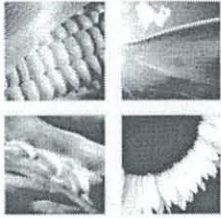


LATE

SB 711



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
SB 711 - Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
3 p.m., Room 229

LATE

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Adolph Helm

Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

Position: Strongly Oppose

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing the seed industry in Hawaii. **Although Hawaii's seed companies do not raise genetically engineered fish, HCIA strongly opposes Senate Bill 711.**

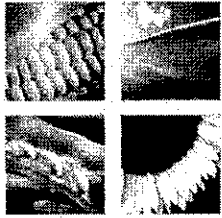
Labeling Should Follow Established Federal Guidelines

State-based labeling requirements that differ from previously established, stringently enforced federal guidelines, provide no value for consumers and only serve to disparage foods improved by biotechnology. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration's labeling guidance requires that a food label must reveal all **material** facts about that food. They follow a stringent science-based approach in developing this guidance and have decided biotech foods do not inherently "present any different or greater safety concern than foods developed by [conventional methods]." FDA uses the principal of "substantial equivalence"—focusing on the final product, not the process used to develop a food product, to determine how it should be labeled. In addition, mandatory labeling requirements that vary from state-to-state would not only conflict with FDA guidelines, but would be costly and confusing to consumers.

GE Fish Found to Be Safe After Strict Review

With respect to genetically engineered fish, the FDA convened its Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee (VMAC) to consider labeling for a genetically engineered fish, AquaAdvantage Salmon. This salmon was genetically engineered with a gene from a Chinook salmon to allow it to reach its market weight in half the time of the conventionally raised salmon thus contributing to more sustainable aquaculture systems. In all other aspects, the GE salmon are identical to other Atlantic salmon. They are raised in land-based growing facilities operated under strict FDA requirements. Since these salmon are sterile females, the possibility of cross-breeding is eliminated.

In its public release of documents, the FDA scientists declared that the GE salmon is safe to eat and does not pose a threat to the environment. This



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Past President
Adolph Helm

Executive Director
Alicia Maluaifiti

decision was made after months of input from independent experts, public testimony and 14 years of scientific evidence about the salmon.

The FDA stated that their policies on food labeling are not up for debate. They have worked for over a decade to develop a robust system to determine the safety of food and drugs from GE animals. Their regulatory process ensures the products made through genetic engineering go through a rigorous review process before being approved for the marketplace.

We ask that you hold this bill in committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 6:52 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: denisesnyder@live.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: Denise Snyder
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: denisesnyder@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

LATE

Comments:

GE fish pose serious risks to wild and native fish and our marine environment and could potentially outcompete, and wipe-out, any remaining native fish populations. To make matters worse, the human health impacts of eating GE fish are completely unknown. Because GE fish may be susceptible to more diseases than other fish, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher. As a result, consuming GE fish could lead to the ingestion of harmful antibiotics or contribute to the existing problem of antibiotic resistance in humans. There were no human trials before genetically-engineered (GE) foods were released into the U.S. food system. After the failure of the first GE tomato, Flavr Savr, all future GE food releases were done without any labeling or notice (beginning around 1996). Every effort was made to keep the U.S. public unaware that we had, without our knowledge, become participants in unsupervised and undocumented food testing trials.

FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) scientists recommended against the release of GE food into our food supply. Scientific consensus at the agency was that GE foods were inherently dangerous and might create hard-to-detect allergies, poisons, new "super" diseases, and nutritional problems. They urged their superiors at the FDA to require rigorous long-term tests.

The AAEM (American Academy of Environmental Medicine) position paper, reflects, based on established scientific criteria, 'there is causation' between GE foods and 'adverse health effects.'

Animal studies that have been done reveal problems. GE food is linked to the increase in chronic health problems. Genes inserted into GE crops can transfer into the DNA of bacteria living inside our intestines and continue to function. GE tryptophan sickened hundreds and caused the deaths of dozens of people in the U.S. Our federal government covered up the fact that the tryptophan was genetically modified.

GE crops were widely introduced in 1996. Within nine years, the incidence of people in the US with three or more chronic diseases nearly doubled—from 7% to 13%. Visits to the emergency room due to allergies doubled from 1997 to 2002. And overall food related illnesses doubled from 1994 to 2001, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Don't let GE fish slip into our food system. Please pass this legislation.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:29 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: luly.unemori2@hawaiiantel.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: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Luly Unemori
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: luly.unemori2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

LATE

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. I've ready many articles about the health and safety of federally approved, genetically engineered foods, and the evidence overwhelmingly supports the safety of these foods. This bill is unnecessary and if passed, will probably cause our food prices to rise.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 1, 2011, 3:00 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 711

Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, supports SB 711, requiring the labeling of genetically engineered fish or fish products.

