



February 22, 2013

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

RE: HB174 HD2 – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

The Grocery Manufacturers Association¹ (GMA) and its more than three hundred members respectfully oppose HB174 HD2 because such a mandate presupposes an issue with food safety and does everything to discourage investment in science and technology that could bring about more efficient operations and better, more nutritious foods.

Mandatory labeling of food products containing genetically engineered ingredients are misguided and unnecessary. 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 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, research shows that mandatory labeling of biotechnology products has the

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.

negative impact of misleading 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 other avenues.

Simply put, labeling 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 HB174 HD2.

Sincerely,



John Hewitt
Western Region Director
Grocery Manufacturers Association



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2013, 3:00 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 174, HD2

Chair Luke and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 174. This measure requires labeling of all imported genetically engineered fresh produce sold in Hawaii.

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 growing 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.

LATE

February 22, 2013

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 174 HD2

Attention: COMMITTEE ON RELATING TO FOOD LABELING,

Aloha, my name is Keali'i Parker and I support LABELING FOOD THAT CONTAINS GMO. I know this bill was passed with amendments, of which I don't fully agree with but am thankful that at least that step was taken. I would really like to see ALL Bio-chemicals OUT of Hawaii, these guys are poisoning our land, our air and our water. They are using US as lab rats to conduct illegal testing of their poisons and the poisons to go with the other poisons (of course all owned and operated by the same company, pre-dominantly Monsanto, but there's also Sagenta, DOW etc) and frankly, as a Native Hawaiian woman, I deplore the fact our land is being ruined, possibly forever, as once you taint the soil with GMO seeds, it will always yield GMO crops regardless. Also that Monsanto only requires 9 months of testing on any of their seeds, which is very dangerous and incredibly reckless as more and more extensive studies are coming out with conflicting evidence that GMO food is actually VERY bad for us. So we know without a shadow of a doubt that GMO crops ruin the land (our very source of LIFE) and is harmful to our health. YOU KNOW THIS. Nevermind the opposing testimonies, ALL of them are employed by Monsanto!! Or they have personal interests in this matter such as the farmers that harvest the GMO papaya.

But regular people like me? Regular consumers that want to eat healthy foods, people who put a lot of effort into being healthy whether that means eating organic and

being vegetarian and just simply wants to know what are we eating?!?! I have NO financial gain from this testimony, nothing is awarded personally to me if I testify. I do this for my children, and my children's children, and YOUR children, because what kind of world are we leaving for them if we allow bio-tech companies to control our agriculture and food supply?!?! One like the cartoon "The Jetsons", where they eat a little yellow pill, can you think of anything more horrifying?! And the cancers, tumors, organ enlargement and all the other monstrous affects to our bodies we are only learning now, what about that?! Do we want to leave our children a future where the land yields nothing (no life, no plants, nothing organic), people are dying left and right because of years of unsuspectingly eating poison and oh yes, our children are under the control of these corporations because they control the food supply?! Do you?!?!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THIS. FORCING MONSANTO TO LABEL THEIR POISON ALSO FORCES THEM TO BE LIABLE FOR WHAT THEY ARE SELLING TO THE PUBLIC. THIS IS WHY WE ELECTED YOU TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE!!!! PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN!!! MAKE HAWAII THE TRENDSETTER IN GETTING MONSANTO TO LABEL THEIR FOOD!!!

I appreciate your time and attention in this matter, Mahalo a me ke aloha.

Keali'imakamana'onalani S. Parker



LATE

HB 174 HD2 testimony in support:

Aloha Finance Committee,

I am in support of this measure as a very small but important step in the right direction. I am a parent, and that is the most important reason, among many others, that I support this bill. The fact that we (Hawaii) sell GMO papaya to other countries (like Japan) and already put a label on it, without any complaints from the industry, should tell you that labeling itself is not expensive. But ask yourself this question: In a land of freedom and liberty that we are, why are we denied the same label that is put on produce grown in Hawaii for export, without controversy? That is what is controversial; not the labeling of these patented gene events, but the fact ours is the only free nation that, so far away, bars it's citizens the freedom to choose. If a biotech company can sue a non gmo farmer for what amounts to gene pollution on an adjacent non gmo farm, yet as consumers we cannot be allowed to know if we are eating these gene events, then there is something seriously out of balance. You, as elected officials are here to represent the people, not just big industries such as Monsanto and Syngenta. There is nothing financial to gain in this fight to get GMO labeling. The only gain is in that Hawaii's people will have the right to know what we are eating and be able to make choices about what we are eating. It's for the protection of public health that truth in labeling laws already exist. On the other hand, the Crop Improvement Association, Farm Bureau, and many other biotech industry front groups have only one reason they don't want labels, and it's not to look out for the people's health or even the livelihood of farmers. No, instead it's their own bottom line. That is why you must balance this equation, for the people, and give us consumers the right to choose. We are supposed to be living in a free country with a free market; this looks more like state sponsored control of our diet.

