

Kauai County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

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The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture

LATE TESTIMONY



March 28, 2011

ATTN: Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee

RE: HR 154 and HB 178
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in OPPOSITION
Roy Oyama, President

HEARING DATE: March 29, 2011, 9am, Rm 329

Kauai County Farm Bureau on behalf of our member farm and ranch families, and affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, **that you HOLD HR 154 and HB 178 in committee.**

We believe this is a regulatory issue best handled at the Federal level. Our resources are limited to ensure at a State level that any system that differs from Federal guidelines would be scientifically and factually accurate or serve our Hawaii consumers any better than what is currently in place.

Federal law already requires accurate food labels that communicate information relevant to health, safety and nutrition of all food products sold in the United States. State based labeling requirements that differ from these established and enforced federal guidelines would be costly to all concerned – not only retailers but also consumers and growers. We understand that at least 70% of processed foods on grocery store shelves contain ingredients and oils from biotech crops, so such a requirement could have huge implications for retailers if implemented. In this economic climate we cannot afford to further raise prices on food supply, which is already expensive in the state of Hawaii.

The FDA holds that there is no significant difference between foods produced using biotechnology and their conventional counterparts and there are no documented cases of harm to the consumer based on that distinction. For consumers seeking additional choices, there is a certified organic labeling system already in place to identify products that have met those requirements. We also have in state marketing efforts to help identify local products to the consumer.

This resolution effectively promotes fear of products with a GMO component without the ability to research, inform or enforce. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you please hold HCR 178 and HR 154 in committee.

Sincerely,

Roy Oyama
President – Kauai County Farm Bureau
Oyama_farm@yahoo.com

CC: Melissa McFerrin
Executive Administrator – Kauai County Farm Bureau
kcfb@hawaiiantel.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:56 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: crobb50@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Robb
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: crobb50@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

Commitee members: It is the right of the citizens of this state to know when foods that they may be consuming are derived from crops that are GMO. It may or may not be a health concern, but the crops are unproven over time and the ramifications of this form of plant breeding is still unknown. Regardless of what the corporations will lead you to believe. I appreciate your consideration of our concerns. For the record i have been in Agriculture in this state for30 years and currently run 15 acs of organic vegetables in Kamuela.

Sincerely, Chris Robb

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: andrewhuey@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Huey
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: andrewhuey@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

The public deserves to know what they are putting in their own bodies. This is a health issue. Please support the public interest and not those of corporations. Our interest is informed choices and health. A corporations is to make as much money as it can. Mahalo for your consideration

LATE TESTIMONY

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:04 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: alohaphap@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paula Cohen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: alohaphap@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:45 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: itsdejavu@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sherry Lim
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: itsdejavu@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

As a business owner and Hawaii resident I believe the origin of all products bought in good faith need to be labeled so consumers can make an educated decision about what they choose to buy or not.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:41 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: theherbmustbefree@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dewi Lim
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: theherbmustbefree@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: jtylerh@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:21 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HR154

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice chair
Tuesday 3-29-11
9:00 AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vic Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I want to know what is in the food I buy. I believe it is the right of all Americans to have free choice. One can only make the right choices if one is informed. Information is the key and factual labeling on all food should be mandated.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture and our resident's health.

James T Hansen, MD
Kula, Hawaii

House Committee on Health **LATE TESTIMONY**

DATE: Tuesday, March 29th, 2011.
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

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

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the committee,

My name is Laurie Goodwin, Hawaii State Affairs Manager for Syngenta Hawaii. **Syngenta Hawaii opposes HCR 178 and HR 154** which request the Department of Health to report on the feasibility of implementing a labeling system for genetically engineered foods.

Labeling is intended to communicate information relevant to health, safety and nutrition. Since there is no significant difference between genetically engineered foods and their conventional counterparts there is no need to further label genetically engineered foods. HCR 178 and HR 154 would waste valuable resources at a time when our state can least afford it. State-based labeling requirements that differ from established, stringently enforced federal guidelines would be costly to consumers, retailers and growers, and only serve to disparage foods produced using genetically engineered crops.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Laurie Goodwin

Laurie Goodwin
Hawaii State Affairs Manager
Syngenta Hawaii LLC
7050 Kaunualii Highway | Kekaha, HI 96752
PO Box 879 | Waimea, HI 96796
office: 808-337-1408 Ext. 120 | mobile: 808-652-0768
laurie.goodwin@syngenta.com





Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

9:00 am

Room 329

REQUESTING DOH TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A LABELING SYSTEM FOR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS HCR 178/HR 154

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), as the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide, **strongly opposes HCR 178 and HR 154.**

These resolutions will hurt local farmers. The preambles assert that local agricultural producers and retailers would benefit from a labeling system for genetically engineered foods. We strongly disagree.

The Farm Bureau believes that Hawaii farmers will be harmed by a State law that requires them to label for example, papayas developed by University of Hawaii researchers to resist the papaya ringspot virus, a widespread and devastating disease which was destroying Hawaii's papaya industry. These papayas have been enjoyed by Hawaii's residents and visitors, without problem. They are also exported with great success. Genetic engineering gave Hawaii's farmers a second chance to continue growing and supplying papaya to the islands, the mainland, and other countries.

Labels on GE food imply a warning about negative health effects. This is not warranted. If a nutritional or allergenic difference were found in a GE food, current FDA regulations require a label to that effect. After many years of research by government, university, and other scientists, the FDA and USDA oppose this type of mandatory labeling because it could be "inherently misleading," and "imply that GM/GE foods are in any way different from other foods." A State labeling system of this kind promotes the incorrect assumption that these foods are inferior in some way to nonlabeled foods.

The FDA does not assign these foods special labeling requirements because they *do not* differ in any unusual or consequential way and **do not** present a safety issue. However, shoppers who see a "genetically modified" label may wrongly assume that the label is required because the foods have

harmful ingredients.

Experience with mandatory labeling in other countries has not resulted in consumer choice. Instead, retailers have eliminated GE products from their shelves due to perceived consumer aversion to GE products. The truth is that consumers who want to buy non-GE food already have a viable and reasonable option. They can purchase certified organic foods, which by definition cannot be produced with GE ingredients.

Furthermore, unless we are somehow able to mandate this unnecessary and misleading labeling for all food products coming into Hawaii (currently the vast majority of our food), our farmers would be at a disadvantage because no such labeling requirement exists on these imported foods.

The net effect of any labeling scheme requiring a warning on Hawaii products but not on other products, will be to *favor imported* products – including genetically engineered ones – over those grown by Hawaii farmers.

A labeling program would not be in the interest of local farmers and is likely not in the best interest of consumers. The regulatory burden imposed by labeling will significantly increase the production costs of foods, particularly those local value-added products produced from pooled fresh fruits and vegetables and imported ingredients that may be genetically engineered.

The food system infrastructure (storage, processing, and transportation facilities) in this country does not currently accommodate the segregation of GE and non-GE products. Hawaii would have no control over all phases of production of all imported GE foods which would have to be segregated through planting, harvesting, processing, and distribution. Even if it did, this would add costs and compromise economies of scale so that ultimately consumers would bear the brunt of the price increases.

At a time when our State cannot afford additional and unnecessary costs, the burden of this type of labeling system would be a serious economic blow to growers in Hawaii; small farmers for whom any additional financial and labor cost is a significant burden.

These measures will hurt Hawaii agriculture rather than helping it and we hope that you will instead consider the many important measures introduced this session that will support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.

From: Barbara Moore [dfly@dragonflyranch.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Bruce Brezel
Subject: Testimony for RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT GMO H.R. #154

LATE TESTIMONY

As president of the Big Island Health and Wellness Alliance please hear us when we say Hawaii residents want mandated labeling on all GMO foods.

Aloha Representative Morikawa,

In order that our voices may be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled.

As a B&B owner, my European and Japanese guests want to know if the papaya is genetically altered. I don't know honestly what to tell them. Is it or isn't it GMO? There is no reversing the GMO damage to the Big Island papayas. Yet is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know. Upholding that right is up to you.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui,

Barbara Moore

HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

*"In the Sweetness of Friendship,
let there be Laughter
and the Sharing of Pleasures "*
Khalil Gibran

Barbara Ann Kenonilani Moore
President of Big Island Health and Wellness Alliance
soul proprietor of Dragonfly Ranch: HEALING ARTS CENTER
Voted #1 B&B in West Hawaii by readers of West Hawaii Today daily paper

(808)328-2159

<http://dragonflyranch.com>

where Aloha abounds

72 degrees and sunny on Big Island's Kona Coast



morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: amara@mindspring.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amara Karuna
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: amara@mindspring.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Please hear our voices: Hawaii residents want mandated labeling on all GMO foods I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of Hawaii County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui,
Amara Karuna

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Y. Kamiya
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Please hold HCR 178 and HR 154 because it is a waste of valuable state resources. Additional labeling requirements of genetically engineered will just add cost to all farmers, wholesalers, and retailers. Genetically engineered foods on the market have proven to be safe and no different from non genetically engineered foods.

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE-OF-THE-SCIENCE ON THE HEALTH RISKS OF GM FOODS

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We all know stories of tobacco, asbestos, and DDT. Originally declared safe, they caused widespread death and disease. Although their impact was vast, most of the population was spared. The same cannot be said for sweeping changes in the food supply. Everyone eats; everyone is affected. The increase in several diseases in North America may be due to the profound changes in our diet. The most radical change occurred a little over a decade ago when genetically modified (GM) crops were introduced. Their influence on health has been largely ignored, but recent studies show serious problems. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been linked to thousands of toxic or allergic-type reactions, thousands of sick, sterile, and dead livestock, and damage to virtually every organ and system studied in lab animals.¹ Nearly every independent animal feeding safety study shows adverse or unexplained effects.

GM foods were made possible by a technology developed in the 1970s whereby genes from one species are forced into the DNA of other species. Genes produce proteins, which in turn can generate characteristics or traits. The promised traits associated with GMOs have been sky high—vegetables growing in the desert, vitamin fortified grains, and highly productive crops feeding the starving millions. None of these are available. In fact, the only two traits that are found in nearly all commercialized GM plants are herbicide tolerance and/or pesticide production.

Herbicide tolerant soy, corn, cotton, and canola plants are engineered with bacterial genes that allow them to survive otherwise deadly doses of herbicides. This gives farmers more flexibility in weeding and gives the GM seed company lots more profit. When farmers buy GM seeds, they sign a contract to buy only that seed producer's brand of herbicide. Herbicide tolerant crops comprise about 80% of all GM plants. The other 20% are corn and cotton varieties that produce a pesticide in every cell. This is accomplished due to a gene from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt, which produces a natural insect-killing poison called Bt-toxin. In addition to these two traits, there are also disease resistant GM Hawaiian papaya, zucchini and crook neck squash, which comprise well under 1% of GMO acreage.

THE FDA'S "NON-REGULATION" OF GM FOODS

Rhetoric from the United States government since the early 1990s proclaims that GM foods are no different from their natural counterparts that have existed for centuries. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has labeled them "Generally Recognized as Safe," or GRAS. This status allows a product to be commercialized without any additional testing. According to US law, to be considered GRAS the substance must be the subject of a substantial amount of peer-reviewed published studies (or equivalent) and there must be overwhelming consensus among the scientific community that the product is safe. GM foods had neither. Nonetheless, in a precedent-setting move in 1992 that some experts contend was illegal, the FDA declared that GM crops are GRAS as long as their producers say they are. Thus, the FDA does not require *any* safety evaluations or labeling of GMOs. A company can even introduce a GM food to the market without telling the agency.

Institute for Responsible Technology • P.O. Box 469 • Fairfield, IA 52556 • USA
+1.641.209.1761 • info@responsibletechnology.org • www.responsibletechnology.org

Such a lenient approach was largely the result of the influence of large agricultural corporations. According to Henry Miller, who had a leading role in biotechnology issues at the FDA from 1979 to 1994, "In this area, the US government agencies have done exactly what big agribusiness has asked them to do and told them to do." The Ag biotech company with the greatest influence was clearly Monsanto. According to the *New York Times*, "What Monsanto wished for from Washington, Monsanto and, by extension, the biotechnology industry got. . . . When the company abruptly decided that it needed to throw off the regulations and speed its foods to market, the White House quickly ushered through an unusually generous policy of self-policing."

This policy was heralded by Vice President Dan Quayle on May 26, 1992. He chaired the Council on Competitiveness, which had identified GM crops as an industry that could boost US exports. To take advantage, Quayle announced "reforms" to "speed up and simplify the process of bringing" GM products to market without "being hampered by unnecessary regulation."² Three days later, the FDA policy on non-regulation was unveiled.

The person who oversaw its development was the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Michael Taylor, whose position had been created especially for him in 1991. Prior to that, Taylor was an outside attorney for both Monsanto and the Food Biotechnology Council. After working at the FDA, he became Monsanto's vice president. The Obama administration has put Taylor back into the FDA as the US Food Safety Czar.

THE FDA COVERS UP HEALTH RISKS

Taylor's GMO policy needed to create the impression that unintended effects from GM crops were not an issue. Otherwise their GRAS status would be undermined and they would need the extensive testing and labels that are normally required for food additives. But internal memos made public from a lawsuit showed that the overwhelming consensus among the agency scientists was that GM crops can have unpredictable, hard-to-detect side effects. Various departments and experts spelled these out in detail, listing allergies, toxins, nutritional effects, and new diseases as potential dangers. They urged superiors to require long-term safety studies.³ In spite of the warnings, according to public interest attorney Steven Druker who studied the FDA's internal files, "References to the unintended negative effects of bioengineering were progressively deleted from drafts of the policy statement (over the protests of agency scientists)."⁴

FDA microbiologist Louis Pribyl, PhD, wrote about the policy, "What has happened to the scientific elements of this document? Without a sound scientific base to rest on, this becomes a broad, general, 'What do I have to do to avoid trouble'-type document. . . . It will look like and probably be just a political document. . . . It reads very pro-industry, especially in the area of unintended effects."⁵

The scientists' concerns were not only ignored, their very existence was denied. The official FDA policy stated, "The agency is not aware of any information showing that foods derived by these new methods differ from other foods in any meaningful or uniform way."⁶ In sharp contrast, an *internal* FDA report stated, "The processes of genetic engineering and traditional breeding are different and according to the technical experts in the agency, they lead to different risks."⁷ The FDA's deceptive notion of no difference was coined "substantial equivalence" and formed the basis of the US government position on GMOs.

Many scientists and organizations have criticized the US position. The National Academy of Sciences and even the pro-GM Royal Society of London⁸ describe the US system as inadequate and flawed. The editor of the prestigious journal *Lancet* said, "It is astounding that the US Food and Drug Administration has not changed their stance on genetically modified food adopted in 1992. . . . The policy is that genetically modified crops will receive the same consideration for potential health risks as any other new crop plant. This stance is taken despite good reasons to believe that specific risks may exist. . . . Governments should never have allowed these products into the food chain without insisting on rigorous testing for effects on health."⁹ The Royal Society of Canada described substantial equivalence as "scientifically unjustifiable and inconsistent with precautionary regulation of the technology."

