kent, WA 98042

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Michal Stover
3300 Kalihiwai Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Testimony
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Mary Baker
P.O. Box 644
Waimanalo, HI 96795

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Judith Epstein
132 Oleander Pl
Lahaina, HI 96761

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Harvest Edmonds
PO Box 199
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Malama Aina,

Bryan Milne
486 Rodney St.
Apt. #2
Brooklyn, NY 11211

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Bobbi Aqua
29 Harborview Dr
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

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Malama Aina,

Timothy Johnston
825 Fell St., Apt. 1
San Francisco, CA 94117

787-765-2389

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Tara Cornelisse
2071 huckleberry rd.
San Rafael, CA 94903

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Malama Aina,

Kristie Nakasato
PO Box 124
Kurtistown, HI 96760

348-0346

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beverlea weaver
PO Box 1679
willits, CA 95490

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Malama Aina,

Sheldon Brown
761 Malaihi Rd
Wailuku, HI 96792

870-1584

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ellen Posner
146 Kohola
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Richard Harder
PO Box 344
Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Toni A. Wolfson,RN
hummingdeer@yahoo.com
Felton, CA 95018

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Dennis Lynch
11891 Lake Blvd
Felton, CA 95018

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Denise Lytle
73 Poplar St.
Fords, NJ 08863

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,
Paulette L.K.K.K. Grube-Kanaka Maoli

Paulette Grube
RR 3 Box 1213
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

MABEL LONG
26551 RIDGE RD
WILLITS, CA 95490

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Amy Young
31763 S Ferndale
Bigfork, MT 59911

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Malama Aina,

roy lunel
12350 green tree drive
etiwanda, CA 91739

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Malama Aina,

wainani texeira
po box 492311
keaaau , HI 96749

989-3606

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

christina Gauen
558-A Maluniu Ave.
kailua, HI 96734

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Tibor Weinreb
1041 e 83 st
Brooklyn, NY 11236

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lynda Davis
4763 Wainiha Powerhouse Rd.
Hanalei, HI 96714

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I stand with communities across Hawaii in rejecting genetic modification of ALL taro varieties, by supporting ban on GMO-taro.

I am deeply concerned about unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, outside patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources, and potential harms to local farming economy, all negatives associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs.

These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is nutritious food, especially cherished as baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on other hand, is not same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic

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modification of taro insults sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects taro plant as family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring relationship of mankind with plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes unique genealogical connection between taro and Hawaiian people. Wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from communities most affected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should NEVER NEVER NEVER be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of public food resources would cripple food security, taro economy, and violate inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with real problems that they face and will only endanger valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for banning GMO-taro, biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns. Public and environmental safety, as well as local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that taro will be as healthy as land in which it is grown and care which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision-makers must work to solve broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to decrease in taro farming and taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific, and community support, taro will once again be primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy safety and sanctity of natural taro as important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As one vigorous supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect security and health of natural taro and local taro industry by banning GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Den Mark Wichar

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711 W 25 St
Vancouver, WA 98660

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

tina horowitz
4701 pine street m8
philadelphia, PA 19143

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Nancy London
1303 Luana St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,
Lehua Kaulukukui

Lehua Kaulukukui
68-1756 Puwalu St.
68-1756 Puwalu St. Waikoloa, HI 96738
Waikoloa , HI 96738

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Carrie Brennan
6050 A Kapahi Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Eric Brandt
4211 Waiialae Ave. Ste. 8090
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am the author of the book *Uncertain Peril, Genetic Engineering and the future of seeds* and I have studied this topic for 15 years. The public policy, the science, the environmental and the ethical/cultural issues demand that legislative action be taken to protect taro for both being genetically engineered and patented.

I submit my book, particularly pages 188-190 which deal with taro in Hawaii as part of my testimony here, I will send it in separately. But I urge the legislature to join all the other countries in the world that are banning, studying, labeling, and regulating gmo plants and have the courage to stand up for the traditional farmers in Hawaii and against the predatory practices of agrochemical corporations who do not have the state's best interests in mind.

It is the duty of government to protect the health, safety and food security of its people. I have read the following message and I adopt it as part of my own.

Claire Hope Cummings

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food

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Malama Aina,

Claire Cummings
335 Newton Way
Angwin, CA 94508

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Mary Elliott
819 W. Michelterena
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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I realize that you will have your inbox flooded by e-mails such as these, most of them long and well written with strong key points and long explanations. My e-mail will be short and to the point. I do not believe that genetic modification of taro is necessary, ethical, or responsible. Life should not be liable to patents and I strongly oppose such an atrocity.

Mahalo for your time and concern,
Linnea Heu

Linnea Heu
P. O. Box 655
'Ele'ele, HI 96705

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Leimomi Martin
128 A Behtends Ave
Juneau, AK 99901

907-723-2708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Patricia Blair
522 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 967344410

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

When you get right sown to the wire, there have never been any long term studies of GMO food stuff, so nobody actually knows the actual effects if any caused by the products. One particular company that shall not be named modifies plants to be resistant to its own weed killer, which is a systemic, as it takes about a week for weeds to die. The same toxins are in the plant materials humans and non humans use for food, which could very well have a similar effect as agent orange, but in a lower dosage. There are always interesting results when dealing with biochemical warfare.

Tie this in with the atrocity in India where cotton farmers were sold a gmo that was supposed to yield twice the cotton, but nobody told them it requires twice the water and subsistence farmers have killed themselves in droves. I believe the last count was over 150,000 farmers and family members dead. In the state of Illinois, an unnamed company is partaking in an action their lawyers laughingly refer to as "rural cleansing," the act of persecuting rural farmers by suing them into oblivion. In many instances, someone was "careless" with their so called "intellectual property" and it found its way to someone else's field, who is then hounded and threatened by the unnamed company's goons.

Malama Aina,

Dave Kisor

45-223 Makahinu St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

We are an organic farm called Sunny Kapoho Citrus in the Kapoho area of Puna on the Big Island. We produce oranges and banana but not papaya because the environment here is polluted with GMO papaya.

We began growing taro when Hawaii County Council bill# 361 was passed to prevent the environment from being polluted with GMO taro. We are so glad for this because taro is growing better than other vegetables here.

Here in paradise where nature provides so abundantly we can choose exclusively from Naturally Evolved Organisms (NEO). Those who would choose GMO instead would pollute the environment at our expense, externalizing their costs for monetary gain, and that would be irresponsible behavior.

Malama Aina,

David Webb
PO Box 2167
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Aggelige Spanos
73-1069 Ahikawa
73-1069 Ahikawa
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Michele Chavez-Pardini

P.O. Box 2538

P.O. Box 2538

Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Owen Moore
89-1190 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Maureen McGraw
P.O. Box 1081
46-3591 lower Hamakua Rd.
Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Mililani Hanchett Krause
Ahahui Ka'ahumanu Hana Chapter

Mililani Krause
68 Alau St.
Hana, HI 96713

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Margaret Campbell
P.O. Box 81599
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
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Malama Aina,

Kathleen Soule
P.O. Box 231
Makawao, HI 96768

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Mark schuster
P.O Box 4798
Kailua-Kona, HI 967454798

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha; I am a single working mother on the island of Kauai. It is of great concern to me that things like GMO taro just seem to "happen" to us kama'aina consumers of taro.

