

SB 711

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:58 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: SB711_AGL_2-1-11_AGR-final.pdf

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Chair Russell S. Kokubun
Organization: Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Address:
Phone: 973-9552
E-mail: Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



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

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 1, 2011
3:00 P .M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 711
RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 711 relating to genetically engineered fish. This bill proposes to prohibit the sale of genetically engineered fish of fish products unless appropriately labeled as genetically engineered. The department opposes this bill.

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 requires 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 fish or fish products. As mentioned in SB 711, FDA has held a hearing in September 2010 to review biotech salmon for approval for consumption; however, they have not rendered a final decision.

Further, due to reductions in force, the department is no longer adequately staffed to provide label development support or retail level label inspection or enforcement support as required by the bill and the bill allocates no funds to staff such support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 3:00pm

by
James R. Gaines
Vice President for Research, University of Hawai'i

SB711 - RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

The University of Hawai'i stands in opposition to SB 711.

The first genetically engineered (GE) fish were produced almost 25 years ago and since that time over 35 species have been genetically engineered. As of 2010 no GE fish has been approved for food production in the United States.

The greatest science-based concerns associated with GE fish are those related to the ecological consequences of their inadvertent release or escape, not the quality or safety of the food product. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found that a genetically engineered fish grown in a lab was "as safe as food from conventional Atlantic salmon," and will "not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment." Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that foods produced from GE animals would provide any greater hazards than the consumption of conventionally or organically raised animals.

Nonetheless, in September 2010, the FDA was unable to approve the first and only application for approval of a GE animal (salmon) for human consumption. Part of that federal decision-making involves labeling of the product. The decision was postponed to provide more time for public comment and more independent data analysis.

In Hawaii, it would be premature to legislate labeling requirements when not one evaluation of a GE animal has been completed by the FDA. Furthermore, the FDA is considering labeling requirements that may conflict with state guidelines should they be passed.

UH believes that if any labeling legislation is enacted, it should be fact-based and focused on providing information to consumers on what is actually in the food they are choosing. UH supports providing relevant, fact-based information to consumers so that they can make informed choices on what to buy and feed to their families. However the UH cannot support this fish labeling bill. As written, this bill will only add to consumer confusion and assist in perpetuating misinformation that foods produced by one method

or another are somehow safer than others when in fact, there is no data to support such presumptions.

UH respectfully requests that this bill be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Hawaii Agriculture Research Center***Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759**Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359***FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**To: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Date: January 31, 2011Location: Hawaii State Capitol Fax No.: 586-6659From: Cindy Pinick for Stephanie A. Whalen (ph: 621-1350)Number of pages (including this cover sheet): 6

The testimony listed below is for the following hearing:

**Senate Committee on
Agriculture****February 1, 2011****3:00pm****Conference Room 229****SB 711**



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SB711

RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

February 1, 2011

Chairman Nishihara and Members of your Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff

HARC strongly opposes SB 711 Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish.

HARC's reasoning for opposing this measure is much the same as for SB713. This issue is handled at the federal level and comments and concerns should be expressed during that process. Having separate labeling requirements by various jurisdictions creates burdensome and unnecessary impediments to businesses. Please see attached testimony regarding labeling by Thomas J. Hoban, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY GIVEN TO THE FDA DURING PUBLIC MEETING ON
"BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND"
HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC - NOV 30, 1999**

BY

**THOMAS J. HOBAN, PH.D.
E-MAIL: tom_hoban@ncsu.edu**

I am Thomas Hoban -- a professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. I am a member of both the Department of Sociology and the Department of Food Science. I have spent the past decade researching public understanding and attitudes about biotechnology. I appreciate this opportunity to present some of the main conclusions from this research about the important public information issues that FDA is considering.

LABELING ISSUES

Labeling questions represent one of the most complex and ambiguous areas of survey research. What I conclude from my own research and all the other surveys I have reviewed is that "What you ask is what you get?" Let me highlight this uncertainty with two examples:

Opinion polls do indicate that a majority of consumers feel foods developed through biotechnology should be labeled. However, to put that in perspective let me cite results of a national telephone survey I conducted for USDA with over 1200 US consumers. We asked consumers how important it would be to have information on a food label about seven different areas. Here 85 percent of consumers said it would be very important to have information on the label about whether biotechnology had been used. However this was fifth in terms of importance - well below the respondents who wanted labels to indicate if pesticides were used (94%) or the amount of fat (91%). Even the country of origin was very important for 80 percent of respondents. It will be hard to set priorities for limited label space when everything is very important to everybody.