Genetically modifying organisms—the practice of splicing DNA from bacteria, viruses and other organisms into plants to lend them certain traits, like resistance to chemical weedkillers—poses extreme risks to our common environment. Manipulation of genetic material by inserting bacteria, plant, animal, and human genes into food products is a radical departure from traditional breeding techniques and represents an unprecedented break with natural processes.

The public is entitled to know more about these potential risks. The public is entitled to be able to make informed decisions about what products they purchase and eat. This may also impact the production of GMO products -- if no one purchases them, will there be a demand to continue producing them? An informed public is able to make informed decisions. To adequately protect the environment and the public health, this bill should be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:50 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.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: Amy K. Brinker
Organization: Individual
Address: 248 Kaiulani Ave #4 HI
Phone: 808 230-0085
E-mail: amybrinker@mac.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

LATE

Comments:

No one has to ask producers of bran cereals to put "High in fiber!" on their boxes. No one has to ask the poultry industry to put "Free range!" on their packages. If there is no risk in eating GMO fish, there is no risk in labeling it, right?

GMO foods are marketed as bigger, better, faster, and more beautiful, so it would only make sense if producers of GMO should be excited about this opportunity. You are getting a bunch of "support" emails from them, aren't you?

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Kaiopua Fyfe [kaiokauai@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:53 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 711- RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

DATE: Tuesday, February 1, 2011
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

LATE

Greetings Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept this Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 711- RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH.

GE fish pose serious risks to wild and native fish and our marine environment and could potentially outcompete, and wipe-out, any remaining native fish populations. To make matters worse, the human health impacts of eating GE fish are completely unknown. Because GE fish may be susceptible to more diseases than other fish, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher. As a result, consuming GE fish could lead to the ingestion of harmful antibiotics or contribute to the existing problem of antibiotic resistance in humans.

Respectfully submitted,

Kai`opua Fyfe
PO Box 3870
Lihu`e, Kaua`i 96766
808 652-1977

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:23 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: eileen@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony supporting SB711 re GMO FISH.doc

LATE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eileen Cain
Organization: Individual
Address: 720 Mahiai St., Apt. E Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808 728-8638
E-mail: eileen@lava.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

720 Mahi'ai Street, Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
January 31, 2011

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Senator,

Please accept my testimony **in support of SB 711**, RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH. **Labeling simply respects our right to make informed decisions.**

I urge you to support this bill for the following reasons:

- 1. Producers of genetically engineered food are conducting an uncontrolled experiment on our health and our environment without our knowledge or consent. No one knows the health and safety risks involved in genetic engineering of food.**
2. This bill respects consumers' rights to know what is in the food we may decide to buy. It should be our free choice to decide whether to spend our hard-earned money on genetically engineered food.
3. Announcements about genetically engineered "**Frankenfish**" raised alarms and concerns for many Americans. What effects would it have on people's health? What would it do to naturally occurring salmon and other fish?
4. Some people have had allergic reactions to genetically engineered food because of the genes that have been inserted into the food. How awful to bite into a tomato and then develop fish-allergy symptoms because the tomato has been genetically modified with fish genes.

Our right to know is being violated without this bill. Our right to choose is being violated.

I support Food Democracy, and I urge you and your committee to do the same.

I strongly urge your committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Mahalo!

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Cain
Honolulu

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Vincent Mina [minav001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:22 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: sb711

LATE

Please submit my support for this bill sb711. My point of view is that GE fish have not had any track record of being innocuous to wild and native fish and our marine environment and could potentially outcompete, and wipe-out, any remaining native fish populations.

Let alone the human health impacts of eating GE fish are completely unknown. Because GE fish may be susceptible to more diseases than other fish, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher. As a result, consuming GE fish could lead to the ingestion of harmful antibiotics or contribute to the existing problem of antibiotic resistance in humans. Then take in effect that these GE fish are being fed GMO feed. Developing this technology from my point of view is predicated on the dysfunction of a petrochemical fertilizer and pesticide agricultural system that has led to nitrogen loading into the estuaries which is causing environmental damage and disease to our fish populations. Sincerely Vincent Mina

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Mary McClung [observing@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:15 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 711

LATE

I am writing in strong support of SB 711- RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH. Please vote in favor of this bill.

SB 711 Prohibits the sale of genetically engineered fish or genetically engineered fish products unless for consumption in the State of Hawaii and appropriately labeled as genetically engineered fish or genetically engineered fish products.

There is a hearing for this bill on-

DATE:Tuesday, February 1, 2011

TIME:3:00 p.m.

PLACE:Conference Room 229

Hearing notice for this bill-

http://capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/hearingnotices/HEARING_AGL_02-01-11_.HTM

Aloha,

GE fish are unnecessary and unacceptable. GE fish pose serious risks to wild and native fish and our marine environment and could potentially introduce irrevocable weakness, contamination, outcompete, and wipe-out, any remaining native fish populations.

