



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Committee on Health**

**Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**SB 2521, RELATING TO LABELING**

**Testimony of Gary Gill  
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration**

**February 10, 2014  
1:45PM**

1 **Department's Position:** The department respectfully opposes this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Passage of this measure will require new administrative rules, training for staff,  
3 educational outreach to the public and potentially additional staff for inspection, laboratory analyses and  
4 enforcement.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department does not object in principle to a labeling policy to enhance  
6 public awareness of the absence or presence of genetically engineered food or food ingredients in  
7 Hawaii markets. However, the Department is not in a position to enforce such legislation because  
8 practical and legally defensible analytical methods to detect any and all genetic modifications do not  
9 exist. Testing for common markers could easily be evaded. Furthermore we do not conduct genetic  
10 engineering work; and therefore, do not possess the requisite scientific expertise, capacity, equipment  
11 and experience to test and determine whether a suspected food or food product has been genetically  
12 engineered at a confidence that could withstand legal challenges.

1           Currently, there is no conclusive scientific evidence of negative health effects associated with the  
2 consumption of genetically engineered food or food products as determined by the U.S. Food and Drug  
3 Administration. As such we do not believe such labeling is a health issue and thus do not support any  
4 such program being assigned to the Department to administer.

5           The Department would like to focus its limited resources in areas such as controlling the  
6 incidence of food borne illness risk factors by inspecting food establishments at the appropriate  
7 frequency. Timely inspections have proven to produce consistent compliance with food safety  
8 regulations and reduce the rates of food borne illness outbreaks.

9           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014  
1:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2521  
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

Chairpersons Green and Hee and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2521. This bill would require the Department of Health to adopt rules for labeling requirements for foods that have been genetically engineered. This bill would also provide penalties for violations and authorizes private civil enforcement of the Act. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) offers comments.

The United States Food and Drug Administration rigorously tests all foods that are grown for human consumption and have not found any difference between the safety of genetically engineered foods and other foods. The Department works closely with its federal partners and relies on their science-based conclusions to guide policy decisions.

The HDOA would like to point to the voluntary labeling of products as not containing genetically engineered material that have already begun to appear on store shelves. Mandatory labeling of a product containing a genetically engineered material would be better administered at the federal level to help to create a unified approach to this issue. We would defer to the Department of Health as to the implementation of this legislation.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Committee on Judiciary  
and Labor**

**Monday, February 10, 2014 at 1:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2521 RELATING TO LABELING**

Chairs Green and Hee, and Vice Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **opposes** SB 2521 Relating to Labeling.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This would be another additional cost on businesses and consumers. Also the administrative burden and costs to differentiate and research food material would be great. We also have concerns that this bill may be unconstitutional and violate interstate commerce.

The Chamber understands consumer information is important. We believe that jurisdiction for these matters are generally handled by the Food and Drug Administration and are in line with generally accepted scientific principles. The American Medical Association (AMA), World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences, and the European Union have thoroughly examined the evidence and found that consuming genetically engineered foods are no riskier than consuming conventionally grown foods. Therefore we do not support mandated labeling as there is no scientific data to prove that information would be helpful.

Just as important is the cost to business and consumers. Labeling would require companies to incur costs to not just repackage their items but also create costly tracking of their supply chain. These costs will be added onto goods and passed onto consumers. We suggest that organic products label themselves rather than mandate labeling genetically engineered products.

We respectfully ask that this bill be held in committee. Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

MONSANTO CO.  
94-520 KUNIA ROAD  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 2521  
RELATING TO LABELING

Chair Green and Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Fred Perlak, Vice President of Research and Business Operations for Monsanto Hawaii. We **oppose** SB 2521 primarily on the basis that there are Federal regulations for labeling that cover long-standing precedents in food regulation. The state does not have the funds, the expertise or the manpower to properly label our food. It will be difficult for State regulators to inspect and test all products being sold or distributed in the State for compliance with a genetically engineered labeling system. There is no evidence of safety concerns or nutritional differences. Any additional costs incurred by food manufactures would be passed on to Hawaii consumers. The USDA estimates that food costs will increase 3-4% in 2013 and we do not want additional costs added on to our already high food bills.

Federal law already requires accurate food labeling that provides information relevant to health, safety and nutrition of all food products sold in the United States. The FDA establishes uniform labeling requirements to be consistent with consumer protection and commerce on a nation wide basis. This agency requires labeling only to indicate that a food raises questions of safety, nutrition or proper usage. Federal research and regulatory agencies have conducted and reviewed years of studies that show no health or safety concerns. Research has found crops currently available from biotechnology to be as safe as those produced via other more conventional methods.

Current labeling regulations do allow for voluntary labeling. Food can be labeled non-gmo assuming that is a truthful statement. Food manufacturers will respond to public demand with products and labels if the demand were genuine and widespread.

Let the marketplace and the Federal guidelines dictate safety and labeling of our food. Please do not pass SB 2521.

Thank you.

Fred Perlak, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Monsanto Science Fellow  
Vice President, business and Research Operations, Monsanto Hawaii



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Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

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TO:  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH and JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Senator Josh Green and Senator Clayton Hee, Chairs  
Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 10, 2014  
TIME: 1:45pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB 2521

Position: Opposition

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

In Hawaii we already pay very high prices for food. Mandating distinctive labeling for our state will force manufacturers and retailers to make up the cost of the special labels by increasing food prices, probably drastically. Alternately, some manufacturers may simply not be able to afford to continue to offer their products for sale here in our state.

The practical reality of enforcing this bill will be a nightmare. If the distributor/grower does not label the produce or advise the retailer that the product is GMO then the retailer is potentially liable for the mislabeling. A retailer cannot identify GMO product by visual or taste inspection.

The designation of genetically engineered as defined in this bill includes a vast range of ; products from papayas, to milk from cows treated with RBST, to corn, to soy, and the hundreds of thousands of foods with these items as ingredients. Because of the wide variety of genetically modified foods that are available this type of label does not give consumers any real or useful information.

Foods derived from genetically engineered plants must meet the same FDA requirements, including safety requirements, as other foods, such as foods derived from traditionally bred plants. The majority of labeling requirements, such as nutrition labeling, exist to address health and nutrition concerns. Mandating special

labeling for genetically engineered food could wrongly send a message to consumers that genetically modified products are not as nutritious, healthy, and/or as safe as other food.

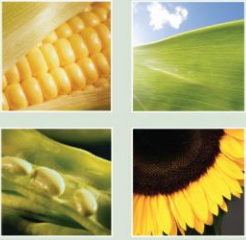
This bill also mandates that the state government engage in the technically complex, and very expensive process, of testing foods to determine the presence and content of genetically engineered material. However, the bill makes no mention of where the state will get funding for the facilities, technical staff, and training necessary to conduct these tests. It seems that the citizens of Hawaii will be asked to bear higher food prices and also some kind of tax increase to fund the process necessary to increase our food prices.

As proposed, this labeling required would be inconsistent to federal requirements, and therefore, costly to implement. Hawaii imports 85% of the food consumed in the state. Hawaii's food demands are not large enough to force domestic and foreign food suppliers to meet these labeling requirements. As such, the cost will be borne by Hawaii's consumers.

**This is a federal issue and should be dealt with at that level, with the onus for labeling resting with manufacturers and suppliers, not retailers.**

This bill does not serve the best interest of the people of Hawaii: it is unnecessary; it will create huge added expenses for our businesses; and it will drive up the prices of food for all of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

SB 2521 – Relating to Labeling

The Senate Committees on Health and Judiciary and Labor

Monday, February 10, 2014, 1:45 pm, Room 229

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Fred Perlak

### Executive Director

Alicia Maluafiti

## Position: Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Green and Hee, and members of the Committees:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers and a proud member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. We oppose SB 2521.

### **SB 2521 Hurts Our Poorest Local Families**

With our 1.3 million residents located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we already pay the highest prices for our food – up to 40 percent more than on the mainland. And for poorer families, they spend a greater proportion of their income on food. Since we import 80 percent of our food, the question is “what will food product manufacturers do if Hawaii passes a GMO labeling mandate and how will this impact the cost of food?” There are three options and they are all bad for kama’aina.

1. Food manufacturers will simply refuse to re-label their products to ship to Hawaii because we are their smallest market in the nation. It’s a costly regulatory and administrative burden. Consumers would have fewer choices at the supermarket and would end up paying more for the higher priced organically-labeled or “natural” products likely to flood the market to make up for the more affordable food choices.
2. For those food manufacturers that decide to change their label (like Hormel who produces SPAM), the cost to make a label change ONLY for Hawaii-bound products will be borne by Hawaii consumers. Estimates from California’s failed labeling initiative indicate that families would see their grocery bills increase 10 percent or more than \$400 per family per year. Kama’aina can expect to see the price of their food increase up to 20 percent – closer to \$800 per family per year.
3. Some food manufacturers could decide to forego genetically engineered ingredients and instead choose the more expensive non-GMO or organic ingredients – just to avoid the regulatory nightmare of a special label. But again – kama’aina will pay the price because those products will simply be more expensive to purchase. Especially since organic crops only make up 2 percent of all agricultural activity.

Simply – local people, local families – all will be the losers of Bill 2521. Fewer choices. More expensive food. For those families struggling the most in Hawaii (the majority), they will have the most difficult time putting food on the table.

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### **The Real Motivation for GMO Labeling is NOT “Right to Know”**

If you believe the backers of GMO food labeling, it's about the “right to know” what's in their food. It's a nice superficial but persuasive message pushed by activists linked to such organizations as Right to Know GMO, Label GMOs and Just Label It. According to Gary Hirshberg, founder of organic food maker Stonyfield Organic, and head of Just Label It, “To be clear the Just Label campaign is not an anti-GMO effort.” But Hirshberg then makes it clear that the labeling movement has nothing at all to do with science, information and discourse—it is exclusively an anti-GMO effort. “Genetically modified organisms are one of the most dangerous and radical changes to our food supply,” he has said. Hirshberg has become a millionaire many times over selling pricey organic foods promoted with labeled marketing claims like “No Yucky Stuff,” which falsely suggests that more affordable conventional products are somehow unsafe and inferior. “Because GMOs are not labeled in the U.S., they might be causing acute or chronic effects.”

Yet the National Academies of Science of almost every country, World Health Organization, American Medical Association and nearly every other medical and food oversight organization in the world along with a host of scientific and scholarly societies and 2,000 published research studies have all concluded that GM crops are as safe as any other and pose no special risks to humans or the environment. There is not one proven or suspected case of “acute or chronic” effects from GMO consumption.

The leaders of the ‘right to know’ movement are out to demonize genetically engineered ingredients. They play the ‘right to know card’ to scare people about the safety of the food system and to divert attention from the sustainability benefits of GM. Internationally respected and independent *Scientific American* demolished the argument that the labeling issue is about transparency and empowering the consumer. “Many people argue for GMO labels in the name of increased consumer choice,” the editors wrote in “Labels for GMOs Are a Bad Idea”. “On the contrary, such labels have limited people’s options. ... Ultimately, we are deciding whether we will continue to develop an immensely beneficial technology or shun it based on unfounded fears.”

The Genetic Literacy Project has published the actual words of the world’s most prominent pro-labeling activists—those who claim on NPR and the Nightly News that this issue is simply about a ‘right to know’ when their real agenda is just the opposite. Attached are their comments made when their guard is down—when they speak among ‘friends’—people who are dedicated to destroying the science of genetic engineering and limiting consumer choice and right to know.

“We are going to force them to label this food. If we have it labeled, then we can organize people not to buy it.” (Andrew Kimbrell, Center for Food Safety)

### **Why New Hampshire Killed GMO Labeling**

Members of the Environment & Agriculture Committee studied a similar bill to require the labeling of genetically modified foods. After 19 meetings during which they investigated every aspect of the bill in exhaustive detail, the chair of the committee (a Democrat) and the minority leader in the House (a Republican) voted against the mandatory labeling of foods made with genetic engineering.

They published an editorial stating that “there has been no credible scientific study that proves that there is any material difference between GMO and non-GMO foods. **No nutritional difference. No health safety difference.** In fact, we have all been eating foods made with genetic engineering for more than 20 years. To that end, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's regulations state that requiring the labeling of foods that are indistinguishable from foods produced through traditional methods would mislead consumers by falsely implying differences where none exist.”

Representatives were also informed by many legal experts that a labeling bill is unconstitutional. Requiring food companies to label their products when there is no health or safety reason to do so fails the state interest test, undermines commercial free speech, and violates interstate commerce. The court challenges that would likely follow passage of a GMO labeling bill would prove a backbreaking financial burden to their state general fund. When these leaders were sworn in as state representatives, they took an oath to uphold the Constitution. They believed that they would be breaking that oath by voting for an unconstitutional bill.