Second, a much more realistic approach to this issue is to provide a meaningful context within which to elicit consumer views. I helped the International Food Information Council (IFIC) develop a question that described the current FDA policy (that is not to label foods that are substantially equivalent). In this case we have found about three quarters of US consumers supported the current FDA policy. This complements other research showing a high level of confidence in the agency to ensure food safety. Most consumers will trust the FDA's judgement because of its reliance on science-based labeling criteria.

As a survey research specialist I hate to admit it but many of the answers consumers give spontaneously over the phone are often not always very meaningful. This is particularly true for an issue respondents have not thought much about. Such results by themselves do not provide a sufficient basis for important public policy decisions. It is more valid to use focus groups that engage consumers in a thoughtful dialogue about the complexities, challenges, and costs associated with labeling. Let me summarize results of eight focus groups we did for the USDA:

First, we learned that consumers really want a label only if the food has been changed in some significant way. We explored the case of recombinant chymosin which has replaced the rennet traditionally used to produce cheese. Consumers said there was no need for special labels since the cheese is no different. This is analogous to the use of biotech-soybeans to produce lecithin that becomes part of a candy bar.

Next, we found that consumers see little need for labels on processed foods (compared to whole produce items). Few were even aware that food processors blend together different tomato varieties to get the desired taste or consistency for ketchup. We also asked about tomato paste used on a frozen pizza. Most consumers simply didn't care if one or more of the tomato varieties had been genetically modified. They figured the food had already been processed and various additives had become part of the product.

We also found that consumers don't place much value on such labeling. We asked if they would be willing to pay more for their food to cover costs of testing and to keep the commodities segregated. People generally felt they should not have to pay, but would rather "let the food companies pay for it." However, some basic economics state that these costs would be passed on to the consumer at some point.

Finally, focus groups and other research find most consumers are already overloaded with information and overwhelmed by choice of foods (particularly at the supermarket.) They want to cut through the clutter and learn a few basic things about their food. They look to labels for clear and relevant information about fat, sugar, and salt content for health reasons. Many are already confused by conflicting media accounts about diet and health. Keep in mind that for most consumers, their scarcest resource is time. Most really don't need something else to worry about (especially when the scientists they trust have shown it not to be a health or safety issue).

In all the surveys over the past decade we find between two-thirds and three-quarters of US consumers are quite positive about food biotechnology. On the other hand, about 10-15 percent are clearly opposed to the use of biotechnology. The best way to meet the needs of that group would be to provide a system of voluntary labeling for foods not produced through biotechnology that is truthful and non-misleading. Then if the demand is strong enough the market will become established (similar to the organic niche). This is a case where meaningful choice can be provided to the minority without imposing costs on or denying benefits to the majority of consumers who are generally quite supportive of biotechnology.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION ISSUES

An important point to remember is that labeling is not the same thing as education. Consumers truly want and deserve more information about biotechnology. Any form of voluntary labeling needs to be built upon a foundation of readily-available and balanced information. In fact, without a major commitment to education any labeling initiative could simply serve to confuse and alarm many consumers. Consumers now have limited understanding about even

basic food production. In fact, most consumers do not realize that all plants have been modified in some way from their "natural" varieties through crop breeding and other traditional approaches.

Let me briefly outline an effective education and information program based on research conducted over the past decade.

First, what do consumers want to know? They are very interested in learning about the benefits of biotechnology - in other words why is it being used and what is in it for them as consumers and for society. Next, they want an assurance that the products are reasonably safe for human consumption and the environment. This will include transparent information about any credible risks. Finally, they are genuinely curious about what modern biotechnology actually is. One effective way to explain this is to draw comparisons between food biotechnology and the use of traditional breeding in agriculture, as well as its connections with the use of biotechnology to develop new medicine and improve human health care.