GMOs ARE INHERENTLY UNSAFE

There are several reasons why GM plants present unique dangers. The first is that the *process* of genetic engineering itself creates unpredicted alterations, irrespective of which gene is transferred. The gene insertion process, for example, is accomplished by either shooting genes from a “gene gun” into a plate of cells, or using bacteria to infect the cell with foreign DNA. Both create mutations in and around the insertion site and elsewhere.¹¹ The “transformed” cell is then cloned into a plant through a process called tissue culture, which results in additional hundreds or thousands of mutations throughout the plants’ genome. In the end, the GM plant’s DNA can be a staggering 2-4% different from its natural parent.¹² Native genes can be mutated, deleted, or permanently turned on or off. In addition, the insertion process causes holistic and not-well-understood changes among large numbers of native genes. One study revealed that up to 5% of the natural genes altered their levels of protein expression as a result of a single insertion.

The Royal Society of Canada acknowledged that “the default prediction” for GM crops would include “a range of collateral changes in expression of other genes, changes in the pattern of proteins produced and/or changes in metabolic activities.”¹³ Although the FDA scientists evaluating GMOs in 1992 were unaware of the extent to which GM DNA is damaged or changed, they too described the potential consequences. They reported, “The possibility of unexpected, accidental changes in genetically engineered plants” might produce “unexpected high concentrations of plant toxicants.”¹⁴ GM crops, they said, might have “increased levels of known naturally occurring toxins,” and the “appearance of new, not previously identified” toxins.¹⁵ The same mechanism can also produce allergens, carcinogens, or substances that inhibit assimilation of nutrients.

Most of these problems would pass unnoticed through safety assessments on GM foods, which are largely designed on the false premise that genes are like Legos that cleanly snap into place. But even if we disregard unexpected changes in the DNA for the moment, a proper functioning inserted gene still carries significant risk. Its newly created GM protein, such as the Bt-toxin, may be dangerous for human health (see below). Moreover, even if that protein is safe in its natural organism, once it is transferred into a new species it may be processed differently. A harmless protein may be transformed into a dangerous or deadly version. This happened with at least one GM food crop under development, GM peas, which were destroyed before being commercialized.

FDA scientists were also quite concerned about the possibility of inserted genes spontaneously transferring into the DNA of bacteria inside our digestive tract. They were particularly alarmed at the possibility of antibiotic resistant marker (ARM) genes transferring. ARM genes are employed during gene insertion to help scientists identify which cells successfully integrated the foreign gene. These ARM genes, however, remain in the cell and are cloned into the DNA of all the GM plants produced from that cell. One FDA report wrote in all capital letters that ARM genes would be “A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD,” due to the possibility of that they might transfer to bacteria and create super diseases, untreatable with antibiotics.

Although the biotech industry confidently asserted that gene transfer from GM foods was not possible, the only human feeding study on GM foods later proved that it does take place. The genetic material in soybeans that make them herbicide tolerant transferred into the DNA of human gut bacteria and continued to function¹⁶. That means that long after we stop eating a GM crop, its foreign GM proteins may be produced inside our intestines. It is also possible that the foreign genes might end up inside our own DNA, within the cells of our own organs and tissues.

Another worry expressed by FDA scientists was that GM plants might gather “toxic substances from the environment” such as “pesticides or heavy metals,”¹⁷ or that toxic substances in GM animal feed might bioaccumulate into milk and meat products. While no studies have looked at the bioaccumulation issue, herbicide tolerant crops certainly have higher levels of herbicide residues. In fact, many countries had to increase their legally allowable levels—by up to 50 times—in order to accommodate the introduction of GM crops.

The overuse of the herbicides due to GM crops has resulted in the development of herbicide resistant weeds. USDA statistics show that herbicide use is rapidly accelerating. Its use was up by 383 million pounds in the first 13 years of GM crops.¹⁸ But the rate of application is accelerating due in large part to the emergence of herbicide tolerant weeds. According to a study by Charles Benbrook, “Crop years 2007 and 2008 accounted for 46% of the increase in herbicide use over 13 years across the three HT [herbicide tolerant] crops. Herbicide use on HT crops rose a remarkable 31.4% from 2007 to 2008.” And as Roundup becomes less effective, farmers are now using more toxic herbicides, such as 2-4D, which increased by 237% from 2004 to 2006.¹⁹

All of the above risks associated with GM foods are magnified for high-risk groups, such as pregnant women, children, the sick, and the elderly. The following section highlights some of the problems that have been identified.

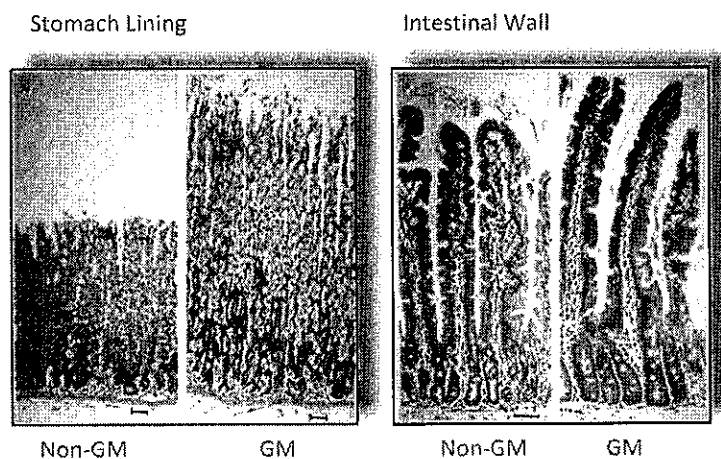
GM DIET SHOWS TOXIC REACTIONS IN THE DIGESTIVE TRACT

The very first crop submitted to the FDA's voluntary consultation process, the FlavrSavr tomato, showed evidence of toxins. Out of 20 female rats fed the GM tomato, 7 developed stomach lesions.²⁰ The director of FDA's Office of Special Research Skills wrote that the tomatoes did not demonstrate a "reasonable certainty of no harm,"²¹ which is their normal standard of safety. The Additives Evaluation Branch agreed that "unresolved questions still remain."²² The political appointees, however, did not require that the tomato be withdrawn.¹

According to Arpad Pusztai, PhD, one of the world's leading experts in GM food safety assessments, the type of stomach lesions linked to the tomatoes "could lead to life-endangering hemorrhage, particularly in the elderly who use aspirin to prevent [blood clots]."²³ Dr. Pusztai believes that the digestive tract, which is the first and largest point of contact with foods, can reveal various reactions to toxins and should be the first target of GM food risk assessment. He was alarmed, however, to discover that studies on the FlavrSavr never looked passed the stomach to the intestines. Other studies that did look found problems.

Mice fed potatoes engineered to produce the Bt-toxin developed abnormal and damaged cells, as well as proliferative cell growth in the lower part of their small intestines (ileum).²⁴ Rats fed potatoes engineered to produce a different type of insecticide (GNA lectin from the snowdrop plant) also showed proliferative cell growth in both the stomach and intestinal walls (see photos).²⁵ Although the guts of rats fed GM peas were not examined for cell growth, the intestines were mysteriously heavier; possibly as a result of such growth.²⁶ Cell proliferation can be a precursor to cancer and is of special concern.

Rats fed GM potatoes showed proliferative cell growth in the stomach and intestines.



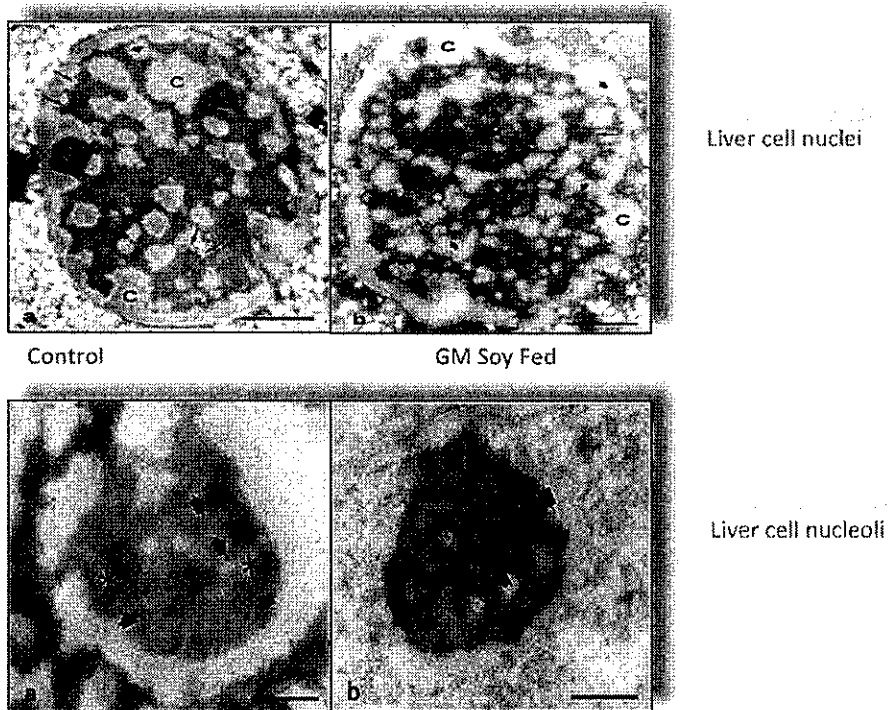
GM DIETS CAUSE LIVER DAMAGE

¹ Calgene had submitted data on two lines of GM tomatoes, both using the same inserted gene. They voluntarily elected to market only the variety that was not associated with the lesions. This was not required by the FDA, which did not block approvals on the lesion-associated variety. The FlavrSavr tomato has since been taken off the market. After the FlavrSavr, no other biotech company has submitted such detailed data to the FDA.

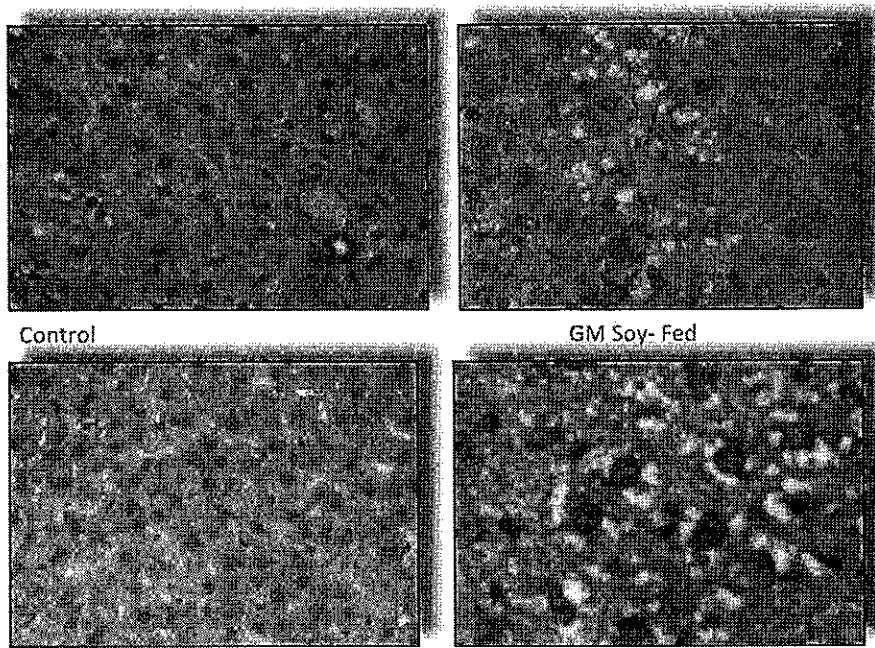
The state of the liver—a main detoxifier for the body—is another indicator of toxins.

- Rats fed the GNA lectin potatoes described above had smaller and partially atrophied livers.²⁷
- Rats fed Monsanto's Mon 863 corn, engineered to produce Bt-toxin, had liver lesions and other indications of toxicity.²⁸
- Rabbits fed GM soy showed altered enzyme production in their livers as well as higher metabolic activity.²⁹
- The livers of rats fed Roundup Ready canola were 12%–16% heavier, possibly due to liver disease or inflammation.³⁰
- Microscopic analysis of the livers of mice fed Roundup Ready soybeans revealed altered gene expression and structural and functional changes (see photos).³¹ Many of these changes reversed after the mice diet was switched to non-GM soy, indicating that GM soy was the culprit. The findings, according to molecular geneticist Michael Antoniou, PhD, “are not random and must reflect some ‘insult’ on the liver by the GM soy.” Antoniou, who does human gene therapy research in King’s College London, said that although the long-term consequences of the GM soy diet are not known, it “could lead to liver damage and consequently general toxemia.”³²
- Rats fed Roundup Ready soybeans also showed structural changes in their livers.³³

The liver cells from soy-fed mice showed anomalies.



The livers of soy-fed rats showed unique changes.



GM FED ANIMALS HAD HIGHER DEATH RATES AND ORGAN DAMAGE

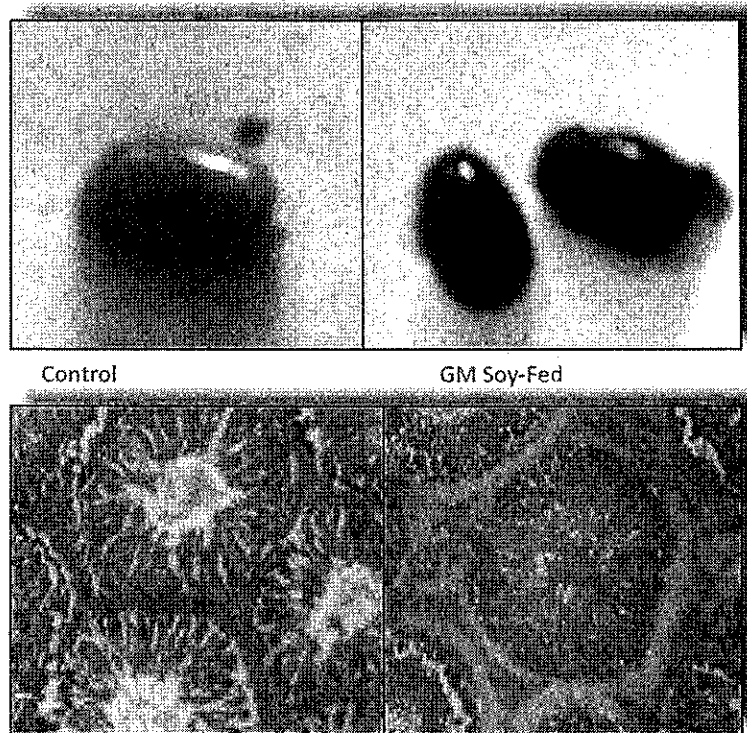
In the FlavrSavr tomato study, *a note in the appendix* indicated that 7 of 40 rats died within two weeks and were replaced.³⁴ In another study, chickens fed the herbicide tolerant “Liberty Link” corn died at twice the rate of those fed natural corn.³⁵ But in these two industry-funded studies, the deaths were dismissed without adequate explanation or follow-up.