While this bill should include all imported and locally grown foods, at least it is a step in the right direction. All the food companies that are lobbying against this bill already have to label gmo foods for export to the 30+ other countries that require it for import; they do this without controversy. Please help preserve our liberty to opt out of involuntarily eating foods that have been linked to many new food allergies, liver toxicity, sterility, and cancer...just to name a few. Lobbyists representing biotechnology companies will tell you that these foods are proven safe by "safety studies" that are voluntarily conducted by the same companies they represent. This is not real oversight by a system that is supposed to protect us, but that is what the FDA "requires" for oversight. It's a massive conflict of interest, and a sham. The FDA is bought out by biotech, quite obviously. Please look up Michael Taylor, the FDA "food czar", for one shining example.

The Honolulu County Council recently rejected the wish by all the other Counties of the State of Hawaii to get a GMO label law passed this year by saying that "people who don't like GMO food can already avoid it by eating organic". This is a very irresponsible thing to say, when %75 of the food on grocery store shelves secretly contains GMO ingredients. Not to mention what public schools are feeding our keiki. Having the right to choose to not eat this stuff because of clear labeling is exactly the same thing as having the right to avoid ingredients we know we don't want to eat by simply looking at the ingredients on the package, something already well established and demanded by law. Those laws are there for very good reasons like health, liberty and science.

The argument is often posited that labeling GMO foods will “hurt the farmers”. Well, actually an article that came out last month in the Hilo Tribune Herald disproves that. (<http://hawaiitribune-herald.com/sections/news/local-news/promising-papayas.html>). It discusses Japanese consumption of GMO papaya , one year after the ban that Japan had on importing Hawaiian papaya for the last decade or so (due to safety concerns when the GMO Rainbow papaya was introduced). The article reports that in all of 2012, only 4500 lbs of GMO Rainbow papaya was sold to the Japanese market as a whole, as opposed to 1.3 million lbs of “non-gmo” papaya sold to Japan in the same year. Clearly, they don’t want to eat much of it. And neither do many other countries. So GMO is actually bad for farmers in the long run. Reason? The market decides what it wants; we vote with our dollars. This is liberty and it should not be controversial in this country at all to simply label what our food contains.

I strongly urge that this bill be amended to take effect within a reasonable amount of time. July 1, 2112 as an effective date seems to show hesitation and lack of faith in the proposed legislation; if fears of Federal pre-emption to a State Labeling Law are the cause of such a fear, this body would do well to look into what rights are vested in the State for this type of State law. I have looked, and it seems pretty clear that the States do retain the right as long as it explicitly relates to protecting the health of its citizens.

Mahalo for your support of this Bill,

Blake Watson

(808)315-4007, Volcano, Hawaii

References of the most recent publications showing evidence of risk Birth-defects and skeletal malformations: Antoniou M, Habib MEM, Howard CV, Jennings RC, Leifert C, et al. (2012) Teratogenic Effects of Glyphosate-Based Herbicides: Divergence of Regulatory Decisions from Scientific Evidence. *J Environ Anal Toxicol* S4:006. doi:10.4172/2161-0525.S4-00 Cell death from exposure to Roundup: Martini, C.N. Matías Gabrielli, María del C. Vila. 2012. A commercial formulation of glyphosate inhibits proliferation and differentiation to adipocytes and induces apoptosis in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts. *Toxicology in Vitro* 26:1007–1013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2012.04.017> Liver and kidney toxicity: Séralini, G.-E., et al. Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize. *Food Chem. Toxicol.* (2012), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2012.08.005> Other Reviews showing evidence of risk: American Academy of Environmental Medicine. 2009.