I know I speak for at least one hundred other mothers in my community who either don't have access to the internet or haven't been informed of the pressing need to pass the bills to ban the genetic modification of taro.

It is unfortunate, yet true, that us "little people"--who greatly outnumber the wealthy chemical & GMO Corporations--are so hard at work feeding our families & making Kauai a nice place to live & visit, that we rarely have the opportunity to be heard on these vital issues that will impact our families for generations; perhaps in the case of GMO taro, forever.

Please make a permanent ban on GMO Taro. I fully support both HB1663 & SB709 in keeping our kalo as it has been for generations, without bringing in this "technology" that has destroyed crops all across America.

We have a beautiful island chain that people around the world want to come see. Why even consider importing "their" ways and change anything about our beautiful lands & culture?!

Mahalo & Aloha...

Dharma Wease

5109 Iolani Place, Princeville HI 96722

Princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Melinda Ahn
47-004 Okana Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Momi Subiono
89-709 Lani Kona Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Anna Subiono
89-709 :Lani Kona Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Corey Ann Lewin
923 N. San Vicente Blvd #7
West Hollywood, CA 90069

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Please preserve our most traditional and beloved food staple. Non-GMO Kalo has been and still is an indispensable part of Hawaii's culture. Please ban GMO Kalo!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Lila Liebmann
msc 1592, 0615 SW palatine hill road
Portland , OR 97219

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Amy Cutler
P.O. Box 11384
P.O. Box 11384
Hilo, HI 96721

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Harvey Arkin
3349 A Anoi Pl
B
HONOLULU, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Nicholas Wilhoite
4 Kaneohe Bay dr.
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Ernest Messersmith
#206
810 Haiku Road Ste 113
Haiku, HI 96708-4899

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Merle O'Neill
2428 Links Way
Vista, CA 92081

760-598-7783

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties and supporting a ban on genetically modified taro. As a trained scientist who is familiar with laboratory techniques for genetic modification, I am strongly opposed to the release of GMOs into the environment under any circumstances. Controlled experimental research has shown clear risks to the human immune system associated with ingestion of GMOs, and in the ecology of real environments who knows what hazards can emerge?

In addition to exposing future generations to the biological risks of GMOs, in the case of taro, there is profound cultural impact as well. To genetically modify taro/kalo would be a tremendous insult to the Hawaiian people who consider themselves in genealogical relationship to Haloa

I have been told that in "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. I strongly oppose this. Until there is a research base that proves the safety of GMOs, you must keep Hawai'i's biodiversity safe!

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the growing industry of taro farming by establishing a ban on GMO-taro... for the future of Hawai'i and all of its keiki.

Me ka mahalo,

Z Johnson

P.O. Box 796

Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Linda Louise Harmon
P.O. Box 257
P.O. Box 257
Hanapepe, HI 96716

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Barbara Bogorad
HC1 957
Kula, HI 96790

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Mel S Stephen Stark
795 Lake Holiday Drive
Sandwich, IL 605489318

815-498-2588

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Personal Note:

I'm currently studying Environmental Safety and you can't imagine all the things we are paying for from the past. I hope my voice is heard.

Mahalo

Alexis Horio

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Alexis Horio

98-1034 Moanalua Rd

LATE TESTIMONY

Apt 203
Aiea, HI 96701

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Alexa Watson
2608 Quartz Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831-566-0988

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Karen Holman
11-1440 Waikupanaha St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Marcia McDuffie
5691 1/2 San Pablo Dam Road
El Sobrante, CA 94803-3414

LATE TESTIMONY

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

James Pili
521 W. Lanikaula St.
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Nina Puhipau
67-427 Kekauwa Street
Waialua, HI 96791

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Richard Benton
Hawi rd.
Hawi, HI 96719

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

429-0479

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

ELLE COCHRAN
553 OFFICE RD.
laHAINA, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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845114 Painted Church Rd
Captain Cook, HI 96704

LATE TESTIMONY

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Joseph Joseph Bateman
1085 2nd Ave
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most affected by their activities.

Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control

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of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments. -Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.Malama Aina,

Sodengi Mills
P.O. Box 1163
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Evan Silberstein
3315 East Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

(808) 634-0359

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

heidi and gary garcia
p.o. box 223447
princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of natural (not GMO) taro farming in Waipi'o, Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kauanoelehua Chang
P.O Box 437148
Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Suzanna Ohoiner
2708 Kolo Pl. #7
Honolulu, HI 96826

(909) 292-5120

LATE TESTIMONY

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Nalei Kahakalau
P.O. Box 1764
Honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

douglas fox
pob 100
honaunau, HI 96726

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Malama Aina,

Deva Sage
Pohoiki Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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all this is just wrong for us hawaiians and affects everyone the people the land and the aina also this is affecting the land of the ancient people dont upset the island. just think our gods wouldnt want this today

Malama Aina,

william hardisty
48-5182 waipio rd.
honokaa, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Gary Wiseman
515 Pualani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,
Warren Kundis

Warren Kundis
94-141 Kuanalio Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789-2138

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Waimea Williams
45-539 Pahia Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Barb Kay
8 waipihia pl
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

William Golove
6610 Hill St
El Cerrito, CA 94530

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been growing taro in Kurtistown for nearly 30 years, and before that I grew taro on Oahu. On Our Malu-Aina farm we have more than 30 varieties of taro. Today we marketted organic taro leaves and root to Island Naturals Hilo store. Last Wed. we donated 50 pounds of taro leaf for the new Hawaiian pastor's luau at Ola'a Hawaiian Congregational Church in Kurtistown.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jim Albertini
P.O. Box AB
Kurtistown, HI 96760

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Lindyl Lanham
PO Box 30878
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Cindy Crawford
6821 E. Mantova St.
Long Beach, CA 90815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Cynthia Unmani Groves, Groves, Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consult
105 Kulipuu
Kihei, HI 96753

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David Bishaw
PO Box 933
PO Box 933 Hilo HI 96721
Hilo, HI 96721

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Scott Jarvis
PO Box 1664
Hanalei, HI 96714

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I AM
RR 2 Box 3330
Pahoa , HI 96778

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

jeani martin
4174 waileia place
princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

instrutor/supervisor Pualani Evangeline Kauila

instrutor/supervisor

2640 Dole Street Ste. 208

2640 Dole Street Ste. 208

Honolulu, HI 96816

945-1404

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Donna Werner
2172 Ilili Rd
Kihei, HI 96753

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Malama Aina,

Hilary Harts
51 Kamila St
Kula, HI 96790

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Malama Aina,

Kane Turalde
PO Box 1022
PO Box 1022
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400 Hualani Street
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

aaron ANDERSON
12-147 KIPUKA ST,
pahoa hi,, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro. More importantly though, Haloa is my ancestor and it would be spiritually damaging to me and my family if modifications were made to the genetic make up of my ancestor in some western lab. Cross pollination and human selection of particular strains of Haloa is one thing, but injecting foreign DNA is completely disrespectful.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes

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an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Janelle Williams
179 Liko Lehua St.
Hilo, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Without reservation I join the communities across our State in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties. The banning of GMO-taro is pono! I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Our God given, Naturally grown taro deserves the best available science- To alter the natural being of our Hawaiian staple, taro is not a road we'd loke to travel. We shouldn't tamper with Mother Nature's perfect package and we must remain steadfast in the ways we've fed generations past and those to come. We see the effects of growth hormones and the "progress of science" in our children and grandchildren today. The onset of puberty starts years before it should in may of our keiki. To say that we must prevent diease in taro is not reason enough to cause the irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations in our naturally-grown staple is unacceptable and a potential danger to all. It is essential to protect our unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farms and water sources-- without GMOs. .

