



HB735 RELATING TO TARO SECURITY

House Committee on Agriculture

House Committee on Ocean, Marina Resources and Hawaiian Affairs

February 7, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB735, which would prohibit any individual from developing, testing, propagating, releasing, importing, planting or growing genetically modified taro in Hawai'i. Hawaiian kalo is integral to the identity of Native Hawaiians and, thus, the State of Hawai'i as a whole. Therefore, the kalo plant's genealogical, spiritual and cultural integrity must be protected.

The traditional mo'olelo of Wākea and Papahānaumoku explains that the first kalo plant, Hāloanakalaukapalili, is the elder brother of Native Hawaiians. As the elder sibling, Hāloa provides sustenance to Native Hawaiians and, in return, we as the younger siblings care for Hāloa by ensuring that kalo flourishes. The bond that connects Native Hawaiians to kalo is sacred, and it is our kuleana to preserve it. A living entity of this eminence cannot be modified or scientifically "improved." He must be honored and left alone.

OHA recognizes that Hāloa faces many challenges today, including diseases, invasive species and a dearth of water and farmable land. However, we believe that there are natural alternatives to genetic engineering—fallowing lo'i, restoring stream flows and improving the overall health of the environment—that have yet to be fully explored. We suggest scientists work with kalo farmers and the Native Hawaiian community to conduct a complete and comprehensive examination of these natural methods, which are neither intrusive nor offensive to Hāloa or our culture.

We are concerned that this bill differentiates between Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian kalo and that it would allow genetic engineering of non-Hawaiian kalo in controlled settings. We should question whether there is any purpose for genetic modification of kalo that would not risk or even presume eventual release into the environment. Cross-pollination is very difficult to prevent, and our main intention is to ensure the protection of Hāloa.

Nevertheless, OHA believes this measure is a positive and necessary step toward ensuring the protection of the integrity of Hawaiian kalo. OHA respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HB735. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 2:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jtrujill@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

HB735

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james g trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please accept this testimony in favor of HB735. taro is a local staple w/significant cultural value in addition to it's commercial use. please honor and respect the native hawaiians and their cultural traditions. kalo should not be GE in the state of hawai'i. please pass HB 735 to protect the integrity of hawaii's staple crop, taro.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

HB735

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB735 and prohibiting the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically engineered Hawaiian taro in the State of Hawai'i and the prohibiting of the engineering, testing, and cultivation of non-Hawaiian taro in the State. Kalo (*Colocasia esculenta*), is a culturally significant plant to Kanaka Maoli and the State of Hawai'i as it is the official state plant. Kalo not only expresses the spiritual and physical well-being of Kanaka Maoli and our heritage but also symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values important to the State. In November of 2008, the County of Hawai'i passed Bill No. 361 banning the testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, planting, growing, introduction, or re lease of genetically modified taro on that island. There should also be a ban for the entire State of Hawai'i. Mahalo.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