In addition, the cells in the pancreas of mice fed Roundup Ready soy had profound changes and produced significantly less digestive enzymes;³⁶ in rats fed a GM potato, the pancreas was enlarged.³⁷ In various analyses of kidneys, GM-fed animals showed lesions, toxicity, altered enzyme production or inflammation.^{38,39} Enzyme production in the hearts of mice was altered by GM soy.⁴⁰ And GM potatoes caused slower growth in the brain of rats.⁴¹ A team of independent scientists re-analyzed the raw data in three Monsanto 90-day rat feeding studies and saw signs of toxicity in the liver and kidneys, as well as effects in the heart, adrenal glands, spleen, and blood.⁴²

REPRODUCTIVE FAILURES AND INFANT MORTALITY

The testicles of both mice and rats fed Roundup Ready soybeans showed dramatic changes. In rats, the organs were dark blue instead of pink (see photos on next page).⁴³ In mice, young sperm cells were altered.⁴⁴ Embryos of GM soy-fed mice also showed temporary changes in their DNA function, compared to those whose parents were fed non-GM soy.⁴⁵

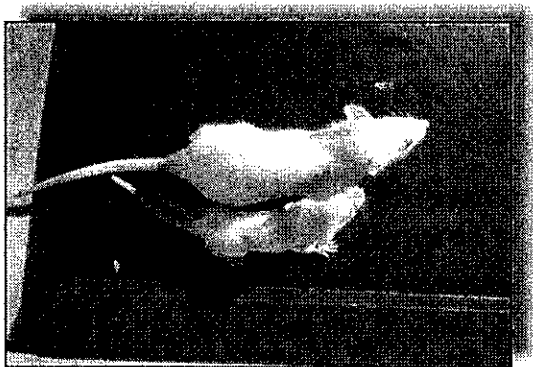
The testicles of rats fed Roundup Ready soybeans were dark blue instead of pink, and the structure of the cells were significantly altered.



An Austrian government study showed that mice fed GM corn (Bt and Roundup Ready) had fewer babies and smaller babies.⁴⁶ More dramatic results were discovered by a leading scientist at the Russian National Academy of sciences. Female rats were fed GM soy, starting two weeks before they were mated.

- Over a series of three experiments, 51.6 percent of the offspring from the GM-fed group died within the first three weeks, compared to 10 percent from the non-GM soy group, and 8.1 percent for non-soy controls.
- “High pup mortality was characteristic of every litter from mothers fed the GM soy flour.”⁴⁷
- The average size and weight of the GM-fed offspring was quite a bit smaller (see photo on next page).⁴⁸
- In a preliminary study, the GM-fed offspring were unable to conceive.⁴⁹

After the three feeding trials, the supplier of rat food used at the Russian laboratory began using GM soy in their formulation. Since all the rats housed at the facility were now eating GM soy, no non-GM fed controls were available for subsequent GM feeding trials; follow-up studies were canceled. *After two months on the GM soy diet, however, the infant mortality rate of rats throughout the facility had skyrocketed to 55.3 percent (99 of 179).*⁵⁰



The 20 day old smaller rat, born of a mother fed GM soy, is quite a bit smaller than the 19 day-old rat from the control group.

FARMERS REPORT LIVESTOCK STERILITY AND DEATHS

About two dozen farmers reported that their pigs had reproductive problems when fed certain varieties of Bt corn. Pigs were sterile, had false pregnancies, or gave birth to bags of water. Cows and bulls also became sterile. Bt corn was also implicated by farmers in the deaths of cows, horses, water buffaloes, and chickens.⁵¹

When Indian shepherds let their sheep graze continuously on Bt cotton plants, within 5-7 days, one out of four sheep died. There was an estimated 10,000 sheep deaths in the region in 2006, with more reported in 2007. Post mortems on the sheep showed severe irritation and black patches in both intestines and liver (as well as enlarged bile ducts). Investigators said preliminary evidence “strongly suggests that the sheep mortality was due to a toxin. . . . most probably Bt-toxin.”⁵² In a small feeding study, 100% of sheep fed Bt cotton died within 30 days. Those fed natural plants had no symptoms.

Buffalo that grazed on natural cotton plants for years without incident react to the Bt variety. In one village in Andhra Pradesh, for example, 13 buffalo grazed on Bt cotton plants for a single day. All died within 3 days.⁵³ Investigators in the state of Haryana, India, report that most buffalo that ate GM cottonseed had reproductive complications such as premature deliveries, abortions, infertility, and prolapsed uteruses. Many young calves and adult buffaloes died.

GM CROPS TRIGGER IMMUNE REACTIONS AND MAY CAUSE ALLERGIES

Allergic reactions occur when the immune system interprets something as foreign, different, and offensive, and reacts accordingly. All GM foods, by definition, have something foreign and different. And several studies show that they provoke reactions. Rats fed Monsanto’s GM corn, for example, had a significant increase in blood cells related to the immune system.⁵⁴ GM potatoes caused the immune system of rats to respond more slowly.⁵⁵ And GM peas provoked an inflammatory response in mice, suggesting that it might cause deadly allergic reactions in people.⁵⁶

It might be difficult to identify whether GM foods were triggering allergic responses in the population, since very few countries conduct regular studies or keep careful records. One country that does have an annual evaluation is the UK. **Soon after GM soy was introduced into the British diet, researchers at the York Laboratory reported that allergies to soy had skyrocketed by 50% in a single year.**⁵⁷ Although no follow-up studies were conducted to see if GM soy was the cause, there is evidence showing several ways in which it might have contributed to the rising incidence of allergies:

- The only significant variety of GM soy is Monsanto’s “Roundup Ready” variety, planted in 89% of US soy acres. A foreign gene from bacteria (with parts of virus and petunia DNA) is inserted, which allows the plant to withstand Roundup herbicide. The protein produced by the bacterial gene has never been part of the human food supply. Because people aren’t usually allergic to a food until they have eaten it several times, it would be difficult to know in advance if the protein was an allergen. Without a surefire method to identify allergenic GM crops, the World Health Organization (WHO) and others recommend examining the properties of the protein to see if they share characteristics with known allergens. One method is to compare the amino acid sequence of the novel protein with a database of allergens. If there is a match, according to the WHO, the GM crop should either not be commercialized or additional testing should be done. Sections of the protein produced in GM soy *are* identical to shrimp and dust mite allergens,⁵⁸ but the soybean was introduced before WHO criteria were established and the recommended additional tests were not conducted. If the protein does trigger reactions, the danger is compounded by the finding that the Roundup Ready gene transfers into the DNA of human gut bacteria and may continuously produce the protein from within our intestines.⁵⁹
- In addition to the herbicide tolerant protein, GM soybeans contain a unique, unexpected protein, which likely came about from the changes incurred during the genetic engineering process. Scientists found that this new protein was able to bind with IgE antibodies, suggesting that it may provoke dangerous allergic reactions. The same study revealed that one human subject showed a skin prick immune response only to GM soy, but not to natural soy.⁶⁰ These results must be considered preliminary,

as the non-GM soy was a wild type and not necessarily comparable to the GM variety. Another study showed that the levels of one known soy allergen, called trypsin inhibitor, were as much as seven times higher in cooked GM soy compared to a non-GM control.⁶¹ This was Monsanto's own study, and did use comparable controls.

- GM soy also produces an unpredicted side effect in the pancreas of mice—the amount of digestive enzymes produced is dramatically reduced.⁶² If a shortage of enzymes caused food proteins to breakdown more slowly, then they have more time to trigger allergic reactions. Thus, digestive problems from GM soy might promote allergies to a wide range of proteins, not just soy.
- The higher amount of Roundup herbicide residues on GM soy might create reactions in consumers. In fact, many of the symptoms identified in the UK soy allergy study are among those related to glyphosate exposure. [The allergy study identified irritable bowel syndrome, digestion problems, chronic fatigue, headaches, lethargy, and skin complaints, including acne and eczema, all related to soy consumption. Symptoms of glyphosate exposure include nausea, headaches, lethargy, skin rashes, and burning or itchy skin. It is also possible that glyphosate's breakdown product AMPA, which accumulates in GM soybeans after each spray, might contribute to allergies.]

It is interesting to note that in the five years immediately after GM soy was introduced, US peanut allergies doubled. It is known that a protein in natural soybeans cross-reacts with peanut allergies, i.e. soy may trigger reactions in some people who are allergic to peanuts.⁶³ Given the startling increase in peanut allergies, scientists should investigate whether this cross-reactivity has been amplified in GM soy.

BT-TOXIN, PRODUCED IN GM CORN AND COTTON, MAY CAUSE ALLERGIES

For years, organic farmers and others have sprayed crops with solutions containing natural Bt bacteria as a method of insect control. The toxin creates holes in their stomach and kills them. Genetic engineers take the gene that produces the toxin in bacteria and insert it into the DNA of crops so that the plant does the work, not the farmer. The fact that we consume that toxic pesticide in every bite of Bt corn is hardly appetizing.

Biotech companies claim that Bt-toxin has a history of safe use, is quickly destroyed in our stomach, and wouldn't react with humans or mammals in any event. Studies verify, however, that natural Bt-toxin is *not* fully destroyed during digestion and *does* react with mammals. Mice fed Bt-toxin, for example, showed an immune response as potent as cholera toxin,⁶⁴ became immune sensitive to formerly harmless compounds,⁶⁵ and had damaged and altered cells in their small intestines.⁶⁶ A 2008 Italian government study found that Bt corn provoked immune responses in mice.⁶⁷ Moreover, when natural Bt was sprayed over areas around Vancouver and Washington State to fight gypsy moths, about 500 people reported reactions—mostly allergy or flu-like symptoms.^{68,69} Farm workers and others also report serious reactions⁷⁰⁷¹⁷²⁷³⁷⁴ and authorities have long acknowledged that “people with compromised immune systems or preexisting allergies may be particularly susceptible to the effects of Bt.”⁷⁵

The Bt-toxin produced in GM crops is “vastly different from the bacterial [Bt-toxins] used in organic and traditional farming and forestry.”⁷⁶ The plant produced version is designed to be more toxic than natural varieties,⁷⁷ and is about 3,000-5,000 times more concentrated than the spray form. And just like the GM soy protein, the Bt protein in GM corn varieties has a section of its amino acid sequence identical to a known allergen (egg yolk). The Bt protein also fails other allergen criteria recommended by the WHO, i.e. the protein is too resistant to break down during digestion and heat.

If Bt-toxin causes allergies, then gene transfer carries serious ramifications. *If Bt genes relocate to human gut bacteria, our intestinal flora may be converted into living pesticide factories, possibly producing Bt-toxin inside of us year after year.* The UK Joint Food Safety and Standards Group also described gene transfer from a different route. They warned that genes from inhaled pollen might transfer into the DNA of bacteria in the respiratory system.⁷⁸ Although no study has looked into that possibility, pollen from a Bt cornfield appears to have been responsible for allergic-type reactions.

In 2003, during the time when an adjacent Bt cornfield was pollinating, virtually an entire Filipino village of about 100 people was stricken by mysterious skin, respiratory, and intestinal reactions.⁷⁹ The symptoms started with those living closest to the field and spread to those further away. Blood samples from 39 individuals showed antibodies in response to Bt-toxin, supporting—but not

proving—a link. When the same corn was planted in four other villages the following year, however, the symptoms returned in all four areas—only during the time of pollination.⁸⁰

Bt-toxin might also trigger reactions by skin contact. In 2005, a medical team reported that hundreds of agricultural workers in India are developing allergic symptoms when exposed to Bt cotton, but not when exposed to natural varieties.⁸¹ They say reactions come from picking the cotton, cleaning it in factories, loading it onto trucks, or even leaning against it. Their symptoms are virtually identical to those described by the 500 people in Vancouver and Washington who were sprayed with Bt.

GOVERNMENT EVALUATIONS MISS MOST HEALTH PROBLEMS

Although the number of safety studies on GM foods is quite small, it has validated the concerns expressed by FDA scientists and others. Unfortunately, government safety assessments worldwide are not competent to even *identify* most of the potential health problems described above, let alone protect its citizens from the effects.⁸²

A 2000 review of approved GM crops in Canada by professor E. Ann Clark, PhD, for example, reveals that 70% (28 of 40) “of the currently available GM crops . . . have not been subjected to any actual lab or animal toxicity testing, either as refined oils for direct human consumption or indirectly as feedstuffs for livestock. The same finding pertains to all three GM tomato decisions, the only GM flax, and to five GM corn crops.” In the remaining 30% (12) of the other crops tested, animals were *not* fed the whole GM feed. They were given just the isolated GM protein that the plant was engineered to produce. But even this protein was not extracted from the actual GM plant. Rather, it was manufactured in genetically engineered bacteria. This method of testing would never identify problems associated with collateral damage to GM plant DNA, unpredicted changes in the GM protein, transfer of genes to bacteria or human cells, excessive herbicide residues, or accumulation of toxins in the food chain, among others. Clark asks, “Where are the trials showing lack of harm to fed livestock, or that meat and milk from livestock fed on GM feedstuffs are safe?”⁸³

Epidemiologist and GM safety expert Judy Carman, PhD, MPH, shows that assessments by Food Safety Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) also overlook serious potential problems, including cancer, birth defects, or long-term effects of nutritional deficiencies.⁸⁴

“A review of twelve reports covering twenty-eight GM crops - four soy, three corn, ten potatoes, eight canola, one sugar beet and two cotton—revealed no feeding trials on people. In addition, one of the GM corn varieties had gone untested on animals. Some seventeen foods involved testing with only a single oral gavage (a type of forced-feeding), with observation for seven to fourteen days, and only of the substance that had been genetically engineered to appear [the GM protein], not the whole food. Such testing assumes that the only new substance that will appear in the food is the one genetically engineered to appear, that the GM plant-produced substance will act in the same manner as the tested substance that was obtained from another source [GM bacteria], and that the substance will create disease within a few days. All are untested hypotheses and make a mockery of GM proponents’ claims that the risk assessment of GM foods is based on sound science. Furthermore, where the whole food was given to animals to eat, sample sizes were often very low—for example, five to six cows per group for Roundup Ready soy—and they were fed for only four weeks.”⁸⁵

Dr. Carman points out that GM “experiments used some very unusual animal models for human health, such as chickens, cows, and trout. Some of the measurements taken from these animals are also unusual measures of human health, such as abdominal fat pad weight, total de-boned breast meat yield, and milk production.” In her examination of the full range of submittals to authorities in Australia and New Zealand, she says that there was no proper evaluation of “biochemistry, immunology, tissue pathology, and gut, liver, and kidney function.”⁸⁶ Writing on behalf of the Public Health Association of Australia, Dr. Carman says, “The effects of feeding people high concentrations of the new protein over tens of years cannot be determined by feeding 20 mice a single oral gavage of a given high concentration of the protein and taking very basic data for 13-14 days.”⁸⁷