Malama Aina,

EVELYN SOUZA
92-848 Palailai Street
Kapolei , HI 96707

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Steven Hookano
245 wailua road
haiku, HI 96708

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a beekeeper, I understand all too well the dangers of genetically engineered organisms contaminating the pollen collected by honeybees, and through them spreading into non-gmo crops. Pollen are microscopic particles and very difficult to contain. There is no need for genetic modification on such a healthy, and culturally sacred plant. There is no room in this already devastated ecology for mistakes! And mistakes always happen... killer bees, varroa mites, coqui... and these are all large organisms!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic

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modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

alison yahna
po box 679
ka'alualu rd
na'alehu, HI 96772

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am deeply concerned for the current and future generations regarding the genetic modification of foods.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

laura and andrew BINSTOCK
po box 1268
haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Gwen Ilaban

76-6182 Alii Drive

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Valerie Loh
2552 peter street
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kapa Oliveira
PO Box 61061
Honolulu, HI 96839

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

nancy kobayashi
p.o.box 44
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Cynthia Cynthia Taylor
P.O. Box 391179
Keauhou, HI 96739

808-937-2113

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

clawz lee

3226

ahinahina

hon, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I urge you to reject all genetic modification of taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. There are unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

I am not going to give you more detailed reasons of why there should be a ban on GMO-taro, as I know you have received such information already. Please thoroughly read that info and take it seriously, as you think about your vote on GMO-taro.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Malama Aina,

Marjorie Erway

PO Box 2807

Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Michael Daly
442 Kalaimoku St
Honolulu, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Taro is, without doubt, the Staff of Life in the Hawaiian Islands. This applies to all of us who reside here. As such, it is of utmost importance that the genome of taro remain whole and unbroken from genetic modification. Changing the life pattern and blueprint of taro is a violation against humanity.

I voice my concern to any who would consider the taro plant our property and not our partner in the cycle of life. Without our major food crops, we will not live, and changing their inherent nature is a setup for failure, starvation, and manipulation of the balance of power through controlling food sources.

Stop genetic modification in the Hawaiian Islands now.

Peace,

Eliza W. Goodhue

Eliza Goodhue
P O Box 791469
Paia, HI 96779

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Walter Maza
1916 Hokulei Pl
Puhi, HI 96766

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

tracy lyman
po box 171
kapaa, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Dana Moss
general delivery
Kapaau, HI 96755

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Shane Silva
85-1343 Puhinalo pl.
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

-Protect Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

I don't buy any GMO product. If there is GMO taro, I don't buy it. Most of people who I know are not consuming any GMO food or product, so they won't buy GMO taro, too.

Many of akamai people know what is pono, and what is not pono. Making GEO taro is not pono.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina, Malama pono,

Mayumi Marks

3109 Mapu PI Kihei

Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

P Ling
PO Box 779
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Paul Moss
1849 Whitaker St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Sheila Ward
265 Calle Sorbona Apt. 2
Urb. University Gardens
San Juan, PR 927

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Kim Young
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Paia, HI 96779

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Will Ware
65 Cadillac Sqr.
Detroit, MI 48226

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2289 5th Ave.
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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

rachel kattlove
3804 ahonui pl
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Ann Egleston
date Street
Honolulu, HI 96839

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Malama Aina,

James Lopez
8525 SW 29th St.
Topeka, KS 66614

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Malama Aina,

Carolyn Moore
5402 McKellips Rd. Lot 289
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Mesa, AZ 85215

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Testimony

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205 2nd Street Apt.1
Lewes, DE 19958

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Charles Alger
36475 Dubarko Rd
Sandy, OR 97055

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Summer Faria
2553 Komo Mai Dr.
Pearl City, HI 96782

387-1098

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Do not allow such unnatural practices to pollute Hawaiian taro or our sacred land. These false ways of farming are not wanted or needed.

For love of Mother Nature & good crops the way nature intended, Linda Lee Evans

Linda Lee Evans
387B Ocean Ave
387B Ocean Ave, Monterey, CA
Monterey, CA 93940

831-655-4979

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Anna Reycraft
12000 North Bayshore Drive
North Miami, FL 33181

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Maya Moiseyev
2302 Columbia Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Amy Marsh
1510 Francis Street
1510 Francis Street
Albany, CA 94706

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Kathy-Lyn Allen
2702 High Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Randal McEndree
135 Terrace Circle
Hilo, HI 96720

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Angela Spirrison
6501 Vanalden Ave
Unit 1
reseda, CA 91335

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Terry Tokuda
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73-4599 Kukuki St KK HI 96740
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33 Lokelau Place
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Diane Marshall
73 Hale Nani St.
Hilo, HI 94270

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina, a me ka mahalo nui loa no kou kokua!

Randy Bartlett
POB 11197
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Doreen Redford
98-288 Kaíonohi St.
#3004
Aiea, HI Aiea

486-2513

LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro. Leave our taro alone. It is just fine the way it is.

Malama Aina,

Richard Miller
PO Box 662083
Lihue, HI 96766

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

John Witeck
2252 Puna St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

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Pumehana Miriam paisner
3250 O'neal Cir #24-H
Boulder, CO 80301

303 447 9772 (c)

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Blessings of Love and Peace

Jeremai Cann
2680 ipulei pl
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Andrea jepson
1111 Koohoo Place

Kailua, HI 96734

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Monika Seiz
P.O.Box 876
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

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Victor Pellegrino
1420 Kilohi Street
Waikapu, HI 96793

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Diane Krieger
po box 208
Hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

CarolLee Averill
538 Pohai St
Kahului, HI 96732

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Isao Kaji
2039 bachelot st
honolulu, HI 94121

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

kimo stowell
nu'uanu ave
Honolulu, HI 96792

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

In my family we eat poi every week.

Please do not genetically alter this staple of our diet and our culture. I support taking care of the land from which the taro grows. Please help to assure steady, clean water sources for nourishing haloa. Please do change the plant's genetic structure.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lori Fernandez
P.O. Box 11197
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

leilea satori
po box 1200
honoka'a, HI 96727

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Zenna Galagaran
P.O. Box 847
Haleiwa, HI 96712

808-779-3268

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Anne Pierce
333 Haumana Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

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Alexander Jelinek
475 White Chapel Ave
San Jose, CA 95136

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Blake Drolson
PO Box 405
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Sharon Naehu
HC-01 Box 750
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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Kanoe Kapu
P.O. Box 10433
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Airielle Pearson
pmb 119 p o box 791540
Paia, HI 96779

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ella Alcon
170 Iliahi
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a subsistence taro farmer in Halawa and Waialua valleys in East Molokia, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Aloha Aina,

Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross
P.O. Box 1461
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lori Leimamo Buchanan
P.O. Box 220
P.O. Box 220
Kualapuu, HI 96757

(808) 553-5236

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

To Whom it may concern,

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Rosemary Bak
2801-N2 La-I Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Harmonee Williams
PO Box 1334
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Matt Yamashita
PO Box 1304
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Wendy Wells
188 Hale st. Apt. 6A
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Mariah Bath
20 Hoaka Rd
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Natashja Tong
87-101 Hookele St.
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I object to any genetically modification of taro. If this was a grass roots effort on the part of Hawaiians requesting research to be done, then it would be a different story. But this is science being crammed down the throat of Hawaiians. This science ignores the cultural significance of the taro as a food staple. The science ignores the relationship of taro to the Hawaiians as the "older brother", as a family member. Instead it is as if an surgical experiment is being preformed on a live conscious human being with the same amount of horror being expressed by the Hawaiian people.