HB735

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Levin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha; I strongly oppose HB735 not because I oppose a ban on gmo taro but precisely because HB737 demonstrates a clear lack of understanding in the natural behavior of kalo in the field. Two counties also already maintain complete bans on gmo taro of any variety. This bill's biggest failing is the segregation of Hawaiian taro varieties from other taro varieties. It assumes the two can be kept separate. It also allows researchers and existing facilities that have retained the Bunlong (Chinese) gmo taro for the last ten years to move it from the lab to the nursery and the field with no clause of accountability, responsibility or cleanup. A release of this nature requires an EPA permit, something which this legislature can not override. Numerous taro farmers have clearly demonstrated to the legislature over the last 8 years the capability of taro to flower, cross-pollinate and seed in the field on its own. No taro researcher in the state is as qualified as those farmers who are in the field every day for years to comment on the natural behavior of taro. Watching a plant in the lab or a nursery does not make one an expert in the plants actual behaviors. In fact, it is for this very reason we are in this dilemma in the first place. No taro researcher can if asked, provide a concrete promise that they can prevent hybridization from occurring either among Hawaiian varieties or among genetically engineered non-Hawaiian taros or between both. If they do, they should be challenged by an ethics review of their peers to prove it. They can not. As a taro farmer, I and many other growers see viable seed taro production occur every year in my fields. The onus of proof must be on the researchers - not the taro farmers. Taro is too valuable to us as a state symbol, as a staple crop, as a medicine and as a manifestation of the host culture for us to risk even the slight chance of contamination. There is also no way to determine the difference between a gmo or a conventional taro plant of the same variety in the field. That means taro farmers may share huli and inadvertently pass on gmo taro to farmers who do not want it in their fields. Contamination of a field would have an immediate and direct financial impact on a farmer with a subsequent loss of buyers and consumers of their products. Are legislators willing to either risk that or be responsible for that should we lose our markets because an outside industry with powerful interests wants its way? Or because a researcher insists on his or her right to create a "bomb"? This is Hawaii. I challenge you to remember that instead of caving in to outside interests. I also challenge you to require a liability clause of this legislation should there be cross contamination and farmers lose their markets because of it. Since taro has the strong potential to hybridize, this bill places all taro varieties, particularly all Hawaiian taro varieties and hence all taro farmers at risk. Taro is the most hypo-allergenic food one can eat. If and only if the University of Hawaii and HARC researchers, who jointly hold the patent and research on gmo taro, consent to and complete human studies on the risks and impacts of such a product, then perhaps we have something to consider. Only if those studies are long enough to verify no cumulative effects will we have something proper to consider. Until that time, ethically no

researcher should be allowed to release a gmo product in the state of Hawaii, particularly a food crop. Only when the inventors of the gmo taro are willing to sign a legally binding statement of responsibility should a consumer, or a tourist at a lu'au, have an allergic reaction or other health impacts due to the insertion of rice, wheat and grapevine genes into the gmo taro then and only then will we have something to talk about. But, they won't. Imagine the worldwide tourism impacts of just one incident - just one twitter, You Tube or Facebook incident. That is all it would take to destroy our taro markets and kalo as the symbol of health and wellbeing for our communities and for visitors to Hawaii. There is a huge gap in responsibility among those who claim the right to create in regards to the impacts of their releases. Case in point, how many species have been released in Hawaii through research as "potential economic crops" that have become costly invasive species to this state? The number is in the hundreds. As you review this year's budgets I urge you to contemplate the cost of controlling invasive species. A "sky is falling" lament of researchers, suggesting new diseases will be our doom is irresponsible in its approach. Taro farmers know they need to return to caring for their soils, and cleaning up their planting stocks by getting rid of diseased huli, to regain true disease resistance. Without addressing that part of the equation no hybrid or gmo taro will ever solve the problem. In closing, a gmo taro ban bill should not be about allowing a researcher, research entity or biotech lobby group to make a buck. The bottom line economics of every taro farmer in this state is placed at risk by the potential introduction of gmo taro of any variety - because we will lose our consumers. As a state that promotes Hawaii as a place to experience a unique culture, and markets us as a health and wellness site, legislation that allows for a gmo kalo in this state is like a child with a hammer bent on destroying the parent that feeds it. Restore soil health and you will restore a healthy economy and crop for taro growers. I urge you to oppose HB735 and to support instead HB107 which offers a complete ban on gmo taro statewide. mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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HB735Bill SUPPORT

AGR/OMH on

Thursday, 02-07-13 9:00AM in

House conference room 312.

I submit the enclosed [Maui County Code Ch. 20.38 Prohibition of genetically engineered Kalo \(Taro\)](#)

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16289>. Request that evidence be present that Maui County's support be honored on all Taro Security bills on the matter that taro not be genetically engineered in our state. MAUI HAS SPOKEN! Onipa'a!