The New Hampshire leaders also believed that the bill is unenforceable. Like Hawaii, New Hampshire's over-extended Health Department which would be burdened with the administration and enforcement of the bill, has no experience in food labeling. They estimate the costs to enact the bill will be up to \$550,000 per year. They ask the million dollar question: who is going to pay for this?

The most compelling reason why they killed the bill: **product labeling based on health and safety (not marketing) is a federal — not a state — responsibility.** The FDA determines what information needs to be present on our food labels, not to satisfy consumer curiosity or to increase sales, but for health and safety. They, along with the American Medical Association, the National Academies of Science, the World Health Organization and other trusted scientific organizations have all come out in support of foods made with genetic engineering, stating that foods made with this process are as healthy and nutritious as their conventional counterparts.

Over the past year, voters in California and Washington have defeated GMO labeling bills. It's time for Hawaii lawmakers to get on with more important business of the state. Sometimes it takes great courage and leadership to do what's pono. **But remember - local people, our local families and those that can least afford the cost of food - will be hurt the most by this bill.**



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February 10, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE JOINT SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TESTIMONY ON SB 2521  
RELATING TO LABELING  
Room 229  
1:45 PM

Aloha Chairs Green and Hee, Vice Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly opposes SB 2521** this bill for the following reasons.

While we recognize the market demand for informative and accurate food labeling, we strongly believe that food labeling should be regulated at a federal level.

Last month I attended a speech given by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. I believe it would benefit all legislators interested in the biotechnology labeling debate to listen to that speech. I have attached the relevant segment from the transcript. In it, the Secretary describes a clever approach that is currently being considered by the FDA that utilizes QR codes and Smartphone technology. This is an innovative way to apply existing technology for the purpose of educating consumers, in fact, giving far more product information than is available today, without sending erroneous and confusing messages about the safety of the product.

**We oppose false, misleading, negative or deceptive labeling. We support voluntary labeling using statements that are truthful and not misleading.**

There are no credible studies, much less a consensus among researchers and the medical community, that crops produced with GMO technology are unsafe. In fact the opposite is true. Independent reviews of thousands of studies have to come to the consensus conclusion that GMO crops are safe.

Among them, The American Medical Association (AMA) concludes:

*“There is no scientific justification for special labeling of bioengineered foods. Bioengineered foods have been consumed for close to 20 years, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the peer-reviewed literature.”*

The World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences and The American Association for the Advancement of Science all come to similar conclusions.

Additionally, we are concerned that many food manufacturers and processors will choose not to create market-specific labels for Hawaii and will instead pull out of our relatively small market, leaving store shelves quite empty. For those that do label, their increased costs will be passed on to us, the consumers.

Please oppose this measure.

**USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack**  
**Monday, January 13, 2014 - San Antonio, TX**

**USDA SECRETARY TOM VILSACK:** *“We're also going to be engaged in this discussion that's taking place around the country about labeling, and I want you to know that we look at this a little differently than a lot of folks do. Our view is that people are having a 20th century debate about a 21st century problem. **Folks want to assess a label that suggests that a particular product can or may contain GMO. Our concern with that is that that label may convey a different message, a message of uncertainty and potentially of unsafety. There are no studies that reflect that there is any safety concern. That's why it's probably not a good idea for us to look at labeling in that context.***

*On the other hand, consumers are interested in knowing more about their food, and that's a good thing. So our view is that we should be looking at ways in which we can provide those consumers who want information, the information they need, but in a way that doesn't sent the wrong set of signals. That's why we've suggested to the FDA to take a look at the possibility of creating some kind of system using a QR code. That's that funny-looking box that's got little squiggles on it. You can zap your smartphone on it, and it will give you a lot of information about things. Products are currently using this now for product information. That may be a way in which you can provide information but not convey a mistaken concept about the safety of the product. But we are working to make sure that we deal with this in a way that doesn't create confusion. **Multiple state initiatives can often create multiple ways of addressing a problem, creating confusion in the market, and we think there is a better way to address this issue.”***

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2014/01/0006.xml>



## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Monday February 10, 2014 1:45 p.m. Room 229

### **SB 2521 Relating to Food Labeling**

Requires labeling of foods that have been genetically engineered. Provides a penalty for violations and authorizes private civil enforcement of the Act.

Chair Green, Chair Hee and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher & the Government Affairs Chair of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Opposes SB 2521**.

HCC along with our National Organization, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association has always felt that any form of labeling, such as Country of Origin labeling, should be a market driven tool, not a regulatory one, unless there is a scientifically based health or safety concern. HCC support all types of farming & ranching; Natural, organic, conventional and cutting edge (including GMO, or other science advanced forms) and does not try to endorse one over the other. We don't see that the advancement of one, should be at the risk or detriment of the other. In fact, in the beef industry, we believe it is detrimental for all, if one attempts to market their product by saying or implying the other is bad for consumers. We believe we need to support each other and market our own niche with sensitivity.

We agree consumers have the right to know! Wouldn't it make more sense, for GMO free products to label their products as such, placing it as a premium product in some people's mind. That premium price could then more than pay for adding a label stating the product is GMO free. Food labeled "Organic" generally sell for much more than their non-organic counterpart. Are we next going to propose labeling all non-organic foods "Non-Organic" or any foods not made in Hawaii "Not Made in Hawaii"?

Whole Foods is a great model for giving consumers the things they want to know. They offer organic foods, GMO Free foods, natural foods, and 5 different levels of meat. They don't force producers to label their product GMO or non-organic, but they have signs by food bins letting consumers know if the food in the bin is organic, natural or GMO Free. If this is what consumers want, shouldn't we let markets use this for their competitive advantage. Some say food at Whole Foods is very expensive. Just think how expensive our food in Hawaii is going to be if 80% of it has to have a detailed label on it. Let's also not just think about the additional cost to the folks who can afford this luxury, but the cost to Hawaii taxpayers to feed the additional folks forced onto the welfare rolls because their food has increased in price.

There is no rational science based reason to "warn" consumers about GMO products. The FDA regulates all food labeling in the United States, and in their scientific judgment, there is no significant difference between foods produced using biotechnology and their conventional counterparts. With over one trillion servings of biotech foods consumed by the public, there has never been a documented incident of any harm to the health of consumers.

Genetic engineering has literally saved the Papaya industry in the State of Hawaii, though some may have you believe otherwise.

Please do not give into the fear-mongers and conspiracy theorists spreading lies on social media. When these conspiracy theorists strongest argument in dispute of rational science from such organizations such as the Food & Drug Administration, The National Academy of Science, the American Medical Association or even your own Attorney General is “Monsanto paid them off”, I hope you folks can see what farmers and ranchers are having to deal with these day, rather than taking care of our farms and feeding people the most wholesome food in the world.

The legislature and the Governor has asked the farming and ranching community over and over again to tell them what we need to succeed. Let me tell you unequivocally, this is not one of them.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this very important issue.

GMO LABELING IS NOT ABOUT THE RIGHT TO KNOW. LEADING PROPONENTS FOR LABELING HAVE SAID IT IS ABOUT CREATING A STIGMA ABOUT GMO FOODS:

## IS LABELING REALLY ABOUT OUR “RIGHT TO KNOW” ?

“We are going to force them to label this food. If we have it labeled, then we can organize people not to buy it.”

—Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director, Center for Food Safety

“Personally, I believe GM foods must be banned entirely, but labeling is the most efficient way to achieve this. Since 85% of the public will refuse to buy foods they know to be genetically modified, this will effectively eliminate them from the market just the way it was done in Europe.”

—Dr. Joseph Mercola, Mercola.com

“By avoiding GMOs, you contribute to the tipping point of consumer rejection, forcing them out of our food supply.”

—Jeffrey Smith, Founder, Institute for Responsible Technology

“With labeling it (GMOs) will become 0%... For you the label issues is vital, if you get labeling then GMOs are dead-end.”

—Vandana Shiva, environmental activist

“The burning question for us all then becomes how—and how quickly—can we move healthy, organic products from a 4.2% market niche, to the dominant force in American food and farming? The first step is to change our labeling laws.”

—Ronnie Cummins, Director, Organic Consumers Association



[www.geneticliteracyproject.org](http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org)

#### SOURCES:

<http://www.responsibletechnology.org/10-Reasons-to-Avoid-GMOs>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkF39YVWmg>  
<https://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/08/02-0>  
<http://www.activistcash.com/person/1562-andrew-kimbrell/>  
<http://vtdigger.org/2012/04/17/wenok-genetically-modified-food-is-perfectly-healthy>  
<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archives/2012/02/29/mw-vaimant-gmo-labeling-policy-officially-introduced.aspx>



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

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## TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2521, RELATING TO LABELING

**Senate Committee on Health**  
**Hon. Josh Green, Chair**  
**Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair**  
**Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro**

**Monday, February 10, 2014, 1:45 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Hee, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2521, relating to labeling.

GMO labeling is about one thing: freedom of choice for consumers. In the absence of federal regulation, it is incumbent upon states to ensure that food products containing genetically modified material are properly identified. Over 70 percent of processed foods contain at least one ingredient derived from genetically modified crops, according to the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest. Other organizations, like the Grocery Manufacturers Association, put that number at closer to 80 percent. While we acknowledge that no credible scientific studies have shown GMO crops to be more harmful than non-GMO products, we believe that the introduction of genetic engineering into food consumption should be subject to the precautionary principle, which states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, then the burden of proof that it is *safe* falls on those taking an action, i.e. companies experimenting with genetic modification. We urge policymakers to allow this principle to guide their decision-making on this vital issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*



Feb 9, 2014

Hawaii Farmers Union United –  
Kona Chapter  
P.O. Box 5436  
Kailua-Kona HI 96745-5436

Aloha Chairman Green and Committee Members,

*President*

Steve Sakala  
Vice-President

I am writing in strong support of SB 2521 which would require the labeling of GMO foods here in Hawaii.

Kurt  
Schweickhard  
*Treasurer*

As a national organization the Farmers Union was created over 112 years ago. It represents thousands of farmers across our nation. Many of these farmers grow GMO crops. We believe it sends a strong and clear message that given these facts the National Farmers Union has come out in FAVOR of GMO labeling.

Hazel Beck  
*Secretary*

In line with our National and State organization the Kona Chapter of the HFUU also urges this committee to support SB2521. The public has come out in record numbers for local GMO bills on both Kauai and Big Island. This is just another sign that the public wants the lawmakers of our state to give us, at the very least, this tool so that we can make informed decisions as consumers.

John Giblin Jr.  
Member

Thank you Senator Green for hearing this bill. We urge this committee to support HB 2521.

Kelly Greenwell  
Member

Mahalo,  
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED-  
KONA CHAPTER

Doug Pittman  
Member

Greg Smith  
Member

Steve Sakala  
Kona Chapter, Vice-President

Franz Weber  
Member



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [caveguy@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:caveguy@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2521 on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 09, 2014 12:15:48 PM

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lars Lind	Olinda Organic Farm	Support	No

Comments: I am an organic farmer in Upcountry Maui. I urge you to support this bill to require GMO labeling of our food. Mahalo!

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.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2521 on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:23:38 AM

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry von Holt	Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd.	Oppose	No

Comments:

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February 7, 2014

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Senator Malama Solomon  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Les Ihara Jr.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2014

TIME: 1:45pm

PLACE: Conference Room 229 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2521  
RELATING TO LABELING**

Aloha, Committee on Health and Committee on Judiciary:

PASS supports SB2521. We base our stance on experience working with labor trafficked persons found on many local farms on Oahu and Kauai who are forced to spray noxious pesticides associated with GMO crop, as biotech companies devote their research to developing GMO.

“U.S. farmers are using more hazardous pesticides to fight weeds and insects due largely to heavy adoption of genetically modified crop technologies that are sparking a rise of "superweeds" and hard-to-kill insects, according to a newly released study.” (Reuters, 2012)

While I support many organic local farms like Ma'o, Otsuji, and Waimanalo Country Farms, who do great and honest work in agriculture, we know for a fact that there are many *other* local farms that not only traffick people to work on their farms but also engage in unregulated and illegal handling and misuse of Restricted Use Pesticides associated with GMO farming.

These pesticides are incredibly harmful and some of my clients have cancerous tumors, some in the nose

and brain. A few have even died after spraying these chemicals, which are sometimes mixed with each other to have unknown effects (Zimmerman, 2012). None of these offenses are regulated.

GMO development has serious repercussions to the public health as evidenced by the suffering of PASS's clients. This must be addressed. One step in helping the public demand better accountability on the part of biotech companies, whose prime motivation is profit and not public safety, is to label all GMO foods. In the same way that the FDA requires ingredients to be listed on every food product sold in the U.S., we must also follow that logic and regulation with GMO products.