LATE

Aloha. My name is Karly Williams. And I am testifying in strong support of HB 174 HD1 [with the consideration of a MUCH SOONER effective date in something like 2014. 2050 is much too late, and we will already have seen MUCH of the damages caused by gmo then]. The original bill was to label ALL gmo whole foods, raw foods, and processed foods with genetically engineered material. Although it is also nice to know which imported raw foods are genetically modified, we NEED labeling on the processed foods even more. People DESERVE the right to know what exactly is in the things they eat and feed their children, and you OWE them that protection and security. I don't have to stress this because you already know that it is your duty as a leader of Hawaii to choose right, do right BY THE PEOPLE [NOT THE CORPORATION!!], do right by this beautiful god-given paradise 'aina, and to act with integrity. The things these chemical companies are doing are NOT pono. So many studies [which keep popping up more and more everyday] are already showing their negative and harmful generational effects upon the second and third generations of test subjects, including sterility, cancer, infertility, obesity, and diabetes. Who knows what will happen to our children. Please do this for them. Acting with integrity means to do the right thing when no one is looking. Here is your golden opportunity to act with love/unity CONSCIOUSNESS AND TO DO THE RIGHT THING when MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS aren't aware, and not looking. Mahalo

LATE

Committee on Finance
Fri. 2/22/2013 3:00pm
Room 308

RE: HB174 HD 2 Labeling: Strong Support with AMENDMENTS for labeling of both local and imported produce

Aloha Representatives,

Please represent your constituents and pass HB174 to label genetically modified foods in Hawaii with amendments added to require ALL genetically modified produce to be labeled – whether imported or locally produced.

Labeling protects our health. We have the right to know what is in the food we choose to buy and eat. I avoid GM foods whenever possible for health reasons including allergic reactions and proven links to cancers and reproductive harm, but currently there is no labeling system in place to identify what is GM and what is not. The "organic" label is not sufficient.

There is much support for GMO labeling:

- Over 70% of Hawaii residents support labeling
- Labeling has been endorsed by the Democratic Caucus in Hawaii
- All Hawaii counties and 6 Oahu Neighborhood Boards have issued resolutions in support of GMO labeling
- 63 countries around the world including all of Europe, Russia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand require mandatory labeling of GMO products. Some countries have banned these products completely.

Labeling helps our economy. As an employee at a small organic farm on the North Shore of Oahu, I can tell you that organic, non-GMO food is better for our economy. Visitors from other countries - most of which have banned GMOs in the food supply - do not want to visit Hawaii and eat genetically modified foods. Visitors and residents alike value accurate labels and the honest assurance that food is local, organic, and not genetically modified.

Labeling does not increase food costs as lobbyists claim. If food manufacturers can easily and cheaply put "new and improved" or "now 10% more" onto a package, they can just as easily label "made with genetically modified ingredients". Perhaps the real reason is that they know consumers don't want to eat toxic foods, and will avoid their products?

I urge you to support the rights and health of consumers by passing HB174 today!

Mahalo,
Angela Breene

angelavideotron@gmail.com

Halewia, HI 96712

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: skmfreitas@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharde Mersberg Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Jennifj52@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Kumukahi77@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dea Rackley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 8:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	MCFB	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 8:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bkdl@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Lehmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We deserve to know.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Kana`i Dodge	`Ai Pohaku- the Stone Eaters	Support	No

Comments: Aloha committee members, we at `Ai Pohaku serve our Wai`anae community and are extremely concerned about all the gmo in our food. HB 174 is a small important step addressing our right to know what we are eating. We vote, we will follow your vote. Mahalo nui for representing us. We support the intent of HB 174. Please support HB 174. aloha nui, vkd

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Joyce Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou! Please pass this important bill. I am in the health field and have many clients with high sensitivities to all unnatural products and chemicals. I read all labels. I have doctors and lawyers in my family, always vote and will track your voting record. Thank you for representing the people, sincerely Amy Chang

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annjulie Vai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 Please support HB174. GMO labeling is important to all of Hawai'i. I ask you to pass this GMO labeling. Mahalo, Annjulie Vai

