



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Health

### HCR 178, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A LABELING SYSTEM FOR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

March 29, 2011  
9:00am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department understands the intent of the resolution but has concerns  
2 regarding this proposal; therefore respectfully opposes this resolution.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department opposes this measure since we do not have the resources to  
4 implement it.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department understands the intent of this measure and respects the  
6 concerns of Hawaii's consumers to have an informed choice. However implementing a labeling and an  
7 enforcement system for genetically engineered foods is not possible as the department is unable to  
8 determine whether a food product has been genetically engineered. The Department does not possess  
9 the requisite scientific expertise to test and determine whether a food product has been genetically  
10 engineered.

11 Currently, there is no conclusive scientific evidence of negative health effects associated with  
12 genetically engineered foods or that the process of genetic modification is somehow inherently unsafe.  
13 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states it has no information that the use of  
14 biotechnology creates a class of food that is different in quality, safety or any other attribute from food

1 developed using conventional breeding techniques; and therefore does not support mandatory labeling of  
2 genetically engineered foods.

3 Therefore, based on current information, we feel there is insufficient scientific evidence to  
4 legislate mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods and such labeling laws would be  
5 unenforceable.

6 Whether labeling is important for economic, market, or trade reasons is an issue we defer to  
7 other departments.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**LATE TESTIMONY**  
RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011  
2:55 PM  
ROOM 329

HCR 178 AND HR 154  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A LABELING SYSTEM  
FOR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS.

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 178 and HR 154, requesting the Department of Health to report on the feasibility of implementing a labeling system for genetically engineered foods. The department opposes this measure.

Labeling requirements, as regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is intended to provide information that is relevant to health, safety, and nutrition. The federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Acts require that if genetically modified food differs significantly from conventional food in its nutritional or allergenic properties that fact must be disclosed on the label. There has been no scientific evidence to determine a significant difference between genetically modified and non-genetically modified food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