Currently, the federal FALCPA labeling requirements do not include raw agricultural commodities such as fruits and vegetables because never before in history have the pure substances of these commodities been altered with DNA outside of its species. This lack of adjustment to present times puts the responsibility of states to enact law to protect the public. The people have the right to know and lawmakers have the responsibility to uphold these rights over the motivations of biotech companies' bottom line.

Please pass this measure. It is a matter of serious public safety.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Xian  
Executive Director

**Sources Cited:**

Gillam, C (2012) *Pesticide use ramping up as GMO crop technology backfires: study*. Reuters. Retrieved on January 25, 2014, from: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/02/us-usa-study-pesticides-idUSBRE89100X20121002>

Zimmerman, M (2012) *Fat Law Farm - Known as 'King Of Basil' Producers - Ordered to Cease Sales and Destroy Basil After Unauthorized Pesticide Found*. Hawaii Reporter. Retrieved on January 25, 2014, from: <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/fat-law-farm-known-as-king-of-basil-producers-ordered-to-cess-sales-and-destroy-basil-after-unauthorized-pesticide-found/123>

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# Pesticide use ramping up as GMO crop technology backfires: study

Mon, Oct 1 2012

By [Carey Gillam](#)

(Reuters) - U.S. farmers are using more hazardous pesticides to fight weeds and insects due largely to heavy adoption of genetically modified crop technologies that are sparking a rise of "superweeds" and hard-to-kill insects, according to a newly released study.

Genetically engineered crops have led to an increase in overall pesticide use, by 404 million pounds from the time they were introduced in 1996 through 2011, according to the report by Charles Benbrook, a research professor at the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at Washington State University.

Of that total, herbicide use increased over the 16-year period by 527 million pounds while insecticide use decreased by 123 million pounds.

Benbrook's paper -- published in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Sciences Europe* over the weekend and announced on Monday -- undermines the value of both herbicide-tolerant crops and insect-protected crops, which were aimed at making it easier for farmers to kill weeds in their fields and protect crops from harmful pests, said Benbrook.

Herbicide-tolerant crops were the first genetically modified crops introduced to world, rolled out by Monsanto Co. in 1996, first in "Roundup Ready" soybeans and then in corn, cotton and other crops. Roundup Ready crops are engineered through transgenic modification to tolerate doublings of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide.

The crops were a hit with farmers who found they could easily kill weed populations without damaging their crops. But in recent years, more than two dozen weed species have become resistant to Roundup's chief ingredient glyphosate, causing farmers to use increasing amounts both of glyphosate and other weedkilling chemicals to try to control the so-called "superweeds."

"Resistant weeds have become a major problem for many farmers reliant on GE crops, and are now driving up the volume of herbicide needed each year by about 25 percent," Benbrook said.

Monsanto officials had no immediate comment.

"We're looking at this. Our experts haven't been able to access the supporting data as yet," said Monsanto spokesman Thomas Helscher.

Benbrook said the annual increase in the herbicides required to deal with tougher-to-control weeds on cropland planted to genetically modified crops has grown from 1.5 million pounds in 1999 to about 90 million pounds in 2011.

Similarly, the introduction of "Bt" corn and cotton crops engineered to be toxic to certain insects is triggering the rise of insects resistant to the crop toxin, according to Benbrook.

Insecticide use did drop substantially - 28 percent from 1996 to 2011 - but is now on the rise, he said.

"The relatively recent emergence and spread of insect populations resistant to the Bt toxins expressed in Bt corn and cotton has started to increase insecticide use, and will continue to do so," he said.

Herbicide-tolerant and Bt-transgenic crops now dominate U.S. agriculture, accounting for about one in every two acres of harvested cropland, and around 95 percent of soybean and cotton acres, and over 85 percent of corn acres.

"Things are getting worse, fast," said Benbrook in an interview. "In order to deal with rapidly spreading resistant weeds, farmers are being forced to expand use of older, higher-risk herbicides. To stop corn and cotton insects from developing resistance to Bt, farmers planting Bt crops are being asked to spray the insecticides that Bt corn and cotton were designed to displace."

(Reporting By Carey Gillam; Editing by Ken Wills)

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☰ Saturday, April 21st, 2012 | Posted by [Malia Zimmerman](#) | [Print This Article](#)

# **Fat Law Farm - Known as 'King Of Basil' Producers - Ordered to Cease Sales and Destroy Basil After Unauthorized Pesticide Found**



## FAT Law Basil Farm

**BY MALIA ZIMMERMAN** - Fat Law Farm, which deems itself “The King of Basil” in Hawaii, was ordered by the state Department of Health this week to destroy its entire basil crop – all 29 acres – because it used an unapproved pesticide.

Through spot testing, DOH investigators found the farm was using the pesticide methomyl at two of its farm properties. Methomyl is toxic to humans and for that reason was unapproved for use on some foods.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a “zero tolerance” for methomyl on basil.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health, basil samples collected on FAT's Ewa farm on April 12 showed 0.045 to 3.49 parts per million (ppm) of methomyl; additional samples from the Kunia farm contained a range from non-detectable to 0.507 ppm of methomyl on the basil.

Gary Gill, spokesperson for the agency, said Fat Law is a well-established professional farm, with licensed applicators knowledgeable about what is allowed and what is not.

“There is no reason this pesticide should have been there on this basil,” Gill said. “Sometimes we find similar situations on smaller farms with less resources and employees who are not trained. But they are a large farm with the resources and training to know better.”

The basil crop in Hawaii is valued at more than \$5 million a year, with much of it exported to the U.S. mainland and abroad.

Fat Law Farms operation, which is run by Frank, Alice and Tim Law, accounts for over 80 percent of all basil exports from the islands.

Fat Law will be banned from selling, giving away or distributing through any means the basil until subsequent samples indicate zero levels of methomyl.

There could also be additional monetary penalties, Gill said, and the DOH also will be accelerating its testing. “Given the additional data we collect, we will be able to determine how widespread the



problem is,” Gill said.

While the health department believes the Fat Law basil crops tested on April 12 and 17 may have been distributed to consumers in Hawaii, Gill said the department does not consider the situation to be a significant threat to public health, because methomyl is approved by the EPA in minimal amounts for use on a variety of vegetables such as tomatoes and parsley leaves.

Attorney Clare Hanusz, who with Melissa Vincenty has represented several farm workers in cases against farm owners involving alleged human trafficking, visa fraud and poor working conditions, said she has heard reports of unapproved pesticides being used for years on Fat Law farms and dozens of other farms throughout the islands.

“I applaud the state department of health for taking action,” Hanusz said. “State and federal agencies should also be taking a hard look on the health and working conditions of the people who work on the crops that we eat locally.”

FAT Law Farms was named the U.S. Small Business Administration state and regional winner for exporting in 2006.

No one answered the phone at Fat Law on Friday, but its web site talks about the family business: “FAT” in Chinese means good fortune or prosperity but it is also an acronym for Frank, Alice and Tim who have worked hard to grow, market and export fresh Hawaiian herbs to the mainland United States and Canada. They are also involved and committed to working with the farming community and they promote a positive image of business at its best.”

The Law family is well known in the farming community. Tommy Law and Tony Law, brothers to Frank and Tim, also run their own farms on Oahu. The family is originally from Laos, and started farming in Hawaii in 1986.

In late 2011, *Hawaii Reporter* produced a series of investigative reports related problems involving pesticide and working conditions at both Tony and Tommy Laws’ farms.

In December 2011, Alay Tansili, 46, who said he worked for Tony Law 7 days a week for \$1,500 a month as a farm laborer and lived at his farm in a makeshift plywood shack with no plumbing or electricity and no furniture except for his cot, suffered a severe and debilitating stroke and was hospitalized at Castle Memorial Center.

Alay said he had many bad reactions after mixing and spraying chemicals on the crops and burning the chemical containers as he was directed. After handling hazardous chemicals without training or protection for as many as three days a week for at least four years, he collapsed. Alay was here living and working illegally, had no health insurance and needed considerable rehabilitation in order to walk again.

Alay’s friend, Khamfanh Keohavong, also here from Laos living in Hawaii illegally, worked on Tony Law’s farm with Alay for four years before quitting for similar reasons. Khamfanh told *Hawaii Reporter* he collapsed several times after spraying the same chemicals that hurt Alay. A doctor in Queens Medical Center said the chemical exposure may have caused Khamfanh to develop a brain

tumor.

Vincenty visited Tony Law's farm after Alay fell ill. Vincenty said Alay and Khamfanh have worked under "terrible conditions" and they were sickened after spraying chemicals several days a week over a period of years. While Khamfanh experienced blackouts and numbness in his limbs, Alay suffered from rashes, shortness of breath, headaches, fatigue, numbness in his arms and legs and the loss of his sense of taste.

Tony Law told *Hawaii Reporter* Alay was just his friend, and only he mixed and sprayed chemicals on his produce.

Even though doctors had already told Law that Alay could not be released, Tony Law, who told *Hawaii Reporter* in December he wanted Alay to go home to Laos to be with his family, came to pick up Alay at the hospital. He brought two other men with him to the hospital and wheeled Alay out of his room toward the elevator twice on a Saturday morning. Vincenty said the first time a nurse stopped Law, and the second time, Alay's friends who came to visit stopped Law and told him Alay could not leave the hospital, much less Hawaii.

Law denies he was trying to sneak Alay off the grounds and said he was only trying to give Alay a break from being in his small room. But in the end, Tony Law sent Alay back to Laos. Through a *Hawaii Reporter* translator, Alay disclosed Tony Law paid him \$2,000 in cash and bought him a plane ticket to encourage him to go home.



Toune Tiphavanh, a 51-year old Laotian farm laborer working at a Kahuku farm owned by Tony's brother, Thomas Law, became ill at work and died shortly afterward. A cremation ceremony, which *Hawaii Reporter's* Jim Dooley attended, was held for her in early November.

In another case involving the Law brothers, Toune Tiphavanh, a 51-year old Laotian farm laborer who worked on brother Tommy Law's farm, became ill at work and died shortly afterward. *Hawaii*

*Reporter's* Jim Dooley attended a cremation ceremony held for her in early November 2011.

Friends said Toune was not taken to a doctor for several years despite a known heart condition. Her husband, who traveled here with her in 2006, returned home to bring their children the sad news.

Attorney Clare Hanusz confirmed: "We have reported conditions of workers using dangerous chemicals without proper training or protections, and know of Lao workers who have gotten seriously ill and even died likely due to pesticide exposure."

While Gary Gill did not comment on problems at the other brothers' farms or expand on the current problems at Fat Law, the state Department of Health spokesman said the sale and use of pesticides are strictly regulated because they are dangerous to the applicator in concentrated form if not used properly.

He said applicators must have training, and wear proper gear while they are spraying, or it could have a potential negative health impact. Improper use can also have a negative impact on consumers, he said.

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**Author:** [Malia Zimmerman](#)

Malia Zimmerman is the editor and co-founder of Hawaii Reporter. She has worked as a consultant and contributor to several dozen media outlets including ABC 20/20, FOX News, MSNBC, the Wall Street Journal, UPI and the Washington Times.

Malia has been listed as one of the nation's top "Web Proficients, Virtuosi, and Masters" and "Hawaii's new media thought leader" by <http://www.thewebstersdictionary.com> Reach her at [Malia@hawaiireporter.com](mailto:Malia@hawaiireporter.com)

[Malia Zimmerman has written 514 articles for us.](#)

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February 10, 2014

**Strong Support**

SB2521 RELATING TO LABELING

HTH/JDL

1:45 PM Room 229



Aloha Honorable Chair Green, Chair Hee and Health and Judiciary and Labor Committee Senators,

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental awareness, primarily focused on education about the impacts of genetically engineered crop production and industry. Our organization represents over 13,000 members and 23,000 subscribers predominantly in Hawaii and we are in strong support of SB2521 for GMO food labeling on the following grounds.

The people of Hawaii are seeking legislation and protection and identification for genetically engineered products. We are constituents and citizens, secretaries, models, teachers, farmers, parents, students, chefs, doctors, lawyers, therapists, promoters, dancers, surfers, entrepreneurs and community advocates. We are not multi-national corporations which have tens of millions of dollars fighting food transparency for genetically engineered ingredients, or heavily invested in chemical, industrialized genetically engineered farming, for those are generally the only representatives who come to defending the biotech agenda; Those who are paid by the companies profiting from our slow destruction and the agencies and companies they have infiltrated.