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hoku Kaaekuahiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: GMO labeling in Hawaii is mandatory. I want to know what I am putting in my body and what I am paying for. Just because some foods label their product GMO does not mean we should just assume if there is no label then it likely has GMOs. I don't want any chemicals on my plate and I don't feel like it is necessary to only eat organic to make that happen. If companies want to maximize profits by using GMOs then they can spend the money on the label and take the loss of the people who are smart enough to keep that crap out of their systems.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Frank	Ohana O Kauai	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the labeling of all GMO products. This bill is the bare minimum that needs to be done to give the people of Hawaii the right to choose. This bill should be the first step to the labeling of all GMO foods. Elijah Frank Ohana O Kaua'i

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Kahula	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 Please support HB174. GMO labeling is important to all of Hawai'i. I ask you to pass this GMO labeling. Mahalo, Debra Kahula

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Hawai'i SEED	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Finance Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB174 HD2 which would require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered (GE) foods in the State of Hawai'i. My name is Mary Lacques and I am a member of Hawai'i SEED and Label It Hawai'i. We strongly support the passage of HB174 HD2 because consumers have a right to know what they are feeding themselves and their families. According to a national poll conducted by the Mellman Group in February of 2012, 91 percent of Americans polled favored the labeling of genetically engineered foods. The most significant aspect of this study was that these results were consistent within two percentage points among Republicans, Independents and Democrats. A 2007 survey conducted by the University of Hawai'i found that 72 percent of Hawai'i residents said the labeling of GE foods was "very important". Residents of Hawai'i are asking to be guaranteed the same right as sixty countries that require the labeling of these transgenic, novel life forms that have been present in our food supply for the last seventeen years. You will undoubtedly hear from concerned citizens about the myriad list of environmental and health concerns that have been attributed to the ingestion and cultivation of GE products. I ask that you honor the efforts of our elected officials at the national level that have supported labeling of genetically engineered foods since 1999, when the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink signed on to support a recommendation to the Food and Drug Administration to label GE food. Please vote in favor of HB174 HD2. Mahalo for your public service.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamalani Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 Please please Please support HB174. GMO labeling is important to all of Hawai'i. I ask you to pass this GMO labeling measure. Hawai'i has expressed their collective opinion and we need you to listen to the very concerned citizens and pass this bill to ensure the fate of Hawai'i. Mahalo, Mary Ann Pahukoa

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Kamaoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tam Mui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No Frankenfood for Hawaii, let's keep it pure, and make sure we all know what we are eating.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kirbin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donovan kelsy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julian Jiman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tj simms	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Label it!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments: am writing to voice my support for labeling legislation in Hawaii and urge our local leaders to take action on this important issue for our community's health. I have a right to know about the food I eat and what I feed my family. In the U.S., we pride ourselves on having choices and making informed decisions. Under current FDA regulations, we don't have that choice when it comes to GE ingredients in the foods we purchase and feed our families. Labeling is essential for me to choose whether or not I want to consume or feed my family genetically engineered foods. Genetically engineered foods are required to be labeled in the 15 European Union nations, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries around the world. As an American, I firmly believe I should also have the right to know if my foods have been genetically engineered. A recent poll released by ABC News found that 93 percent of the American public wants the federal government to require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods. As ABC News stated, "Such near-unanimity in public opinion is rare." I hope you will listen to me and the other 93 percent of the American public who want mandatory labeling. Please show your support for the interests of the American people by labeling genetically engineered foods.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackie Reynolds	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 Please support HB174. GMO labeling is important to all of Hawai'i. I ask you to pass this GMO labeling measure. Hawai'i has expressed their collective opinion and we need you to listen to the very concerned citizens and pass this bill to ensure the fate of Hawai'i. Thank you, Jackie Reynolds

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamaile Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 Please support HB174. GMO labeling is important to all of Hawai'i. I beg you to pass this GMO labeling measure. Hawai'i has expressed their collective opinion and we need you to listen to the very concerned citizens and pass this bill to ensure the fate of Hawai'i. Thank you, Kamaile Pahukoa

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Chavaria	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 I am writing to you with great urgency that you understand that GMO labeling is important to the health of us all. I employ you to pass this GMO labeling measure. I am optimistic that you will listen to the public you serve. Thank you, Nancy Chavaria

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CHRISTINE KAUAHIKAUA	my family!!	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 174 to label GMO foods. We, the people, deserve the right to know!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Napua Hueu	Aloha Revolurion	Support	No