Taro breeding programs are the best route to go, but genetically modification is unacceptable.

Catherine Aki

P.O. Box 788

Kauanakakai, HI 96748

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Malama Aina,

Satya Anubhuti
PO Box 1010
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Mary Detrick
8115 37th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers

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in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Donna Fischer
PO Box 1770
4258 Pua O' Kapoho
Pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Please do not support genetic testing on Taro in Hawaii. We already have contamination of organic crops by these biogenetic species in this state, and many studies show the harmful effects of genetic testing.

Sincerely,
Andrea Baer
Maui

Andrea Baer
Mapu Place
Mapu Place
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Evern Williams
3220 Esther Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. As a cancer survivor I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Annette Kaohelaulii
45-403 Koa Kahiko Street
45-403 Koa Kahiko Street
Kaneiohe, HI 96744

235-5431

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Faye Wallace
P.O. Box 935
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

It is unacceptable that the State puts in meager resources into biosecurity --- protecting Hawaii from alien plants, animals, and pathogens --- and as a consequence has new plant diseases that attack endemic, Polynesian, and agricultural plants and animals. The response should not be genetic engineering of the plants, which is a radical alteration of the genomes and population genetics of the species, with unknown consequences.

Growing studies show that GMO genes are impossible to contain, and spread out of control into populations where consent for the presence has not been given.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lee Altenberg

LATE TESTIMONY

2605 Lioholo Place
2605 Lioholo Place
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Cathy Robinson
774 Willow Springs Drive
Mobile, AL 36695

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Judith Waters
211 N. Makaleha Pl.
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Napua Leong
PO Box 73
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Elin Sand
HCR 3 Box 10056
Kea'au, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Barbara Best
280 Hauoli
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Robert Frutos
po box 1214
Volcano, HI 96785

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha, my name is Walter Ritte and I am in strong support of protecting Kalo (Haloa) from GMO. I am speaking as a Hawaiian who grows and eats Kalo, and a Hawaiian who has a serious kuleana to protect my eldest brother Haloa, the first born of our people.

Our culture, geneology and traditions have been ignored by the University of Hawaii and the Biotec Industry. Our first born has been genetically modified and patented by the University of Hawaii without the consent of the Hawaiian people.

We demand protection, Hawaiians and taro farmers want legislative protection for Haloa, we have petitions with over 6,000 signatures.

This issue has become an embaressment to this state as the health, safety and culture of the people is being jeapordized to protect the Biotec Industry.

To not place rules, protections and guidelines for a new industry breeds mistrust.

Hawaiians like my self will not go away, we have been here for thousands of years. We will not accept industries that threaten our lands, our families our existence.

We demand and we will not stop demanding until Haloa is protected by law. Walter Ritte

walter ritte

po box 486

kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I write to oppose genetic modification of all taro varieties.

My opposition is based on the unknown health risks, irreversible consequences to ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible genetic mutations that could not occur naturally. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii.

Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Given that safer methods are available, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro.

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate.

GMO-taro is not the same. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

Taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity.

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

LATE TESTIMONY

The biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii.

I do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

John Schinnerer
HC2 Box 6482
Kea'au, HI 96749

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Mahalo for the opportunity to declare my support for a ban of any genetic modification of taro in the state of Hawai'i. The mere rumor of genetically modified taro on Kaua'i has tainted the perception of all taro on our island. Farmers, growers and consumers, have begun questioning where huli is coming from. Since you cannot tell by looking and DNA testing is not an option without knowing which genetic construct has been forcefully inserted, people are beginning to steer away from sharing planting material. As we grow into sustainable food security, we do not want to create future roadblocks for farmers and growers by having to contend with a living pollution such as GE plants.

This technology has placed a burden onto growers to protect their crops from contamination, instead of the purveyors of this plant modified with unrelated species to be contained by the patent holder. We have seen with GMO papaya that markets are lost, seed banks are contaminated and pollen travels to organic farms.

Never before in the history of mankind have we crossed plants with unrelated plant DNA, or plants with animal DNA, and even plants with human DNA. This science is in question in many countries around the globe. To allow GM food into our food supply and onto store shelves without labeling, goes against consumers trust.

We are what we eat, and eating healthy is our first line of health insurance. For mothers with children who have food allergies, taro is a safe and nutritious food that they can depend on.

It is more important for us to fallow and feed the soil with green manures, and keep taro healthy and productive in our state. Alternatives to chemical farming do exist and are healthier for the land and the people

Farmers don't want genetically engineered huli, Hawaiians do not want their ancestor's DNA altered by forceful gene manipulation, and consumers don't want to eat it. Changing the genetics of a hypo allergenic food is a very bad choice. I cannot name another food that is hypo allergenic, can you?

We are seeing an increase in food allergies related to the crops that have been genetically manipulated in the lab, like corn, soy, canola and wheat. There is something inherently dangerous about inserting a gene randomly with attached viral promoters that turn on all coded traits, some traits are certainly better left off in the case of dormant disease genes.

Please protect all varieties of taro in our state of Hawai'i for future generations. This crop has a large market, and genetic engineering would only hurt us economically, as well as culturally and environmentally.

Please malama Haloa, so that Haloa can malama us.

LATE TESTIMONY

Malama Aina,

Jeri Di Pietro
PO Box 338
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

David Johnston
PO Box 388
Puuhene, HI 96784

573-3250

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

GMO Free Kaua'i is a group of over 3000 people concerned about the lack of science and regulation regarding genetically engineered food crops and the patenting of seed.

As we work towards meaningful ways to achieve food sovereignty, genetically engineered test fields are limiting our choices and steering jobs away from our island.

We support a ban of any genetic modification of taro in the state of Hawai'i.

Since you cannot tell a genetically engineered plant by looking, and DNA testing is not an option without knowing which genetic construct has been forcefully inserted, people are beginning to steer away from sharing planting material.

As we grow into sustainable food security, we do not want to create future roadblocks for farmers and growers by having to contend with a living pollution such as GE plants.

This technology has placed a burden onto growers to protect their crops from contamination, instead of the purveyors of this plant modified with unrelated species to be contained by the patent holder.

We have seen with GMO papaya that markets are lost, seed banks are contaminated and pollen travels to organic farms.

Never before in the history of mankind have we crossed plants with unrelated plant DNA, or plants with animal DNA, and even plants with human DNA. This science is in question in many countries around the globe. To allow GM food into our food supply and onto store shelves without labeling, goes against consumers trust.