THE FDA'S FAKE SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

Submissions to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may be worse than in other countries, since the agency doesn't actually require *any* data. Their policy says that biotech companies can determine if their own foods are safe. Anything submitted is voluntary and, according to former Environmental Protection Agency scientist Doug Gurian-Sherman, PhD, "often lack[s] sufficient detail, such as necessary statistical analyses needed for an adequate safety evaluation." Using Freedom of Information Requests, Dr. Gurian-Sherman analyzed more than a fourth of the data summaries (14 of 53) of GM crops reviewed by the FDA. He says, "The FDA consultation process does not allow the agency to require submission of data, misses obvious errors in company-submitted data summaries, provides insufficient testing guidance, and does not require sufficiently detailed data to enable the FDA to assure that GE crops are safe to eat."⁸⁸ Similarly, a Friends of the Earth review of company and FDA documents concluded:

"If industry chooses to submit faulty, unpublishable studies, it does so without consequence. If it should respond to an agency request with deficient data, it does so without reprimand or follow-up. . . . If a company finds it disadvantageous to characterize its product, then its properties remain uncertain or unknown. If a corporation chooses to ignore scientifically sound testing standards . . . then faulty tests are conducted instead, and the results are considered legitimate. In the area of genetically engineered food regulation, the 'competent' agencies rarely if ever (know how to) conduct independent research to verify or supplement industry findings."⁸⁹

At the end of the consultation, the FDA doesn't actually approve the crops. Rather, they issue a letter that includes a statement such as the following:

"Based on the safety and nutritional assessment you have conducted, it is our understanding that Monsanto has concluded that corn products derived from this new variety are not materially different in composition, safety, and other relevant parameters from corn currently on the market, and that the genetically modified corn does not raise issues that would require premarket review or approval by FDA. . . . As you are aware, it is Monsanto's responsibility to ensure that foods marketed by the firm are safe, wholesome and in compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements."⁹⁰

COMPANY RESEARCH IS SECRET, INADEQUATE, AND FLAWED

The unpublished industry studies submitted to regulators are typically kept secret based on the claim that it is "confidential business information." The Royal Society of Canada is one of many organizations that condemn this practice. They wrote:

"In the judgment of the Expert Panel, the more regulatory agencies limit free access to the data upon which their decisions are based, the more compromised becomes the claim that the regulatory process is 'science based.' This is due to a simple but well-understood requirement of the scientific method itself—that it be an open, completely transparent enterprise in which any and all aspects of scientific research are open to full review by scientific peers. Peer review and independent corroboration of research findings are axioms of the scientific method, and part of the very meaning of the objectivity and neutrality of science."⁹¹

Whenever private submissions *are* made public through lawsuits or Freedom of Information Act Requests, it becomes clear why companies benefit from secrecy. The quality of their research is often miserable, incompetent, and unacceptable for peer-review. In 2000, for example, after the potentially allergenic StarLink corn was found to have contaminated the food supply, the corn's producer, Aventis CropScience, presented wholly inadequate safety data to the EPA's scientific advisory panel. One frustrated panel member, Dean Metcalfe, MD,—the government's top allergist—said during a hearing, "Most of us review for a lot of journals. And if this were presented for publication in the journals that I review for, it would be sent back to the authors with all of these questions. It would be rejected."⁹²

UNSCIENTIFIC ASSUMPTIONS ARE THE BASIS OF APPROVALS

Professor Clark, who analyzed submissions to Canadian regulators, concluded, “Most or all of the conclusions of food safety for individual GM crops are based on inferences and assumptions, rather than on actual testing.” For example, rather than actually testing to see if the amino acid sequence produced by their inserted gene is correct, “the standard practice,” according to research analyst William Freese, “is to sequence just 5 to 25 amino acids,”⁹³ even if the protein has more than 600 in total. If the short sample matches what is expected, they assume that the rest are also fine. If they are wrong, however, a rearranged protein could be quite dangerous.

Monsanto’s submission to Australian regulators on their high lysine GM corn provides an excellent example of overly optimistic assumptions used in place of science. The gene inserted into the corn produces a protein that is naturally found in soil. Monsanto claimed that since people consume small residues of soil on fruits and vegetables, the protein has a history of safe consumption. Based on the amount of GM corn protein an average US citizen would consume (if all their corn were Monsanto’s variety), they would eat up to 4 trillion times the amount normally consumed through soil. In other words, “for equivalent exposure” of the protein from soil “people would have to eat . . . nearly as much as 10,000kg [22,000 pounds, every] second 24 hours a day seven days a week.”⁹⁴

STUDIES ARE RIGGED TO AVOID FINDING PROBLEMS

In addition, to relying on untested assumptions, industry-funded research is often designed specifically to force a conclusion of safety. In the high lysine corn described above, for example, the levels of certain nutritional components (i.e. protein content, total dietary fiber, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber) were far outside the normal range for corn. Instead of comparing their corn to normal controls, which would reveal this disparity, Monsanto compared it to obscure corn varieties that were also substantially outside the normal range *on precisely these values*. Thus, their study found no statistical differences *by design*.

When independent researchers published a study in July 1999 showing that GM soy contains 12%-14% less cancer-fighting phytoestrogens, Monsanto responded with its own study, concluding that soy’s phytoestrogen levels vary too much to even carry out a statistical analysis. Researchers failed to disclose, however, that they had instructed the laboratory to use an obsolete method of detection—one that had been prone to highly variable results.⁹⁵

When Aventis prepared samples to see if the potential allergen in StarLink corn remained intact after cooking, instead of using the standard 30-minute treatment, they heated corn for two hours.⁹⁶

To show that pasteurization destroyed bovine growth hormone in milk from cows treated with rbGH, scientists pasteurized the milk 120 times longer than normal. Unable to destroy more than 19%, they then spiked the milk with a huge amount of the hormone and repeated the long pasteurization, destroying 90%.⁹⁷ (The FDA reported that pasteurization destroys 90% of the hormone.⁹⁸)

To demonstrate that injections of rbGH did not interfere with cow’s fertility, Monsanto apparently added cows to the study that were pregnant prior to injection.⁹⁹

And in order to prove that the protein from their GM crops breaks down quickly during simulated digestion, biotech companies used thousands of times the amount of digestive enzymes and a much stronger acid compared to that recommended by the World Health Organization.¹⁰⁰

Other methods used to hide problems are varied and plentiful. For example, researchers:

- Use highly variable animal starting weights to hinder detection of food-related changes
- Keep feeding studies short to miss long-term impacts

- Test effects of Roundup Ready soybeans that have not been sprayed with Roundup
- Avoid feeding animals the actual GM crop, but give them instead a single dose of the GM protein that was produced inside GM bacteria
- Use too few subjects to derive statistically significant results
- Use poor statistical methods or simply leave out essential methods, data, or statistics
- Use irrelevant control groups, and employ insensitive evaluation techniques

ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS: CASE STUDY OF FLAWED RESEARCH

Monsanto's 1996 *Journal of Nutrition* studies on Roundup Ready soybeans^{101,102} provide plenty of examples of scientific transgressions. Although the study has been used often by the industry as validation for safety claims, experts working in the field were not impressed. For example, Dr. Arpad Pusztai was commissioned at the time by the UK government to lead a 20 member consortium in three institutions to develop rigorous testing protocols on GM foods—protocols that were never implemented. Dr. Pusztai, who had published several studies in that same nutrition journal, said the Monsanto paper was not “up to the normal journal standards.” He said, “It was obvious that the study had been designed to avoid finding any problems. Everybody in our consortium knew this.” Some of the flaws include:

- Researchers tested GM soy on mature animals, not young ones. Young animals use protein to build their muscles, tissues, and organs. Problems with GM food could therefore show up in organ and body weight. But adult animals use the protein for tissue renewal and energy. “With a nutritional study on mature animals,” says Dr. Pusztai, “you would never see any difference in organ weights even if the food turned out to be anti-nutritional. The animals would have to be emaciated or poisoned to show anything.”
- If there were an organ development problem, the study wouldn't have picked it up since the researchers didn't even weigh the organs.
- In one of the trials, researchers substituted only one tenth of the natural protein with GM soy protein. In two others, they diluted their GM soy six- and twelve-fold.¹⁰³ Scientists Ian Pryme, PhD, of Norway and Rolf Lembcke, PhD, of Denmark wrote, the “level of the GM soy was too low, and would probably ensure that any possible undesirable GM effects did not occur.”
- Pryme and Lembcke, who published a paper in *Nutrition and Health* that analyzed all published peer-reviewed feeding studies on GM foods (10 as of 2003), also pointed out that the percentage of protein in the feed used in the Roundup Ready study was “artificially too high.” This “would almost certainly mask, or at least effectively reduce, any possible effect of the [GM soy].” They said it was “highly likely that all GM effects would have been diluted out.”¹⁰⁴
- Proper compositional studies filter out effects of weather or geography by comparing plants grown at the same time in the same location. Monsanto, however, pooled data from several locations, which makes it difficult for differences to be statistically significant. Nonetheless, the data revealed significant differences in the ash, fat, and carbohydrate content. Roundup Ready soy meal also contained 27% more trypsin inhibitor, a potential allergen. Also, cows fed GM soy produced milk with a higher fat content, demonstrating another disparity between the two types of soy.
- One field trial, however, did grow GM and non-GM plants next to each other, but this data was not included in the paper. Years after the study appeared, medical writer Barbara Keeler recovered the data that had been omitted. It showed that Monsanto's GM soy had significantly lower levels of protein, a fatty acid, and phenylalanine, an essential amino acid. Also, toasted GM soy meal contained nearly twice the amount of a lectin—a substance that may interfere with the body's ability to assimilate other nutrients. And the amount of trypsin inhibitor in cooked GM soy was as much as seven times higher than in a cooked non-GM control.

- The study also omitted many details normally required for a published paper. According to Pryme and Lembcke, “No data were given for most of the parameters.”
- And when researchers tested the effects of Roundup Ready protein on animals, they didn’t extract the protein from the soybeans. Instead, they derived it from GM bacteria, claiming the two forms of protein were equivalent. There are numerous ways, however, in which the protein in the soy may be different. In fact, nine years after this study was published, another study showed that the gene inserted into the soybeans produced unintended aberrant RNA strands, meaning that the protein may be quite different than what was intended.¹⁰⁵

In Pryme and Lembcke’s analysis, it came as no surprise that this Monsanto study, along with the other four peer-reviewed animal feeding studies that were “performed more or less in collaboration with private companies,” reported no negative effects of the GM diet. “On the other hand,” they wrote, “adverse effects were reported (but not explained) in [the five] independent studies.” They added, “It is remarkable that these effects have all been observed after feeding for only 10–14 days.”¹⁰⁶

TOXIC GM FOODS COULD HAVE BEEN APPROVED

Two GM foods whose commercialization was stopped because of negative test results give a chilling example of what may be getting through. Rats fed GM potatoes had potentially precancerous cell growth in the stomach and intestines, less developed brains, livers, and testicles, partial atrophy of the liver, and damaged immune systems.¹⁰⁷ GM peas provoked an inflammatory response in mice, suggesting that the peas might trigger a deadly anaphylactic shock in allergic humans.¹⁰⁸ Both of these dangerous crops, however, could easily have been approved. The problems were only discovered because the researchers used advanced tests that were never applied to GM crops already on the market. Both would have passed the normal tests that companies typically use to get their products approved.

Ironically, when Monsanto was asked to comment on the pea study, their spokesperson said it demonstrated that the regulatory system works. He failed to disclose that none of his company’s GM crops had been put through such rigorous tests.

RAMPANT, UNRELENTING INDUSTRY BIAS

Industry-funded research that favors the funders is not new. Bias has been identified across several industries. In pharmaceuticals, for example, positive results are four times more likely if the drug’s manufacturer funds the study.¹⁰⁹ When companies pay for the economic analyses of their own cancer drugs, the results are eight times more likely to be favorable.¹¹⁰ Compared to drug research, the potential for industry manipulation in GM crop studies is considerably higher. Unlike pharmaceutical testing, GM research has no standardized procedures dictated by regulators. GM studies are not usually published in peer-reviewed journals and are typically kept secret by companies and governments. There is little money available for rigorous independent research, so company evidence usually goes unchallenged and unverified. Most importantly, whereas drugs *can* show serious side-effects and still be approved, GM food cannot. There is no tolerance for adverse reactions; feeding trials *must* show no problems.

Thus, when industry studies show problems (in spite of their efforts to avoid them), serious adverse reactions and even deaths among GM-fed animals are ignored or dismissed as “not biologically significant” or due to “natural variations.” In the critical arena of food safety research, the biotech industry is without accountability, standards, or peer-review. They’ve got bad science down to a science.

PROMOTING AND REGULATING DON'T MIX

While such self-serving behavior may be expected from corporations, how come government bodies let such blatant scientific contortions pass without comment? One reason is that several regulatory agencies are also charged with promoting the interests of biotechnology. This is the official position of the FDA and other US government bodies, for example. Suzanne Wuerthele, PhD, a US EPA toxicologist, says, "This technology is being promoted, in the face of concerns by respectable scientists and in the face of data to the contrary, by the very agencies which are supposed to be protecting human health and the environment. The bottom line in my view is that we are confronted with the most powerful technology the world has ever known, and it is being rapidly deployed with almost no thought whatsoever to its consequences."

