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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FOOD PRODUCERS TO VOLUNTARILY LABEL THEIR PRODUCTS AS  
BEING FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

1           WHEREAS, since their commercial introduction in 1996, crops  
2 containing genetically modified organisms, commonly referred to  
3 as GMOs, have been put into widespread production by growers in  
4 the United States and throughout the world; and

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6           WHEREAS, benefits of genetically engineered plants include  
7 increased resistance to insects and disease, enhanced drought  
8 tolerance and greater crop yields; and

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10          WHEREAS, oversight of GMOs is provided by the United States  
11 Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture and  
12 Environmental Protection Agency; and

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14          WHEREAS, biotechnology developed by University of Hawaii  
15 researchers helped save the papaya industry from devastating  
16 effects of the papaya ringspot virus; and

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18          WHEREAS, despite the benefits of producing food through  
19 agricultural biotechnology, there are also significant concerns  
20 about possible negative impacts on public health, the  
21 environment and the economy; and

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23          WHEREAS, specific concerns about GMOs include introducing  
24 allergens and toxins into food, lessening nutritional content  
25 and contaminating non-genetically engineered crops; and

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27          WHEREAS, some of the most widely planted crops containing  
28 GMOs are soybeans, cotton, rice and corn; and

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30          WHEREAS, GMOs are present in many processed foods that  
31 contain high-fructose corn syrup, such as carbonated drinks,  
32 breakfast cereals and popular snack products; and



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 2 WHEREAS, it is important for the people of Hawaii to be  
 3 well informed when making nutritional decisions for themselves  
 4 and their families; and  
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6 WHEREAS, food companies in the United States are presently  
 7 not required to label their products as containing GMOs; and

8 WHEREAS, indicating the presence or absence of GMOs through  
 9 product labeling helps consumers make informed decisions about  
 10 the foods they buy; now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 14 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that local food producers are  
 15 urged to voluntarily label their products as "No GMOs," if in  
 16 fact these products have no genetically engineered ingredients;  
 17 and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Maui Chamber of Commerce,  
 21 Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii,  
 22 Kauai Chamber of Commerce and Molokai Chamber of Commerce, along  
 23 with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union  
 24 United, Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association, Hawaii Crop  
 25 Improvement Association, Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, Hawaii  
 26 Cattlemen's Council, farmers market operators and other  
 27 organizations involved with made-in-Hawaii food production.  
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OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures]*  
 The signatures are: a large stylized signature at the top right, a signature that appears to be "C. ...", a signature that appears to be "L. ...", a signature that appears to be "Tom Ward", and a signature that appears to be "J. ...".