It is more important for us to fallow and feed the soil with green manures, and keep taro healthy and productive in our state. Alternatives to chemical farming do exist and are healthier for the land and the people and wildlife.

Farmers don't want genetically engineered huli, Hawaiians do not want their ancestor's DNA altered by forceful gene manipulation, and consumers don't want to eat it. Changing the genetics of a hypoallergenic food is a very bad choice.

We are seeing an increase in food allergies related to the crops that have been genetically manipulated in the lab, like corn, soy, canola and wheat. There is something inherently dangerous about inserting gene randomly with attached viral promoters that turn on all coded traits, some traits are certainly better left off in the case of dormant disease genes.

Please protect all varieties of taro in our state of Hawai'i for future generations. This crop has a large

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market, and genetic engineering would only hurt us economically, as well as culturally and environmentally.

Please malama Haloa the taro.

Friends of GMO Free Kaua`i
PO Box 343
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

dinda Evans
POB 178695
San Diego, CA 92177

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Noyita Saravia
56-154 Puuluana Pl. #53
Kahuku, HI 96731

293-1871

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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LATE TESTIMONY

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

aerie WATERS
star route 4
hana, HI 96713

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

You must realize, that there is no way, as Hawaiians, that we will allow you to touch, change, or shake up the gene of the Taro!

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown, taro is the sacred foundation of our agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people.

If you so boldly disrespect or desecrate Taro, you will have to face the out come.

Donna Morgan

Steve Morgan

P.O. Box 72

Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Alison Miller
140 Uwapo St bldg 32-204
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ken Ng
3557 Butler Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90066

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Kawika Estrella
PO Box 482239
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ikaika Pestana
3828 Diamond Head Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii, I would like to point out that I NEVER buy anything I know to be genetically modified.

At some point soon, people the world over are going to notice that nature must be honored if we are to survive. Genetic Modification is not only a profanity, it serves no one but corporations like Monsanto.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Richard Welker
1303 Luana Street

Santa Fe, NM 87505

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Because I believe in the precautionary principle and that unintended consequences are usually impossible to correct,

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Saran Kirschbaum
1710 Bagley Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90035-4110

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

normand dufresne
p.o. box 587
pahoa, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

zach franks
875 kumulani dr.
kihei, HI 96753

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am against GMO taro, and extremely upset about the health consequences as a result. There should be no tampering of a natural plant, and especially because in our Hawaiian culture, the kalo is representative of our ancestry.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lei Kihoi
P.O. Box 1746
P.O. Box 1746
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I enjoy fresh taro and a variety of products currently using taro grown in Hawai'i. I join farmers and consumers in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. Like many citizens, I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harm to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Other countries have outlawed GMO for all farm products until those risks are established. As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by passing SB 709 and HB 1663 which ban GMO-taro.

Sincerely,

Pam Haight
2821 Orange St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jaime Ferreira
513 prospect street
honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I would like to add my voice to the chorus supporting a ban on the genetic modification of all taro varieties in Hawaii. I feel it is arrogant to allow this level of cultural disrespect. Taro is not just a plant to the native Hawaiian's; it is a fundamental part of their culture. Furthermore, genetic modification of food plants exposes us to unknown health risks and potential harm to our local farming economy.

Abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of Hawaii's traditional culture. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the plants we depend on for nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dawn Boucher
962 Iulani Street
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jason Winnett
Chain of Craters Rd
Kalapana, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Clayton Lee
1301 Lusitana St. #812
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Kalo is our elder. How could anyone genetically modify an elder? Might as well try to genetically modify your grandmother.

Leave the taro the way the kapuna left it.

Say no to GMO.

Thanks,

Jason Winnett

Kalapana

Jason Winnett

Chain of Craters Rd

Kalapana, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kevin Brown
HC1 Box 628
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

U'ilani Nakagawa
2985 Ohi Ohi Street
Iihue, HI 96766

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Malama Aina,

Suzanne Villeneuve
563 Kaupakalua rd
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

DALE DAY
KUMULOULU
PAHOA, HI 96778

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Jamie Ronzello
p.o. box 1889
kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Please respect the root of Hawaiian culture - taro - from being irrevocably altered. History would not look favorably upon anyone who would vote to approve genetic modification of taro, a woeful legacy for even the best of legislators.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Judy Dalton
4330 Kauai Beach Drive
4330 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue, HI 96766

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Rev. Susan Sanford
PO Box 97
PO Box 97
Mountain View, HI 96771

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro..

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RR4, Box 2333
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Malama Aina,

lisa Damon
139B Puako Beach Dr.
Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Joan VanSelous
1954 Grove
Highland, MI 48356

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kalani Kalima
810 N. Vineyard
810 N. Vineyard
Honolulu, HI 96816

808 832 3495

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

esther szegedy

6 st

Kea'au, HI 96749

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Malama Aina,

Raenette Rogers
22 Amber Drive
Delta, PA 17314

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Kathryn Ku'uilei Letkey
290 Lee St. #204
Oakland, CA 94610

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Nancy Langeneckert
4550 Napier Rd.
Canton, MI 48187

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jackie pualani Raines
1111 berkeley ct
Ontario, CA 91762

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Malama Aina,

Liza Keanuenuokalani Williams
1054 Green St. #303
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Daniel Tanaka

Kamaile

Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Representing the collective voice of many residents from the island of Molokai, I am asking our Hawaii State Legislature to protect our island as well as the State of Hawaii from the potentially damaging effects occurred by the introduction, propagation and experimentation of genetic modification of all taro varieties grown within the State of Hawaii.

The introduction of genetically engineered taro has the potential of creating irreversible damage to our native ecosystems, demonstrates a complete disregard for Native Hawaiian Culture and allows for privatized patenting of Hawaii's natural resources.

The genetic modification of crops in general is an infant science whose complete effects are yet to be known. Many documented cases of the harmful health effects on humans of GMO crops exist including- allergenic problems, respiratory problems, intestinal reactions and skin problems. Further conclusion through reasonable scientific deduction suggests increases in miscarriages, birth defects and cancer. Regardless of these evidences, adequate studies in regard to the effects of GMO crops on humans have not been conducted.

In laboratory tests on mice and rats scientific laboratory tests unequivocally reveal that genetically modified crops have caused damage to kidneys, stomach lesions, sterility, excessive cell growth to the small intestine and even death. Field studies on cows, goats, sheep and pigs have revealed similar devastating results.

Taro remains the world's only allergy-free carbohydrate and contributes significantly to the welfare and health of human life. On the other hand the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus, any transgenic contamination to indigenous varieties of taro as well as to other natural growing varieties of taro, has the potential of robbing Native Hawaiians and consumers alike of this uniquely important medicinal food source.

At this time we understand there to be no proven benefits of GMO Taro to taro farmers or consumers and all proposed benefits remain to be purely speculative. The Taro Security and Purity Task Force, established under Act 211, has acknowledged that GMO Taro is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming or the most suitable option in protecting consumers in Hawaii. Options for the control of taro disease include cold water induction, reduction of over planting and recent developments which include the introduction of non contaminating fish toxins to successfully control such diseases.

In representing the community of Molokai, we will not tolerate such disrespect of our culture, blindly except the potential damaging consequences to our 'aina or except the health risks placed upon our people .