We however are highly active in our community, and dedicated to raising awareness and of course, we are your voters. Over 17,000 people in Hawaii have marched since 2013 to remove GMO companies from Hawaii altogether, at the very least we deserve to know if our food has been genetically modified. Your constituents are clearly calling for identification and regulation of GMO products.

GMO products have been linked to serious health risks including infertility, sterility, endocrine disruption, cancerous tumors, organ enlargement, problems with protein and cholesterol synthesis, intestinal dysregulation and undesirable genetic mutations, these foods that MUST be labeled. Genetically engineered product makers and food manufacturers are reliant on the fact that we can not detect their presence in food, they are committed to deception and refusing to identify their products. Please just tell us what is in the food.

Regardless of whether or not you are familiar with the deeply concerning results of animal studies on GMO consumption believe GMOs are harmful, we deserve the right to dictate through the free market, the future of our food system. If we do not want to support the practices of these chemical companies producing GMOs and pesticides to accompany them, we should not be forced to unknowingly support this method of production. Labeling puts the power back into the hands of the people to be fairly informed and decide how they will vote with their dollars. There is literally no safety testing performed on GMOs approved for human consumption by either the FDA, USDA or EPA and some GMO foods are even registered pesticides. The federal agencies rely on data produced by

the companies which stand to benefit from the commercial approval of GMO crops for human consumption. Rather than proudly labeling their genetically engineered foods (now required in 62 countries,) the chemical companies producing GMOs have sought to evade labeling at every level and even now Grocery Manufacturer's Association is working at the federal level to prevent states from labeling while top GMO industry executives are holding key decision making positions in the FDA, USDA and EPA working to make sure labeling will possibly never be enacted at the federal level. This is up to the States.

***"If you put a label on genetically engineered food you might as well put a skull and crossbones on it." - Norman Braksick, president of Asgrow Seed Co., a subsidiary of Monsanto, quoted in the Kansas City Star, March 7, 1994***

***"Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is in selling as much of it as possible. Assuring its safety is the FDA's job." - Phil Angell, Monsanto's director of corporate communications, quoted in the New York Times, October 25, 1998***

Companies that produce genetically engineered products and foodstuff collected themselves in just a matter of months to spend over \$45 million dollars fighting GMO labeling in California's Proposition 37 alone. They can afford to label the food.

Recently major food manufacturers Pepsi, ConAgra and other funders of No to Prop 37, which consisted of biotech, GMO companies and food manufacturers who funded a campaign against food labeling transparency met with the FDA to discuss the labeling of genetically modified foods. The specific companies who funneled money to fight the public right to know if their food has GMO ingredients, have been receiving major consumer backlash. They who spent millions against food ingredient transparency are feeling the nationwide boycotts of their products and relentless exposures and viral campaigns within social media networks. It is time to address GMO food labeling.

Consumers want GMO'S LABELED. Consumers want to know, who is using GMO food. This is a reality, already in 61 countries whose legislators demonstrate deep respect for material and nutritional transparency. It is time for us to address the food industry and we are insist, with all due respect, that GMO's be labeled. A compromise, in the opinion of this organization, would be passing GMO labeling without banning GMO crops this year.

GMO's are banned at some level in at least 29 countries, and already a half dozen U.S. counties have gone GMO free. Their makers have been exiled from numerous countries and sued time and again for chemical poisoning alone. It is these products that need to be labeled, it is this you must focus on achieving. The time has come for Hawaii to eject the biotechnology seed industry and abolish the global and political GMO safe-haven that has severely derailed our sustainable future and caused Hawaii to become the foremost site and worldwide ground zero for open air genetic experimentation. The bare minimum is GMO labeling.

Our organization was formed in response to the dire condition of our legislation and state of our agriculture and local food supply regarding GMO corporations. We advocate for citizen engagement in these issues that are coming about

when many are unaware they are even up for consideration. Biotechnology corporations conducting research and production of genetically engineered organisms are, in addition to threatening our fragile ecosystem and food supply, literally exposing us to components of war chemicals, spraying it next to schools, and kupuna homes. They speak only on the brilliant aims of their science, not the failed mutations of their reality.

Class action lawsuits are starting to address heavily exposed areas and incidentally, already 52,000 sea urchins were found dead off the coast of a GMO farm in Kauai alone. These are not farming companies, these are chemical companies who seek to increase the sale of chemicals and the pestilential expansion and cross-contamination of their patented, literally now viral, genetic alterations on life.

GMO's are the most endangering and invasive species of all, there is no recuperation from GMO's, we may never be able to grow food on GMO farm land again. We do not feel GMO's should even be allowed to farm in the open air in Hawaii as they contaminate conventional crops. This is the most pressing issue in Hawaii today.

We must address GMO industry impacts on our local economy in addition to the social and environmental costs they are inducing. These companies are chemically farming an export GMO seed industry that receives obscene levels of tax relief and retains little to no benefit or profit for the state or the citizens. We desperately need local, non-toxic farming, organic and non-GMO agricultural support, not additional burdens on an industry barely surviving when GMO contamination is only a field away and pesticide drift is impacting residents and agriculture daily.

In addition to performing literally the most open air experimental field trials in the world in Hawaii, they are depleting our natural resources. Hawaii's climate is ideal for agriculture and they are able to turn 3-4 crops per year as opposed to 1-2 most places in the United States. Few other countries allow GMO companies to perform unlimited open air genetic experiments. Please pay close attention to what GMO farms are doing in Hawaii and protect the organic and non-GMO farmers by regulating GMO's and requiring they disclose their contents in food.

The once rich soil, which GMO farms are monocropping compounds similar plantation and chemical farming damages on farm lands. The same nutrients are pulled from the soil over and over, they plant no cover crops and they do not rotate crops. Instead of using cows to fertilize, and chickens to eat the pests, they use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides which saturate our soil, contaminate groundwater and kill the healthy microorganisms and bacteria that are necessary for plant life.

The companies that produce genetically engineered products are irresponsibly releasing highly controversial new life forms, of highly questionable ethics in regards to health and environmental safety. The companies manufacturing GMO's have been exiled from dozens of countries, and the damages are piling here. As public concern begins to flow and more countries ban or demand labeling, we as a society must also stand up and require the mandation of GMO labeling.

There are multiple versions of GMO's with pesticides engineered into the food, so when you consume Bt corn, for

example, every kernel grows its own internal pesticide. This is for sale in your grocery store. That Bt has been found in the majority of blood samples given by pregnant women and their unborn babies' umbilical blood in a study in Canada alone.

Without proper labeling, tracing the effects of GMO foods in Hawaii health is nearly impossible. Our hapai Mothers should be able to choose whether or not they want to eat food engineered to contain pesticides. All humans deserve the right to know what they are eating and what has been done to it. We are entering a new era wherein the masses want to know the source of their products, particularly their food. As new technologies and chemical farming increase, we want to follow food from the farm to the fork and know what we are supporting.

Regardless of whether or not you are unsure of just how damaging and risky biotechnology is, please hear us now. We have a right to know what we are eating, purchasing and supporting and if it has been genetically modified in addition to the 3000 ingredients, additives and processes which require labeling already. We who are conscious of GMO's will not stop until the power is back in the hands of the people over these unprincipled corporations to choose whether or not they want to eat GMO foods.

You have been given a chance to do something powerful on behalf of the people of Hawaii and stand for Hawaii and say the people have a right to know more than corporations have a right to profit off of their lack of knowledge. We do not want to spend our money on GMO's and need to be able to avoid them in order to pursue happiness and quality of life. Someone who supports them should have a choice to select GMO products, let the market speak for itself. If they one chooses to eat a GMO laden diet and does not care about serious health and environmental implications of doing so, one would still be able to under this legislation. Smokers still smoke carcinogenic formaldehyde soaked cigarettes, even with labels.

GMO corporations rely on the false principle of substantial equivalence and assure the public their foods and crops are no different than original, traditional foods while simultaneously arguing to the patent office that their inventions are unique, have never been created before, and deserve to be patented as different from all other prior existing products, successfully. If GMO foods are no different, how is it that GMO corporations are able to patent them? That alone should raise enough concerns to warrant the mandatory labeling of these foods. Give the children of today a chance to choose tomorrow, they are not old enough yet to make it happen by themselves and the effects of GMOs are irreversible.

Where is their research? Here is ours. The only studies representatives of GMO corporations have publicly referred to with respect, no matter how well peer reviewed, or well enough for 29 other countries to ban GMO's, are the studies funded by their own corporations and interest groups.

Ninety day studies performed by the GM companies themselves is what passes these GMO products into the food supply, when animal studies have proven it is the second and third generation effects that will be most mortal, most sterile, and most mutant, increasingly along the generation lines. GM industry funded safety research proclaiming



assurances that somehow satisfy our FDA, now headed by a former Monsanto executive, are not sufficient proof of their safety. We need you to address the facts. It may be slow to absorb, but we are in dire trouble having let GMO's into Hawaii in the first place. Please fix it.

In addition we have attached a summary analysis of major studies regarding GMO labeling courtesy of Yo Kobayashi. In reality, the cost of implementing GMO labeling is nominal. Food cost fear and paranoia proffered by GE industry representatives are equivalent to propaganda grossly exaggerated by paid employees of the biotechnology industry. Analysis of the studies show the biotech funded studies greatly magnified claims of food cost increase, and that the true increase average was only 5% of their projection.

**The average cost per capita per annum is about \$5.**

GMO producing chemical companies have shown no regard to the environment or public health concerns and should be required to label their products at the absolute, bare minimum. We and our supporters passionately encourage GMO companies to abandon their efforts in Hawaii altogether. We encourage this body to pursue with all force necessary the labeling of genetically modified foods.

Mahalo for considering this testimony in strong support of SB2521 for GMO food labeling.

Best Regards,

--

**Nomi Carmona**

President

Babes Against Biotech

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## **Key Points of GMO Labeling Cost Discussion by Yo Kobayashi**

### **Summary of major studies: Annual \$5 price increase**

The annual price increase to consumers averaged \$5 per person or 0.25% for studies that did not have industry as their client or on their committee members and with the exception of one study, these studies were commissioned by the country's national and local governments. On the other hand, studies which had industry influence averaged annual price increase of \$108 or 3.7% per person. Please see the GMO Labeling Cost Chart in Photos for details.

Industries' habit of greatly overestimating cost: 5% of original estimate

Like in the case of GMO labeling, industries often push back against regulations that protect consumers but are inconvenient to them and one of their main arguments is, cost. A pertinent case is in the late 70's, when chemicals like DDT, PCBs and vinyl chloride were starting to be proven to harmful to people, chemical companies including Monsanto strongly resisted increased regulation with a massive PR campaign and said it would cost 2 million jobs and have a negative economic impact of \$65 billion. After the stronger regulations were enacted, the actual cost turned out to be 5% of their estimate, had no impact to jobs and the industry continued to grow.

Anecdotal evidence from countries that have implemented labeling: no price increase

Numerous countries have mandated GMO labeling and there have been no documented cases of price increase due to the introduction of labeling and anecdotal evidence from the UK at the time of implementation indicated no price increase at the retail level.

Major flaw in study conducted in Oregon, often cited by opponents of GMO labeling

One of the major assumptions behind the 4.7% price increase to Oregon consumers concluded in Northridge Environmental Management Consultants' 2002 "Economic Implementation Analysis of Oregon Measure 27" is flawed and changing the assumption to a more realistic figure could have substantially lowered the already greatly exaggerated price increase estimate. Please see below for details.

Potential cost to state

Given cost estimates ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000 for the UK government with a population of 59 million

people, the cost to the state of Hawaii should be less, given the smaller population. Please see GMO Labeling Cost Chart in Photos for details.

Cost of NOT labeling, the most important consideration from ethical and financial standpoint

Ultimately, the comparison should be to the cost of labeling to NOT labeling.

What is the damage of major diseases and allergies GMOs are associated with? For families, devastating emotional stress and possibly thousands in medical bills, and for the government, potentially the loss of consumer confidence and financial burden in the billions if not more. And all the while, nobody can track or if need be, contain the problem because something as simple as labeling of GMOs are not done.