Next, we need to consider who should provide them with this information. This will require an ongoing partnership among government, industry, universities, consumer groups and others. In the US, consumers have consistently reported the greatest trust in information from government agencies, university scientists, and third-party scientific organizations. I am also here as a representative of the Land Grant University system. We are ready and willing to play a major role in providing consumers and leaders with the latest information about all aspects of food biotechnology.

Finally, FDA has asked for guidance on how to provide consumers with information about biotechnology. Most of the information people have gotten so far has been received passively through the mass media. We are all too familiar with the limitations associated with that form of mass communication. In fact, many consumers are quite skeptical about the media's credibility on controversial issues. Research shows that there is a clear justification for a more active campaign that builds awareness and generates interest in learning more. Such further education can best be accomplished through such mechanisms as toll-free numbers and Internet sites hosted by third-parties (such as universities). The FDA could maintain a clearinghouse of information that describes all the products that have been approved, including the foods where such ingredients might be found. The web address and phone numbers would be widely publicized through the media, point-of-purchase displays, and other means. Such approaches will make it easy for those who want information to get it and will also promote the notion that this is a transparent system with opportunities for informed and meaningful consumer choice.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

As FDA considers the complex technical and (from the perspective of most consumers rather theoretical) issues associated with biotechnology, please keep in mind the real consumer interests when it comes to food. Surveys have consistently shown that the main things consumers want is for their food to be tasty, affordable, safe, nutritious, and convenient (in that order). How seeds or other ingredients are produced are very low on the list (if they even register on their radar

screens.) We take for granted the bounty of food in this country without really considering how we get it. To continue this legacy (while feeding a growing world population) will require an ongoing support role for science and technology.

The FDA's most important responsibility to US consumers is to use science-based regulations to ensure that consumers are able to safely enjoy the fruits of our latest technology. When it comes to complex, scientific issues like biotechnology most consumers rely on FDA's leadership and integrity in making the difficult decisions so they can have one less thing to worry about. Consumers do not necessarily expect more information unless that information is relevant for safety and nutrition.

As a matter of history, the FDA went through a similar, lengthy process to come up with the NLEA standards. These have been designed to ensure that information on a label is clear, meaningful, and consistent. There was a realization then that not every piece of data about a food can or should be included on a label. Information that is there must be truthful and not misleading. These are the same assumptions that FDA should use for decisions about the labeling of foods developed through modern biotechnology.

Thomas J. Hoban, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
NCSU Box 8107
Raleigh, NC 27695-8107
PHONE: (919) 515-1676
FAX: (919) 515-2610
WEB: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~hobantj>

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:47 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: cindy.goldstein@pioneer.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: Final_SB 711_GE fish labeling_Pioneer testimony_1_2011.docx

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cindy Goldstein
Organization: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Address: 67-172 Farrington Hwy Waialua, HI 96791
Phone: 808-637-0100 ext 17
E-mail: cindy.goldstein@pioneer.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:



PIONEER[®]
A DUPONT COMPANY

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D

SB 711 - RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 3 pm
State Capitol – Conference Room 229

Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee

My name is Dr. Cindy Goldstein, representing Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., with facilities on Oahu and Kauai.

Pioneer Hi-Bred opposes SB 711

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. produces corn, soybean and sunflower seed crops in Hawaii, with operations in four locations in the state. We carry our research and development at our sites and multiply seed to develop new hybrids and varieties that are more productive for farmers in the US and around the world. Pioneer employs approximately 400 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kauai.

Pioneer Hi-Bred is a seed company that strongly believes in the importance of scientific innovation and research to develop hybrid corn seed and plant varieties that bring benefit to agriculture producers. Our work is science-based, with a robust regulatory system for genetically engineered products.

We oppose SB 711 prohibiting the sale of genetically engineered fish and fish products unless the products are conspicuously labeled. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration currently requires labeling of genetically engineered foods only if the food has significantly different nutritional properties. In the scientific judgment of the FDA, there is no significant difference between foods developed using biotechnology and the FDA's scientific evaluation of biotech foods continues to show that these foods are as safe as their conventional counterparts. A labeling requirement in Hawaii that is different than what is required by other states has no value for consumers and only confuses local consumers about a healthy source of protein in their diets.

