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## HOUSE 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;  
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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, that the Director of Health is requested to report to  
31 the Legislature on the feasibility of implementing a labeling  
32 system for food products that contain genetically engineered  
33 material, including clear and objective methods to identify  
34 genetically engineered material; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the report also consider the impact of legislation that:

- (1) Mandates the labeling of food products that contain genetically engineered material; and
- (2) Establishes sanctions for violations of the labeling requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to collaborate with the Attorney General, the Department of Agriculture, and local agricultural producers and retailers in preparing the report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit the report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, the Chairperson of the Board of the Hawaii Farmers Union, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: Melo Carroll

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MAR 15 2011