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono! "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"—hali'a our state motto. Thiis is my commitment and I ask your support on HB735

Respectfully submitted,

Unmani Cynthia Groves
105 Kulipu'u St. Kihei, HI 96753
unmanib@maui.et

Haumana of Halau Ke'alaokamaile
Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consultant to Professionals & Researcher
Member Kihei Community Association Planning Committee
Member Alliance of Maui Community Associations

From the Maui County MuniCode
Chapter 20.38 - PROHIBITION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED KALO (TARO)

Sections:

[20.38.010 - Definitions.](#)

[20.38.020 - Findings.](#)

[20.38.030 - Prohibition.](#)

[20.38.040 - Penalty.](#)

[20.38.050 - Administrative rules.](#)

[20.38.060 - Administrative enforcement.](#)

[20.38.010 - Definitions.](#)

For purposes of this chapter, unless it is plainly evident from the context that a different meaning is intended, certain words and phrases used in this chapter are defined as follows:

"Genetic engineering" means altering a life form or its living progeny at the nucleic acid level through the use of techniques collectively referred to as recombinant DNA technology.

"Genetically engineered kalo" means kalo that has been created or modified through genetic engineering. It does not include non-living or non-reproducing kalo or products.

"Kalo" means those species within the genus Colocasia.

"Recombinant DNA" means the transfer of genes, regulatory sequences, or nucleic acid between hosts by the use of vectors or laboratory manipulations and includes the insertion, excision, duplication, inactivation, or relocation of specific genes, regulatory sequences, or sections of nucleic acid. This term does not apply to a material or an organism developed exclusively through traditional methods of breeding, hybridization, or nondirected mutagenesis.

"Release" means a discharge, emission, or liberation of any genetically engineered kalo, or the product of a genetically engineered organism, into the open environment.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

[20.38.020 - Findings.](#)

A.

Kalo has cultural significance to the indigenous people of Hawaii and this cultural identification with kalo will suffer irreparable harm if non-genetically engineered kalo is contaminated by genetically engineered organisms.

B.

Adequate safeguards do not exist to prevent contamination of non-genetically

engineered kalo with genetically engineered organisms.

C.

There is no legal recourse for kalo farmers who cultivate non-genetically engineered kalo if their kalo is contaminated by genetically engineered organisms.

D.

There is no legal requirement to label genetically engineered kalo, thus limiting the choices of a kalo farmer.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

[20.38.030 - Prohibition.](#)

It is unlawful for any person to test, propagate, cultivate, raise, plant, grow, introduce, transport, or release genetically engineered kalo.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

[20.38.040 - Penalty.](#)

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a petty misdemeanor subject to a fine up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

[20.38.050 - Administrative rules.](#)

The director of environmental management may adopt administrative rules to implement this chapter, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

[20.38.060 - Administrative enforcement.](#)

In lieu of or in addition to, enforcement by criminal prosecution, the director of environmental management may enforce this chapter pursuant to section [19.530.030](#) of this code, relating to administrative enforcement.

(Ord. No. 3694, § 1, 2009)

HB735 – Genetically Engineered Taro; Prohibition

I urge you to support this bill.

I am strongly opposed to the genetic engineering of taro, as well as other food crops. I want no part of an agricultural system that promotes GE crops and farming methods. These are some of my reasons:

1. Genetic Engineering of crops is not aligned with Hawaiian values; GE farming methods and technologies do not promote sustainable agriculture, nor nutritious and safe food, nor cherishing the land and local communities.
2. Genetic engineering is different from natural breeding and poses special risks.
3. Results of GE methods are unpredictable over time.
4. GE methods are crude and imprecise, and are based on a scientifically outdated concept of how genes work.
4. Research shows GE foods can be toxic and allergenic.
5. There is abundant evidence that GE foods cause health damage to all species of livestock; we should not assume that humans who eat GE foods (either directly or via the meat of animals who ate GE foods) are somehow exempt from harm.
6. Research has shown that GE crops do not increase yield, and in some cases actually decrease it.
7. GE crops have been shown to increase pesticide use and pesticide consumption, not decrease it.
8. Conventional and natural breeding is superior to GE in producing climate-adapted crops.
9. Conventional and natural farming methods, not those

used by GE systems of farming, produce superior yield that is safer for consumption and soil management.