We respectfully oppose this bill because it calls for labeling of a genetically engineered food and food products, genetically engineered fish, where there are no nutritional or safety issues that would call for a special label for this product to be sold in the State of Hawaii

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this Senate hearing.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Lauren Suzanne Zirbel [laurenzirbel@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:03 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: HFIA Testimony
Attachments: SB 711 Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)
1050 Bishop St. Box 235
Honolulu, HI 96813
Fax : 808-791-0702
Telephone : 808-533-1292

DATE: February 1, 2011 TIME: 3:00 p.m PLACE: CR 229

TO: Committee on Agriculture

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Food Industry Association - Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

RE: SB 711 Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Food Industry Association opposes this bill.

As proposed, this labeling required would be inconsistent to federal requirements, and therefore, costly to implement. Hawaii imports 85% of the food consumed in the state. **Hawaii's food demands are not large enough to force domestic and foreign food suppliers to meet these labeling requirements.** As such, the cost will be borne by Hawaii's food importers and consumers.

The practical reality of enforcing this bill will be a nightmare. If the distributor does not label the fish or advise the retailer that the product is GMO then the retailer is potentially liable for the mislabeling. A retailer cannot identify GMO product by visual or taste inspection.

This is a federal issue and should be dealt with at that level, with the onus for labeling resting with manufacturers and suppliers, not retailers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

--
Lauren Zirbel
LSZ Consulting

Government and Community Relations
Direct Line: 808-294-9968

nishihara5 - Randy

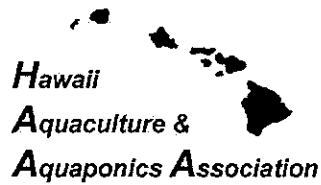
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:44 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: hawaiiifish@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: SB711 Testimony in Opposition 02.01.2011.doc

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronald P. Weidenbach
Organization: Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Address: P.O. Box 740 Waialua, HI 96791
Phone: 808 429 3147
E-mail: hawaiiifish@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Please substitute this corrected testimony for the draft testimony sent in error a few minutes earlier on SB 711 which included typos and did not list my name as source of testimony. Thank you and sorry for the inconvenience. Ronald P. Weidenbach



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 1, 2011

TIME: 3:00pm

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony In Opposition to SB 711 - Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association opposes SB 711 which would prohibit the sale of genetically engineered fish and fish products unless conspicuously labeled.

We support existing federal requirements for accurate food labels that communicate information relevant to health, safety and nutrition of all food products sold in the United States. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) labeling guidance requires that a food label must reveal all facts about that food, and if the FDA were to determine that a biotech fish differs significantly from a conventional fish in its nutritional or allergenic properties, then that fact must be disclosed on the label.

The FDA recently concluded extensive scientific analysis of a recent GMO salmon application and determined that there is no significant difference between GMO salmon and conventional salmon, and approved the applicant's application. State-based labeling requirements that differ from established, stringently enforced federal guidelines provide no value for consumers and only serve to inappropriately disparage biotechnology foods.

Although there are no GMO fish or seafoods currently being produced or being planned for production in Hawaii, the HAAA believes there is simply no need or justification for such State labeling when the fish or other seafood product(s) in question have been approved by the FDA. We therefore request that SB 711 not be passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ronald P. Weidenbach, President, HAAA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DATE: Tuesday, February 1st, 2011.

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

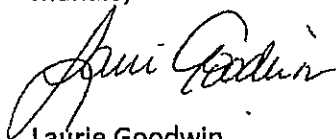
RE: RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Agriculture Committee,

I oppose SB 711 that would prohibit the sale of genetically engineered fish and fish products unless conspicuously labeled. The existing labeling guidance from the FDA says that if a genetically engineered food differs from its conventional counterpart in nutritional or allergenic properties that it must be on the label. I support this existing federal guideline and believe that state based labeling requirements provide no value to consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,



Laurie Goodwin
PO BOX 994 | 8515 Hale Lio St.
Kekaha, HI
96752
laurieannegoodwin@gmail.com

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 12:47 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mel_s_gbf@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melanie Stephens
Organization: Individual
Address: 156 Alaluana Rd Makawao, HI
Phone: 573-9260
E-mail: mel_s_gbf@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Aloha Elected Officials,
Please support this bill to make the testing, growth and sale of genetically modified foods transparent. Labeling of GMOs is essential so that every consumer can make informed food choices. Reporting of field trials will help neighbor farmers and landowners make choices about their land.
Mahalo for your awareness and concern

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 11:26 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Framodda@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: Aloha Committee members.doc

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ramoda Anand
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Framodda@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I have been an advocate for the regulation of genetically engineered organisms for 5 years now and I urge you to pass bill SB711 with no amendments.

