

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB 2736, RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

**January 27, 2014
1:30PM**

1 **Department's Position:** The department 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.

13 Currently, there is no conclusive scientific evidence of negative health effects associated with the
14 consumption of genetically engineered food or food products as determined by the U.S. Food and Drug

1 Administration. As such we do not believe such labeling is a health issue and thus do not support any
2 such program being assigned to the Department to administer.

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

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:37:58 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

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Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
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TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 27, 2014
TIME: 1:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB2736

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.

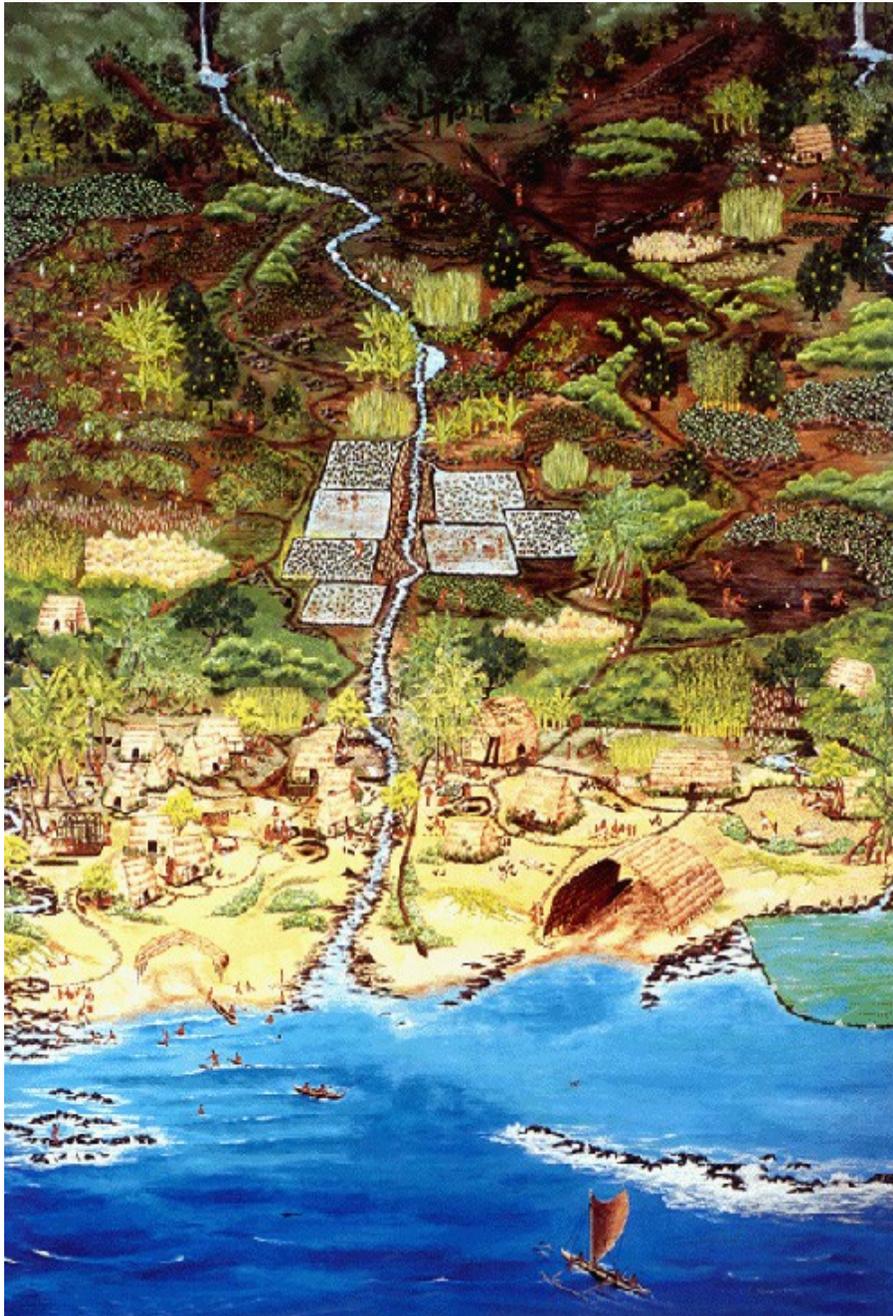
As proposed, this labeling required would be inconsistent to federal requirements, and therefore, costly to implement. Hawaii imports 85% of the food consumed in the state. Hawaii's food demands are not large enough to force domestic and foreign food suppliers to meet these labeling requirements. As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