To make matters worse, the human health impacts of eating GE fish are completely unknown.

Because GE fish may be susceptible to more diseases than other fish, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher. As a result, consuming GE fish could lead to the ingestion of harmful antibiotics or contribute to the existing problem of antibiotic resistance in humans.

More info on why this bill is important-

Youtube video on GE Fish- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UD7hQBH4yKw>

Biotech Battle: Are Genetically Engineered Fish Safe? (Sept 2010)-

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129939819>

Thank you for voting to protect Hawaii's aina, which supports the life of Hawaiians and other residents.

Sincerely,
Mary McClung
HC1 Box 148C
hana, HI 96713
observing@earthlink.net

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:48 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ofstone@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: his.testimony.sb711.doc

LATE

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

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeri Di Pietro
Organization: Hawai`i SEED
Address: PO Box 1177 Koloa, HI
Phone: 808 652 5286
E-mail: ofstone@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Hawai'i SEED is in strong support of SB 711

We represent consumers and growers, on each island, that feel genetic engineering is a very flawed science. There have been few safety studies to observe how these new life forms affect the traditional species. Eating GE foods has proven to be harmful in laboratory animals.

Please prohibit the sale of laboratory engineered fish from coming to Hawai'i.

Allowing these experimental laboratory bred species into the wild without the capacity to recall it, is irresponsible.

GE species may out-compete other species in the ecosystem. It is hard to contain a new life form. Whether through human error or containment malfunction, the unintentional consequences can occur. We should use precaution, especially here in our beautiful, remote state.

There is little attention given to the protection of traditional fish and it would be damaging to the balance of nature to lose that genetic diversity, especially in food sources. This should be seen as an invasive species.

Any store choosing to sell transgenic fish (fish created by crossing unrelated species through cell invasion) should label this food for the safety of consumers with allergies, keiki and kapuna.

Malama I ka Honua for future generations,
Jeri Di Pietro
Hawai'i SEED
hawaiiseed.org

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:02 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mbutay@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: SB711 GMA Testimony to AG.docx

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

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Melody Butay Dacanay
Organization: G.A. Morris, Inc.
Address: 222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8085314551
E-mail: mbutay@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:
Attached is a testimony from John Hewitt, District Director, Grocery Manufacturers Association.



February 1, 2011

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

RE: SB 711 – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chairman Kahele and Members of the Committee:

The Grocery Manufacturers Association[1] (GMA) and its more than three hundred members respectfully oppose SB 711, which would prohibit the sale of genetically engineered fish or genetically engineered fish product unless they were conspicuously labeled.

The provisions of SB 711 that require the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered fish are misguided and unnecessary. As the bill points out, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) already regulates the introduction of and labeling of biotech foods. Producers are legally responsible to the FDA for the safety and wholesomeness of any food product placed on the market and all foods, regardless of whether they are produced using

[1] Based in Washington, D.C., the Grocery Manufacturers Association is the voice of more than 300 leading food, beverage and consumer product companies that sustain and enhance the quality of life for hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the globe.

Founded in 1908, GMA is an active, vocal advocate for its member companies and a trusted source of information about the industry and the products consumers rely on and enjoy every day. The association and its member companies are committed to meeting the needs of consumers through product innovation, responsible business practices and effective public policy solutions developed through a genuine partnership with policymakers and other stakeholders.

In keeping with its founding principles, GMA helps its members produce safe products through a strong and ongoing commitment to scientific research, testing and evaluation and to providing consumers with the products, tools and information they need to achieve a healthy diet and an active lifestyle.

The food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry in the United States generates sales of \$2.1 trillion annually, employs 14 million workers and contributes \$1 trillion in added value to the economy every year.

GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

1350 I Street, NW :: Suite 300 :: Washington, DC 20005 :: ph 202-639-5900 :: fx 202-639-5932 ::

www.gmaonline.org

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
February 1, 2011
Page 2

biotechnology or not, are regulated for their individual safety, toxicity and the presence of allergens.

Furthermore, after decades of scientific review, the FDA determined that genetically enhanced foods are equivalent to foods developed through crossbreeding, and other traditional methods. Thus, compulsory state labeling provides no additional significant or useful information to consumers. In fact, mandatory labeling of biotechnology products will do little more than mislead consumers to believe foods derived from biotechnology are harmful when the best current scientific evidence indicates they are not.

GMA supports a consumer's right to obtain important information about the health and safety of food products and we are committed to informing consumers about modern biotechnology. GMA member companies have made information available through consumer 1-800 numbers, supermarket brochures and were instrumental in developing the Alliance for Better Foods which has a website where consumers can obtain comprehensive information about food biotechnology.