10. Non-GM breeding methods are more effective at creating crops with useful traits.

For these reasons and many more, I concur that "There is no need to take risks with GM crops when effective, readily available, and sustainable solutions to the problems that GM technology is claimed to address already exist. Conventional plant breeding, in some cases helped by safe modern technologies like gene mapping and marker assisted selection, continues to outperform GM in producing high-yield, drought-tolerant, and pest- and disease-resistant crops that can meet our present and future food needs."

This quote sums up the conclusion reached in a 123-page report. It appears on page 8 in *GMO Myths and Truths, an evidence-based examination of the claims made for safety and efficacy of genetically modified crops*. (A PDF of the complete document can be accessed at earthopensource.org/, or by googling the title.)

Please support HB735 to prohibit GE taro.

Katherine Orr

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: silversurferkauai@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaitlyn L McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in House Conference Room 312 Bill HB735 to prohibit genetic engineering of taro in Hawaii. I am the owner of a small organic farm. I support HB735. If gmo taro was allowed it would contaminate my taro and others with irreversable damage. Not only physical damage to plants animals and humans also spiritual and heritage damage to the Hawaiians. Don't release this atrocity. Gmo's have caused tumors,death,and viral carrying dangers. Be wise and don't alter what has been created perfectly. NO GMO's Regards, Kaitlyn L. McKee Aina Mana Organic Farm

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Abensley80@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Bensley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No to GMO taro!

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 11:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: maceyj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Macey	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*

HB735

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kmaquino@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*

HB735

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamakana Aquino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 7, 2013, 9:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 735

Aloha Chair Wooley, Chair Hanohano, and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 735. This measure prohibits genetically modified Hawaiian taro.

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.

In Hawai'i, such genetically modified organism (GMO) biotechnology is mainly experimental. Most of the experiments are taking place not in a laboratory, but in the open air, in locations concealed from the public. In fact, Hawai'i has had more plantings of experimental biotech crops than anywhere else in the nation—or the world.

Hawaii's small size, its close proximity of agricultural and populated areas, and its unique, sensitive, natural environment combine to dramatically raise the stakes of testing GMO crops here. A December 2005 report from the Inspector General of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), found that USDA's inadequate safeguards "increase the risk that genetically engineered organisms will inadvertently persist in the environment before they are deemed safe to grow without regulation."

While decision makers are just beginning to understand the magnitude of the problem in Hawai‘i, one important crop is immediately at risk: taro, with its deep cultural roots in Hawai‘i. This crop is primarily grown by small, local farmers in Hawai‘i. To adequately protect it, a moratorium on genetically modified taro should be in place. Let’s keep the “culture” in agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE and
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HOUSE BILL 735 RELATING TO TARO SECURITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013; 9:00am; Room 312

Aloha Madam Chair Wooley, Madam Chair Hanohano and members of the joint committee. I am Soulee Stroud president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) here to speak in support of House Bill 735 Relating to Taro Security.

We support this bill that protects the integrity and spirit of Haloa.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 3:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support all efforts to keep kalo in its native form, as a cultivar central to the native people of Hawaii and free of genetic modification.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 3:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: svickery@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

LATE

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: BAN GMO Taro ~ Malama Aina Ban all GMOs! Mahalo Nui Loa!

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LATE

I have heard it said that first came the taro, and then came his brother: man. Taro, Haloa, has supported and sustained the Hawaiian culture long before technology ever understood how to even deconstruct the miracles of the natural world.

How well did technology handle the GMO tomato?

How far does the testing *truly* go for you to 100% know that GMO which injects viruses, and decomposes the immunity system of a plant, does no harm. I, as a rational being, know it cannot improve the plant (and there are studies that document the decreased nutritional value, the decreased yield, the increased need for pesticides) but even if you do not agree, do you know without a doubt the impact this decision will have in the next 10, 20, 70 years?