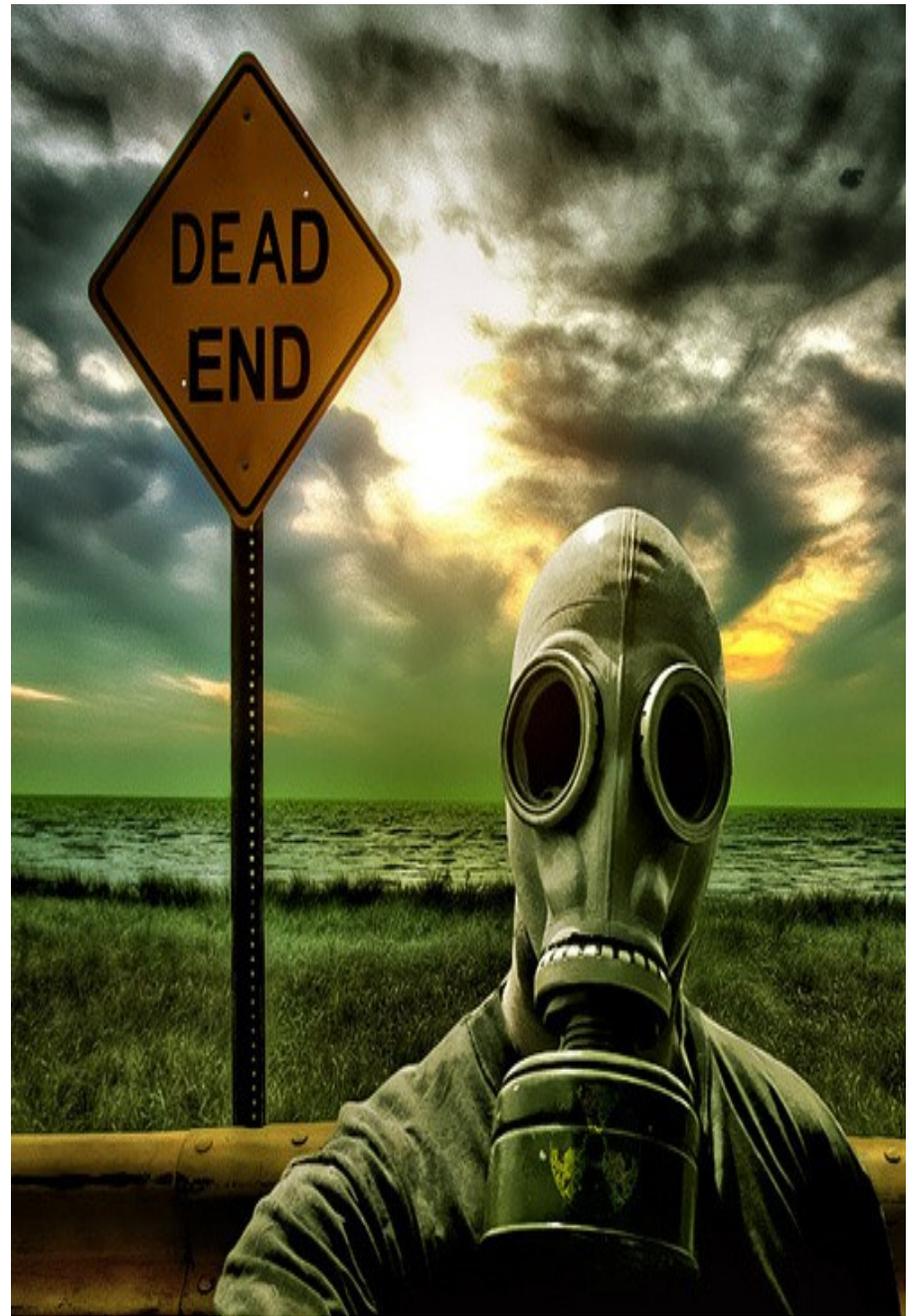
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii 1893