Comments: Committee of Finance Re: HB174 GMO labeling is important to the health of all Hawai'i. I strongly urge you to pass this GMO labeling measure. Please listen to Hawai'i's very concerned citizens and do what you must and pass this bill to ensure the well being of your family and mine. Mahalo, Napua Hueu

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Finance Committee, Many thanks for your support of this HB174. I've spent years losing weight and trying to be more healthy. A key part of that process is knowing what I eat. I want to know what I eat - and that MUST include GMOs. Please label and help us be able to be more wise in protecting our health and our choices as consumers, citizens, and neighbors. Many thanks, James McCay 2957 Kalakaua Ave, #216 Honolulu HI 96815

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terence Winkless	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The chemical companies' insecticides are killing us and poisoning the food. Don't let corporate greed win over common sense.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tino Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm in support of HB174

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 9:54 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Kristinebowden@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Bowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the labeling of GMOs in Hawai'i we need to support local farmers that grew up on this A'ina and respects it, not CHEMICAL COMPANIES!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 9:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lydiana.lb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LYDIA BROCKWAY	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: PLEASE LABEL ALL GMO

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 9:50 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: svickery@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support labeling of GMO foods. We all deserve the right to know where our food came from & how it was produced. Mahalo Nui Loa for doing the right thing & Label GMOs imported to Hawaii & grown in Hawaii!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 9:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wearechangemaui@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013
Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We deserve to know what our food consists of. Label it!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2013, 3:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 174

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to pass this bill.

All we are asking is for some transparency and information about what we eat.
In our democracy that ought to be a basic right.

We are not asking you to ban GMOs.

We are simply asking that consumers be allowed to decide what they eat and what
they feed their keiki.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo
Anthony Aalto

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Puanani Rogers	Ho`okipa Network - Kauai	Support	No

Comments: My name is Puanani Rogers and I live in the hupua`a o Kealia, mokupuni o Kauai. Please pass this important measure, we demand to know what is GMO foods, it is our human right. Our children and future generations need to know You will be protecting our future, a great undertaking on your part to know that your decision today is safeguarding our future! Mahalo a nui, please support this measure! Puanani Rogers

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 10:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: edgargonz2003@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
edgar gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support labelling GMO's in food. I support labelling food when GMO's are not present. GMO's have not been proven safe for human consumption. I support GMO labelling and know that it is a positive step for Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 12:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i support a passage of GMO labeling of our foods. it is ridiculous to simply label imported whole foods. our hawaii grown papayas should be proudly labeled on behalf of the those who grow and support ge/gm foods especially if they feel there is no difference between gm and non gm. if japan is accepting gmo papayas, which are labeled in japan, all the more reason to label them in hawaii. why is it that we in hawaii in the united states, don't have any gmo labeling laws? where do our legislators fit into this issue? the following language added to the bill is unfair and adds the burden of proof to lie on smaller and organic companies to prove that they have no contamination of any gmos.: (1) Authorizing labeling of qualified food offered for retail sale as "not genetically engineered" or "does not include a genetically engineered ingredient" if the statement is true and authorizing any person or public agency to seek an injunction to prevent or terminate a violation;

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 12:41 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: juggler@aloha.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM*

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Graham Ellis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

My name is Marceau McPherson and I support HB174 the labeling of Genetically Modified food. I am 28 years old and am a father of three healthy children with one on the way and I am concerned for the health of my children and the health of all children. I live with a Genetic Kidney Disease called Thin Base Membrane Kidney Disease or TBMKD. This disease means that the membrane that filters my blood is thin and more porous. This makes my kidneys and body more susceptible to harm, and without a strict diet can lead to kidney failure and death. I've had kidney pain and bleeding since I was eight years old and it wasn't until I was around 20 years old I realized GMO or Genetically Modified Organisms like GMO corn and soy were the main cause of my pain and suffering. If I consume processed or non processed foods that contain GMO I can immediately feel sharp pain in my kidneys and if continued causes me to vomit and become severely ill. I may be more sensitive to these GMO foods but it proves that they are harmful and require labeling. My children have a 50% chance of having my kidney disease so we only grow and buy organic non-GMO food to protect my children and myself. Please allow these GMO Genetically modified Organisms or GE Genetically Engineered foods, ingredients and products to be labeled so the people have a choice and a right to know what they are eating and feeding to their children. Thank you for your time and Please make the right decision and label GMO and GE food, ingredients, and products.