And have you wondered *why* they want to GMO the taro? Why they are so very interested in the sanctified cultural food of the Hawaiian people that proliferates in the most pure water sources on each island – does it really *feel* as if it is in the betterment for the island or the people? And please, tell me when a company has come in to make a profit over a long standing cultural prize that it has been for the benefit of anything but the bottom line?

Take a moment, think about the deeper, wider, broader consequences of actions that cannot be undone, and remember the simplicity that is often found in the truth of nature.

Na mamo o Haloa. E ola mau no Haloa

Do not GMO the Taro.

Mahalo,

Kate Brenton, Ed. M.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 4:08 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: makaweli.poi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryna Storch	Makaweli Poi	Support	No

Comments: GMO-taro would singularly ruin the poi and luau leaf industry, even through mere consumer speculation. Must not get into open field as huli is indistinguishable. Please consider amending to specify restrictions to laboratories with at least security level 4, ideally 5, and a public permit process requirement for any GMO- taro experiments. Mahalo for recognizing and protecting the purity of our Hawaiian taros and poi.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: Angela Videotron [angelavideotron@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong support of HB735



AGR/OMH Committee Hearing
Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM
House Conference Room 312
RE: Support for HB735

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Representatives of the Agriculture Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB735 which establishes a ban on developing, testing, propagating, releasing, importing, planting and growing of genetically modified Hawaiian taro in the state of Hawaii. Importantly HB735 also places strict regulations on practices regarding genetically engineered non-Hawaiian taro.

Kalo is sacred and a living manifestation of Hawaiian culture and traditions. It is an invaluable food crop with hypo-allergenic, easy-to-digest properties. Genetic modification of crops often creates new allergens, such as has been documented with GM corn, soy, potatoes, cucumber and tomatoes. The potential to genetically contaminate the diverse varieties of Hawaiian Kalo with GM taro is a very real and present danger. Current experimental agriculture practices of biotech companies like Monsanto, Dow, Syngenta, BASF etc. (allowed by law) spread genetic contamination by air, water, insect and even the human gut. HB735 restricts any activities using genetically engineered non-Hawaiian taro to be in an enclosed laboratory restricted to the public. This is a step in the right direction!

Please pass HB735 to protect our kalo, our culture and our health!

Sincerely,

Angela Breene
angelavideotron@gmail.com
Haleiwa, Hi 96712

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 3:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: brilana@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brilana Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 4:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: proofitworks@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cora Piliwale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB735. Our Taro should not be genetically modified. GM foods have been found to cause numerous health issues. We dont need GM Taro, our regular taro is just fine without it being genetically modified Cora Piliwale Waianae, HI.

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lotuslover@hotmail.com
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HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Bruch	GMO Free Maui, GMO Free Oahu, GMO Free Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ev@kevcom.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

LATE

HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evan Tector	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Members, I am very concerned that GMO agricultural modifications and imports will create health hazards or undermine the heirloom quality of Hawaii's heritage plants. The farming techniques that we can and should be embracing do not require the short term fixes, pesticide uses or long term risks of GMOs. Please help focus efforts to enable local communities to improve our agricultural base and yields using natural methods like plant banking, exchanges, small farms, organic fertilizers and natural cross breeding if/as necessary. Give us all time to do local ag the natural way without risking our futures on technology and processes we do not yet know the full implications and impacts from. Thank you all for your understanding and consideration. Evan

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ainakoh70@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gale K. Perez	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Leave our sibling Haloa alone, We know how to take care Haloa, no genetic manipulation.

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Karen@RedwoodGames.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

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HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. Once the genie is out of the bottle GMO DNA will be mixed with our natural taro and it can not be undone. The only change I request is that this bill be PERMANENT.

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Cc: blackdogpuna@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*

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HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Coyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mzerbe808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Zerbe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 3:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sksonmaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally Simonds	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Too much is unknown about GMO products. They are invading our food supply without our approval. If GMO products contaminate organic taro, then the GMO company can make the organic people pay them. Please do not pass this measure.