Mahalo,

LATE TESTIMONY

Steve Morgan/ Hui Ho'opakele 'Aina

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Steve Morgan
P.O. Box 72
Maunaloa, HI 96770

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Hallie Van Patton
163 Chatham Rd.
APT B
Asheville, NC 28804

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

james trujilloq
1728 Hulu Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is Seth Raabe. I am a farmer at Kikoo in Kipahulu on the Island of Maui. I plant kalo along with many other things in a natural way. There is always abundance so we are supported economically as well as physically nourished.

I firmly believe that a viable future for these Islands can only be achieved by returning to balance with our environment.

This is why I am calling out to all of you to support the bill banning genetic modification of our life staple. To not protect our main food source in a natural state would be sheer stupidity. Look around the world. Look at Mexico... contaminated beyond repair. Hawaii nei is the heartland of the kalo plant; by far the greatest diversity of varieties in one place on Earth. I hope this is common knowledge for all of you making this decision.

So I respectfully ask each and every one of you voting on these bills to look into your heart and ask what is more important for our future: continuing the natural legacy of the kalo plant, or giving it up for an elite sector to gain patent rights and power to alter our life staple. Think of the consequences of both paths.

From Kipahulu,

Seth Raabe
HCR1 Box 170
Hana, HI 96713

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Gordon Noice
1720 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Keoki Baclayon
91-1209 Kaneana St J-7
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join ohana and communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties. This ban on GMO-taro is crucial not only for the species, but for Hawaiian culture. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

While GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

claire Sanders

74-5602 alapa St. #350

DO NOT SHARE OR SELL THIS ADDRESS PLEASE

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Richard Powers
P.O. Box244
Naalehu, HI 96772

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Shien-lu Stokesbary
1336 Argonne Ave
Long Beach, CA 90804

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Sandra morey
3461 Laguna Ave
Oakland, CA 94602

LATE TESTIMONY

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norbert farrell
3461 laguna ave
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Malama Aina,

Sephera Dandurand
1194 Akumu Street
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

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mark jacobs
23 kulawai pl
maunaloa, HI 96770

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Malama Aina,

Carlton Kalani Handley JR.

567 uluhaku st

kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is PuaNani Rogers, and I live on Kauai where most of our kalo from poi is grown. Poi is a most important food for me, my family and especially our na keiki. Please do not allow scientist to genetically modify any taro varieties. It would make us hesitate about feeding it to our na keiki, our na mo`opuna.

I support any science that will protect our kalo from disease, apple snails, water studies to replenish and purify our streams and rivers that feed our lo`i.

Therefore, I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Please listen to the people of our community, I am a kupuna and am speaking for my generation as well as for the next, and the next, and the next generations yet to be born.

Mahalo for voting NO to GMO-kalo!

Puanani Rogers
4702 Mailihuna Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

821-2267

LATE TESTIMONY

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1809 B Lanakila Ave
Honolulu, HI 96817

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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ingrid Tillman
HCR2 Box 6954
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Keaiaua, HI 96749

808-966 5093

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

ashley osler

Puuopae

Kappa - , HI 96746

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Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago, IL 60680

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Malama Aina,

Leiana Lobre
1204 Elizabeth Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Elizabeth McCormick
13-6348 Kapoho-Kalapana
Pahoa, , HI 96778

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232-5413

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

nohealani casperson
p.o. box 6106
hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

becky robison
1049 uluopihl loop
kailua, HI 96734

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Cindy A. Lance
2711 Anuenue St.
Cindy
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-988-4408

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Brett Thomas
4125 Black Point Road
Honolulu, , HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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919 Kainui
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178 Horse Pond Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776

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Taro is the sacred foundation of our Hawaiian Culture, unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically

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increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Dolly Keahiolalo Crawford
1810 Double D Drive
El Cajon, CA 92021

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Sara Bartlett-Valente
59-618 Akanoho Pl.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

pete sayer
pobox767
makawao, HI 96768

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Genetic Modification of taro is immoral, scientifically weak and an affront to the cultural and spiritual values of native Hawaiians. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Nancy McPherson
PO Box
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Raphael Kealoha Kaliko
1671 Pensacola St. Apt. E
1671 Pensacola St. Apt. E
Honolulu, HI 96822

349-6412

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Liam Gray Gray
45-426 Ohaha St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Testimony

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Lindsay McDougall
706-650 Parliament Street
Toronto, ON M4X1R3

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Danielle Ledward
67 Tower Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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Malama Aina,

lauren achitoff

po 110

Kaaawa, HI 96730

LATE TESTIMONY

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Marcia Lee Timboy
P.O. Box 10523
Hilo, HI 96721

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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3145-A Makamae Pl
KIHEI, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lisa Kasprzycki
411 Haumana Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

kamuela E Moraes
p.o. box 612
volcano, HI 96785

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Malama Aina,

Daphne O. Sing
P. O. Box 2332
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Faith M. Willcox
47 Junction Rd.
Westport, ME 04578

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Testimony

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PO Box 603
Papaikou, HI 96781

LATE TESTIMONY

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Fern Anuenue Holland
4664B Apopo Rd
Kapa'a, Kauai, HI 96746

8088230619

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Malama Aina,

mikel Athon
1468 bear creek road
cedar hill, TX 75104

972-291-8372

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Raechel Doughtyq
375 Church St.
North Adams, MA 01247

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Sari Powell
284 Keanae Rd
Keanae, HI 96708

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032472799949

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Nadalin
7079 Seitz Rd
Felton, PA 17322-8718

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Haley Ann Bupil
PO Box 1033
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

LATE TESTIMONY

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4223 Kaimanahila St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Malama Aina,

Billie Dawson
PO Box 1206
Kalaheo, HI 96741

LATE TESTIMONY

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Shannon Dodge
6820 s. pENNSYLVANIA sTREET
Centennial , CO 80122

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Dana YK Shim-Palama
3886A pAPALINA RD.
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Carolyn Keala Norman
Mikohu St #21C
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been researching genetic modification and am thoroughly convinced that it is a TERRIBLE idea. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

andrew binstock
po box 1268
haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Faith Rose
342 Ainakula Rd
Kula, HI 96790

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Deborah Sevy
77-6477 Seaview Circle
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Alea Schechter
1777 Ala Moana Blvd. #813
Honolulu, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

courtney Bruch

Piiholo

Makawao, HI 96768

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Victor Pellegrino
1420 Kilohi Street
Waikapu, HI 96793

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Susan Bender
73-1326 Awakea Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Tia Christensen
PO box790717
Paia, HI 96779

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Malama Aina,

Barb Kay
Kuiaha
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Mahina Lenta
po box 1405
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2771 Ohina St
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Unmani Groves, Groves, Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consult
105 Kulipuu
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Sydney Seaver
P O Box 922
1260 Makawao Ave.
Makawao, HI 96768

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Suzzana Goodwin
3543C Baldwin Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

melody Zeitler
24 mano
kula, HI 96790

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Felicia Waialae
94-207 Waipahu Street
306
Waipahu, HI 96797

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madeleine migenes
2590 Alohia Street
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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

randy keller
75 Kino St
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Jane Rubey
75-5719B Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

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naima hills
270 auhana rd
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Rose Zellers
1017 Walker Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