Mahalo,
Marceau McPherson

LATE

HB174

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Proctor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please label GMO's to the fullest. Our people deserve to know. Please protect our children. Studies have shown how dangerous these foods are. Over 60 countries have passed laws to protect their citizens. I love our people. Please don't leave us behind!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

Aloha Representative Chair Luke , Vice Chair Nishimoto and FIN members.

My name is Lori Nakamura-Higa a concerned mom and I support **HB174 HD2: Genetically Engineered Organisms; Produce; Labeling; Import – requesting amendments inclusive to all Genetically Engineered Organisms or Genetically Modified Organisms, GMOs on all foods and feeds.**

I'm one in millions of moms across America that had to be self-educated about what's been secretly added to our foods for nearly twenty years. I just found out about GMOs on my own several months ago. While doing my own research, weighing in the pluses & minuses about GMOs, the feeling I had was that I was hit by a freight train & I didn't even see it coming.

It's because I'm a concerned mom and this stumbling block of concealing GMOs has made my daily challenges more complicated. I've spent countless hours and days calling and emailing manufacturers inquiring whether their products contain GMOs. Very time consuming, very frustrating as a mom and a whole lot of wasted time.

I've always been an avid label reader, choosing what I deemed nutritious to eat for my family and what I want to pay for. It already mattered to me, who manufactured the foods, how it was I, or where the foods originated from and if I decided not to buy a product then this is my right to choose only to find out I was so wrong.

As a mom I don't care about the GMOs' desires to convince me or anyone that their privately owned patented invented foods are "Substantially Equivalent," or of the, "same nutritional value," as other foods. This is not the issue here, this discussion does not matter. No one or entity should hold patents on life forms that has the ability to replicate itself on it's own. It is in fact their unethical practices of the way they go about handling everything they've invented. If there's any negative connotation attached to their names, it's because they've brought it on themselves and they not others need to take responsibility or kuliana for it. There is a GMO created Pandora box of problems let loose all over the world for many years every where they go and everything they touch. That is the real issue and this is the issue that's before you today.

Among the GMO self-generated plethora of problems and the joint efforts of food manufacturers, there's been a breach of discriminating injustice and a violation of civil rights carried out on all of us Americans, and as Hawaii citizens and you have the power to make this discrimination stop and we need your to help make it stop. They telling all of us that we don't have to know are like telling all of us to go sit in the back of this GMO bus because we said so and that's where we belong while billions of consumers globally had elitist status over us when it comes to labeling GMOs. This is absolutely discriminating, barbaric and degrading and it has no place here in this day and age. What happened to our civil rights to choose twenty years ago? A blatant reneging of our rights to choose is what happened.

And then there is the "paid farmer" who to tell you of the fears of soaring prices that

GMO labeling would have on the poor and it would be unfair to do this to them.

Where's the proof that labeling products containing GMOs correlates with the poor not being able to buy foods because of the 40% increase in food prices demonstrated in these other countries that have GMO food labeling?

Well, the actual rise in price of labeling GMOs in countries like the European Community has only increased less than two, tenths of one percent [1]. Mr. David Byrne, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection has stated, "It did not result in increase costs, despite the horrifying (double digit) predictions of some interests" [2]. And Professor Chris Viljoen, GMO Testing Laboratory, University of the Free State, South Africa confirms that, "There has never been a documented report that genetic modification labeling has led to a cost increase in food anywhere...[i]f consumer rights are truly autonomous, genetic modification labeling should be no exception" [3]. Again, where are our truly autonomous rights?

Labeling has always been a part of packaging costs. Labels change all the time without exorbitant price hikes. We've seen this when, "New and improved," or "Now with No High Fructose Corn Syrup," is added to a label and yet I've never heard anyone say, "Ho, they've labeled the Country of Origin on foods a few years ago and now I'm going to starve because food cost a whopping 40% more now!"