Canadian regulators are similarly conflicted. The Royal Society of Canada reported that, "In meetings with senior managers from the various Canadian regulatory departments . . . their responses uniformly stressed the importance of maintaining a favorable climate for the biotechnology industry to develop new products and submit them for approval on the Canadian market. . . . The conflict of interest involved in both promoting and regulating an industry or technology . . . is also a factor in the issue of maintaining the transparency, and therefore the scientific integrity, of the regulatory process. In effect, the public interest in a regulatory system that is 'science based' . . . is significantly compromised when that openness is negotiated away by regulators in exchange for cordial and supportive relationships with the industries being regulated."¹¹¹

Many scientists on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) GMO Panel are personally aligned with biotech interests. According to Friends of the Earth (FOE), "One member has direct financial links with the biotech industry and others have indirect links, such as close involvement with major conferences organized by the biotech industry. Two members have even appeared in promotional videos produced by the biotech industry. . . . Several members of the Panel, including the chair Professor Kuiper, have been involved with the EU-funded ENTRANSFOOD project. The aim of this project was to agree [to] safety assessment, risk management, and risk communication procedures that would 'facilitate market introduction of GMOs in Europe, and therefore bring the European industry in a competitive position.' Professor Kuiper, who coordinated the ENTRANSFOOD project, sat on a working group that also included staff from Monsanto, Bayer CropScience, and Syngenta." In a statement reminiscent of the deceptive policy statement by the FDA, the FOE report concludes that EFSA is "being used to create a false impression of scientific agreement when the real situation is one of intense and continuing debate and uncertainty."¹¹²

The pro-GM European Commission repeats the same ruse. According to leaked documents obtained by FOE, while they privately appreciate "the uncertainties and gaps in knowledge that exist in relation to the safety of GM crops, . . . the Commission normally keeps this uncertainty concealed from the public whilst presenting its decisions about the safety of GM crops and foods as being certain and scientifically based." For example, the Commission privately condemned the submission information for one crop as "mixed, scarce, delivered consecutively all over years, and not convincing." They said there is "No sufficient experimental evidence to assess the safety."¹¹³

With an agenda to promote GM foods, regulators regularly violate their own laws. In Europe, the law requires that when EFSA and member states have different opinions, they "are obliged to co-operate with a view to either resolving the divergence or preparing a joint document clarifying the contentious scientific issues and identifying the relevant uncertainties in the data."¹¹⁴ According to FOE, in the case of *all* GM crop reviews, none of these legal obligations were followed.¹¹⁵ The declaration of GRAS status by the FDA also deviated from the Food and Cosmetic Act and years of legal precedent. Some violations are more blatant. In India, one official tampered with the report on Bt cotton to increase the yield figures to favor Monsanto.¹¹⁶ In Mexico, a senior government official allegedly threatened a University of California professor, implying "We know where your children go to school," trying to get him not to publish incriminating evidence that would delay GM approvals.¹¹⁷ In Indonesia, Monsanto gave bribes and questionable payments to at least 140 officials, attempting to get their genetically modified (GM) cotton approved.¹¹⁸

MANIPULATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

When governments fail in their duty to keep corporations in check, the “protector” role should shift to the media, which acts as a watchdog to expose public dangers and governmental shortcomings. But mainstream media around the world has largely overlooked the serious problems associated with GM crops and their regulation. The reason for this oversight is varied and includes contributions from an aggressive public relations and disinformation campaign by the biotech industry, legal threats by biotech companies, and in some cases, the fear of losing advertising accounts. This last reason is particularly prevalent among the farm press, which receives much of its income from the biotech industry.

Threatening letters from Monsanto’s attorneys have resulted in the cancellation of a five-part news series on their genetically engineered bovine growth hormone scheduled for a Fox TV station in Florida, as well as the cancellation of a book critical of Monsanto’s GMO products. A printer also shredded 14,000 copies of the *Ecologist* magazine issue entitled “The Monsanto Files,” due to fear of a Monsanto lawsuit. (See the chapter “Muscling the Media” in *Seeds of Deception*¹¹⁹ for more examples.)

The methods that biotech advocates use to manipulate public opinion research has become an art form. Consumer surveys by the International Food Information Council (IFIC), for example, whose supporters include the major biotech seed companies, offers conclusions such as “A growing majority of Americans support the benefits of food biotechnology as well as the US Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) labeling policy.” But communications professor James Beniger, who was past president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, described the surveys as “so biased with leading questions favoring positive responses that any results are meaningless.”¹²⁰ The 2003 survey, for example, included gems such as:

“All things being equal, how likely would you be to buy a variety of produce, like tomatoes or potatoes, if it had been modified by biotechnology to taste better or fresher?” and

“Biotechnology has also been used to enhance plants that yield foods like cooking oils. If cooking oil with reduced saturated fat made from these new plants was available, what effect would the use of biotechnology have on your decision to buy this cooking oil?”¹²¹

A similar tactic was used at a December 11, 2007 focus group in Columbus, Ohio “designed” to show that consumers wanted to make it illegal for dairies to label their milk as free from Monsanto’s genetically engineered bovine hormone rBST. The facilitator said, “All milk contains hormones. There is no such thing as hormone-free milk. The composition of both types of milk is the same in all aspects. Now what do you think of a label that says ‘no added hormones?’ Don’t you think it is deceiving and inappropriate to put ‘rBST-free’ on labels?” Not only was the facilitator “leading the witness,” he presented false information. Milk from cows treated with rBST has substantially higher levels of Insulin-like Growth Factor-1,¹²² which has been linked to higher risk of cancer,¹²³ and higher incidence of fraternal twins.¹²⁴ It also has higher levels of bovine growth hormone, pus, and in some cases, antibiotics.

Another example of manipulated consumer opinion was found in a 2004 article in the *British Food Journal*, authored by four advocates of genetically modified (GM) foods.¹²⁵ According to the peer-reviewed paper, when shoppers in a Canadian farm store were confronted with an informed and unbiased choice between GM corn and non-GM corn, most purchased the GM variety. This finding flew in the face of worldwide consumer resistance to GM foods, which had shut markets in Europe, Japan, and elsewhere. It also challenged studies that showed that the more information on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) consumers have, the *less* they trust them.¹²⁶ The study, which was funded by the biotech-industry front group, Council for Biotechnology Information and the industry’s trade association, the Crop Protection Institute of Canada (now CropLife Canada), was given the Journal’s prestigious Award for Excellence for the Most Outstanding Paper of 2004 and has been cited often by biotech advocates.

Stuart Laidlaw, a reporter from Canada’s *Toronto Star*, visited the farm store several times during the study and described the scenario in his book *Secret Ingredients*. Far from offering unbiased choices, key elements appeared rigged to favor GM corn purchases. The consumer education fact sheets were entirely pro-GMO, and Doug Powell, the lead researcher, enthusiastically demonstrated to Laidlaw how he could convince shoppers to buy the GM varieties. He confronted a farmer who had already

purchased non-GM corn. After pitching his case for GMOs, Powell proudly had the farmer tell Laidlaw that he had changed his opinion and would buy GM corn in his next shopping trip.

Powell's interference with shoppers' "unbiased" choices was nothing compared to the effect of the signs placed over the corn bins. The sign above the non-GM corn read, "Would you eat wormy sweet corn?" It further listed the chemicals that were sprayed during the season. By contrast, the sign above the GM corn stated, "Here's What Went into Producing Quality Sweet Corn." It is no wonder that 60% of shoppers avoided the "wormy corn." In fact, it may be a testament to people's distrust of GMOs that 40% still went for the "wormy" option.

Powell and his colleagues did not mention the controversial signage in their study. They claimed that the corn bins in the farm store were "fully labelled"—either "genetically engineered Bt sweet corn" or "Regular sweet-corn." When Laidlaw's book came out, however, Powell's "wormy" sign was featured in a photograph,¹²⁷ exposing what was later described by Cambridge University's Dr. Richard Jennings as "flagrant fraud." Jennings, who is a leading researcher on scientific ethics, says, "It was a sin of omission by failing to divulge information which quite clearly should have been disclosed."¹²⁸

In his defence, Powell claimed that his signs merely used the language of consumers and was "not intended to manipulate consumer purchasing patterns." He also claimed that the "wormy" corn sign was only there for the first week of the trial and was then replaced by other educational messages. But eye witnesses and photographs demonstrate the presence of the sign long after Powell's suggested date of replacement.¹²⁹

Several scientists and outraged citizens say the paper should be withdrawn, but the Journal refused. In fact, the Journal's editor has not even agreed to reconsider its Award for Excellence. A blatant propaganda exercise still stands validated as exemplary science.

CRITICS AND INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS ARE ATTACKED

One of the most troubling aspects of the biotech debate is the attack strategy used on GMO critics and independent scientists. Not only are adverse findings by independent scientists often suppressed, ignored, or denied, researchers that discover problems from GM foods have been fired, stripped of responsibilities, deprived of tenure, and even threatened. Consider Dr. Pusztai, the world's leading scientist in his field, who inadvertently discovered in 1998 that unpredictable changes in GM crops caused massive damage in rats. He went public with his concerns, was a hero at his prestigious institute for two days, and then, after the director received two phone calls allegedly from the UK Prime Minister's office, was fired after 35 years and silenced with threats of a lawsuit. False statements were circulated to trash his reputation, which are recited by GMO advocates today.

After University of California Professor Ignacio Chapela, PhD, published evidence that GM corn contaminated Mexico's indigenous varieties, two fictitious internet characters created by Monsanto's PR firm, the Bivings Group, initiated a brutal internet smear campaign, lying about Dr. Chapela and his research.

Irina Ermakova, PhD, a leading scientist at the Russian National Academy of Sciences, fed female rats GM soy and was stunned to discover that more than half their offspring died within three weeks—compared to only 10% from mothers fed non-GM soy. Without funding to extend her analysis, she labeled her work "preliminary," published it in a Russian journal, and implored the scientific community to repeat the study. Two years later, no one has repeated it, but advocates use false or irrelevant arguments to divert attention from the shocking results and have tried to vilify Dr. Ermakova.

A New Zealand MP testified at the 2001 Royal Commission of Inquiry on Genetic Modification, "I have been contacted by telephone and e-mail by a number of scientists who have serious concerns . . . but who are convinced that if they express these fears publicly. . . or even if they asked the awkward and difficult questions, they will be eased out of their institution." Indeed this year, after Professor Christian Velot, PhD, raised the difficult questions on GMOs at public conferences, his 2008 research funds were confiscated, his student assistants were re-assigned, and his position at the University of Paris-Sud faces early termination.

WE'RE THE GUINEA PIGS

Since GM foods are not properly tested before they enter the market, consumers are the guinea pigs. But this doesn't even qualify as an experiment. There are no controls and no monitoring. Given the mounting of evidence of harm, it is likely that GM foods are contributing to the deterioration of health in the United States, Canada, and other countries where it is consumed. But without post-marketing surveillance, the chances of tracing health problems to GM food are low. The incidence of a disease would have to increase dramatically before it was noticed, meaning that millions may have to get sick before a change is investigated. Tracking the impact of GM foods is even more difficult in North America, where the foods are not labeled.

Regulators at Health Canada announced in 2002 that they would monitor Canadians for health problems from eating GM foods. A spokesperson said, "I think it's just prudent and what the public expects, that we will keep a careful eye on the health of Canadians." But according to CBC TV news, Health Canada "abandoned that research less than a year later saying it was 'too difficult to put an effective surveillance system in place.'" The news anchor added, "So at this point, there is little research into the health effects of genetically modified food. So will we ever know for sure if it's safe?"¹³⁰

Not with the biotech companies in charge. Consider the following statement in a report submitted to county officials in California by pro-GM members of a task force. "[It is] generally agreed that long-term monitoring of the human health risks of GM food through epidemiological studies is not necessary because there is no scientific evidence suggesting any long-term harm from these foods."¹³¹ Note the circular logic: Because no long-term epidemiological studies are in place, we have no evidence showing long-term harm. And since we don't have any evidence of long-term harm, we don't need studies to look for it.

What are these people thinking? Insight into the pro-GM mindset was provided by Dan Glickman, the US Secretary of Agriculture under President Clinton.

"What I saw generically on the pro-biotech side was the attitude that the technology was good, and that it was almost immoral to say that it wasn't good, because it was going to solve the problems of the human race and feed the hungry and clothe the naked. . . . And there was a lot of money that had been invested in this, and if you're against it, you're Luddites, you're stupid. That, frankly, was the side our government was on. Without thinking, we had basically taken this issue as a trade issue and they, whoever 'they' were, wanted to keep our product out of their market. And they were foolish, or stupid, and didn't have an effective regulatory system. There was rhetoric like that even here in this department. You felt like you were almost an alien, disloyal, by trying to present an open-minded view on some of the issues being raised. So I pretty much spouted the rhetoric that everybody else around here spouted; it was written into my speeches."¹³²

Fortunately, not everyone feels that questioning GM foods is disloyal. On the contrary, millions of people around the world are unwilling to participate in this uncontrolled experiment. They refuse to eat GM foods. Manufacturers in Europe and Japan have committed to avoid using GM ingredients. And the US natural foods industry, not waiting for the government to test or label GMOs, is now engaged in removing all remaining GM ingredients from their sector using a third party verification system. The Campaign for Healthier Eating in America will circulate non-GMO shopping guides in stores nationwide so that consumers have clear, healthy non-GMO choices. With no governmental regulation of biotech corporations, it is left to consumers to protect ourselves.

For a guide to avoiding GMOs, go to www.NonGMOShoppingGuide.com.

International bestselling author and independent filmmaker Jeffrey M. Smith is the Executive Director of the Institute for Responsible Technology and a leading spokesperson on the health dangers of GMOs. His first book, *Seeds of Deception*, is the world's bestselling book on the subject. His second, *Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods*, identifies 65 risks of GMOs and demonstrates how superficial government approvals are not competent to find most of them. Mr. Smith has pioneered the Campaign for Healthier Eating in America, designed to create the tipping point of consumer rejection against GMOs. See www.ResponsibleTechnology.org, www.NonGMOShoppingGuide.com.

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morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:22 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ilsebillie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ilse Menger
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ilsebillie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Consumers have the right to know if the food they buy and consume contain GMO's. All foods should be labeled clearly so consumer may make an informed decision.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:16 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mark@marksheehan.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Mark Sheehan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mark@marksheehan.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

The prime law of medicine is FIRST, DO NO HARM. Can we say that about GMOs? Certainly not. Even a superficial examination of the subject is convincing evidence that there is extreme danger in these plants.

The PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE should be followed in all our legislative decisions: when in doubt, don't. The public deserves to know if they are being treated as guinea pigs and they certainly should be free to not buy products that can do so much damage to them and their children.

Support the labeling bill.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:58 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sbutterfly444@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shelby hansen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sbutterfly444@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

I strongly support HCR178, I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Mahalo,
Shelby Hansen

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mauigeorge13@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Simon
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mauigeorge13@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

I support HCR178 because it is very important to me that I be informed as to what I am eating and what I feed my family. Since I do not want to eat GMO food products, it is very important a labeling law be passed so I can make informed buying decisions. As it stands now there is no such law which makes shopping for non-GMO food very time consuming. Also I must trust that the food producers (without fear of penalty) will be honest with their "organic" labels of which there seems to be some gray area as to whether or not a Organic product can or cannot contain GMO ingredients. A GMO labeling law would remove all the doubt.

Furthermore if GMOs are as good as their producer's say they are, they should have no problem labeling them as such. Containing GMO ingredients would be a good selling feature. Otherwise what are they trying to hide?

