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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Comments

SCR34 SD1

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

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2013, 9:50 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Ige and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 34, S.D. 1, Requesting Studies Relating to the Research of Issues Arising From the Potential Implementation of a Genetically Modified Organisms Labeling or Right to Know Regimen.

The purpose of this measure is to request that:

- (1) The University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization establish an economic model, conduct an economic impact study, and submit a report on the economic impact of implementing a GMO labeling or GMO registration requirement on consumers, the local agricultural industry, and the State's 2050 sustainability goals;
- (2) The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Departments of Health and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, research and submit a report examining whether implementing a GMO labeling or GMO registration regimen is practicable, including issues relating to ease of enforcement and administration of a labeling or registration requirement, and whether such a program would adversely affect the Hawaii 2050 sustainability goals and determining how the preferred program, if any, should be implemented;

- (3) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture, provide a report that includes detailed cost analyses on implementing GMO labeling and GMO registration regimens, including any additional personnel requirements and any other departmental processes or procedures that may need to be changed to effectuate such a regimen;
- (4) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources submit a report that includes an analysis of peer reviewed literature and studies regarding the long-term safety of GMO crops grown in Hawaii and information on farming practices in Hawaii;
- (5) The Legislative Reference Bureau provide a report to the Legislature that includes copies of legislation adopted by, or bills or ordinances under consideration by, other state legislatures over the past three years that address GMO labeling, and the outcomes of such bills;
- (6) The following entities submit an individual interim report and final report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2014 and 2015, respectively, on the research requested in the measure regarding the various issues and effects arising from the implementation of a GMO labeling or GMO registration regimen, including recommendations on other areas of concern that may arise:
 - (A) University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization;
 - (B) University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
 - (C) Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Departments of Health and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and
 - (D) Legislative Reference Bureau.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, we submit the following **comments** on the portion of the measure that requests a study from the Bureau for your consideration.

The Bureau would like to note that the study and compilation of proposed and ordained ordinances, which are generally laws enacted at the municipal, county, or city level, may prove to be somewhat unwieldy, since there may possibly be hundreds or even thousands of different public entities at these political subdivision levels from which the Bureau would have to obtain information on GMO legislation. We would request that the Committee consider limiting the study of GMO labeling requirement laws and legislation to just the state level.

With the recommended limitation on the scope of the Bureau's topic of study, the Bureau believes that the services requested of it as contemplated under this measure are manageable and that it will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups, that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR34 on Apr 4, 2013 09:50AM*
Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:53:45 PM

SCR34

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2013 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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