Resources (Links to Documents):

W.K. Jaeger. 2002. "Economic Issues and Oregon Ballot Measure 27: Labeling of Genetic Modified Foods"  
(Oregon St. Economics)

<http://arec.oregonstate.edu/jaeger/personal/em8817.pdf>

## Summary of Major Studies

	Non Industry Influenced					Industry Influenced	
	2000 UK	2000 Australia	2000 New Zealand	2002 Oregon #1	2007 Quebec	2000 Canada	2002 Oregon #2
Researcher	National Economic Research Associates	KPMG	KPMG	Professor Jaeger, Oregon St. Economics	Professor Cloutier, Univ. of Quebec	KPMG Consulting	Northbridge Environ. Consultants
Client/Type	UK Gov., Food Standards Agency	Gov. Aust./NZ	Gov. Aust./NZ	Independent Study	Gov. Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Gov., Policy Steering Committee (mainly GMO and big ag)	Coalition Against Costly Labeling Law (GMO, large food corps, etc.)
Annual Per Capita Cost Increase (a)	\$0.23~\$4	\$10	\$3	\$3~\$10	\$6 (b)	\$35~\$48	\$45 <u>\$138 Likely</u> <u>\$275</u>
Annual % Cost Increase (a)	0.01%~0.17%	0.75%	0.2%	0.10% ~ 0.35%	0.2% (b)	1.3%~1.8%	1.5% <u>4.7% Likely</u> <u>9.4%</u>
Annual Total Societal Cost Increase (c)	\$13.8 ~ \$232 mil	\$165 ~ \$173 mil	\$18 mil	\$10.5 ~ \$35 mil	\$30 mil+ (one time \$161 mil)	---	---
Annual Total Price Increase to Consumers	\$13.5 ~ \$231 mil	\$165 mil	\$18 mil	---	---	---	\$150 mil <u>\$470 mil</u> <u>\$920 mil</u>
Annual Total Cost to Government (d)	\$0.2 ~ \$0.6 mil	\$0.4 ~ \$8 mil	\$0.2 mil	\$0.1 ~ \$1.25 mil	\$1.7 mil	---	\$11.3 mil + (one time \$6 mil)
Population (e)	59 mil	19 mil	3.8 mil	3.5 mil	7.5 mil	30 mil	3.5 mil

### Sources:

- W.K. Jaeger. 2002. "Economic Issues and Oregon Ballot Measure 27: Labeling of Genetic Modified Foods" (Oregon St. Economics)
- National Economic Research Associates (NERA). 2001. "Economic Appraisal of Options For Extension of Legislation on GM Labelling" (A Final Report for the Foods Standard Agency, UK)
- Northridge Environmental Management Consultants. 2002. "Economic Implementation Analysis of Oregon Measure 27" (Prepared for Coalition Against Costly Labeling Law)
- KPMG Consulting. 2000. "Phase I Report. Economic Impact Study: Potential Cost of Mandatory Labelling of Food Products Derived From Biotechnology in Canada" (Prepared for Steering Committee; Economic Impacts of Mandatory Food Labelling Study)
- Greenpeace. 2007. "Executive summary of the economic study of the costs of mandatory labelling of GMOs in Quebec. Costs 85% lower than those claimed by industry"

### Footnotes:

- (a) Increases for total society including consumer and government except for Oregon #2 study which is for consumer only
- (b) Assumes depreciation of one time costs over 10 years
- (c) Annual Total Monetary Price Increase converted into dollars from foreign currency at then rates
- (d) Annual cost to government for Oregon #2 study conducted by Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Study assumes labeling to be conducted in restaurants as well and is out of the scope of the HSAC bill
- (e) Population at time of study

### **Over 130 Studies Regarding GMO Labeling**

<http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/labelgmos/pages/34/attachments/original/GM-Crops-just-the-science.pdf?1321839924>

### **American Academy of Environmental Medicine Position Paper on GMO**

<http://www.aemonline.org/gmopost.html>

### **Union of Concerned Scientists, High and Dry: Why Genetic Engineering Is Not Solving Agriculture's Drought Problem in a Thirsty World**

[http://www.ucsusa.org/food\\_and\\_agriculture/our-failing-food-system/genetic-engineering/high-and-dry.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/our-failing-food-system/genetic-engineering/high-and-dry.html)

**Scientists at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, at the University of Sherbrooke Hospital Centre in Quebec find pesticides in the blood of pregnant women and unborn babies. Traces of the toxin were found 93% of the pregnant mothers and in 80% of the umbilical cord blood.**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21338670>

**Study linking GM maize to cancer must be taken seriously by regulators. Trial suggesting a GM maize strain causes cancer has attracted a torrent of abuse, but it cannot be swept under the carpet**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/28/study-gm-maize-cancer>

**Roundup Threat to Future of Food Safety by Microorganism Degradation Preventing Healthy Soil Conditions for Growth** [http://www.naturalnews.com/035221\\_Roundup\\_soil\\_health\\_food\\_supply.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/035221_Roundup_soil_health_food_supply.html)

**US Geological Survey Studies by US Department of Interior Indicate Spread of Roundup Active Toxic Ingredient Glyphosate Through Water. 'Widely Used Herbicide Commonly Found in Rain and Streams in the Mississippi River Basin' due to use on GMO crops** <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2909>

**National Center for Biotechnology Information.gov Effects of Roundup(®) and Glyphosate on Three Food Microorganisms: Geotrichum candidum, Lactococcus lactis subsp. cremoris and Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. Bulgaricus. Roundup is considered a microbicide and inhibitor of growth in lower levels than agricultural application comparing glyphosate alone to Roundup and its effect on common bacteria used to start industrial cheeses and raw dairy products** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22362186>

**Devastating Effects of Bayer Pesticide for GM Crops on Bee and Pollinating Insect Population**

<http://www.non-gmoreport.com/articles/february2012/insecticideforGMcorn toxicbees.php>

**Center for Food Safety Petition to the FDA with 1.1 million signatures, 55 Members of Congress Collect and Demand GMO Labeling, 36 GMO Labeling Bills Introduced in US, Nearly 50 Countries Require GMO Labeling**

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/2012/03/27/record-breaking-one-million-public-comments-demand-fda-label-genetically-engineered-foods/>

**50 countries with over 40% of the world's population already label genetically engineered foods, \*Link to the Mellman Survey Results showing a random national survey of 1000 Americans showing that 90% favor labeling and 5% oppose** <http://www.labelgmos.org/faqs>

**Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Laws Global Map** <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/ge-map/>

**Just Label It Regarding petition to the FDA of 1.1 million signatures to label GMOs 91% of the American people** <http://justlabelit.org/fda-responds-to-1-1-million/>

**Thomson Reuters 2010 Survey of National Healthcare Consumers regarding Genetically Engineered Foods showing 93.1% of 100,000 surveyed want GE foods labeled**  
[http://www.factsforhealthcare.com/pressroom/NPR\\_report\\_GeneticEngineeredFood.pdf](http://www.factsforhealthcare.com/pressroom/NPR_report_GeneticEngineeredFood.pdf)

**University of Purdue Abstract Multiple Routes of GMO Associated Pesticide Exposure for Honeybees Living Near Agricultural Fields** <http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2012/120111KrupkeBees.html>

**Monsanto vs. US Farmers 2010 – Documents downloaded from Monsanto.com meant to entice (or intimidate) potential seed buyers to choose GE seed, demonstrating the spread of contaminating GMO seed as Monsanto advertisement to potential GMO farmers demonstrates the lawsuits they have against “biopirate” farmers, the majority of whose fields are contaminated by GE seeds and will lose everything to Monsanto based on the company's track record. Blatantly advertising, “It's not worth the risk!” (to grow anything except our seed, or we will eventually contaminate your farm and sue you as we are suing these numbered offenders and you could lose everything simply by having a neighboring farm contaminated which we will call patent infringement including) threatening “Loss of technology license, loss of access to all traits, financial exposure up to \$500/acre, litigation costs and crop destruct” if farmers choose to not buy GE seed. They then use the “pretrial cash settlement” money to put young kids on the agritech career track.**

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Monsanto-v-US-Farmer-2010-Update-v.-2.pdf>

**Statistics from the biotech industry indicating rapid contamination of conventional seed by GMO seed in US indicating GE monocropping on the near horizon**  
[http://www.gmo-compass.org/eng/agri\\_biotechnology/gmo\\_planting/506.usa\\_cultivation\\_gm\\_plants\\_2009.html](http://www.gmo-compass.org/eng/agri_biotechnology/gmo_planting/506.usa_cultivation_gm_plants_2009.html)

**The Regulation of GMOs in Europe and the United States: A Case-Study of Contemporary European Regulatory Politics “Prince Charles also joined the public opposition to bioengineered crops. Stating that genetically-engineered foods take mankind into "realms that belong to God," the Prince cited concerns**

**about long-term consequences for the environment and human health. [48] Leading chefs in the UK announced their opposition, calling for a moratorium on GMOs. Food writers also launched a campaign against GMOs, calling genetic engineering the equivalent of "imposing a genetic experiment on the public, which could have unpredictable and irreversible adverse consequences." [49] Pictures of a "Frankenstein potato" appeared on the pages of The Economist.[50]"**

<http://www.cfr.org/genetically-modified-organisms/regulation-gmos-europe-united-states-case-study-contemporary-european-regulatory-politics/p8688>

**Chicago Tribune May 2011 To clarify the misconception that there are plenty of grocery stores that sell all non-GMO food for those interested at this point all grocery stores contain GMOs – food does still need to be labeled regardless of the retailer - 2006 study for the Pew Initiative for Food and Biotechnology found that only 23 percent of women (the primary shopping decision makers) thought genetically modified foods were safe. The same Pew study found that only 26 percent of American consumers believed they'd ever eaten genetically modified food, while a 2010 survey by the International Food Information Council reported that only 28 percent of respondents knew such foods were sold in stores.** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-met-gmo-food-labeling--20110524,0,5841902.story>

**New York Times Opinion on GMO Labeling April 3, 2012 Why Aren't G.M.O. Foods Labeled?**

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/15/why-arent-g-m-o-foods-labeled/?ref=opinion2008>

**Waimea Residents Sue Pioneer**

[http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/waimea-residents-sue-pioneer/article\\_82ff2c3e-2632-11e1-9ca7-001871e3ce6c.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/waimea-residents-sue-pioneer/article_82ff2c3e-2632-11e1-9ca7-001871e3ce6c.html)

**Syngenta Pesticides Poison Elementary School**

<http://www.islandbreath.org/2006Year/16-farming/0616-20WaimeaPoison.html>

**Kauai Large Scale Die Off of Sea Urchins**

[http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/large-scale-die-off-of-sea-urchins-discovered-off-kaumakani/article\\_16081484-5a1b-11e1-bca7-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/large-scale-die-off-of-sea-urchins-discovered-off-kaumakani/article_16081484-5a1b-11e1-bca7-0019bb2963f4.html)

**The Most Toxic Pesticide You'll Soon Be Eating, Rodale, Emily Main**

<http://www.rodale.com/24-d-and-superweeds> <http://www.rodale.com/24-d-and-superweeds>

**Herbicide (2,4-D) Increases Insect and Pathogen Pests on Corn I. N. OKA and DAVID PIMENTEL  
Science 16 July 1976: 239-240. [DOI:10.1126/science.193.4249.239]**

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**2,4-D Herbicides Pose Threat to Cotton and Other Susceptible Crops. ROSS E. HUTCHINS Science 25 December 1953: 782-783. [DOI:10.1126/science.118.3078.782]**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/118/3078/782.extract?sid=5f16e2e1-8ac1-46e0-883b-e6a10084b8e0>

**Agent Orange Corn' Debate Rages As Dow Seeks Approval Of New Genetically Modified Seed. Lucia Graves, Huffington Post, April 26, 2012**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/26/enlist-dow-agent-orange-corn\\_n\\_1456129.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/26/enlist-dow-agent-orange-corn_n_1456129.html)

**Neonicotinoid Pesticide Reduces Bumble Bee Colony Growth and Queen Production. Penelope R. Whitehorn, Stephanie O'Connor, Felix L. Wackers, and Dave Goulson Science 20 April 2012: 351-352. Published online 29 March 2012 [DOI:10.1126/science.1215025]**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6079/351.abstract?sid=1fea041e-9f07-40f2-953b-bcffc77962ac>

**Higes M, et al. Honeybee colony collapse due to *Nosema ceranae* in professional apiaries. Environ Microbiol Rep. 2009;1:110–113.**

**Decourtye A, Devillers J, Cluzeau S, Charreton M, Pham-Delègue M. Effects of imidacloprid and deltamethrin on associative learning in honeybees under semi-field and laboratory conditions. Ecotoxicol Environ Saf. 2004;57:410–419.**

**A Common Pesticide Decreases Foraging Success and Survival in Honey Bees. Mickaël Henry, Maxime Béguin, Fabrice Requier, Orianne Rollin, Jean-François Odoux, Pierrick Aupinel, Jean Aptel, Sylvie Tchamitchian, and Axel Decourtye Science 20 April 2012: 348-350. Published online 29 March 2012 [DOI:10.1126/science.1215039]**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6079/348.abstract?sid=1fea041e-9f07-40f2-953b-bcffc77962ac>

**Widely Used Pesticides Are Killing Bees**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/heather-pilatic/bees-pesticides-studies\\_b\\_1389499.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/heather-pilatic/bees-pesticides-studies_b_1389499.html)

In addition for your reference we are including the following volume of 71 items of scientific evidence showing harm of GMO food consumption compiled by the The Safe Food Foundation:

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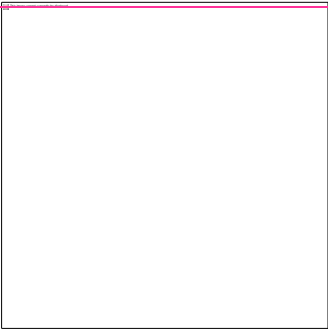
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**Statement of Mercedes-Nicole K. Ritte, Founder, The MOM Hui**  
**Hearing on Senate Bill 2521 Relating to Labeling of Genetically Engineered Whole Foods**  
**Before the HTH/JDL, CPN/WAM Committees**  
**Friday, February 7, 2014**

The Moms On a Mission Hui (The MOM Hui), founded in May 2013, is a statewide grassroots group of forward thinking mothers who advocate for protecting the health, safety, and well being of all children, present and future.