Ahupua'a: Hawaiian Sustainability For All Generations

Hawaii 2013



GMO's & Pesticides for Monsanto, Dow, Syngenta, Pioneer, BASF & Bayer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: yogijuan@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:23:37 AM
Attachments: [Hawaii Poster PDF.pdf](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

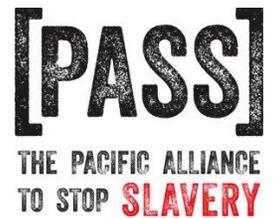
Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Moore	Hawaiian Sustainability Foundation	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaiian Sustainability Foundation completely supports bill SB2736. The citizens of Hawaii should have the opportunity to live in the healthiest way possible. The pseudo science that supports the use of GMO's is wrapped in a corporate strategy to control the majority of food production in the world into the hands of a few corporations. The financial backers of this strategy care not about any short or long term health issues. They also do not care about the financial well being nor the health consequences of the people of Hawaii. For example, I have friends who work for Monsanto and Pioneer who only eat organic foods because they know the dangers of the foods they promote and sell. They will not let their children eat anything with GMO ingredients in them. Please, protect the people of Hawaii from the potentially dangerous and highly toxic effects of randomly genetically engineering and randomly altering the DNA gene pool of our planet and the foods we consume.

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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January 25, 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

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2014

TIME: 1:30pm

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

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2736
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING**

Aloha, Committee on Health:

PASS strongly supports SB2736. We based 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

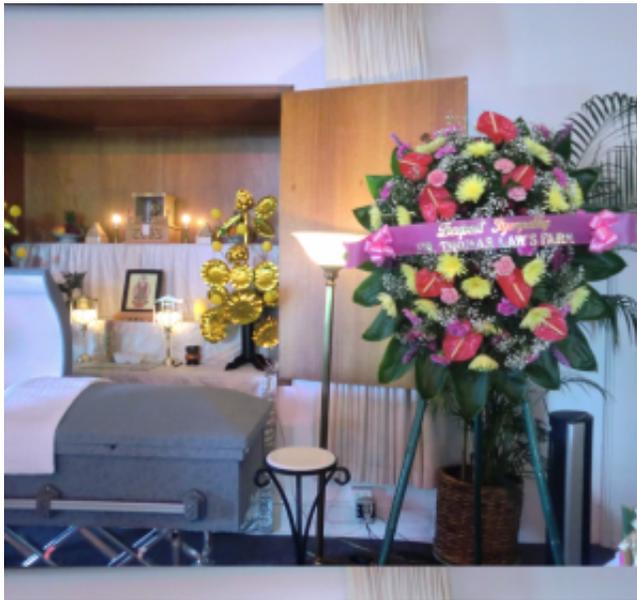
tumor.

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

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

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MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
1:30 p.m.

JANUARY 27, 2014

TESTIMONY ON
SB 2736
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

Chair Green and committee members:

My name is Fred Perlak, Vice President of Research and Business Operations for Monsanto Hawaii. We **oppose** SB 2736 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 2736.

Thank you.

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Monday January 27, 2014 1:30 p.m. Room 229

SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling

Establishes, beginning January 1, 2015, labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions; establishes violations; requires director of health to adopt rules.

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker 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 2736.

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.

This bill goes far beyond what was even proposed (and failed) on the California's Ballot, as it also requires that any meat and poultry, milk and eggs (anything from livestock fed with GMO feeds) be labeled. This would require the vast majority of all meat & poultry, milk and eggs be labeled. If we are striving to promote food security in Hawaii, this labeling requirement would put Hawaii more at risk, as it is estimated 80% of the food from here and elsewhere will have to be labeled, adding even more costs to consumers.

