
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STUDIES RELATING TO THE RESEARCH OF ISSUES ARISING
FROM THE POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS LABELING OR RIGHT-TO-KNOW REGIMEN.

1 WHEREAS, the question of whether to label food products as
2 containing genetically modified organisms (GMO) has garnered
3 much debate throughout the country; and
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5 WHEREAS, in addition to legislative proposals seeking the
6 labeling of food products containing GMO material, other
7 legislative proposals would seek to establish, as an alternative
8 to GMO labeling, a GMO registration regimen, also known as a
9 right-to-know regimen, where suppliers of genetically modified
10 food products register those food products with a state agency;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, before establishing any GMO labeling or GMO
14 registration regimen, it is critical that the relevant issues,
15 as well as the intended and unintended effects, arising from
16 such a course of action be analyzed and understood by members of
17 the Legislature and the agriculture industry, as well as
18 consumers; and
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20 WHEREAS, relevant issues include: a determination of
21 whether GMO labeling, GMO registration, or the status quo is the
22 preferred action; the economic effects of any labeling or
23 registration requirement on consumers and the local agricultural
24 industry; the costs of implementing such a labeling or
25 registration requirement; and whether food products containing
26 GMO pose any long-term safety threats; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
31 Hawaii Economic Research Organization is requested to establish
32 an economic model, conduct an economic impact study, and submit



1 a report on the economic impact of implementing a GMO labeling
2 or GMO registration requirement on consumers, the local
3 agricultural industry, and the State's 2050 sustainability
4 goals; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
7 in collaboration with the Departments of Health and Business,
8 Economic Development, and Tourism, are requested to research and
9 submit a report examining whether implementing a GMO labeling or
10 GMO registration regimen is practicable, including issues
11 relating to ease of enforcement and administration of a labeling
12 or registration requirement, and whether such a program would
13 adversely affect the Hawaii 2050 sustainability goals and
14 determining how the preferred program, if any, should be
15 implemented; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
18 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, with the
19 assistance of the Department of Agriculture, is requested to
20 provide a report that includes detailed cost analyses on
21 implementing GMO labeling and GMO registration regimens,
22 including any additional personnel requirements and any other
23 departmental processes or procedures that may need to be changed
24 to effectuate such a regimen; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
27 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is requested
28 to submit a report that includes an analysis of peer reviewed
29 literature and studies regarding the long-term safety of GMO
30 crops grown in Hawaii and information on farming practices in
31 Hawaii; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
34 Bureau is requested to provide a report to the Legislature that
35 includes copies of legislation adopted by, or bills or
36 ordinances under consideration by, other state legislatures over
37 the past three years that address GMO labeling, and the outcomes
38 of such bills; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following entities are each
41 requested to submit an individual interim report and final
42 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
43 convening of the Regular Sessions of 2014 and 2015,
44 respectively, on the research requested in this Concurrent



1 Resolution regarding the various issues and effects arising from
2 the implementation of a GMO labeling or GMO registration
3 regimen, including recommendations on other areas of concern
4 that may arise:

- 5 (1) University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization;
- 6 (2) University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture
7 and Human Resources;
- 8 (3) Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the
9 Departments of Health and Business, Economic
10 Development, and Tourism; and
- 11 (4) Legislative Reference Bureau; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
14 Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic
15 Development, and Tourism, the Director of Health, the Executive
16 Director of the University of Hawaii Economic Research
17 Organization, the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
18 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the acting
19 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