The MOM Hui **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 2521 and the labeling of Genetically Engineered Whole Foods for following reasons:

- Hawaii consumers have the right to know if the products they purchase include genetically engineered ingredients.
- Clear labels allow Hawaii consumers to make informed choices of products they purchase.
- According to the political opinion survey on GE food labeling conducted by The Mellman Group 92% of American citizens want genetically engineered food to be labeled.
- Several National Academy of Sciences studies have affirmed that genetically engineered crops have the potential to introduce new toxins or allergens into our food and environment.
- To date, there have been no epidemiological studies of the possible impacts of the consumption of GE crops on health.
- Scientists recently found that the insecticide in GE corn is now showing up in our bloodstream and the umbilical cord blood of pregnant women. More research needs to be done to confirm these results and determine whether consumption of GE crops is introducing new toxins into our bodies. Until we know without a doubt that GE crops are safe to eat, we should have a choice about whether we want to eat them.

Respectfully,

Mercedes-Nicole (Mercy) K. Ritte  
The MOM Hui - Founder

*“What We Love, We Will Protect!”*  
P.O. Box 13 Kualapu‘u, Hawai‘i 96757  
**Ph:** 808-213-1021 **Website:** [www.theMOMhui.com](http://www.theMOMhui.com) **Email:** [admin@theMOMhui.com](mailto:admin@theMOMhui.com)



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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
dr melissa yee	Seeds of Truth	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support labeling of GMO foods. This is an international and national concern, but unfortunately because the EPA and FDA are hiding behind the term "substantial equivalence," no action has been taken to respect a consumer's right to know and to choose, especially if there are health issues and children with sensitivities, where allergic reactions can occur. Although research continues to be conducted which indicate that gmo crops sprayed with pesticides and herbicides and with systemic herbicide or pesticide are causing problems in laboratory animals and animals fed gmo, the precautionary principle should be applied, where people can decide for themselves whether to buy a product or food. The tide is turning to accept the demands of the public, which is to label gmo ingredients or remove them from the product. For example, Kellogg's cereal sales are falling because the company has failed to listen to the consumer. Cheerios and Post Grape Nuts will be removing their gmo ingredients because the companies can see that this is what the public is asking for. The people have expressed their power to demand their concerns, and the time has come for businesses and governments to listen rather than obeying the will of the gmo lobbyists. Please pass this gmo labeling bill, and let history show that this is the right move at this crucial time when food has become a commodity and not a right. Aloha, Dr. Melissa Yee Seeds of Truth

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Hawaii's Agricultural Partnership

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Monday February 10, 2014 1:45 p.m. Room 229

**SB 2521 Relating to Food Labeling**

"Requires labeling of foods that have been genetically engineered. Provides a penalty for violations and authorizes private civil enforcement of the Act."

Chair Green, Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

4 Ag Hawaii **opposes SB 2521**

We respectfully believe that any form of labeling be market driven not a regulatory one, unless there is a scientifically based health or safety concern. Examples include the County of Origin labeling or USDA Certified Organic. We would offer the AMA's opinion ~ *American Medical Association: "There is no scientific justification for special labeling of bioengineered foods. Bioengineered foods have been consumed for close to 20 years, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the peer-reviewed literature"* as well as others such as the World Health Organization, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science as to peer reviewed science and the lack of health concerns.

4 Ag Hawaii strongly supports ALL forms of Hawaii Agriculture from traditional, organic, conventional & home gardeners as long as all follow Federal & State approved regulations and GAP [*Good Acceptable Practices*] with certification as applicable. We need to work together for the good of Hawaii Agriculture as a whole.

4 Ag Hawaii, Inc. is a non-profit 501[c] [3] corporation established as a public-private partnership focused on goals that include: promoting the agricultural economic welfare of Hawai'i and its counties; conducting agricultural economic; educational & media programs, and fostering statewide interest for responsible agricultural economic development of our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenny Lynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2521.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: One of the main problems with the current lack of post-market monitoring (labeling) of GMOs, as I see it, is that the phenomenon of GMO, now in around 80% of processed food items in grocery stores, is therefore not market-driven. This top down approach is unworthy of a market economy, in my opinion. Also it renders moot the oft-repeated claim by labeling opponents of a 15-20 year track record of proven safety. Without labeling, there is no proof. This is even more striking when numerous chronic conditions have dramatically increased during the same time frame since GMOs were introduced to the market (1). This situation constitutes just a shocking lack of concern by regulators, or anyone in a position to get these GMOs labeled at any level, and I am sure the committees involved in hearing this bill will not want to miss an opportunity to do their diligence, even as a precautionary principle, to ensure information necessary to crucial decision-making is available to consumers. As long as GMOs in the field have the capability of cross-contaminating even with USDA certified organic crops (which should hardly be tolerated without labeling in a market-driven economy), it is insufficient (and duplicitous) for food manufacturers and biotech companies to say just choose organic if you want a choice, because it is cost prohibitive for us to label. Many countries that already have labeling have experienced no price increases. But real consumer choice is long overdue, and should no longer be denied. Thank you for hearing this measure, and the opportunity to testify in favor. (1) <http://gmofreewashington.com/wordpress/our-experts/nancy-swanson/>

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The Hawaii papaya farmers have suffered a lot over the past two decades. They have lost crops to disease, had additional laws placed upon them, disparaged by a crowd of misinformed protesters, crops destroyed, and false accusations made at them. This label being asked by the same crowd that demands the right to know but refuses and condemns information when given, should not be used as a basis for laws. Lawmakers need to look at the facts and how they can support our farmers, not tear them apart or pit them against each other.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lori Nakamura-Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have included two files which NAMES are: "GMO LABELING SHOULD BE A LEGAL REQUIREMENT 1.doc" is my written testimony AND "In total OPPOSITION OF HB2506 AND SB110.doc" is an accompanying testimony relative to SB2521. Although I've worded this explanation in my testimony, please may I ask that this be made known to the committee members so to avoid any misunderstanding. MAHALO HUI! Lori

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of SB2521 because I think it is very important to know where my food comes from and what it is made of. I keep hearing the GMO companies say that their food is safe but refuse to label it as GMO. I often wonder why that is. Research has shown that the labeling would not increase the cost of the food. There is labeling in many countries around the world, it is time that we step up to the plate and do what is right for our islands.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
	Individual	Support	No

Comments: just label it. its our right to know. don't allow the GMA and GMO companies to continue to keep the consumers in the dark. dark ages are pau. mahalo,

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**SB2521**

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Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Merle Hayward	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support SB2521 and recommend \$1,000 penalty.

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**SB2521**

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Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
W.K. A	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB2521! It is so important that our food be labeled so that we know what we're eating!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to know whats in the food so we can make our own choices. Research clearly shows that the novel proteins created in genetically engineered plants are highly allergenic, with the capability to promote diseases like cancer and liver or kidney failure. For instance, last year, University of Canterbury Professor Jack Heinemann released results from genetic research he conducted on generation two genetic engineering, called gene silencing type of GE wheat, which showed without "any doubt" that molecules created in the wheat, which are intended to silence wheat genes to change its carbohydrate content, may match human genes and potentially silence them. Heinemann reported that his research revealed over 770 pages of potential matches between two GM genes in the wheat and the human genome. Over a dozen matches were "extensive and identical and sufficient to cause silencing in experimental systems," he said. Experts warned that eating the wheat could lead to significant changes in the way glucose and carbohydrates are stored in the human body, which could be potentially deadly for children and lead to serious illness in adults. If this silences the same gene in us that it silences in the wheat -- well, children who are born with this enzyme not working tend to die by the age of about five. This may not end up being the case, but all "safe" studies cited by the GMO industry are short term and funded by the GMO industry. Passing this bill is not onerous or anti-science. Labelling is changed all the time. The campaign in California and Washington that statedthat GMO labelling would raise the cost of the average families grocery bill by 2-300 dollars a year was proven untrue. Many recent advances in agriculture and cultivation are not in this dangerous field of genetic insertions of alien dna. Recent studies have actually verified the value and sustainablility of traditional agriculture. thank you

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
christy Kalama	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha and mahalo nui for having this hearing requiring Labeling of genetically Engineered food. I hope to be there to give testimony and will have copies of my testimony to leave with you. I was unable to finish it on time and will email it prior to the hearing. Mahalo again truly. Christy Kalama

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a registered and active voter from Koloa, Hawaii, I am strongly in favor of SB2521.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Switzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear sir, while I would like to see GMO altered food removed from our food supply this will take some time & effort. Until that day I respectfully request that it be mandatory to disclose all GMO altered products. All need to be labeled so the consumer can have the ability to choose whether they are going to purchase or not. Please give us the ability to make healthy choices for ourselves. We would like to know what we buy & put into our systems. Please give us the ability to make healthy choices for ourselves. Thank You! Sincerely Alice Switzer

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The people of Hawaii have a right to choose the foods they eat based on knowledge that is presented on the package.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sharon Boyer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: "We the people" means that the taxpaying citizens of America have the right to know the truth about products and what they contain. Labeling GMO foods should be a given. Why is it not? If it's not harmful let the people decide! Why isn't it our right to decide?

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen LaMore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Karen LaMore and I have been a resident of Kauai for the past 18 years. I strongly support the labeling of genetically modified foods. I find this information mandatory for me to make the healthy food choices I want for y family. I have a right to know what is in my food. Mahalo, Karen LaMore

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Mothers have the right to know what they are feeding their families.

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*Thomas Lee Travis*

**RR 2 Box 3317**

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**Members of the Health and Judiciary and Labor Committees:**

I strongly support Senate Bill 2521, requirement for labeling of genetically modified foods in Hawaii.

Although there may be some evidence as to the safety of genetically modified foods, there can be no doubt that many consumers do not want to eat them.

Reasons vary:

1. Some people believe that non-GMO foods are generally more nutritious.
2. Applying the precautionary principle, some people are not yet convinced that GM foods are safe.
3. Some people believe that the farming model encouraged by the GM-producing seed companies is unsustainable and often destructive to local farming.

Each of these groups of people want to “vote with their pocketbook.” They should be allowed to do so.

It is high time to end the partnership between big seed companies and the state governments.

The state legislature’s function should be to ensure consumers have the tools that they need to make decisions. The state legislature should not make itself into a paternalistic organization that thinks it knows better than the people that voted it into power.

Let the big seed companies compete on a level playing field, trusting the intelligence of the consumer to decide if their claims are valid.

