

Testimony for ENE/AGL 2/1/2011 2:55:00 PM SB713

LATE

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: David Barter [hoalike5@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:19 PM
To: gabbard1 - Carlton
Subject: SB713 in support

LATE

From:

Mary Barter

59-529 Hoalike Rd.

Haleiwa, HI

96712

In support of SB713

Relating to the labeling of genetically engineered whole food products.

Committees: ENE,AGL

Feb. 1st Tues. 2:55 p.m.

Room 225

I am writing I strong support of this bill, as I always wonder when buying my papayas and other things at the store how they were grown. I should not have to wonder.

This is something that my family eats and whoever grew it should be proud to say how it was grown. This is simple transparency.

Democracy equals Transparency. Democracy cannot exist without it. There is n such thing as free choice without people knowing what they are choosing. To prohibit knowledge is a disgraces the dignity of the people.

LATE

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: Ron Carlson [ddscarlson@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:32 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: URGENT SB 712, SB713 Testimony in Favor of Labeling, In Favor of Dept of Agriculture giving notice, Senate Hearing Feb 1, 2011, 2:55 pm, Room 225

Senate Hearing Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 2:55 pm, Room 225 Energy and Environment, Agriculture Testimony in Support of SB 712 Relating to the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Crops To the Honorable Chairpersons Gabbard, English and Nishihara, I strongly support the passage of this bill to protect the consumer by labeling foods that may contain genetically engineered ingredients. The growing awareness of the people that the food they are eating is contributing to their poor health makes it imperative that we label the food so that we can choose those products which minimize risk of obesity, allergies, and other medical conditions. The low status of health of our citizens is an indication that something is very wrong with the way we grow, process, distribute and prepare our foods. The biotech companies make empty claims which do not live up to their promises, and the least our legislators can do to protect us against corporate greed and deception is to allow labeling of our foods. Evidence and research which has been covered up by the biotech companies shows that there is damage to the environment and wildlife as well as dysfunction to human internal organs including fertility. Do not put this bill off for another session. Legislators must act now.

Dr. Melissa Yee
1480 Kinau Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone 2921179

Testimony in Support of SB 713 Relating to Genetically Engineered Plants To the Honorable Chairpersons Gabbard, English and Nishihara I strongly support the passage of this bill to inform farmers that neighboring fields contain genetically engineered crops. The risk of drift has already been proven in court, and biotech companies are liberally experimenting with pesticides, herbicides, and seeds which are harming our environment and the workers who tend the fields. In the name of profit and lack of regard to the land and its people, these biotech companies have brought chaos to the countries and states which they have been allowed to experiment without government regulation. Please pass this bill so that our farmers and residents can be protected from the harmful effects of crop experimentation.

Dr. Melissa Yee
1480 Kinau Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone 2921179

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Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Apolei Kahai Bargamento

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chairman and members of the ENE/AGL, JDL Committees, I fully support and urge the Committees to pass SB 713 prohibiting the sale or distribution of genetically engineered whole food for human consumption in Hawaii that does not have a label conspicuously affixed identifying it as genetically engineered food crop, modern biotechnology and genetically engineered whole food. Too long have we been exposed to health risk of unlabeled GMO foods - not allowing us the opportunity of making any informed decisions. This is a very serious matter. I urge that this Bill be passed for the health sake of Hawaii nei.

LATE



Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club

E HUKI LIKE!

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 713,
RELATING TO THE LABELING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

DATE: Tuesday, February 1, 2011

TIME: 2:55 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225

Submitted by: Malia Nobrega, President, Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club (malianob@gmail.com)

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 713, relating to the labeling of genetically engineered crops.

Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports this bill because as stewards of our 'āina it is our responsibility to mālama (care for) our our mea ola (biodiversity), our mea 'ai (food), and our 'āina (land). We are here not only for our people today but for generations to come.

- **Labeling helps inform consumers of risks of genetically modified (GM) foods** There are certain risks surrounding the consumption of genetically modified foods. These generally surround the use of various bacteria in the construction of new strains of foods, which if consumed, and potentially have harmful effects on humans. Labels help inform consumers that a particular product has such modifications and carries such health risks, so that if they are strongly concerned about GM foods, they can be sure that they are eating 100% natural foods.
- **Labeling GM foods applies precautionary principle to unknown risks.** Many things are not known about the effects of GM foods. It is appropriate, therefore, to be cautious. Labeling of GM foods fits into this principle of caution in the face of unknowns. In particular, it gives consumers the choice to avoid GM foods if they think these unknown risks are intolerable.