In closing, please support this resolution to Label food with GMO ingredients.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Sincerely

George T. Simon

Haiku Hawaii

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:26 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyfools@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: stephanie clifton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: joyfools@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: naia96708@maui-maven.com
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:02 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: strong support for HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT (this is just an example~you fill in your choice support/do not support)

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because, as a health-conscious senior, who has been eating organically-grown food since 1963, I want to be sure I am avoiding GMOs in my diet. Therefore, it is necessary that food manufacturers be required to label them wherever they occur.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Nadine [Nai`a] Newlight
Ha`iku, HI

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Make sure your packages are being shipped on cleaner, more fuel-efficient trucks. Find out more at www.ucsusa.org/shipitgreen

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:54 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ti_health@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tia Kent
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ti_health@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
Please support HR 154 and people's right to choose.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: truth.now@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Al Saxon
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: truth.now@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Transparency should reign in a democracy. The people should have the right to choose their food. GMO is bad news for all involved.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:52 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tjsimms2000@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: TJ SIMMS
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tjsimms2000@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Transparency should reign in a democracy. The people should have the right to choose their food. GMO is bad news for all involved.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: nesnow@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Nesnow
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: nesnow@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pualehuafarm@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Schott
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pualehuafarm@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Dear Legislative members,
HR154 purpose is to allow consumers of food products to know whether or not what they are purchasing is genetically modified or not. It is reasonable that consumers should have a choice between GM products and non GM products. Research on GM products has not sufficiently passed peer review, particularly with respect to herbicide ready GM products. Common sense tells us that herbicides should not be consumed by human beings, even in trace amounts. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and my testimony is in favor of HR154. Thank you.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Helen [hbonmaui@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: RE: Support for HR154 Non GMO

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to respectfully voice my opinion. I support HR154 because it supports our local economy and protects our natural resources including our beautiful aina, flora and our beloved bees. Please support this resolution. Think of our keiki's keiki's keiki and help our organic and commercial agriculture grow unabated by GE crops and seeds. It's not nice to fool Mother Nature so please kokua and support HR154 Non GMO

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Mahalo nui loa,
Helen Barrow
Makawao, HI 96768

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rittew@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: walter ritte
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rittew@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure. Our interest must come before the interest of chemical companies now farming our lands.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: gypsieme@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teri Nguyen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gypsieme@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Please hear our voices: Hawaii residents want mandated labeling on all GMO foods. I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of Hawaii County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui,
Teri Nguyen

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: babsonb001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bob Babson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: babsonb001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Please require GMO food to be labeled.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jennabliss2012@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenna Kohler
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jennabliss2012@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tacraig@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Craig
Organization: UHMC
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tacraig@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Please respect our right to know when our food contains genetically engineered or modified organisms. Please require definitive labeling of all products containing GMOs.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bbliler@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ben Bliler
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bbliler@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

We have the right as people to request the proposed changes. Please honor our rights as a people to choose a better life.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 7:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Neil Vonhof
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Keoki Sousa [keoki@maui.net]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 7:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: STRONG SUPPORT HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I want to be able to avoid buying a product that has been adequately labeled as genetically modified, and because I fear genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will have devastating long-term effects on our collective health. More basic research is needed to determine actual health risks.

As usual, Hawaii can lead the way by requiring standardized labeling of all GMO foods. I strongly support mandatory GMO labeling so that we know what's in the seeds we grow, the food we eat and what we feed to our families. Requiring GMO labels is the only way that we are granted the right to make the best choice for ourselves and our families.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our residents' health.

Keoki Sousa
Kihei, HI 96753

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Supa Veda [supaveda@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony, HR154/HCR178

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because as a citizen I have the right to know what ingredients and substances are used in consumer and agricultural foods.

European countries are far ahead of us in recognizing the dangers and unproven science of GMO's. They have important bans and restrictions, and stringent labeling to protect their community. GMO's have been found to cross from bacteria in the digestive system and thus may pose unknown health risks.

The rampant GMO experiments in the state of Hawaii are a danger to the society and environment. The legal liabilities of continuing to allow the GMO industry to CONTAMINATE our environment and food supply and ultimately our bodies and children's body will inevitably fall on the government.

I urge you to be proactive and support this bill to protect the environment and the health of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

These are a few of the important issues:

Health & Safety: special diet sensitivities, allergies, pesticide sensitivities, proven dangers of GMO's, unknown dangers of GMO's
Religious or Cultural: DNA manipulation, crossing animal species with plants, kosher, vegan, many religious and cultural beliefs do not support GMO organisms in their food.

Environmental: those who support natural and organic farming, through product purchase need accurate information. proven and unknown danger of GMO's in the environment.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Michael Saiz
Haleiwa Hawaii

morikawa2 - Grant

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Rob Tarver [robtarver@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Please support HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I am deeply concerned about Genetically Modified Food being sold in our stores. GMO Labeling is the first step to controlling this approach to growing food that will eventually harm a great percentage of our population!

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and all of our resident's health.

Rob Tarver
Wailuku, HI

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sacredartist@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kendra Hunter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sacredartist@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

I strongly encourage, hopefully inspire the act of good will of labeling all GMO products. As an American, a consumer who eats organic foods and has so for most of my adult life, I have the right to know what I am getting in my food. If GMO is good for you then don't hide it... why would one need to. We know most people don't trust it that's why it's being hidden. Shame!

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:32 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: I Love Kalihi Valley
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
Chair, HLT Committee
Honorable Member of the HLT Committee

We support the intent of HR 154 Relating to Genetically Modified Organism Labeling.

Limiting the scope solely to the Dept. of Health to the exclusion of the Dept. of Agriculture, may be permissible at the early stages of a proposed feasibility study. But recommend upon the conclusion, the Dept. of Agriculture be brought into the circle as a stakeholder.

Recommend approval of HR 154 by the HLT Committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Founder/Editor
I Love Kalihi Valley
Kalihi Valley resident

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ramodaanand@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ramoda Anand
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ramodaanand@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I strongly Support this HR154 Please do the ethical action and pass it out of committee. We will be watching to see what happens.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bcbonse@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Bonse
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bcbonse@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of HR 154, labeling of genetically modified crops and foods in Hawai'i.

It is the right of people to know what their foods consist of in order to make choices that fit their lifestyles. GMO crops are and will continue to be controversial because of the money-centered corporations who fund their research and propagation. There is little hope that these foods have health benefits and mounting proof that they are detrimental. I choose to not purchase foods that use GMO crops. I want to know what foods those are. The Dept of Health will need to know also; how can health officials know the origin of allergic reactions and other illnesses that can stem from genetically engineered crops if these foods are not labeled?

Please give us what the Japanese, Chinese and Europeans already have. Mandate and enforce the labeling of genetically modified organisms.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on this vitally important issue.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: discoverthesource@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Eric Brandt
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: discoverthesource@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I strongly believe that all humans have the right to know what the ingredients are in the foods we eat. It's the only right that we ought to always have this information available to us - on each and every label of every food that we might want to consume. We're living in very toxic times with many types of pollution getting into our food/water and air, which are having terrible effects upon our health. From my studies as a health advisor I know that many health problems are directly linked to what we eat. Therefore, we must be able to know what's in our food. I don't trust GMO foods in the least and see them as a huge cause of so many health issues confronting humans and animals these days. The big seed and ag companies don't want non-GMO labels on the food because they know many people don't want to eat GMO foods. They fear they will lose business and they are right. The problem we have now is that most people don't even know that they're already eating GMO foods three times a day. With labels they will know and they will act to protect themselves by choosing not to eat Frankenfood. Do the right thing and allow labels to be put on food products - so everyone can make informed, intelligent decisions about what they want to put into their precious bodies - the only bodies they have to get through life with. We need to be healthy to have a good life and GMO foods don't give us health. Thanks fo listening and considering my POV. Aloha, Eric Brandt

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Susan Douglas [sd3@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony; Rep. Daynette Morikawa
Subject: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HR154/HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

RE: Testimony, HR154/HCR178

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I strongly support HR154 because I believe labeling is the first step towards banning gmo'd food which I really believe in. Ever since I heard about people getting sick from eating gmo'd papayas grown in HI several years ago I have stopped buying any Hawaiian-grown papayas, and I miss them!

I know many others who have made this decision, also not to buy Monsanto/Hawaii grown corn, so I know it's having an impact on our economy. I continue to buy produce at Costco, which I know sends Hawaii dollars out of state, because they assure me that they do not sell GMO'd produce. I would rather spend my money here.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Warmest Mahalo and Aloha!

Susan Douglas
Healthy Life Coach
Temple of the Spirit
3145-A Makamae Pl.
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753
808 879 1112 (24/7)
sd3@hawaii.rr.com

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: flowell7@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: susan heinold
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: flowell7@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Consumers should be informed of what they are purchasing especially in regards to food & its potential affects on one's health.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Ursula Lamberson [ulamberson@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:02 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HR 154

LATE TESTIMONY

Please hear our voices: Hawaii residents want mandated labeling on all GMO foods

Aloha Representative Morikawa,

I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of Kauai County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui,

Ursula Lamberson

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: gwendita@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: wendy berry
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gwendita@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
Aloha Representative Hanohano,

I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohāna, and a concerned citizen of Hawai'i County that labeling be mandated on all GMO foods.

In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families.

It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling.

I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Wendy Berry

From: Ray Baskerville [rbaskerville@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support the implementing of labeling for GMO foods because I believe in the cautionary principle. It is not for no reason the the entire EU has strict restrictions on both their growth and sale.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Ray Baskerville
29 Hoku Pl
Paia, HI 96779
USA

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dotaloha@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dot buck
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dotaloha@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
have health dept have stick on lables for supermarkets to put on the packages, have
manufactur's pay for the stickers.

From: Dawn Matney [dawny@mauigateway.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: GMO labeling and growing Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the
Committee,

I support HR154 because I want the choice for my health not to buy
GMO affected foods. I feel it important and necessary. I don't believe
long term effects of GMO's are proven safe and i don't want to eat foods
containing it. Food labeling needs to be clear regarding GMO just as
other ingredients and types of ingredients are to be listed. It should also
be mentioned that there doesn't seem to be any evidence proving there
is no negative impact on our native plants or other agricultural products
by having them exposed to GMO plants being grown in the islands.
Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's
health.

Dawn Matney
Makawao, HI 96768

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kuala@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marty Kuala
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kuala@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Paula Sandefur [paulasandefur@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: GMO Labeling

Please do not support GMO on Maui. The least we can expect is fair labeling so we can avoid buying these agricultural products. Also I would like labeling for irradiated foods in stores.

Paula Sandefur
1057 Makawao Ave. A108
Makawao, HI 96758

LATE TESTIMONY

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:58 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: maria.makaleha@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maria Walker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: maria.makaleha@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you to express my strong support for Bill 154. I believe it is extremely important for consumers to have full information on products that they are considering purchasing. Unfortunately, the federal government has not felt the same way in the case of genetically modified foods, and I believe this is an important opportunity for Hawaii to be a leader in correcting this situation. Our state is one of the top states in the country committed to research in genetically modified crops and we are uniquely positioned to set an important precedent in keeping consumers informed. Please vote in support of this resolution, and continue to support labeling of genetically modified foods and crops in our state once the feasibility of labeling has been determined to be desirable and necessary.

Mahalo,
Maria Walker

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: greatmystery33@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Beth Saxon
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: greatmystery33@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Please support consumers' right to know. Thank you so very much.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:16 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: calitman@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christina Litman
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: calitman@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

I strongly support this bill getting passed. I am a mother of two children and am very concerned about what is in my food. I look at labels and make choices based on what is in the food. Currently I no longer eat corn due to the hybridization that has occurred without labeling. We can use natural remedies to prevent pests from eating the food. More citizens need to be educated about GMO's and the risks. I strongly urge you to support this for the state of Hawaii. This beautiful paradise and its people deserve to have naturally grown food without being pressured or monopolized by big business. I will not buy food that is GMO labeled. I look for foods that have the non GMO labeling to buy. I will not eat Papaya's due to the hybridization here in Maui. I inform my community about labeling and healthier choices for our farmer's. I only buy Organic food For such a beautiful island I can't believe all the toxic mess that is sprayed everywhere without consideration for how it harms our people and the land. The earth won't stand for it much longer. We will see more diseases created as a result of messing with the DNA of our food. Thank you for your support.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Courtney Bruch [usmaui@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:09 AM
To: Rep. Daynette Morikawa; HLTtestimony
Subject: Trying to reach Grant concerning HR154 Testimony error

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Grant,

I spoke with you yesterday. You said you're handling testimony for Resolutions HR154/HCR178.

I sent Rep. Yamane an email last night. I'm concerned he may not receive it before this morning's hearing. Please relay the message to him if possible.

"Dear Representative Yamane,

My name is Courtney Bruch. I am involved with GMO FREE Maui and Upcountry Sustainability on Maui. I notified people about the Resolutions HR154/HCL178. I'm new to the legislative process. I want to apologize for any testimony that has your name misspelled. One of the committee clerks emailed to advise me on how to suggest appropriate heading for testimony and misspelled your name. I didn't catch it and forwarded it. Fortunately this error was brought to my attention. I will be more careful in the future. Please let me know that you received this.

Mahalo,

Courtney Bruch
Kipahulu, Maui"

Have a great day!
Courtney

From: Char [maucass@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:02 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HR15 4

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT (this is just an example~you fill in your choice support/do not support)

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,
I support HR154 because we should have choice to govern our own health.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Charlene Casserley
Maui

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hyperelf5@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: craig eckert
Organization: montessori school of maui
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hyperelf5@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

From: Irena [irenabliss@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:17 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony, HR154/HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00 AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT

Please hear our voices: Hawaii wants mandated labeling on all GMO foods

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned supporter of Maui County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel Hawaii is a shining example of a more balanced approach to life and could continue being a beacon of sustainable living practices more in harmony with nature. I feel strongly that we have the **RIGHT TO KNOW** what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers Hawaii ohana, and sets this important standard locally to serve as a beacon to a larger global family.
Mahalo Nui Loa,

Irena Strzinar
B.A.Sc., M.A.Sc., P.Eng.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:33 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rogersn001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Puanani Rogers
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rogersn001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Should GMO products be labeled? ABSOLUTELY!
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL!
MAHALO A NUI!

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:17 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jtluvmw@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Trujillo
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jtluvmw@lava.net
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee, Mahalo for the opportunity to share testimony in support of the proposed action to request the DOH investigate the feasibility of a labeling system for genetically engineered food.

As you are aware the issues of food safety and public health are complex and vital to the welfare of our community. As consumers we often look to our government agencies charged with our health and safety to provide guidelines, recommendations and regulations for products consumed on a regular basis. Often the manufacturers will take a proactive step to provide basic information on the products they sell. Clear labeling of products allow us consumers the opportunity to make informed and wise decisions.

HR 154 is the first step in providing a vehicle for providing Hawaii consumers with specific information on genetically engineered food products. For many health conscious consumers, reading labels is a critical process in determining if the product offers more benefits than liabilities regarding nutrition, ingredients and composition of the food product. For too long the manufacturers of GE food products have resisted sharing information about their products. This unfortunate choice on the part of the manufacturer has left consumers in the dark and unsure about the products in question.

By supporting HR 154, you will be able to ensure that consumers will have access to basic information about the products on the market and allow for informed decision making regarding personal health and food safety.

In closing, your support of HR 154 and HCR 178 will help to address the myriad of concerns that citizens have with GE food products. Public health and food safety are growing concerns for many in Hawaii; HR 154 and HCR 178 will provide a reasonable approach to informing consumers of the products available and allow consumers to choose products based upon types of ingredients, processes and composition of food products in the marketplace.

Thank you again for allowing this opportunity to share my mana'o on this important subject. Best wishes for you and your colleagues as you deliberate and decide what is best for Hawaii and her citizens.