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

SOURCES:

<http://www.responsibletechnology.org/10-Reasons-to-Avoid-GMOs>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4F139YVtmg>
<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/08/02-0>
<http://www.artsinreach.com/papers/1562-andrew-kimbrell/>
<http://vidjggg.org/2012/04/17/when-genetically-modified-food-is-perfectly-healthy>
<http://articles.mercola.com/item/articles/archives/2012/02/29/new-vermont-gmo-labeling-policy-officially-introduced.aspx>



www.geneticliteracyproject.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: djr@teamedeluz.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:15:19 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S. De Luz, Jr.	David S. De Luz, Sr., Enterprises, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments: We STRONGLY OPPOSSE SB 2736 because this bill goes FAR beyond what was proposed, and failed, on the California Ballot. IF we are striving to promote food security in Hawaii, this labeling requirement would put Hawaii, as it is estimated that 80% of the food from here and elsewhere will have to be labeled, adding even more costs to the consumer. THIS NOT WHAT the farming and ranching community needs and additional regulatory burden will surely impact the ability AND capacity in our quest for food security AND sustainability. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer our testimony on this VERY important issue.

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Hawaii's Agricultural Partnership

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Monday January 27, 2014 1:30 p.m. Room 229

SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling

"Establishes, beginning January 1, 2015, labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions; establishes violations; requires director of health to adopt rules"

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

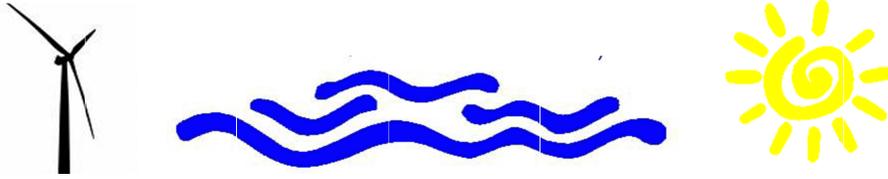
4 Ag Hawaii **opposes SB 2736**

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.



LIFE OF THE LAND

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709; E: henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2014
TIME: 1:30PM
PLACE: Conference Room 229

SB 2736 RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

SUPPORT & PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for four decades. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

SB 2736 requires labeling of food that contains "genetically engineered material." The bill states that this does not apply to restaurants and retail stores that sell prepared food. These establishments should have the right to inform their consumers even if they are not mandated to inform their consumers. If not explicitly given the right, some might believe that they are not allowed to label.

Proposed Amendment

- (d) This section shall not ~~apply to~~ require, nor does it prohibit, the labeling of food that is:
- (1) Served in restaurants or other establishments ...
 - (2) Processed and prepared primarily in a retail establishment ...
 - (3) A medical food ...

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

From: [Harvest Edmonds, RA](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2736 Labeling of Genetically Engineered material
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 11:44:39 AM

Aloha Senators on the Health Committee,

First of all I would like to whole heartedly give a Big Mahalo to the Introducers of this Bill. I know that you have probably heard through the media that 90% of people in the US want their food to be labeled. I am one of these people. I have been eating organically for over 40 years and find it very disturbing that Genetically Modified ingredients are now beginning to find their way in to even organic foods. To me, it is a RIGHT that needs to be recognized by all State Legislatures nationwide, that we, the people, are given the option not to purchase a product that has GM ingredients or fruits and vegetables that are Genetically altered.

I think at this point, there is more than enough evidence, that shows GMO's to be dangerous and detrimental to the health of the Nation. At the very least the "Precautionary Principal" should apply. Not only is this true because of the nature of genetically altered plants but also because of the enormous amounts of pesticides used to grow these GM crops. Here are a few of the websites that offer information about testing that has been done:

www.cornucopia.org

www.responsibletechnology.org

As I see it this is a battle between what the citizens and voters of the State of Hawaii want to happen – labeling of all Genetically Modified products – and the chemical companies that produce GM crops and the manufactures that do not want their products labeled. People vs Corporations !!