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2250 King Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

stephen skogman
1333 kekaulike ave.
kula, HI 96790

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Jane Saeger
126A Front Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Catherine Ann Okimoto
RR4 Box 2251
14-869 Hapu'u Rd.
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Ramon Mitra
22 Inoa Po Pi
Kahului, HI 96732

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Jeannie Pheasant
5641 Kahiliholo Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Malama Aina,

darlene toth
box 215
maunaloa, HI 96770

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Debi Wilson
P. O. Box 7
Anahola, HI 96703

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Tinker Blomfield
59-473 Hoalike Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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Malia Hall
1176 Ocala Avenue
San Diego, CA 91911

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Jan Celebrado
911017 B Hawea St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

LATE TESTIMONY

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2137 Kaumualii st.
Honolulu, HI 96819 #3

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

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716 Lukepane Ave. #410
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Malama Aina,

Eva Kapelaonaalii Collins
89-327 Palikea St.
Wai?anae, HI 96792

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Malama Aina,

TammyLeigh Mahuka
85-638 Farrington Highway#1006
Waianae, HI 96792

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Rose Benjamin
234 Ohua Ave #109
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Malama Aina,

kathy valier
4771 B Powerhouse Rd
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Victoria Hanohano-Hong
1020 E. Jefferson St.
Chardin Hall
Seattle, WA 98122

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Sharol Awai
940 AINAKO AVE
Hilo, HI 96720

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Testimony

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I am of Native Hawaiian ancestry. My ancestors cultivated kalo as a means of survival and reverent honor to Haloa. The Hawaiian World View is one of being "part" of the land, not "master" of the land and animal inhabitants. Hawaiians, for the most part, worked with nature, honored nature by giving back and taught these practices throughout the ages.

These environmental practices shouldn't be ignored, shouldn't be negated because of its simplicity and should be recognized as the future. History is cyclical and it is time for us, as people, to return to the traditional methods of agriculture. Besides, modern technology has brought us to disconnect from each other, from the land, from the Earth and compartmentalized our lives. We are not superior to nature, we are subservient.

Malama Aina,

Christine Makahilahila
PO Box 124
Captain Cook, HI 96704

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

i am Rino Kalamalino'lino'onalani Geremen, better known as Lino. I am the hawaiian studies makua at kuhio elem. i strongly support this bill for no gmo in kalo.

please put a stop to this and make it pono. leave our kalo alone don't try to mess it up. kalo is our ohana.

how would yall feel if we did something stupid to something yall own? would that be okay with you? i don't think so. once again leave our kalo alone.... no gmo...

hewa....

Rino Geremen

2250 ahe st. 52 a

honolulu, HI 96816

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators and Representatives

-Kalo is a hypoallergenic food.

If you mess around with that, it ain't going to be hypoallergenic anymore.

-GMO kalo will contaminate our organic taro.

Take away our livelihood.

We cannot coexist.

-GMO proponents are only thinking about chemicals and their pockets.

-It's not going to be a pure taro anymore.

Pure taro is going to be like an artifact.

You will only find it in the museum.

Please support a BAN on GMO KALO in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Demetri Rivera

Kalo farmer

Wai`oli, Hanalei, Kaua`i

Member of Onipa`a na Hui Kalo, an inclusive statewide organization.

Presently member of Kauai Taro Growers Association (KTGA),

which does NOT represent my views on kalo.

demetri rivera

p.o.box 114

kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Deirdre Moana Tavares
72 Halaulani Place
Hilo, HI 96720

989-1801

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Kahea!

Hear us.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Rosemary Alles
PO Box 1430
Kamuela HI 96743
Kameula, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

William Bryant
1181-b Mokuhano Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

395-4755

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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LATE TESTIMONY

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Richard Benton
Hawi rd.
Hawi, HI 96719

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Tristen Wanke
P.O. Box # 2
makawao, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Stephen Dinion
1441 Victoria St. #505
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Malama Aina,

Robert Wagner
3100 Sweetwater Rd
Apt. 3112
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

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Malama Aina,

Iokepa Casumbal-Salazar
2626B. Pauoa Rd., Honolulu, HI
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Jacques Bargiel
1054 Kainui Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734

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Carol Murry
555 University Ave. #1800
Honolulu, HI 96826

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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Malama Aina,

Wandalea Walker
P.O. Box 690
4393 Ulua St.
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Miki kaipaka
4330 Kauai Beach Drive, G8
Lihue, HI 96766

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Vicki Spina
po box 556
Anahola, HI 96703

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Malama Aina,

barton susan
41-1680 Kaala Rd
O'okala, HI 96774

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POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Denise Lytle
73 Poplar St.
Fords, NJ 08863

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Deva Sage
Pohoiki Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Jenna Byrne
PO Box 413
Willits, CA 95490

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Malama Aina,

Jeff Sacher
PO Box 44910
Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Deborah Sevy
77-6477 Seaview Circle
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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Malama Aina,

PHYLLIS FLOWERS
2325 SALMON DR
WILLITS, CA 95490

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

FREDDIE LONG
24378 BIRCH DRIVE
WILLITS, CA 95490

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Malama Aina,

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

429-0479

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Leilani Resurreccion
P.O. Box 1077
Naalehu , HI 96772

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I would like to add my voices to the many calling for the banning of all GMO taro and other GMO experimentation in Hawai'i.

We can't afford to fall victim to false assurances about the safety of these experiments; we literally have no where to go.

David Adam Edelstein
11336 23rd Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98125

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Testimony

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Shannon Taylor Monkowski
p.o. box 181
Holualoa, HI 96725

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Project Manager
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Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jeri Baumgardner
75-5719 B Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kim Hahn
37 Sirard Lane
San Rafael, CA 94901

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of ANY & ALL taro varieties and by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro.

I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems and cultural disrespect as well as by the patenting, bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are inseparable from GMO-taro.

* Taro Deserves the Best Available Science *

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations. Safety of GMP-taro to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits and is not the best available technology to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii.

Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Since safer and community-integrated varieties exist, no need or demand exists for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

* Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro *

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate.

GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions.

Furthermore, unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands would be massive and irreversible.

* Community and Ethical Concerns re: GMO-Taro*

Cultivated for centuries on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our

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unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people.

The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and extreme importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed by corporate interests without regard for impacts on the Hawaiian community and without community consent, raising serious ethical concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

* Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro *

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, the taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro patents and experiments cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

* Legal and Governance Concerns about Pre-emption Legislation *

In retribution for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "pre-emption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to pre-empt legitimate local government regulations that protect public health.

Pre-empting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns -- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

* Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro! *

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care which it is shown. There is no proven need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor to patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision-makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal water diversions, and increasing operating costs has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii.