With respect and aloha,

James G Trujillo
PO BOX 33
Kapa'a, HI
96746

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:09 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: aria406@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Hughes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: aria406@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for representing us in this important matter. I, and many others will be very grateful to have this measure passed, allowing us to make educated choices when buying food for ourselves, and loved ones. This will also lend more buying power to the general public who often dont have the time to research companies use of GMOs/ feel they can afford (often much more expensive) organic food. Many mahalos for you time, and please feel free to contact me w/ any questions/ comments.

Angela

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Katherine [kjlilledahl@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:06 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: GMO food

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because...

I don't believe GMO food is safe and as a consumer I have the right to know where my food comes from and what has been done to it.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Katherine Lilledahl
Puunene, Hi. 96784

--
To Your Health, Happiness, and Prosperity,

Katherine

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Bootzie [bootzie@mauienchantress.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: VIP please read HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
VERY STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I think it is completely unethical not to tell people that their food has been altered when they are putting it in their bodies and in their childrens bodies. Please help.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Britta Spilsbury
Kihei HI

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jponce@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse ponce de leon
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jponce@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
This is about education. The people must be informed; about what they are eating.
mahalo

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: prentisentina@ecologyfund.net
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Prentise
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: prentisentina@ecologyfund.net
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I support the mandatory labeling of all foods and products that are genetically modified or contain genetically modified ingredients, which have been proven to alter growth, cause death (in the case of the GMO contaminated Tryptophan supplements that caused all Tryptophan supplements to be banned, even though the GMO-free ones are safe), and infect organic plants, gardens, and farms. The GMO giants do not want us to know the truth about their contamination of our food supply, because one, they know that we will instinctively reject products whose genetics have been messed with, and two, they don't want us to know the truth about how dangerous their products are. We deserve to know the truth so that we can make healthier choices for ourselves, our families, and our pets.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:18 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: stevefreid@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR154 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HR154

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Freid
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: stevefreid@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
GMO foods MUST be clearly labeled so we can choose according to our preferences!!!

morikawa2 - Grant

From: myfoundation@fastmail.fm
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony, HR154/HCR178

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, 03-29-11

9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because labeling foods allows conscious choices, and protects those with allergies such as to sugars, peanuts, soy, etc.

People have a right to know.

Traditional Hawaiian culture is about nature, natural substances and foods and health. GMO goes completely against that beautiful tradition. GMO foods are dead and cannot reproduce.

Hawaii is not about chemicals, toxins or dead foods.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Sincerely,

Mary Sherritt
Kihei, Maui

Mary Sherritt

Phone and NEW fax 626.389.4953, 877.716.3488, option 2

Sovereign and StarSeed / Crystal

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Fund your Humanitarian Project! www.prosperityprojects.org

"We are the ones we have been waiting for." Unknown

Opt out? Please click Reply and type "No" in Subject. Thank you.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:32 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyfools@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR178 on 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/29/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR178

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: stephanie clifton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: joyfools@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
GMO labeling YES

we want to know what we are eating!!

LATE TESTIMONY

March 28, 2011

Testimony, HR154/HCF178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I strongly support HR154 because I believe genetically modified organism (GMO's) may pose a serious threat to our nation's health and well being. There is also evidence that indicate the possible, ultimate elimination of our heirloom seeds that have been handed down over past generations amongst cultures throughout the world.

I don't believe that Monsanto should ever have been allowed to patent their potentially dangerous seeds which has given them increasing power and control over our world's food supply.

I feel there has not been adequate testing of the long range effects of eating food grown from GMO seeds. We, the citizens, deserve the right to choose what we put in our bodies and we cannot exercise this right when our foods are not truthfully labeled.

Please support this resolution which supports Hawaii's agricultural community and the health of our people along with the generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kaila Nelson-Floto

Kihei I would like everyone in both parties to retire. We need fresh faces and new ideas. The war mongers are getting richer and the citizens are getting poorer. Both parties spend and spend. Cutting spending would be easy by just bringing our troops home from winless wars. Career politicians are a cancer who have to many favors to repay. The war on drugs is a failure and just putting troops on the border would be a start. Just think. No more illegals on welfare that are draining our system.

Replies (53)

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,
I support HR154 because:

I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of Maui County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui,

Please support this resolution.
Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our residents' health.
Laurie Noble
Makawao

28 March 2011

RE: HR 154

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony regarding HR 154.

In this day and age, the rights of consumers to know what they are purchasing have been greatly challenged by large corporations with deep pockets. It is a very important role that our legislators have in safeguarding those rights.

By passing HR 154, our legislature will send a clear message that our representatives are there for us, the people, and to protect our rights over the excesses and potentially lethal secrets that are held by large corporations due to a lack of complete, scientifically sound, long-term research.

If GMO food is as safe as the large corporate companies attest them to be, why are they so against labeling of GMO food for the consumer? If GMO food is so safe, why are not all of the data on the research done on these foods available for review by peers that are not paid or connected to the large corporations in any shape or form? When you alter the basic genetic structure of an item, it has been altered even if the company doing the altering says that there is no inherent change to the item. We, as consumers, have a right to know that a change has occurred and therefore we can then make a conscious choice to purchase a product or not.

To me, this creates a reasonable doubt as to the certainty of the science of GMO food and therefore it is necessary for the consumer to have a conscious choice in what products they are purchasing. This reasonable doubt is merely due diligence by a consumer and it is the duty of our elected officials to protect the consumer rights to practice due diligence in our lives and health.

Please vote for HR 154 and protect the rights of consumers to know what is in their food. This bill will enable all consumers and residents of Hawaii to make that conscious choice.

Thank you,
Karen Blue
P.O. Box 615
Kurtistown HI 96760

LATE TESTIMONY

Disable Commenting

Remove All Comments

Lorayne Lipps This is a pertinent issue presently of corporate nondisclosure of which the public has a right to know. Many of the statistics are not favorable regarding the long rang effects of GMO's such as allergic reactions, DNA issues, water table contamination, hybrid genetic contamination and subsequent fertility issues of seed viability.

9 minutes ago Remove Flag Like Reply

larry mano It is with deep concern not only for me but to my grandchildren. whom are not aware of what they are eating that i bring home to the table, I as a maoli whose ancestors have pride ourselves with being in harmony with nature are threatened by manmade genetics that go against our well being. I believe that modern science and corporations are a destructive force to nature as well as all the people on earth. Please lable G.M.O. products in hawaii. we don't need their patent rights in hawaii. Mahalo

about 1 hour ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Joan Ov'Art I demand truth and transparency in all decisions that are affecting my life and yours. It is time to stop this insanity of Huge Corporate decisions ruining our food supply and damaging our health. GMO foods and seeds are not a sustainable future. Stop this now and pay attention to the will of the people. It is time for sustainable beneficial actions to be taken for the people of Earth now!

about 1 hour ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Angela Melia I Absolutely want to know where the source of my food is coming from. The only way to know that, is by clear labeling! Mahalo, Angela Melia

about 5 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Paulette Fukumoto GMO foods have not been tested for long term effects on people who eat them. Tests on animals have shown definite horrifying effects. We deserve the right to know if seeds and foods are genetically modified. Our children and grandchildren stand to be the "beneficiaries" of the negative impact of GMO foods on their health. Are you willing to allow big business to determine what our families eat , without any consideration about how GMO foods will impact our health? At

the very least, we deserve the right to know if a food is genetically modified! Please vote for mandatory GMO labelling. about 10 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Daniel Dowdall As the long-term effects of GMO foods are truly unknown and as there already seem to be too many GMO products grown in Hawaii already, we must have the right to know what we are eating. Local sustainability is key to our food future. What large agribusiness corporations, like Monsanto here in Hawaii, will be producing as "food product" is neither local, sustainable, nor even desirable, Profit cannot rule over food health... about 11 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Alicia Noble NO MONSANTO! NO GMO! about 11 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Helga Fiederer The impact of GMOs on humans or other species isn't understood at all. We have no independent or longterm studies to proof that GMOs are harmless. We need labeling. People need to know. about 11 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Keeki Sousa I support HR154 because I want to be able to avoid buying a product that has been adequately labeled as genetically modified, and because I fear genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will have devastating long-term effects on our collective health. More basic research is needed to determine actual health risks. As usual, Hawaii can lead the way by requiring standardized labeling of all GMO foods. I strongly support mandatory GMO labeling so that we know what's in the seeds we grow, the food we eat and what we feed to our families. Requiring GMO labels is the only way that we are granted the right to make the best choice for ourselves and our families. about 12 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Julie Frank At the very least, we have the right to have a choice in what we eat and put into our body. I'm all for organically grown..hormone free! about 12 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Ryan Wooton We have the right to choose what we put in our

bodies. People that don't care about GMO food will still buy there products. Us that want to avoid GMO food will have the information we require. [about 12 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Kathleen Soule I want the right to choose my food and not be FORCED to eat genetically modified products. The MONSANTO monster must be contained! [about 13 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Simon Russell I would like to know if my food has been genetically altered please. [about 13 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Robert Kelaghan Monsanto is steamrolling over people's 'right to know,' and making a mockery of the Democratic process please do not allow this corporate giant to get its way over the voices of reason & civility [Robert Kelaghan](#) [about 13 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Maesyn Strite this is absolutely crucial! We give thanks for the freedom to choose. [about 14 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Kathleen Notestone Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee, I support HR154 because I care what we are eating, and fear the GMO modification will have long dreadful effects on the nations overall health. It is the time for Hawaii to lead the way, by requiring standardized labeling of all GMO foods. We are requesting mandatory GMO labeling so that we know what's in the seeds we grow, the food we eat and what we feed to our families. Requiring GMO labels is the only way that we are granted the right to make the best choice for ourselves and our families. [about 14 hours ago](#) [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)

Cliff DeVries GMO products need to be labeled. The government was very irresponsible to release these products without proper testing. Monsanto has stated publicly that they are interested in dominating the world's seed market and thereby the world's food supply. They do control a great deal of the world's seed market already. Labeling

foods with GMO products would stop their plan immediately. about 16 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Jeff Turner CPA No matter what your position on GMO's is, it is blatantly undemocratic to not require labeling so that those who care will have the truth of knowledge. about 16 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Mark Hamamoto I support this. about 17 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Charlotte O'Brien I am very careful about what I eat and what I feed to my family. Let's take the lead of the European's and the Japanese and be very very cautious about this stuff. about 17 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

David Johnston I support HR154 because GMOs need to be labeled so that we know. I've been concerned with this issue since 2001 when I got involved in the formation of GMO Free Maui. The State of Hawaii needs to take a stand and protect its citizens from food safety hazards. Please support this resolution. Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our residents' health. about 17 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Edith Bikle Please stop with the GMO until more research is done. You are messing with nature and we have no idea what the long term effects will be. Yes, you definitely need to label the GMO food because I DON'T WANT TO EAT IT! about 17 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Ellen Levinsky As a citizen of the state of Hawaii I choose to NOT consume GMO products. It is vital that GMO products be labeled as such. There are laws for labeling ingredients in foods, important for health and allergy reasons. This should apply to GMO foods also. about 18 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Siddhanta Boyd I am STRONGLY opposed to gmo and

believe I have the right to know if my food is gmo about 18 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Elton Magallanes No GMO about 18 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Jenny Leistikow This is very important to the health of all Americans. Please stand with us about 18 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Glenn Collen FDA scientist themselves voiced their concerns regarding the health implications of genetic foods europe has banned some products and they list gmo's ,we want the same ...the right to know about 19 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply





Letisha Boyle Go back to Hell Monsanto, we don't want your Death Food about 20 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply








Orlando Smith GMO foods undermine the functionality of the metabolic processes in the body. The health of our children and the future of our nation rests on our ability to exercise ethical fortitude when confronted with corporate assaults on the American way of life. I believe in value. Organic products have a much higher value in the marketplace and in the realm of long-term health costs. Protect the people's right to know... tell the truth... support (HR)154/HCR178. Aloha, O.S. about 20 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply








Schantell Taylor I would like a choice to be poisoned or not~ about 20 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply












Lauren Shaw Meek To whom it may concern, We would also like the crops that are grown here be removed NOW. They are effecting our ecosystem very badly. Thank you, Lauren Shaw Meek about 20 hours ago Remove Flag Like Reply








Alan D. Ackerman I'm a Hawai'ian in a STRANGE








land   about 20 hours ago [Remove Flag](#) [1 Person likes this comment](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)
 








  **David Santistevan**  You are what you eat, we do not want frankenstein babies in the world, people are crazy enough without adding to the problem   about 20 hours ago [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)  

  **Corinne Peace**  I would like the right to know if a product contains GMO ingredients. Thank you.   about 21 hours ago [Remove Flag](#)
[Like](#) [Reply](#)  

  **Vince Dodge**  Aloha no,  GMO's are labeled in Europe, Japan and parts of South America. Labeling not only gives consumers important information, but is a strong indication of the integrity of the food producers. Labeling will benefit us all. A fully informed consumer is the best consumer. A food producer with integrity is a good producer. Pass HR 154/HCR178 now.  mahalo nui,  Vince Kana'i Dodge  consumer, producer, educator   about 21 hours ago [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)  

  **Megan Powers**  It is appalling to me to think that there would be any question about whether or not to require labelling of GMO food and plant stock and seeds in HI or anywhere. That this has to go to a vote in the legislature is just another way the GMO manufacturers are trying to get and maintain control of our food supply and health. I, and everyone I know are staunchly opposed to GMO products and demand that they be labelled. Thank you for listening to the people who care about a healthy future for planet earth.   about 21 hours ago [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)  

  **Jennifer Mercede**  Please lead the way HI, this has to happen sooner or later. Food is as political an issue as any other resource, including oil and water.   about 22 hours ago [Remove Flag](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)  

  **Rev. Joseph LaRocco**  I am sick,, of the undermining of the people,, STOP this bad act NO GMO   about 22 hours ago [Remove Flag](#)
[Like](#) [Reply](#)  

□□**Maggie Welker** □ Please consider the rights of the consumer. Very simply, I want to make informed choices. □□ about 23 hours ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

□□**Bonnie Marsh, ND** □ As a Naturopathic Doctor, my concern about GMO farming is great. Growing foods on viruses can have devastating effect on human health. Also as an American citizen, I believe we have a basic right to know how our food is grown to make informed choices in what foods we buy. □□ about 24 hours ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

Susan Lucille Hendricks □ Ignorance is the opium of the masses... I want to know if something is from a GMO... I have the right to know. Wake up politicians... don't you care? □□ 1 day ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

□□**rhio coreli** □ As a citizen of the mainland USA, I too have a stake in the agriculture of Hawaii. For a few years now, I have not purchased the beautiful Hawaiian papaya because of GM contamination... and I have also refrained from purchasing other Hawaiian agricultural products as well. Hawaii's beautiful and unique islands and it's agricultural heritage have been hijacked by Monsanto and other biotech companies... using it as their testing grounds for their \$\$\$mutant genetic constructs. □ Giving people a choice is the only way to reign the mutants in, as all surveys show that people, having a choice, would not choose GM. □□ 1 day ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