Please, please vote on the side of your constituents who are literally begging for labeling rather than the side of the chemical companies who are lobbying to keep their secrets –secret !

Mahalo for your time,

Harvest Edmonds, RA
Emerald Isle Properties
PO Box 679, Kilauea HI 96754
808-443-8839
www.Kauai-vacations-realty.com

From: [Iao Edmonds](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2736 Labeling of Genetically Engineered Ingredients
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 12:49:29 PM

Today at 11:44 AM

Aloha Senators on the Health Committee,

First of all I would like to whole heartedly give a Big Mahalo to the Introducers of this Bill. I know that you have probably heard through the media that 90% of people in the US want their food to be labeled. I am one of these people. I have been eating organically for over 40 years and find it very disturbing that Genetically Modified ingredients are now beginning to find their way in to even organic foods. To me, it is a RIGHT that needs to be recognized by all State Legislatures nationwide, that we, the people, are given the option not to purchase a product that has GM ingredients or fruits and vegetables that are Genetically altered.

I think at this point, there is more than enough evidence, that shows GMO's to be dangerous and detrimental to the health of the Nation. At the very least the "Precautionary Principal" should apply. Not only is this true because of the nature of genetically altered plants but also because of the ENORMOUS amounts of pesticides used to grow these GM crops. Here are a few of the websites that offer information about testing that has been done:

<http://www.cornucopia.org/>
www.responsibletechnology.org

As I see it this is a battle between what the citizens and voters of the State of Hawaii want to happen – labeling of all Genetically Modified products – and the chemical companies that produce GM crops and the manufactures that do not want their products labeled. People vs Corporations !!

Please, please vote on the side of your constituents who are literally begging for labeling rather than the side of the chemical companies who are lobbying to keep their secrets –secret !

Mahalo for your time,

Iao Edmonds
Kilauea Paint & Feed Store
2488 Kolo Rd.
Kilauea, HI 96754
Store (808)828-6655
Cell (808)639-2295

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: kirk@dadsgranola.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:02:25 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Puuohau-Pummill	Dad's Granola, LLC	Support	No

Comments: As a food producer in Hawaii, I can tell you that 100% of the people we talk to when we do product demonstrations around Hawaii, strongly want labeling of food products and produce, indicating the weather or not it is a genetically engineered product or contains genetically engineered ingredients. As a mindful food producer in Hawaii we chose to indicate that our ingredients are GMO-free. Our sales have actually increased as a direct result of this. We strongly request passage of this bill. We as consumers have a right to know what we are eating. Keep in mind that an un-named producer of corn seed has actually been required to license one of its corn seeds as a pesticide. Don't you want to know what you are serving your family to eat.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: juan@islandbreath.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:56:28 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juan Wilson	IslandBreath.org	Support	No

Comments: Here on Kauai we have fought long and hard for transparency on the health risks and dangers associated with experimental GMO testing with secret cocktails of restricted use pesticides next door to our homes, schools and hospitals. This may all be in vain if the result is GMO high fructose corn syrup causing obesity, diabetes, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other suspected diseases in our children. Help make our lives better by labeling these products in the food we feed our families. We should be able to make these choices even if Monsanto, Dow and DuPont don't want us to. It's our right to know. Mahalo for your support.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: al@makaha.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:35:49 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Frenzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Consumers have the right to know.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ashinasunshina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:31:49 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: The health and wellbeing of the people are more important than corporations bid for control and power over the people. We have the right to know what is in the food we eat. Please pass this bill without delay. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:26:29 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, As a frequent visitor to Maui(several times a year), I take great efforts to eat food that I know is GMO free. I look for the "Non-GMO Project" label and buy those foods and Organic Products. Fortunately, organic products are clearly labeled but the GMO foods are hidden and much harder to determine. I do not eat GMO papayas and only buy papayas from places that know that they are non GMO or organic. The rest of the country, like Hawaii, wants and deserves to know what they are eating. When we visit Hawaii, we want to know the same. Please don't believe the claim that it will burden the farmers or raise costs to label. I am from Washington State and we know that the Grocery Manufacturers were caught laundering money to defeat our GMO labeling law last November. The measure was narrowly defeated. It seems with all the money they are spending to defeat these common sense and popular request (labeling GMO'S), the food could be labeled many times over. Come on, please accomplish in Hawaii what the rest of the Country wants desperately. It will be good for the Tourism industry! It's just a matter of time before all GMO'S are labeled, because it is our right to know what we are eating and feeding out families. Thank you very much, Barbara Barry PS. If Monsanto is so proud of their GMO crops, why are they spending hundreds of millions of dollars to keep people from knowing what is in their food? Something is not right here!

