
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY
OF IMPLEMENTING A LABELING SYSTEM FOR GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED FOODS.

1 WHEREAS, the growth of genetically engineered food
2 production has been swift and pervasive throughout the nation;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, the term "genetically engineered food" most
6 commonly refers to crop plants created for human or animal
7 consumption using the latest molecular biology techniques in the
8 laboratory to enhance desired traits such as increased
9 resistance to herbicides or improved nutritional content; and

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11 WHEREAS, the effort to incorporate genetically engineered
12 foods into the general food supply is sometimes met with
13 resistance from consumers; and

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15 WHEREAS, numerous nations, including Japan, the Republic of
16 China, and countries of the European Union, require labeling of
17 genetically engineered foods; and

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19 WHEREAS, developing and implementing an effective means of
20 identifying genetically engineered products would help mitigate
21 consumers' fears and uncertainties; and

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23 WHEREAS, local agricultural producers and retailers could
24 benefit from a consistent labeling system to better inform
25 consumers of the varying methods employed to develop
26 agricultural products; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is
31 requested to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of



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1 implementing a labeling system for food products that contain
 2 genetically engineered material, including clear and objective
 3 methods to identify genetically engineered material; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
 6 the report also consider the impact of legislation that:
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8 (1) Mandates the labeling of food products that contain
 9 genetically engineered material; and
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11 (2) Establishes sanctions for violations of the labeling
 12 requirement; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 15 requested to collaborate with the Attorney General, the
 16 Department of Agriculture, and local agricultural producers and
 17 retailers in preparing the report; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 20 requested to submit the report no later than twenty days prior
 21 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
 25 the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Attorney
 26 General, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau
 27 Federation, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
 28 Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, the Chairperson of the Board
 29 of the Hawaii Farmers Union, the Chief Executive Officer of the
 30 Hawaii Food Industry Association, and the Chairperson of the
 31 Executive Committee of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.
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[Signature]

OFFERED BY:

Mele Cama

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Wella A. Beletti