□□**jan wakatsuki** □ i personally want to know GMO foods and products containing GMO...I WONT be buying or ingesting ANY GMO ..please respect us that want to CHOOSE what we buy and eat □□ 1 day ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

□□**Darlene Waddell** □ It is a basic human right to have healthy & wholesome foods to eat and if they are not, we have a right to know that too !! □□ 1 day ago □ Remove Flag □ Like Reply □□□

□□**Karen Murray** □ Everyone has the right to make their own food choices. Our representatives are elected to protect those rights. Monsanto

started this with a lie. We remember how this Pandora's box was unleashed into the environment with so very little testing. I have been favoring organic foods since the 70's and it was back in the early 90's that I first actively followed the GMO invasion. The effects of something like GMOs are not easily traceable, yet may be as clear as the abundance of digestive tract problems that are so prevalent in our society. A glance at the aisle at the drugstores may be an indication of how profitable this may be to some. Also, to have honest farmers persecuted for the drifting damage done to their crops under the guise of intellectual property rights, is a shame and a fraud our government seems complicit in. Please help right the wrongs committed in the past by applying the same standards to GMOs that are applied to other products that require disclosure. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Ian Walsh We deserve the Right to know and choose! 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

James Jack We demand the right to know what we are eating! Please support the labeling of GMO foods in Hawaii for the good of our ohana. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Ben Manuel Hey, hey!!! Ho! Ho! Monsanto's GMO's has gotta go!!!! 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Harold Siegwart It is time for change and for the people to know what they are eating ,also every product that is GMO is like playing God 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Skye Coe Requiring GMO labels is the only way that we are granted the right to make the best choice for ourselves and our families. 'Nuf Sed! 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Keone Kneisler Please take better care of our foods and stop certain experimenting that causes harm to our human family. May we spend our time to improve our lives and please stop toxic spray of foods. Please label foods that are GMO. Thank you. Keone 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Petra Prenskey For the sake of future generations, please let us make informed decisions. GMO is banned in so many countries, all we are asking is to know where it is in so that we have a choice. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Wehi Kanewa Aloha Representative Faye Hanohano & 50 other Hawai'i House of Representatives: Please hear our voices: Hawaii residents want mandated labeling on all GMO foods I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of the Hawai'i County. In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony : I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on our 'Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know. Thank you for listening and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii. Mahalo Nui, Wehi Kanewa
*) 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Shannon Wianecki Give us the information to make our own decisions. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Pamela Greenaway We residents of Hawaii nei, deserve to know whether our whole unprocessed foods are genetically engineered. At this point, it would only include the papaya, and possibly some sweet corn. In the future it could include the banana. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Anna Webb Labeling is just common sense. If GMO is safe, then why not label it as so? 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Debra Greene All we are asking is to be informed about GMOs. Not too much to ask. Please let us know. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Andre Deslauriers Monsnato must leave the entire Hawaii State altogether and must comply with the obligation to mark all "food" produced by them and their affiliate companies clearly showing that it is a GMO product and where it is from at all times. Enough is enough. 1 day ago Remove Flag Like Reply

LAUREL WHITE we deserve this RIGHT thank you for checking your CONSCIENCE that this is SO 2 days ago Remove Flag Like Reply

LaJon Weaver Please vote to require standardized labeling of all GMO foods. This is our right to know. Thank you for doing this. 2 days ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Ginger Johnson What has been done to our food and our farmers is unconscionable. Give us back the right to feed ourselves. 2 days ago Remove Flag Like Reply

David Stoops mailing Address: 5095 Napilihau St. 109B, ste. #302 Lahania Hi. 96761 2 days ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Christa Briggs As an activist against Genetically Modified Food since the early part of this century, I stand with those who call for correct and authentic labeling of all foods. All foods meaning all that are grown or are shipped to Hawaii and every other part of the United States. 2 days ago Remove Flag Like Reply

Michael Gach We need regulations for any genetically modified food. The public should know what they are eating; its a basic

right. 2 days ago | Remove Flag | Like Reply

Courtney Bruch | I am very concerned about GMO's in my food. I make every effort to avoid them. I believe it is a basic human right to know that food is being genetically modified in a laboratory and for that to be labeled in all products containing GMO's. The public has a right to know what kind of open air experiments companies like Monsanto are doing on our islands influencing our air, water and earth. I feel patenting seeds and genetic cross contamination of heirloom, organic and conventional crops is a CRIME! This is a very serious issue. Please Label GMO in HI now! 3 days ago | Remove Flag | Like R

Testimony, HR154/HCR178

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, 03-29-11

9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I strongly support HR154. I have served on the Upcountry Sustainability Core Committee for two years and am a Maui resident of 12 years. I am an advocate for sustainability and organic, locally grown food. I studied permaculture at Heartwood Institute in CA. I have volunteered at Native American Reservations in the SW. I have studied the impact of genetically modified seeds on many cultures. I have watched many documentaries including "The World According to Monsanto" that portray the many atrocities related to the presence of multi national chemical companies patenting the world's seeds and trying to own the world's food supply. The message is clearly written on the wall. It only takes a bit of research.

This is not as Mother Nature intended. These farming practices are poisoning our soil, water, air, bodies, babies and future generations. There are countries that won't buy our papaya because they have been cross contaminated with GMO. GMO practices have possibility of undermining organic produce and dairy/livestock/fish such as cows and salmon. By genetically modifying alfalfa and corn, two of the primary feeds for livestock,

an animal food product or bi-product is not considered organic. This destroys the organic industry, small farmer and home organic gardens.

Many people that live and visit Maui are interested in healthy life style and are appalled that the island's allow open field GE experimentation. The word is getting out. Children's schools in Kaua'i and Oahu have reported illnesses due to what they believe to be toxic drift coming from GE facilities.

Sometimes I feel that Monsanto and other GE companies have Hawaii in their back pocket. The history of plantation crops and the decrease in the sugar cane and pineapple industry has left many unemployed and looking for jobs. Many of these people speak very little English and are in the 50-60 year age bracket. They may have little idea of the health implications they are subjecting themselves and other to, working in the GE industry in HI.

GE companies give money to UH and other organizations. Their money isn't worth jeopardizing our health and the health of the future generations. What we allow them to do in HI effects the whole world. Many GE companies claim they are "saving the world". Many Nations have refused GE seed donations and many farmer's in India are committing suicide because they bought into GE farming. They mortgaged their land, the crops didn't produce as promised and that have no seed for future plantings.

We are so blessed to live in Hawaii. Our year long growing season offers us the ability to grow organic food for many. We deserve the Right to Know if the food and pharmaceuticals we

buy contain GMO. The label should CLEARLY STATE this truth so we know what we're eating and can make a responsible choice for ourselves and our families.

Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Courtney Bruch, B.F.A., L.M.T.
Kipahulu, HI

Here's a link to "The World According to Monsanto"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7McbOMEbu8>

Please watch it.

Aloha Representative Morikawa,

I am a CONCERNED citizen of Maui County.

LATE TESTIMONY

In order that my voice be heard, I hereby add my testimony :

I support HCR 178 .

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating.

I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families.

Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled.

It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people.

It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk.

I am counting on you and your colleagues in the state legislature to help.

Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling.

I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui,
Corinne Peace


LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I am very conscious when it comes to my family's health. Big agriculture demonstrates by its actions and choices that it does not care about my child's right to freedom from disease that could result from GMO foods, it cares about money--I think we both know that. I am constantly amazed by how little people know about what they eat. Do you want to eat genetically modified foods? No one knows what the results of these foods will be on humans. There is already considerable evidence that it will be disastrously detrimental to our health. As you may already be aware, it is virtually impossible to keep GMO foods contained. If GMO is allowed to continue on Maui, we will all be eating GMO food, regardless of how we grow or buy our own foods.

Please help keep Maui safe and keep these GMO off Maui. Please support this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Carlita Tohtz 
Makawao, Maui, Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

My testimony is very simple.

I would like to have clear food choices; my preference is to know when any kind of produce is genetically modified and then to make an appropriate choice as to whether I want to put that kind of food into my body or not. I need to know what foods are genetically modified!

Thank you for your time.

LATE TESTIMONY

My name is Justin Hughey and I am submitting testimony in favor of GMO labeling! I simply do not trust that genetically altering food (playing god) won't come with major risk to the consumer.

In 2000, there was an article in Nature magazine that indicated that genetically modified corn pollen could kill the larvae of monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies are famous for their bright colors and extreme migration patterns, travelling about 3000 miles. Their migration takes them through the heart of the Midwest, America's corn belt. It was speculated that if the pollen from GM corn was in fact harmful to monarch larvae, approximately 50% of the monarch population could be in danger.

After a USDA workshop in which multiple scientists did multiple studies, it was found that only one variety of the corn was harmful to the monarch: Event 176. Fortunately, Event 176 was not a good seller and was not widely planted. It was a lucky break for the monarch butterfly. If Event 176 was a hot seller, the results may have been different. This example may not prove risk to humans, but it does prove that the government agencies tasked with protecting the environment did not do their job, and cannot be counted on to protect the safety of a butterfly, let alone a human.

As a teacher I felt so strongly about the health risks to kids consuming GMO's I passed two pieces of legislation. In 2008 I submitted and passed; Locally Grown, Organic, And Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) free meals at the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), state representative assembly. This was passed by the majority of over 500 teacher's state wide. Then in 2008 I went to the National Education Association (NEA) conference and passed; NEA supports legislation that requires examination of Genetically Modified (GM) food safety and adequate labeling. This was passed by the majority of over 8,000 teachers nationwide.

Mandatory labeling will allow consumers to recognize and stays away from foods they think could be potentially harmful, or just plain don't want. Greed all too often beats out human welfare. Since we live in such a delicate eco system I hope donations from Monsanto don't cloud your judgment. Please vote for proper labeling of GMO food!

LATE TESTIMONY

I strongly support HR 154 requesting the Department of Health to report on the feasibility of implementing a labeling system for genetically engineered foods.

As a licensed health care practitioner in Hawaii for 25 years, and allied health staff member at Maui Memorial Medical Center, I am deeply concerned that a lack of labeling by producers of genetically engineered foods, is leaving Hawaii consumers ignorant about their food choices, and their possible impact on their health as well as their environment.

Consumers have the right to know, and it is you our legislative representatives, that must protect our rights as residents, voters and consumers.

Reporting on the feasibility of a labeling system is an reasonable and appropriate first step toward protecting the interests of your constituents.

LATE TESTIMONY

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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, 03-29-11

9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha~

I write as a member of the Hawai'i Ohana, and a concerned citizen of MauiCounty. I hereby add my testimony:

I am very concerned about the potential health risks due to the possible presence of GMOs growing on the Aina of these Hawaiian Islands, and in the food that we are eating. I feel strongly that we have the RIGHT TO KNOW what's in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. Like most consumers, I want to avoid foods that contain genetically modified organisms, but they are not yet labeled. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come. By not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature can help. Please stand up for consumers' right to know and truth in labeling. I humbly request that you acknowledge the voices of the people who care deeply on this matter and sign in approval of the current measures requiring labeling of GM foods. We have the right to know.

Thank you for hearing me, and making the choice that empowers the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui,
John Jacob
Kipahulu
Maui

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony, HR154/HCR178

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, 03-29-11

9:00AM in conference room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

Passed by all members at the General Meeting of the Kipahulu Community Association on March 27, 2011

We strongly urge the passage of HR154/HCR178 .

We are a declared GMO free area. We are farmers who farm organically and depend upon the markets for organic produce, taro, coffee, avos, papayas, and many forms of fruit, fresh and dried. The labeling of GMO produce and products using GMO components is important to help us stop the importation of GMO produce and products into our community. We fear another infestation of genetic material, as happened on Oahu and Hawai'i Island, into what we grow here for home and market. Maintaining our organic certification is primary to our continued success, also to our health and that of our keiki. We believe strongly that the public has a right to this information, and, just like the health and nutritional labeling now found on all foods, this information will help all of us in Hawai'i to make intelligent and healthy eating choices.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to these resolutions.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii's agriculture, and our resident's health.

Farley Jacob, President

Kipahulu Community Association

Kipahulu, Maui

Testimony, HR154/HCR178
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan Yemane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, 03-29-11
9:00AM in conference room 329
STRONG SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yemane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

I support HR154 because I believe that the corporation known as Monsanto has already been handed far too much power over our foods and over our politicians. The “benefits” of using GMO seeds might be cited as a method in which to feed more people with less labor but I think the “benefits” will later also reveal an incredible greediness of same corporation and a very sad short-sightedness by our political representatives.

I’ve read this: ...” labeling affects the entire supply chain for food products. It requires definition of the attribute to be labeled (i.e., what is a "GMO"?) and segregation of products with and without the characteristics throughout the supply chain from seed inputs to the supermarket shelf. Because of this effect, labeling policy can be, and is even more frequently perceived to be, a Trojan horse bearing a broader policy and attitude toward the acceptance of GMOs in food products.” That horse is out of the barn. Now, it seems our last vestige of control over the future of our small farmers and the future health of the planet and its many people, is to at least label the produce as GMO created.

I’m growing most of our own food and sometimes will need to go to the grocer in order to buy the produce I’ve not been able to grow on my own. Without proper labeling, I will not know which foods are grown **locally, organically** and which are **GMO creations**. I continue to vote as a consumer by my purchases. When I purchase, I’m VOTING for that product or produce and the method of growing.

Please show us how you’ve supported this resolution.

Mahalo for your concern for Hawaii’s agriculture, and our resident’s health.

(Tracy E Mills)
(Haiku, HI)

LATE TESTIMONY

HR 154 GMO Labeling Testimony

Aloha,

I am writing to those who represent the people of Hawaii. As a concerned citizen and resident of the Big Island I would like my voice to be heard regarding this important issue.

I am very concerned about the potential health risks that have been documented by countless studies on the consumption of genetically modified foods. Though there have been very few serious effects caused from GMOs the long term health effects cannot be documented because they are not labeled. By labeling GMOs you will ensure us the FREEDOM OF CHOICE, which is an American right. Though many will continue to buy GMOs because of their financial situation, we at least deserve to know whether products are or are not genetically modified thereby giving us the right to choose. Selective breeding is one thing but the way in which technology has enabled scientists to cross species is something that has very serious ethical and moral ramifications and should not but forced upon the public without their consent.

We have a right to know what is in our food so that we can make the best, informed choices for our families. It is our right to make this choice for ourselves, and it is the duty of the government to advocate for the people. It is still unclear what the true magnitude of impact genetically modifying our food will have on our health, our land, and the well-being of our families for generations to come and by not labeling these foods, citizens are being led into uncertain risk. I am hoping that you and your colleagues in the state legislature will hear this testimony, along with many others and advocate for us, despite the generous donations from sources such as Monsanto. Please make a stand for the consumers' right to know and support GMO labeling. I humbly request that you hear this plea and vote on this bill as a representative of the people. We have the right to know and a right to choose.

Thank you very much for hearing me on this very important issue!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Janelle Lanae Williams