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Cc: bjborgnino@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:00:54 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Borgnino	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: The citizens of fifty other countries have the benefit of GMO labeling on food products. Why are we denied this right? I have not heard a compelling argument to justify denial of our right to know.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: gardenaloha@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:59:16 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bett Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this GMO labeling bill for the following reasons: 1. As an issue of fairness both to the consumer and food sellers. 2. As a protection for those with severe food allergies. 3. As a method of data collection on consumer buying preferences and for future health studies by researchers independent of GMO industries.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: earthchild4ever@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:55:00 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobbi Lempert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, It's urgent that we take control of all the poisons which are slowly killing us. We need mandatory labeling of GMO's, and we need to know what's being sprayed and on what. The health of our families is at stake. We need to protect the keiki's! The environment is being poisoned as well, and I've always believed that protecting the aina is rule #1 in Hawaii. Please do the right thing. Mahalo, Bobbi Lempert

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Friday, January 24, 2014 4:27:51 PM
Attachments: [GMOLabelingLaws.pdf](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senators: I support the intent of this bill (SB2736) for GMO Labeling. As will I also likely support SB2176, SB2177, SB2521, SB2736 on the similar issue. 'Expecting' the best of these to go the distance. Have almost 3,000 petitioners with me in Hawaii who I believe would agree with this at:
<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/gmo-labeling-in-hawaii> and
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/200460832/Petition-in-Support-of-Hawaii-GMO-Labeling-at-Retail> Would like to recommend a timely article out just yesterday on this subject matter (attached): http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_29137.cfm
Mahalo, Brad Parsons

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Legal Experts Reject Food Industry Claims that GMO Labeling Laws Are Unconstitutional

- **By Katherine Paul and Ronnie Cummins**
Organic Consumers Association, January 23, 2014

The food industry is playing every conceivable angle in its quest to keep labels off foods that contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs)—including, according to a [leaked document](#), threatening to sue the first state that passes a GMO labeling law. (Maine and Connecticut passed GMO labeling laws in 2013. But both have “trigger” clauses that prevent the laws from taking effect until at least four neighboring states, with a combined population of 20 million inhabitants, pass similar labeling bills).

The [Organic Consumers Association](#) has obtained the Grocery Manufacturers Association’s (GMA) “[One-Pager](#)” of talking points about GMOs and labeling laws. The document is intended for use by food industry lobbyists whose job it is to convince state lawmakers to reject GMO labeling bills in their states.

The talking points include the usual misinformation about GMO safety testing and the so-called benefits of GMOs. But they also include claims that GMO labeling laws are unconstitutional—claims that legal experts [say](#) are baseless.

The GMA may not have a legal leg to stand on. Still, the threats to sue states are clearly intended to strike fear in the hearts of those lawmakers genuinely concerned about spending tax dollars on costly court battles.

But GMO labeling activists are also concerned that some lawmakers will use the GMA’s threats as a convenient excuse to reject the majority opinion of their voters, in favor of siding with industry instead. Or as a means to convince their colleagues to add trigger clauses, similar to those in the Maine and Connecticut bills, in an attempt to stall or permanently sabotage GMO laws.

Food manufacturers insist that GMO ingredients are perfectly safe. Still, they’ve [spent](#) more than \$70 million--[some](#) of it illegally laundered—to defeat GMO labeling initiatives in California and Washington State. And the GMA, representing more than 300 food makers and trade associations, has [drafted](#) a bill (which so far has no sponsors) that would preempt state mandatory GMO labeling laws and allow the use of the word “natural” on GMO-contaminated products.