The same "paid farmer" will also tell you that labeling will discriminate against the small local farmers here in the islands. The only ones growing GMOs are the associates and employer of this "paid farmer" that's conveying this to you in the first place and the real small GMO farmers already extend GMO labeling courtesies on the papayas that they grow and ship to our sister cities of Japan with a population of over 127 million. If they can GMO label for 127 million other consumers at a cost of less than two, tenths of one percent, they can surely do it for us.

Ask the "paid farmer" if they cared about the 144 American farmers they sued and the several hundreds of farmers they litigated against and settled for not keeping their invaded private property invented foods to themselves by contaminating these farmers' farmlands.[4] So who forced financial hardship and loss of livelihood on those local farmers in their own communities? This is not just a less than two, tenths of one percent loss to these farmers. Has anyone quantified the sum total loss of hard earned monies, time loss of growing foods, loss of livelihood, loss of quality of life, loss of passed down time-honored farming that was forced on these farmers times the quantity over one thousand.[4] Not to mention the opportunity loss benefits on foods that could have been grown to feed the impoverished while our American farmers were force to learn patent laws 101 in our courts when they should be doing what they do best. And our farmers are still fighting this invented trespassing problem today as we speak. New farming practices that was instigated by GMO poison chemical companies with their private, invented foods.

Ludicrous, unethical, discriminating excuses, when all that's being asked here is to give us the same courtesy of what billions of other consumers around the world already

have. Please don't continue to buy into these manipulating, distorting, discriminating barbaric practices as it will only get worse with each passing year as mothers like me discover later on that they too have been stripped for many years of their truly autonomous rights in making an informed choice over the foods that they pay for and when they find out who the instigators are that's behind all of this.

Where should the funding come from for GMO labeling? It should come from the "paid farmer" and her associates who caused these problems to begin with. This industry gets tax breaks and utilizes public land, receives farming subsidies driving up hideous price hikes on corn and soybean seeds, and they intend to hoard excessive amounts of our precious water by building a 2.6 million gallon water storage.. If they can donate \$500,000 to UH, fund other education programs like one they've instigated on Kauai with the elementary schools, and fund other questionable projects, they should surely be held accountable to pay for labeling costs. We know that they collected millions from our American farmers in their efforts to change farming industry practices and they have our monies (unethical, ill-gotten profits with no GMO labeling), have them reciprocate. That's the minimum they should do.

As moms we teach our children to keep their hands and keep all their body parts to themselves and don't make trouble. This is extending respect and common courtesy or what we all know as the aloha spirit. These unlabeled GMO, privately owned invented foods are disrespecting, invading and trespassing into my body, my child's body, my families' and everyone else' here and out there that wishes not to be violated and trespassed in this manner. This is not right. This is not pono. This is not the aloha spirit. As a mom I would like them to keep their privately owned invented food properties to themselves.

You have the power to make this violation of trouble making trespassing and discrimination stop. All we're asking here is what the billions of consumers have in other countries; it's what food manufacturers have already been doing for years for others. We're being treated like out casted serfs. Place us all especially us moms on the same level playing field as others across this earth when it comes to GMO labeling. Please see it for what it is and please stop this injustice. Please help.

I'd like to leave you with some NOT genetically modified foods for thought. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying:

"No problem can be solved by the same level of consciousness that created it."

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex...It takes a touch of genius -- and a lot of courage -- to move in the opposite direction."

So as a mom I'm asking you to put on your genius caps and take the courage and move in the opposite direction by reinstating our autonomy rights that was stripped away from us because of the introduction of GMOs into our foods. Allow for the common courtesy of aloha that's bestowed upon billions of other consumers worldwide by simply, simply labeling all GMO foods with a zero percent thresholds on all human foods and animal feeds like China. If China's one billion plus citizens have these rights preserved, so should we.

I am most grateful for this opportunity and more over, grateful for your time. This month Rosa Parks would have turned 100 years old. Begs one to question, what Rosa would've said about the injustice inequities over the intentional absence of GMO labeling with respect to all of us who are forced to sit all the way in the back of this GMO bus. Rosa would go – LABEL GMOs! Thank you very much.

References

- [1] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lni6OAJz3sk&feature=share>
- [2] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/library/speeches/speech114_en.pdf
- [3] <http://www.bdlive.co.za/articles/2011/02/03/genetic-labelling-claims-wrong>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iC7Jv5khpmY>
- [4] http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Seed-Giants_final.pdf