Please support Senate Bill 2521.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the requirement to label GMO foods. If you see the packages in Australia, they label like this: Ingredients: Corn(GMO),sugar, salt I think that might be easier on manufacturers than the requirement in the bill. Additionally, since we are a small state, we should bring our bill into the same labeling as other states which have passed labeling our law. So I think rather than specifying HOW the labels should read, the law should say, "Clearly marked on the label as GMO". Since we're a small state, we may want to add the terms like the other states who passed labeling did: "This law shall take effect after a total of 4 other states pass GMO labeling laws or the state of California passes a GMO labeling law - whichever occurs first" The reason for including California is that they are so big that if they require, then EVERY label will disclose GMO content.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of SB2521. The consumer must be informed and GMO s should be clearly labeled. Companies should be legally held accountable. Please Pass SB2521. It's the right thing to do.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sonia Wallman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We label everything, why not GMOs? Label GMOs.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vaughn Paul Manley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I absolutely support GMO food labeling in Hawaii. The public 100% deserves to know what goes into their food. Now!!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. No controlled human trial studies exist on Genetically Modified Organisms. BioTech claims GMO's are "substantially equivalent" to natural plants, but for their patents, GMOs are "substantially transformed". That type of double dealing is unacceptable in Hawaii. The BioTech Ag Companies fail to abide by the "PreCautionary Principle" when bringing their product to market. The population is being experimented on unknowingly and have been denied the "Right to Know" and the "Right to Choose" what we ingest. Remember "Modified" resides in the GMO name. Just Label It. Hawaii's fragile environment and ecosystem require us to be extra vigilant as stewards of the land for now and future generations. Mahalo.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pua Kamaoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, As a mother of three children, I strongly support the labeling of GMO foods. We have the right to know what we are feeding our families. The FDA approval process on GMOs is not sufficient. The FDA requires only 3-month feeding trials on rodents, which equates to only 8-9 human years. This does not provide assurance that GMOs are safe for long-term consumption. To put our children's health at risk on a new, patented technology without our informed consent based on insufficient evidence is unethical and simply irresponsible. Meanwhile in the last couple of decades, our children have been getting sicker and weaker. Cancer has replaced accidents as the leading cause of death in children 15 and under. Autism rate is about 1 out of 50 children and projected to be 1 out of 2 by year 2025. Obesity, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, allergies, and virtually every ailment has been on the rise. I do not believe GMOs are the only cause of these problems for our children. However, I believe we must take a hard look at how GMOs might be adversely affecting them now. After all, many of our children have been consuming them 3 times a day every day for their entire lives. I have had people tell me that if I wanted to avoid GMOs, that I can simply choose organic. I find that argument irresponsible as well. There are thousands of mothers who do not know enough about GMOs and about the scanty federal approval process. I speak for these mothers who place their trust in our government to protect us. Until these foods are deemed safe for long-term consumption by independent researchers (not industry), they should not even be in our food supply. Unfortunately, the federal government has had 20 years to label GMO but has not. They have failed to take on their responsibility to protect and inform Americans about our food. I sincerely hope that our State of Hawaii has the conscience to do the right thing and give parents the right to know. Our children rely on us to make good choices for them. How can we possibly do our job if we are not given the information to do so? Please vote in favor of labeling GMO foods. Mahalo, Mitsuko Hayakawa

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erika Schneider	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support GMO Labeling. As a mother I want to know, and have a RIGHT to know what ingredients are in my family's food so I can make informed healthy choices. I feel that there is enough research showing serious health risks in animal feeding studies with GMO's that I as a mother want to know which products I am feeding my children contain these ingredients. GMO's are totally BANNED in food products in the European Union, it's is ridiculous to me that we are even having a conversation about 'whether' to label here in the United States - it should be COMMON SENSE to label GMO's. We are a step behind the rest of the world in protecting citizens food rights and safety. We have the right to choose what we eat, and to make INFORMED decisions. PLEASE pass this bill and give Hawaii residents the common sense right to know what we are actually eating. Mahalo!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Kirbin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tj simms	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

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Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
penny s	Individual	Support	No

Comments: label it!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Peter Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is unconscionable that these ingredients are not listed on food we all consume. We do not know what long term health issues can/ will come from this. At the very least we need to be able to have some form of control over what we eat.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Dizney	Individual	Support	No

Comments: People deserve to know what they are eating. Labeling GMOs gives people the ability to choose whether or not to eat GMOs. Right now, we can only guess what is in our foods, even whole ones. With at least 75 percent of processed foods containing GMOs, it is a pretty good guess that that food contains something genetically modified. When a person is in the produce department, that zucchini or papaya you buy could be genetically modified, but without a label, how would you know? My point is label and people will be more empowered to make the choice they feel is best instead of just guessing and hoping that zucchini isn't modified.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Galloway, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honored Representatives, please vote YES for this bill especially since we are subject to so much diatribe that GMO's are so good for us, then certainly there should be no opposition to them being labeled. Thank you for representing the voice and HEALTH of the people who deserve to KNOW what they are eating to make that choice for themselves. Eternity will be the judge of us, please do the honorable and right thing FOR THE PEOPLE and not profiteering corporations who care for nothing but profit over people. Mahalo for having a conscience and voting YES on Labeling.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Damon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We deserve to know what we are choosing to buy and put into our bodies. Please support GMO labeling.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kassia Gann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have the right to know what we eat and feed our families. They say that knowledge is power - give the people the power they deserve!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristina Statler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I WANT LABELING OF ANY GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS IN FOOD SOLD IN STORES.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dianne Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have a right to know what we are feeding our families.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Levie Yamazaki-Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Levie Yamazaki-Gray. I am a resident of Kaunakakai, on Molokai. I strongly urge you to support and pass this bill. I do not believe that the safety of the use of GMO food ingredients has been adequately proved or tested by sound independent research. In addition I am reading more and more information which is finding possible links between GMO's and a wide variety of health problems. I believe that myself and the public deserve the right to know which foods contain these ingredients in order to be able to make informed choices as to what we eat as we are able to with most other food ingredients. I urge you to PASS THIS BILL. Thank you for your time and consideration. Do the right thing. DO what is pono. With Aloha Levie Yamazaki-Gray, Kaunakakai

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Submitted on: 2/9/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to have a choice in issues of personal health. To have a choice we need to have information. Please allow us to know about what we eat. Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Hooper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Walter Ritte from the island of Molokai and I support SB 2521. This is a peoples bill, as the vast majority of people in Hawaii supports Labeling of GMO foods. HEALTH is a major issue and an expensive one for our families. What we eat plays a major role in the well being of our families. We need to know what is in our foods if we are to make good decisions for the health our families. labeling is part of the American way of life, we have an educated public that demands to know if GMO is in their food, as GMOs is now a house hold issue. Hiding information is never a good idea, transparency takes away misinformation and releases pressure from the boiling pot.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miri	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Harris, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Regardless of the GMO pro and con scientific debates that will likely occupy the rest of this century, if citizens still have any rights at all, surely the right to know what's in their food should be sacrosanct.

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## **SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The free market only works if there's no deception. Why is Monsanto and others so scared to tell us what they're selling? They think we're idiots and we don't know the scientific facts and that's going to affect sales? The truth is, we're not idiots, we've seen time and time again how corporations come up with new ideas to make money but they have no idea what the long term consequences of these ideas will be. How can they? The permutations of variables are literally infinite. There's so many ways genetically manipulating life forms can go wrong that we don't yet understand. Why do we need it? We don't need it. I buy all locally grown organic food. Everyone should do that and that would drive the market. they're trying to rig the market so they can sell their poison. There's no other reason. Ask yourself this. If Costco has access to farmers who can deliver dozens of pallets of organic apples stacked high, then why can't all farmers grow organic apples? The answer: they can. All our food supply can be grown organically, and those apples at Costco aren't even that more expensive but, boy are they delicious, so much better than the apples that are soaked in nerve gas and hybridised to withstand shipping and long term storage. Really, what do you want to feed your children? Poison apples or pure, clean, fresh, crisp, healthy apples the way nature has been producing them for a hundred years. Yes I know that these apples are from grafts, but there's a big difference between grafting and manipulating the DNA of an organism so that it can withstand a poison that would normally kill it, or worse, genetically manipulating the plants so that they produce their own poison. It's psychotic and it has no other purpose than to make the few majority shareholders richer than they already are and they are rich. They have enough money and I'm not worried about them. All I want to know is what I'm eating. Is that too much to ask? What do you think? People are going to stop buying GMO foods? Probably not but if they do, are they going to stop eating? NO. They're not going to stop eating, they're going to eat fresh wholesome produce grown by actual farmers without nerve gas. That's free market economics. Do the right thing and make it fair.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is time for us to know what is on the grocery shelves. In the name of transparency, decency and honesty, let the public know.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faith Ewbank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sarah smith	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in favor of the labeling of GMO's that are contained in our food products. Please pass this bill, so that people can make informed decisions for themselves. Our food supply should not be a mystery. We deserve to have the facts. If the makers of GM products are proud of their wares, they should be willing and proud to label accordingly. Most countries in Europe, S. America, Africa and Asia require labeling. It is a disgrace and an insult to citizens and consumers that we are not given the same rights to choose.

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My name is Keone Nunes; I am a traditional Hawaiian tattooist and have been featured in many print articles and documentaries. Since 1990 I have endeavored to re-invigorate the traditional practice of Hawaiian tattooing as well as understanding the cultural context and importance of this ancient practice. Since 1990 I traveled this nation and have been invited internationally to promote this most sacred practice. I have helped other indigenous Pacific Islanders and Native Americans spark their desire to practice traditional tattooing. I also introduced contemporary sterilization practices that are as effective with traditional tools as autoclaves are with metal tools. I shared this sterilization protocol the city of Mangarei in Auckland, New Zealand and they have adopted it as the standard for sterilization of traditional tattoo tools. I read the bill and have a couple of problems with it.

1. It makes no differentiation with industry tattooist and shops and traditional Hawaiian tattooists. This would make it difficult for myself or other traditional Hawaiian tattooist to obtain ink if necessary. The State Constitution under Article XII, section 7, protects traditional Hawaiian tattooists. A resolution, HR227, was introduced to affirm traditional Hawaiian tattoo as an art form and passed in 2010.

2. The bill also states "No person under the age of eighteen years old may be tattooed or wear a tattoo". This is also problematic. Again it does not take into consideration cultural practices, with the resurgence of the Hale Mua and other cultural practices, young men 16 or 17 may be called upon to undergo protocols that involves tattoos. It also does not take into consideration that youth have always grabbed a sewing needle, some thread and ink and tattooed themselves. If passed it would be difficult to enforce and youth would automatically be criminalized for wearing a tattoo, no matter how small or if it was done within a cultural context.

I see their intent and it is founded but they have not taken these important realities into consideration.

I hope this helps, let me know if you need more information.

Aloha Keone Nunes

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support the public's Right to Know which labeling would help. We have the Right to Know what we are putting in our and our children's body. Without knowledge democracy and the free market do not work well - support people making democratic personal choices with their money bu letting them know what they are purchasing. Thank You!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Damon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly urge support of this bill because it reinforces the right of consumers to know what is in their food. Since there has been many peer reviewed scientific studies in other countries that cast uncertainty on the safety of GMO's it should fall upon the law to require those foods to be identified. Thank You.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: WITHOUT A DOUBT.....SUPPORT. It is way beyond time. The PEOPLE have right to know. It is time to listen to the will of the people...not the corporations. As Representatives of the PEOPLE...please listen !

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**Date:** Friday, February 07, 2014 9:10:15 PM

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: By labeling all GMO's, this is the only way to be assured of protecting my health and that of my family to choose foods that I know my body will accept without serious consequences to my well being. Everyone wants to know. What is the problem with labeling. We know it won't raise the cost of the food since labeling is done all the time. Seriously, what is the problem here? Everything else is labeled. I do not believe the FDA that GMO's are safe. Thank you,

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**Date:** Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:54:43 PM

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jw nalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:33:03 PM

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ramdas Lamb	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a teacher, I realize the extreme importance of education so that our students, as well as everyone else in our community, can become knowledgeable about the world in which we live. Because the quality and sources of our food are increasingly coming into question, we must have sufficient knowledge about the food that is available to us here in Hawai'i. For that, labeling of ingredients is essential, especially those foods that contain genetically modified organisms, i.e. GMO. Please do not vote to keep us in the dark. Ramdas Lamb Honolulu

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hardeep Kharbanda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanna Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have the right to know what's in our food. Please pass the GMO Labeling bill. Thank you.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the parent of two growing boys and someone who is very concerned about the health of my family, I feel that I deserve the right to make informed decisions about what I feed my family. However, I cannot make informed decisions if the content of what I purchase is not known to me. Labeling laws apply to all kinds of consumer goods for that very reason. I strongly support labeling of all GMO items.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
claudia rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashina Ashina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please protect our ohana and aina by supporting this bill!!!!!!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie &/or Duane Erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We urge you to unequivocally support this very important bill. It's time that we can know what we're eating, so we can make our choice. Please vote YES on this necessary bill!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yoshio Akaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Consumers have the right to know what kind of food they are eating. It is the only socially responsible thing to do - to require that GMO contents of food or anything that is ingested into the human or animal body be labeled as such. The only reason food manufacturers don't want labeling is because there are people who will not eat GMO altered foods and they don't want to lose their business. The solution to their problem is to NOT use GMO altered foods, not hide that they have been used. Please support consumers and not allow food manufacturers to get away without labeling GMO products. Thank You!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I strongly support this bill. GMO labeling is another form of the people's right to know what is in the food they choose to consume. The language in this bill clearly creates a good, workable framework. The Department of Health can identify by labels that are applied by manufacturers, growers, distributors, retailers or seed companies can responsibly let the public know how and what can be defined for food grade and human consumption or use. The DOH should assist in the budget process as to how much will they need to follow labeling and provide enforcement should the need arise. Appropriations would be the next process required to support this legislation. If all the stakeholders involved with sale of these GMO products would contribute their fair share I would believe the cost to the consumer would be minimal to non existent. Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2521 re: GMO labeling. Thank you, Sen. Chun-Oakland for introducing this bill. I am suspicious as to why these large chemical companies are trying so desperately to stop all efforts to label foods, produce, etc. containing GMO. As consumers, we have a right to know what's in the food we eat. But when these large corporations take such enormous efforts to dissuade our elected officials from introducing labeling bills, I wonder what they're trying to hide? I applaud our elected reps who are acting on behalf of their constituents and all citizens. Mahalo.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn L Knoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have the right to know if our food is GMO or not. Labeling is necessary; it is our right.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura McCuiston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pualei Mo'okini-Oliveira	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Protect Hawai'i and its people!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

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Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Labelling GMO's

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lori Beach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am for this measure and sincerely hope that it passes. Thank you.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Wakelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT this Bill. Please ensure labeling of foods that include genetically modified organisms so that consumers can make informed choices. Mahalo.