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Cc: manicanical@hotmail.com
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HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Fritsch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: killertiller@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brady Townsend	Individual	Support	No

Comments: BAN GMO,, dont even LOOK at Kalo!!!

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: christina.lizzi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM

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HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Lizzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the ban on GMO taro.

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Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 4:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: naldajw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JW Nalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 4:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Is nothing worth protecting for the Hawaiian culture? We have taken their rights their land and their dignity. We must protect the Taro plant from being genetically modified it is sacred to the Hawaiian culture we owe at least that much to help them preserve their culture.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 4:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB735 on Feb 7, 2013 09:00AM*



HB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

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

Comments:

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HAWAII ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION

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hofa@hawaiiorganic.org www.hawaiiorganic.org
Toll Free: 1-877-ORG-ISLE (674-4753)

LATE

Wednesday, February 06, 2013

Re: H.B. 735 Relating to Taro

Committee Chair, Vice Chair, Committee Members,

HOFA (Hawaii Organic Farming Association) strongly supports the passage of H.B. 735 prohibiting the genetic modification of Hawaiian Taro, and limiting the experimentation of genetic modification of non-Hawaiian Taro.

HOFA, established in 1994 is an Association of Hawaii organic farmers, distributors, retailers, other organic industry members, and organic consumers. HOFA's vision is to create a sustainable future for Hawaii and our mission is to further organic and sustainable agriculture, land care, and lifestyles in Hawaii, thus giving meaning and life to our state motto: *Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono* "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness".

HOFA strongly advocates that the growing of organic foods is best for Hawaii, its' land, the environment, and for the people, as it excludes the use of genetic engineering, irradiation, the use of toxic sludge, and the use of harmful chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc. We believe that farming in this way helps to provide food self-sufficiency and food security for the people of Hawaii in a way that is pono and in everybody's best interests.

HOFA strongly supports passage of this bill for the following reasons:

1. Hawaiian taro is of deep cultural significance to the Hawaiian people, and as such the genetic integrity of Hawaiian taro should be respected and honored and unnatural genetic modification of Hawaiian taro should be prohibited.
2. Under the National Organic Program, genetic modification (commonly known as GMOs) is not approved for use in the production of organic foodstuffs. The production of GMO foods presents the risk of contamination in the growing, and processing of non GMO taro (including organically farmed taro) thus the development of GMO taro poses an economic threat to the farming of organic and non-organic taro farming.
3. Food production in Hawaii should be moving towards more sustainable (pono or "righteous") methods of agriculture, foods and farming methods that are in harmony with nature, i.e. not using harmful chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, unnatural genetic engineering, etc. GMO foods are moving in the opposite direction and their production results in unnatural foods with unknown long term health and environmental risks, and increased chemical use in the production of food.
4. GMOs once released into the environment cannot be recalled. The long term impacts of GMOs on the environment and on other species of life, and the ecology, are little

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Hawaii Organic Farming Association
Our Vision is to:
Create a sustainable future for Hawaii.
Our mission is to:

Further organic and sustainable agriculture, land care, and lifestyles in Hawaii, thus giving meaning and life to our state motto: Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness".



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Dr. Hector Valenzuela

Dr. Melissa Yee

understood. Currently GMO companies are free to grow experimental GMO taro crops in Hawaii with little or no oversight, and without public knowledge. A ban on the genetic modification of Hawaiian taro is thus needed to prevent GMO Hawaiian taro occurring without public knowledge.

Please vote in favor of H.B. 735.

We would further advocate that H.B. 735 be amended to completely prohibit genetic engineering experimentation on non-Hawaiian taro.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fergusson
President

Hawaii Organic Farming Association

Our Vision is to:

Create a sustainable future for Hawaii.

Our mission is to:

*Further organic and sustainable agriculture, land care, and lifestyles in Hawaii, thus giving meaning and life to our state motto:
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HB735

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

Comments:

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