But now it appears the GMA, a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council ([ALEC](#)), has added another arrow to its quiver—intimidating lawmakers into submission by promising to entangle states in long, costly court battles.

2 Will Vermont Lawmakers Stand Up to Industry?

The GMA's talking points are intended for use in any state weighing GMO labeling laws. But right now, it's Vermont that's once again in the spotlight. And Vermont lawmakers who are in the hot seat.

According to GMA propaganda, state GMO labeling laws violate the First Amendment, which protects commercial speech by prohibiting the government from compelling "certain statements."

It's not the first time Vermont lawmakers have had to deal with threats of lawsuits. In 2012, Monsanto lobbyists [threatened](#) to sue the state of Vermont if lawmakers there passed a GMO labeling bill. Vermont officials, including the governor, took the threat seriously. But activists responded by enlisting the help of legal experts to determine the bill's constitutionality. After extensive research and analysis, both a Washington D.C.-based law firm, [Emord & Associates](#), and the Vermont Law School independently concluded that Vermont's GMO labeling bill would withstand a legal challenge from industry.

According to the Vermont Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, "We have researched and analyzed challenges that may be made in opposition to such legislation and have concluded that Vermont can pass GE labeling legislation that will meet all constitutional requirements."

Attorneys at Emord & Associates drew the same [conclusion](#):

"Because the Second Circuit applies the Zauderer exemption for compelled speech broadly, and the Bill protects consumer health and safety, the law is likely constitutional under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Furthermore, H.112 does not impede or conflict with the federal Food and Drug Administration's labeling regime for foods and dietary supplements. The federal system does not preempt H.112, which was enacted constitutionally under the State's general powers. Finally, H.112 does not discriminate against interstate commerce, or impose a burden that outweighs Vermont's legitimate interest in protecting the consuming public. Thus, H.112 does not violate the Dormant Commerce Clause."

Vermont's GMO labeling law stalled in 2012, in the face of Monsanto's threats. Then in 2013, the Vermont House of Representatives passed [H.112](#). The legislative session ended before the bill could move to the Senate. But now that the state legislature has reconvened, the bill has been taken up again by the Senate's Agriculture Committee.

What's next? Vermont lawmakers could pass a clean bill. Or, they could pass a meaningless bill with a trigger clause. Or, they could cave into industry's threats entirely, and vote against the 90 percent of Vermonters who support H.112—knowing that the bill is bullet-proof, and their failure to pass it a failure of courage.

GMA Talking Points Are Full of Holes

Aside from being wrong on the constitutionality issue, the GMA talking points spin the usual industry lies about the health, safety and testing of GMOs.

To persuade state lawmakers that we don't need GMO labeling laws, the GMA trots out the American Medical Association's (AMA) claim that eating GMOs is no riskier than eating crops grown using conventional methods. But it doesn't mention that the AMA has [called](#) for pre-market safety testing of GMO crops—a position that arguably calls into question the AMA's position that GMO crops aren't risky. Nor does the GMA mention the many [organizations](#) that do advocate for GMO labels, including the American Public Health Association and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

The GMA talking points also claim that genetic engineering improves crop yields by increasing resistance to plant diseases and pests. And that GMO crops use less water.

But scientists have [poked holes](#) in all of those claims. In fact, the proliferation of GMO crops has led to increased use of pesticides and whole new classes of "[superweeds](#)" and "[superbugs](#)."

In addition to Vermont, Rhode Island and Florida have introduced GMO labeling laws so far this year. And other states, including Massachusetts and New York, are expected to follow. Wherever laws are introduced, GMA lobbyists will be out in force, talking points in hand. [Please tell lawmakers in your state](#) to ignore the food industry's threats, and stand up for consumers.

Katherine Paul is director of development and communications for the [Organic Consumers Association](#).

Ronnie Cummins is national and international director of the [Organic Consumers Association](#).