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**SB2521**

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Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Kuykendall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have a right to know what is in our food. Let the consumer choose.  
Please SUPPORT this Bill

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Black	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully endorse and support this measure. I want to know if the food I purchase at the store has GMO ingredients. None of this "buyer beware"; I want to know or I won't buy it!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jamie Louis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lemoine Radford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Due to my health challenges, I am very thoughtful and careful about my food choices. I carefully read labels so I can screen out quite a long list of ingredients that trigger my undesirable responses, which range from asthma-like symptoms, extreme indigestion, hives, head and joint aches. Requiring GMO labeling will further assist my making informed choices in safeguarding my health. There has been no independent testing of GMO products on women or children, which I wish was required before those products could be mass produced or sold. However, by accurately labeling GMO foods, each consumer can make his or her own decision. In our democratic nation, the freedom to know what one is eating before purchasing and/or consuming, should be an automatic right. This "right" is being prevented by the corporations that are creating GMO foods. Please give us, the individual citizens, our right to know. Thank you for supporting this important bill.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adam Bensley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Genetically modified foods need to be labeled as such. It is our right to know it what we are eating and feeding our family is genetically modified. Adam Bensley 47-441 Hui Nene Street Kane'ohe 96744

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mira walker	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: GMO foods are not tested in any long range study. We have a right to know if the product we are consuming has been genetically modified. They we can make personal choices related to what we eat. Mahalo

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I am in support of GMO labeling in Hawaii. Big Agribusiness should not be in control of what we eat, or knowing what's in the food that we are eating. The safety of GMO foods has been called into question, and I believe we should use caution, as done throughout Europe, and require more information before wholeheartedly embracing a new way of farming that only makes the chemical companies rich in the long run, not the farmers.

GMO crops are genetically altered to withstand being sprayed with Roundup weed killer. But are people able to withstand the spraying of Roundup on farm crops?

Monsanto has long claimed the safety of Roundup, even after having been sued and fined for false advertising safety claims. Yet independent studies have long linked the product (both its active ingredient Glyphosate and its surfactants) to short-term symptoms as well as long-term damage such as inflamed stomach linings, reproductive damage and cancer, plus increasing the risk of children developing ADD and asthma.

The most recent study, published in 2013 in the scientific journal Entropy, verified that Roundup is linked to a range of long-term health problems. The peer-reviewed report said evidence proves that glyphosate can disrupt normal body functions and induce disease.

“Contrary to the current widely-held misconception that glyphosate is relatively harmless to humans, the available evidence shows that glyphosate may rather be the most important factor in the development of multiple chronic diseases and conditions that have become prevalent in westernized societies,” explained the authors, independent scientist and consultant Anthony Samsel and MIT researcher Stephanie Seneff.

“Residues are found in the main foods of the Western diet, comprised primarily of sugar, corn, soy and wheat,” according to the study abstract. “Glyphosate’s inhibition of cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes... enhances the damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and environmental toxins. Negative impact on the body is insidious and manifests slowly over time as inflammation damages cellular systems throughout the body. Consequences are most of the diseases and conditions associated with a Western diet, including gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer and Alzheimer’s disease.”

Please vote to give us a choice whether we want to play genetic roulette with our health.

Mahalo,

Diane Koerner

14-5027 Kapoho Beach Road, Pahoia, HI 96778

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Herndon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support GMO labeling for any and all food products containing GE material. Mahalo for your strong stand in favor of People's rights to decide.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Navran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Gaffney	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have a right to know what is in our food, how it was grown, and if it is from genetically modified seeds. I support this bill that will give us more information about our food.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB2521. Labeling of GE modified foods is the right of every citizen in Hawaii. Consumers need to be able to choose the products they consume. This is a good law that will enable people to make an informed choice.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Matthews	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think it is only right that consumers be given information on whether the food offered for sale is GMO or not. Then they can decide whether they wish to purchase it or not. If it is inconvenient for farmers or manufacturers, that is too bad.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mae Fuimaono	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: It's our right to know what is in our food. period

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Aloha,

My name is Sunny Savage-Luskin and I live in Haiku on Maui. I am married, with a 10-year old son and baby due in less than two months. I have a Bachelors of Science in Dietetics and a Masters of Science in Nutrition Education. Years of teaching at the college level, working at the Center for Food Safety in Washington DC, and work with non-profits dedicated to food security have provided me a foundation in the scientific and social implications involved with our highly industrial food complex. Since the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) into the mainstream food supply in 1997 I have felt insecure in knowing what exactly I am getting when I purchase something at the store. This has led to a committed life of growing my own, harvesting wild foods, and purchasing directly from farmers at Farmers Markets. However, there are still foods that I purchase and I seek the accountability of producers in knowing what is in the foods I, and my family, ingest.

I am in strong support of Bill 2521. I believe that our right to know what is in our food is necessary for consumer confidence in the food system. Over 60 countries around the world require labeling on GMO's, and when surveyed the overwhelming majority of Americans are in favor. In 1924 a supreme court ruling condemning anything on a label that is misleading makes me think of the current inclusion of GMO's as 'Natural'. We know that GMO products contain some of the highest levels of pesticide and herbicide use of any food previously on the market, making them a true risk to human health, and certainly not Natural.

If you have any questions about my testimony, or more specific documentation to support my claims, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,  
Sunny Savage-Luskin

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Zwiebel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2521 and the labeling of GMO food. If GMO is "no different" than other foods then what is the problem with labeling it. Yes, I will go out of my way to avoid GMO foods, and that means I am willing to pay a higher price for non-GMO foods. I am not imposing my will on others. If they wish to eat GMO foods, that is their option. GMO foods are suppose to be cheaper to produce, but according to Dr. Don Huber and Bob Streit (who gave an excellent presentation at KCC last year, that advantage no longer exists. Some will call Huber a "quack" but given his history, I do not believe this to be true. Large corporations are driven by profit. That they may be providing a service and a good product is often just a side-benefit. Violations of the public trust are everywhere. If these corporations want to show they are good citizens and deserve the benefit of the doubt, then they need to weed out those who violate the public trust and expose them. Silence means consent. I do not consent to my freedom and liberty being at the mercy of a corporation which will externalize costs and funnel all profit to just a few at the top while destroying our land, lives and heath. Label GMO food.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael W. Longo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All we are asking is that people have the ability to choose if they want to eat GMO foods or not. Why is big agriculture so afraid of letting people know what they are buying. If they are are so proud of GMO, why not label it. They can already say 'All Natural' on their food labels even if contains GMO. It wouldn't cost anymore to include 'contains GMO ingredients' on their label as well. LET THE FREE MARKET DECIDE.

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Re: SB 2521

Aloha Honorable Senators of Hawai'i Ney,

**I AM IN SUPPORT OF GMO LABELING.** The idea that we are manipulating genes is far more of a concern to me than most. I have a major in pre-med biology and much of the data requires several terms of college chemistry and biology to comprehend future implications. (My husband I also own a small farm in Hawi, HI.) We, the public, deserve this information in lay terms; whether it be for this subject that affects us negatively or for the cures that are available for unsolved diseases through the current genetic research. I personally believe that genetic modification to have plants produce their own pesticides is like authorizing pesticides to be ingested by the consumer, without them fully understanding this is what is happening when they eat them. What they consider a healthy-looking plant that can cause them ill-health. You are the protectors of the public, as their elected leaders. Your first and primary job, is to protect. I implore you to take this matter as a priority in that regard.

**If GMOs are harmless, the labeling is also harmless. If they are not, the labeling is invaluable. Human Health Risks have been published from the scientific community, and:**

- More and more studies point to the idea that there's grave cause for concern about the health effects of consuming GMOs and the chemicals they are sprayed with, including food allergies, irritable bowels, organ damage, cancer
- Can be toxic, allergenic or less nutritious than their natural counterparts
- **And are not adequately regulated to ensure safety**

**Mahalo to you for enacting the Principles of Democracy and Civilization,**

*A. Kathleen Lee*

*Hawi, HI 96719*

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
maureen Langberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not allow this to happen to our Hawaiian crops!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol DeMay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha - Please support SB2521. As consumers, we have the right to know what we are consuming. I want to know what I am feeding myself and my family and friends. We don't completely know the outcomes of consuming genetically modified organisms(GMOs). It is quite obvious that cancers and diseases are rising uncontrollably, and it is not because of bad genetics. The food and water we take in directly affect the human body, along with other environmental factors. I see GMOs as an experimental test on us. GMOs are messing up and destroying the ecosystems too. If these companies are so proud of their GMOs, and believe that GMOs are safe for consumption, and safe for the land, water, well, the whole ecosystem, then they should have no issues with notifying the public of the exact contents of their products. Why don't they stand by their products? Please do the right thing to protect the citizens of Hawaii by supporting SB2521 to support labeling of GMOs. Mahalo for your service and time. Carol DeMay

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Virginia Aycock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods is vitally important. Please pass this bill.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barry Yokoyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support SB2521. We have the right to know what we are purchasing. Please do the right thing by supporting SB2521 to protect our right to know if something is genetically modified before purchasing. Mahalo. Barry Yokoyama

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
maureen Langberg	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We have the right to know what is in our food. Mahalo

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members, Please support SB2521. All across Hawaii, people have clearly spoken in favor of unadulterated food supply and the plethora of health consequences that go with, from growing process till consumption. Please support your constituents and vote YES for this bill, to give an opportunity of educated decision to all of us. Mahalo, Katarina Culina P.O. BOX 2142 Pahoa, HI 96778

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ralph E. Burr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill: Labeling genetically altered foods is a very small but important requirement. Consumers need to know this. Please pass this important legislation. Mahalo!

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Along with GMO's (that have not been proven safe) comes pesticides, herbicides and insecticides all proven harmful to our bodies and environment. There are many scientific studies (if you believe in those that aren't done by the consortium that creates GMO's) that prove that GMO's are not the same in the body as non-GMO foods. They are considered foreign matter and create much inflammation that creates disease. Many of the foreign matter is found in the umbilical cord of pregnant women. Not only is this a health concern for future generations, we also have the problem of allergies. When you put a gene of a green frog into a potato or a vitamin for that matter and you don't inform the public, many could end up in the hospital with an allergic reaction or death. When a populace has many health issues, it becomes necessary for them to be alerted to what they are taking. The job of the government is to protect its citizens from loss of life, liberty and limb and not to protect corporate interests that take away these inherent rights.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nadine Light	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: SB 2521 is an important step in food labeling and the people's right to know what is in their food. No longer should we allow huge corporations like Monsanto to fight against this basic human right. Monsanto has spent millions of dollars against labeling - and for what? To protect themselves against the hidden dangers of their products. It has nothing to do with food costs rising, but everything to do with people selecting what they feel is the best quality food for themselves and their families. Monsanto knows that many people will choose to stay away from GM ingredients, and thus negatively impact their business plan. Besides, what good is "cheap" food if it makes you sick? Please pass SB 2521 and put this matter behind us once and for all. Whether you agree or not, GM foods should be labeled - People have a right to know! Mahalo! Nadine Light

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Label all food ingredients. People have the right and responsibility to know what they are eating. It is corporate responsibility to prove the products it sells are safe for human consumption. [www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc) and we are not guinea pigs.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Friedberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Kory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith & Cathie Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Scheurell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gary Elster	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The People of Hawaii deserve to know what is going into their food supply so they can choose whether they want natural food or whether they want GMO food. It is past time that Hawaii's legislators give their constituents the information so that the people can make their choice.

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richele Frailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2521**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I want to know what I'm eating, genetically modified or not.

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