Mahalo, Ramoda Anand, President of Hawaii Sustainability.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:32 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: laurieannegoodwin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: SB 711.pdf

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurie Goodwin
Organization: Individual
Address: 8515 Hale Lio Street Kekaha
Phone: 808-652-0768
E-mail: laurieannegoodwin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

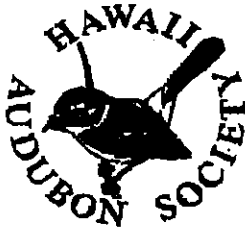
nishihara5 - Randy

From: ENETestimony
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:13 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: FW: SB 711, Tuesday February 1, 3P SC on Ag Rm 229

From: Respiratory & Environmental Disabilities Assoc. of HI [<mailto:redahi@hawaii.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:45 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: SB 711, Tuesday February 1, 3P SC on Ag Rm 229

For those of us who are disabled with MCS and have severe food allergy, this is an extremely important bill. We need full **SUPPORT** of our entire legislature. We prefer this technology not be allowed in our state at all. So, at the very least, we need to have it labeled. Please **SUPPORT** this bill.

Thank you for your time,
B.A. McClintock, Honolulu, HI
RED AHI – Respiratory & Environmental Disabilities Assoc of HI



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 RICHARDS ST., SUITE 505 • HONOLULU, HI 96813-4709
TELEPHONE (808) 528-1432 FAX (808) 537-5294
EMAIL hiaudsoc@ixi.com
WEBSITE WWW.HAWAIIAUDUBON.COM

THE SENATE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 1, 2010
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229, State Capitol

SENATE BILL NO. 711
Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

Senator Nishihara, Senator Kahele, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am the Executive Director for Aquatics for the Hawaii Audubon Society. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 711, which would prohibit the sale of genetically engineered fish or genetically engineered fish products unless for consumption in the State of Hawaii and appropriately labeled. However, I would urge this committee to amend this bill and add a prohibition on the raising of genetically altered fish in the State of Hawaii.

The Society has already gone on record as supporting only native fish aquaculture enterprises in the State of Hawaii in order to protect our wild native fish populations from invasive alien species. However, it is equally important that any native fish aquacultured in Hawaii not be genetically altered in order to protect the DNA of our wild populations of native fish. It is too easy for cultured fish or their genetic products to escape into our coastal waters.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Linda Paul
ph. (808) 262-6859

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:10 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: makaala@hawaiian.net
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Makaala Kaaumoana
Organization: Hanalei Watershed Hui
Address: 5299C Kuhio Hwy. Hanalei, HI
Phone: 808-826-1985
E-mail: makaala@hawaiian.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

I request the committee to amend the bill to prohibit the raising of any genetically-altered native fish in Hawaii and to prohibit the raising of any non native fish in Hawaii.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:46 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: melbefree@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: melissa ebeling testimony.doc

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: melissa ebeling
Organization: Hawaii Sustainability
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: melbefree@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Melissa Ebeling and I'm very happy that you are hearing Bill SB711, I've been a member of Hawaii Sustainability for 9 months. The Group recognizes that there could be negative health effects . There is not enough independent research nor is the time frame a substantial enough. For example a 30 year double blind study. And these studies to be preformed by independent companies proved not to accept any government funding or company biased support. There for The organization is in support of this SB711.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:54 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: rajeq@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: Raje's testimony.doc

Testimony for AGL 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM SB711

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raje Anand
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rajeq@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Raje Anand and I'm very happy that you are hearing Bill SB711, I've been a Vice Chair member of Hawaii Sustainability for 10 months, and have been a Hawaii resident for 24 years. The Group recognizes that there could be negative health effects. There is not enough independent research nor is the time frame adequate. For example a 30 year double blind study. And these studies to be performed by independent companies proved not to accept any government funding or company biased support. There for The organization is in support of this SB711.