With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

LATE TESTIMONY

Patricia Matejcek
PO Box 2067
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Randy Bartlett
POB 11197
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Leimomi Martin
128 A Behtends Ave
Juneau, AK 99901

907-723-2708

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

CHRISTINE Kauahikaua
PO BOX 50
WAIMANALO, HI 96795

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Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Julie Alessio
1688 Wailuku Dr
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Lisette Langlois
55 Kii Rd
Waimea, HI 96796

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Malama Aina,

Cristian Ellauri
184 North King St.
honolulu, HI 96817

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Malama Aina,

Saw Ching
2740 Kuilei St.
Honolulu, HI 96826

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Bobbie Alicen
HCR 2, Box 6824
Kea'au, HI 96749

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Curt Sumida
41-1009 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
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783-2440

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LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Michal Stover
3300 Kalihiwai Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Pete Shimazaki shimazaki Doktor
2002G Hunnewell St.
2002G Hunnewell St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

943-8484

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Karen Rudolph
370 Solana Drive
Los Altos, CA 94022

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Dear Senators,

I support SB709, with amendments, to protect all natural taro, and to ban genetically altered taro. I support the amendments that the taro farmers themselves are proposing, by changing the bill language to reflect that of HB1663. The amendments protect all varieties of taro and the economic viability of the local taro industry. The health of our communities and our visitor industry will also be protected from the unknown risks of this untested technology. We cannot assume that genetically engineered taro is safe until proven so.

We cannot risk the loss of any more biodiversity throughout our island ecosystem.

We must respect the cultural beliefs of native Hawaiians, and leave these sacred ancestral roots intact. Hawaiian farmers have maintained the largest number of taro varieties for over 1200 years. Please, support this living legacy.

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

Teacher Mary Lacques

Teacher

P.O. Box 14

P.O. Box 14 Hale'iwa HI 96712

Haleiwa, HI 96712

783-8400

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Malama Aina,

Kimo ?

1634 nuuanu ave

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honolulu, HI 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Selina Heaton
P.O. Box 30867
Anahola, HI 96703

(760) 208-1820

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lauryn Galindo
po box 982
hanalei, HI 96714

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Caitlin Ross Odom
Po Box 569
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Judith Waters
211 N. Makaleha Pl.
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

sue lindequist
Kaohe Rd
kilauea, HI 96754

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Malama Aina,

Pilipo Souza
47-774 Hui Ulili Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Vickie Innis
538 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

wainani texeira
po box 492311
keaaau , HI 96749

989-3606

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Carolyn Keala Norman
91-1020 Mikohu St #21C
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

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Malama Aina,

heidi and gary garcia
p.o. box 223447
princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

robert mceldowney
po box 450
laupahoehoe, HI 96764

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Malama Aina,

Mary M. Brewer
Box 607
Box 607
Haleiwa, HI 96712

(808) 239-2121

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Molly ?

Dolestreeet

Honolulu, HI 96822

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Nai`a Newlight
45 Laenui Place
Pa`ia, HI 96779-8110

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,
Sheldon Keahiawakea Brown
Wai`ehu Maui

Sheldon Brown
761 Malaihi Rd
Wailuku, HI 96792

870-1584

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Michal Carrillo
PO Box 263
Hawi, HI 96719

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Martina Roels

Gorinchemstraat 52

Sint Niklaas-Belgium, ot 84635/9100

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Douglas Phillips
PO Box 44910
Kamuela, HI 96743

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Thomas Tizard
591-A Keolu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Margaret Campbell
P.O. Box 81599
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Andrea Slevin
PO Box 223875
Princeville, HI 96722

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Sharlynn Paet
716A Olokele Ave Apt B
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Mel S Stephen Stark
795 Lake Holiday Drive
Sandwich, IL 605489318

815-498-2588

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Brad Parsons
P.O. Box 223374
Princeville, HI 96722

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Elisha Belmont
10491 Cunningham
Westminster, CA 92683

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Dana Moss
general delivery
Kapaau, HI 96755

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join Hawaiian communities in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Paul Moss

1849 Whitaker St.

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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Malama Aina,

Christine Putzulu
886 Lemi Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

LATE TESTIMONY

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Malama Aina,

Janelle Williams
179 Liko Lehua St.
Hilo, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Will Ware
65 Cadillac Sqr.
Detroit, MI 48226

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280 Hauoli
Wailuku, HI 96793

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

David Storch
45 Mayfair Ct.
Brick, NJ 08723

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Tibor Weinreb
1041 e 83 st
Brooklyn, NY 11236

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Malama Aina,

Lindsay McDougall
706-650 Parliament Street
Toronto, ON M4X1R3

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Malama Aina,

jesse soto

7141n 23lane

phoneix , AZ 850021

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Malama Aina,

Cathy Robinson
774 Willow Springs Drive
Mobile, AL 36695

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago, IL 60680

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Kathryn Ku'uilei Letkey
290 Lee St. #204
Oakland, CA 94610

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

glory dassi
HCR 74 Box 22210
El Prado, NM 87529

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road #113
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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

No GMO crops in Hawaii - NONE!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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LATE TESTIMONY

an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Judith Lyon
PO Box 112953
Anchorage, AK 99511

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Keani Kaleimamanu

P.O. Box 7220

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Hilo, HI 96720

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Diana Lopez
3260 Field Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Anthony Olayon
HCR 1 BOX 4011
Kea'au, HI 96749

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ANN CAMPBELL Walenta
86-660 LUALUALEI
HMSTD ROAD
WAIANAE, HI 96792

808 696 4280

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Malama Aina,

Amy Marsh
1510 Francis Street
1510 Francis Street
Albany, CA 94706

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beverlea weaver
PO Box 1679
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Malama Aina,

tina horowitz
4701 pine street m8
philadelphia, PA 19143

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kathy-Lyn Allen
2702 High Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

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Malama Aina,

Pualani Baptista
98-1725 Kupukupu Street
Aiea, HI 96701

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We fooled with mother nature by pollutants and now we've reap the whirlwind resulting in global warming, melting icecaps, intense urays thru a tear in the ozone, sick seas and sea animals. Let's stop rape of mother nature.

Malama Aina,

Joseph Nu'uanu, S.M.
Retired Educator & CEO
22683 Alcalde Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

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Testimony

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Dwynn Kamai
1238 Kaeleku St
Honolulu, HI 96825

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916 Niulani Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Terry Tokuda
POB 648
73-4599 Kukuki St KK HI 96740
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Robert Mitnick
PO Box 416
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708

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2531 Titcomb St
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Malama Aina,

Pumehana Miriam paisner
3250 O'neal Cir #24-H
Boulder, CO 80301

303 447 9772 (c)

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Desdra Dawning
25626
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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LATE TESTIMONY

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Cha Smith
4117 Black Point Road
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Britany M.K.M. Edwards
89-125 Mano Ave.
Wai'anae, HI 96792

668-2386

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,
Laura N. Quintal

Laura Quintal
1111 Fort St. Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

CarolLee Averill
538 Pohai St
Kahului, HI 96732

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

jamie oshiro
1801 b 10th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

We know from our work with GMO crop research around the world, that GMO strains cause massive inflammatory response in lab animals and in humans. The dissected bodies of rats exposed to GMO diets have greatly-enlarged livers, spleens and kidneys, nearly 3x their normal size. This is a clear indication of the body desperately attempting to clear this toxic material from the system, and the response in human beings, measured by massive increases in fibrin in live blood analyses, proves similar findings.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Tony B. Rich
59-1526 Kohala Ranch Road

LATE TESTIMONY

Kamuela, HI 96743-8536

808.756.0504

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jennifer Kane
15 N. Hiena Place
Makawao, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

Ann Van Eps
P O Box 1378, 10989 Kamehameha V Hwy
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SB 709 SD 1

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(END)