Simply put, requiring labeling of food derived through biotechnology goes beyond educating the consumer about food safety -- it is designed to require "warning labels" that focus upon the process by which a food was produced. Requiring warning labels for these products will create a false impression that there are dangers associated with consumption of such products or that their nutritional value has been diminished. Furthermore, mandatory labels for these products would present a tremendous and costly enforcement problem to the state and result in huge costs to food processors, retailers and ultimately, consumers, while producing absolutely no benefit.

For these reasons, GMA respectfully opposes SB 711.

Sincerely,

John Hewitt
Western Region Director
Grocery Manufacturers Association



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

LATE

January 29, 2011

The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 1, 3:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol - Room 229
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
State Capitol, Room 229
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Oppose S.B. 711**

Honorable Senator Nishihara and Committee Members,
The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation **strongly opposes S.B. 711**, "Relating to the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Fish." 711

This bill presupposes that genetically engineered products are inferior to conventional, to the extent that GE products must be distinguished by special labeling. This assumption contradicts the findings of scientific research.

Labeling, as regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, is intended to communicate information that is relevant to health, safety and nutrition. It is the scientific purview of the FDA to establish labeling requirements on food products. To date, none are required for any biotech food product. By Federal regulatory criteria, there can be no significant difference between foods produced using biotechnology and their conventional counterparts.

A conspicuous label would, by implication, create an undeserved stigma for these items. Passage would have catastrophic economic consequences on Hawaii's aquaculture businesses that choose biotech products. The label will only serve to scare people from purchasing biotech aquaculture products.

We feel that S.B. 711 is unnecessary legislation that will be detrimental to Hawaii aquaculture and set a precedent that will be detrimental to Hawaii agriculture. We implore you to seek measures that support Hawaii aquaculture and agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Chris Manfredi, Government Affairs Chairman
Hawaii Farm Bureau

nishihara1 - Dale

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:03 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: usmaui@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM

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

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Courtney Bruch
Organization: Upcountry Sustainability
Address: POB 735 Makawao, HI, 96768
Phone: 808-283-6837
E-mail: usmaui@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:
SB711

This is my testimony regarding the above bill concerning GM fish in the state of HI. I support this bill as a Maui resident and core member of Upcountry Sustainability. I also serve as a representative of the Kipahulu Community Association and Maui Tomorrow.

It is of great importance that GE fish be labeled and outlawed. These fish pose a threat to the natural laws of this planet and to human, and animal health. GE organisms are not regulated effectively and are created by corporations that have a history of environmental poisoning and are trying to profit by controlling the world's food source.

I strongly request that you pass this bill.

Courtney Bruch

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:33 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB711 on 2/1/2011 3:00:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

LATE

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

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kobayashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

aloha chair Nishihara, vice chair Kahele and members of the committee:

i am in full support of sb711.

on a personal level, i have twice had a bad allergic reaction to salmon offered to me as filet and in the form of lomi salmon and poke. first incident, my friend gave me a filet of salmon wrapped in butcher paper from our local fish market. it looked so good and tasted good. a little later that evening i had a severe allergic reaction to it and had to take benadryl. i found out days later that this salmon was farmed in new zealand. the next incident happened at a luncheon luau. i did not think twice at the time about eating the lomi salmon and salmon/tako poke. a little later that afternoon i experienced the same allergic reaction. i can only say that it was from the "farmed salmon" which we know is fed feed that has been Genetically Engineered as well as antibiotics. now "farmed salmon" is more commonly sold than "wild caught". and by the way, i have since eaten "wild caught" on a number of occasions in lomi salmon and as filet and have not had any reaction.

i wonder how many others are experiencing allergic reactions. our food must be labeled as we have the right to know. it is a matter of public safety and for some of us, a matter of life and death.

please support this right to know.

mahalo nui,
chris kobayashi

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Malia Nobrega [malianob@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:38 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for SB711
Attachments: WHCC_sb711.pdf

LATE

Aloha-

Attached is testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for SB 711, relating to genetically engineered fish.

Mahalo,
Malia

--

Malia Nobrega

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)
<http://iifb.indigenouportal.com>

Follow us on Twitter- http://twitter.com/IIFB_indigenous



Waikīkī Hawaiian Civic Club

E HUKI LIKE!

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 711,
RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

DATE: Tuesday, February 1, 2011

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

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

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB 711, relating to genetically engineered fish

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.

GE fish pose serious risks to wild and native fish and our marine environment and could potentially outcompete, and wipe-out, any remaining native fish populations. To make matters worse, the human health impacts of eating GE fish are completely unknown. Because GE fish may be susceptible to more diseases than other fish, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher. As a result, consuming GE fish could lead to the ingestion of harmful antibiotics or contribute to the existing problem of antibiotic resistance in humans.

We are aware that this bill calls for the labeling of GE fish but as a community and as Native Hawaiians we do NOT want any genetically engineered fish here in our islands.

Mahalo,
Malia Nobrega, President