Mahalo,
Malia Nobrega, President

This letter is in support of SB 712 and 713. Please label GMO products!! Give people the information they need to make informed choices!! Do the right thing!!

Justine Espiritu

Feb 1, 2:55pm, room 225

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB713, relating to genetically engineered crops

Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara, and members of the Committees,

As a small farmer I am writing in support of this measure.

I wish I had more time to write and I hope this will still be received in time for consideration.

This measure would protect small farmers like myself from contamination by the prevalent GE papaya.

I have already suffered financial losses from contamination.

I had to pay for each of my papaya trees to get tested and was DEVISTATED to find out we had nearly 2/3 contamination.

These trees were planted from a diverse set of papayas that were all according to the farmer, non-gmo.

It was a calculated risk as studies I had read revealed that the contamination levels on Oahu were lower than the outer islands and thus I trusted...I regret this everyday when I see my trees.

Unfortunately our small farm has not been financially successful and I did not want to immediately cut down all trees that were bearing a saleable crop. We are letting them die off and made the choice to only sell dried papaya from our current mix of ge and non-ge trees to prevent the further spreading of ge papaya as we wait for our newly planted certified organic papayas to grow.

If this bill does not get passed the UH should be required to offer tree testing free of charge.

Meleana Judd

Testimony for SB 713

Aloha Chairpersons Gabbard, Nishihara a Kakou

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT. I have heard this from my parents, grandparents, school teachers, Sunday school teachers, just about everyone who cared about me when I was growing up. We hear it on the radio, see it on the TV in various iterations everyday; its a basic truth.

I want to choose what I eat, what my family eats. I don't know everything I would choose, but I want a choice. I want to know if what I am consuming has been genetically altered or effected by bio-technology. I want to know if its 'organic without pesticides' or 'regular grown organic with pesticides' or 'genetically altered' to produce twice as much in half the time and taste twice as good, etc.

Foodstuffs have all kinds of labels on them, but no labels I have seen tell me if what I am eating has been produced in a process of bio-technology, cellular or genetic mutation, or other manipulation. I see labels saying food was produced naturally, but not otherwise. Do I assume everything not labeled as genetically altered or bio-engineered, IS genetically altered or bio-engineered?

Why no labels? How much of what we eat is genetically altered? This is information I need to make my personal and family health decisions safely, and in good conscience.

I am not a regular customer of organic food stores. I usually choose the same markets as most everyone else. However, I do not want myself and family to be the unwitting incubators and test dummies for wholesale testing of genetically altered or bio-engineered foods. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT. If you eat a lot of carrots, you turn orange. If you eat a lot of genetically altered food, you turn ??

Why would anyone oppose labeling genetically altered or bio-engineered food? The fact that the bio-technology producers and supporters themselves are not demanding that it be labeled as genetically altered or bio-engineered, and actually oppose labeling; is reason enough for adopting SB 713. I am afraid to find out how much of what we eat is genetically altered, but I want to know now not later. I am afraid because the producers of it and their supporters don't want me to know.

The public looks to the lawmakers to make responsible decisions that safeguard public health, freedom of choice, and freedom of information, among many other responsibilities. Importantly, you are to represent our opinions whether you personally agree with them or not: your constituency is whom you represent in that office.

If you, yourselves, are fine eating genetically altered food, then why would it matter to label it? And, if you are NOT fine eating genetically altered food, wouldn't you want it labeled?

If it is discrimination to label how food is produced, are we not discriminating against all non-genetic/non-bio-technology producers now by making them label?

Please give us necessary information, and a choice, for our selection of food products.
Label it. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT.

If SB 713 does not pass, I submit that it should be put to vote on the next Statewide election ballot for each of us to determine the matter as a collective.

Mahalo
Steve Brock

Testimony for ENE/AGL 2/1/2011 2:55:00 PM SB713

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Submitted by: amy K. Brinker
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/1/2011