
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION
REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION TO COME UP WITH A NATION-WIDE SYSTEM FOR
MONITORING, LABELING, AND ENFORCING THE LABELING OF ALL
WHOLE AND PROCESSED GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS.

1 WHEREAS, food safety and the health of the population are
2 vital to the growth and prosperity of the nation; and
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4 WHEREAS, the production of food crops using genetically
5 engineered organisms has accelerated since 1996 and today
6 seventy five to eighty percent of the food consumed nationally
7 is genetically modified; and
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9 WHEREAS, over sixty countries around the world, including
10 the European Union, Russia, China, and Egypt, either require
11 labeling or have initiated an outright ban on genetically
12 engineered foods; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1992, the United States Food and Drug
15 Administration developed a policy describing genetically
16 modified organisms as substantially equivalent to traditional
17 crops; and
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19 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration
20 does not conduct or require third-party scientific review of
21 genetically engineered organisms, including foods, but rather
22 relies on the developer of a crop or product to provide their
23 own summary and assessment of allergenicity, toxicity, and
24 nutrition; and
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26 WHEREAS, as a result, the only studies of genetically
27 engineered foods in the United States have been funded or
28 conducted by the companies producing them; and



1 WHEREAS, long-term health studies of the effects of
2 consuming genetically engineered foods have not been conducted;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, for a variety of reasons, including health,
6 economic, environmental, religious, and ethical concerns,
7 American consumers overwhelmingly favor knowing whether the food
8 they purchase and eat has been genetically engineered; and

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10 WHEREAS, polls have indicated that ninety percent of
11 Americans favor labeling genetically engineered foods in order
12 to make informed choices about whether or not to purchase or eat
13 these foods; and

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15 WHEREAS, American farmers, with the assistance of genetic
16 engineering companies, help to feed seven billion people around
17 the world, including populations in India and African nations;
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20 WHEREAS, the labeling of genetically modified food products
21 will not disrupt this important international aid; and

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23 WHEREAS, as of this year, twenty-five states, including
24 Hawaii, have introduced legislation to require the labeling of
25 genetically modified or engineered foods; and

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27 WHEREAS, state-by-state initiatives of food labeling may
28 have cost implications to the consumer, but a national mandate
29 would be more economically feasible for both producers and
30 consumers; and

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32 WHEREAS, most processed foods are already required to
33 include a nutrition label identifying the ingredients, number of
34 servings per package, calories, cholesterol, sodium, vitamins,
35 percent daily values, and other information to assist the
36 consumer with making an educated choice as to whether to
37 purchase the food; and





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39 WHEREAS, transparency and accuracy regarding the genetic
40 and nutritional composition of the food we eat is a right that
41 should be protected by law; now, therefore,






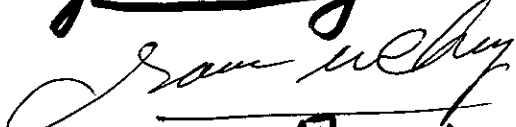


1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 3 Session of 2013, that the United States Congress is requested to
 4 support legislation requiring the Department of Agriculture and
 5 Food and Drug Administration to come up with a nation-wide
 6 system for monitoring, labeling, and enforcing the labeling of
 7 all whole and processed genetically engineered foods; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 10 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United
 11 States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
 12 Representatives, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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MAR 13 2013