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: bkdl@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 7:26:08 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I support mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods. I note in particular this bill requires food from animals fed genetically engineered feed be included. That is good since, as I recall, one of the criticisms from anti-labeling forces has been our state bills exempted products from GE fed animals. In the absence of federal standards, states need to step up. Keep in mind National Organic Standards grew out of various standards in different states. But the claim that labeling is cost-prohibitive has been debunked, since General Mills has recently announced it will label original Cheerios as GMO-Free. Post will also market Grape-Nuts with a Non-GMO Project verified label. Another argument employed by labeling opponents is a track record of proven safety over the last 15-20 years. Such a claim seems premature however, in the absence of post-market monitoring via labeling. Again, I am in full support of this bill. Finally, I'm not sure when the agenda for this hearing was published, but I hope agendas will continue to be published with reasonable time to accommodate public testimony statewide. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: madcower@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:12:06 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryce Boeder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Knowing what is in our food is a basic human right. Please label gmo.
Thank you!

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Cc: clk5356@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:21:48 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Knoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Cheryl Lansker](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: 2736 Labeling of Genetically Engineered material
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 3:07:19 PM

Aloha Senators on the Health Committee,

I have been eating organically for many years and am very upset that Genetically Modified ingredients are now beginning to find their way into organic foods. State Legislatures nationwide need to recognize that we, the people, are given the option to know what our food contains and to be able to not purchase any product that contains GM ingredients, including fruits and vegetables that are Genetically altered.

There is more than enough evidence that shows GMO's are very dangerous to the health of our nation. At the very least the "Precautionary Principal" should apply. Not only is this true because of the nature of genetically altered plants but also because of the enormous amounts of pesticides used to grow these GM crops.

I sincerely ask you to *please* vote for labeling all products that contain GM ingredients.

Mahalo for your time,
Cheryl Lansker
PO Box 204
Hilo HI 96722

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sekrah@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:45:10 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christopher Costa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Thank you for taking time to consider labeling food Products containing GMO ingredients. As a consumer I would like to know what my food is made of. Thank you, Christopher Costa Keeau, HI

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Cc: cindy@aylateva.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:18:12 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Babson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I hope my representatives have watched, on u tube, The Sick Story of GMO I want all humans to eat clean healthy real food, not lab/corporate created food. I trust the earth..... our God given aina....

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Cc: dannygr@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:08:57 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: There is no way to really know if GMOs are causing harm to people or animals unless we know when they are present. Does your food allergy only happen when you eat GMOs? How would you ever know? Give us the chance to find out the truth, not just what a paid researcher and a PR firm will say to keep the money coming.

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Cc: earlewave@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:45:16 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danitza galvan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I do not appreciate an industry that does not want to label their products and continues to bully people and legislators to spread their products without any labeling or local level regulation. I support labeling initiatives at the local levels. I support SB2736.

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Cc: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:25:08 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The time has come. The will of the people for labeling must be served

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: stoltzfus74@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 3:00:21 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Stoltzfus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill as it provides no benefit to the citizens of Hawaii, but will increase our food costs and diminish our food choices. State-required food labeling on the basis of philosophical or religious beliefs (which this is as there is no safety issue) is a slippery slope. Will the state also require labeling of food based upon the lunar sign that it was harvested under? That is what I have a right to know, and is just as pertinent as the technology used to develop the crops.

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Cc: ffmummy@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:42:40 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Lynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdHaGOWNJ5Q&feature=youtu.be>
This video is my testimony.

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Cc: dbwoodsluv@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii deserves the right to know what we are eating. Whether GMO's are safe or not is not the issue. We have the RIGHT to make informed choices and GMO food needs to be labeled in our state. Vote for the people's rights, not big business who seems to want to keep people in the dark. Mahalo

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Cc: scheurell@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:46:52 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Scheurell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We should know what's in our food, including extraneous DNA. Please pass this GMO labeling law.

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Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Health
Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:30 pm
by
Douglas L. Vincent, Ph.D., P.A.S.

SB 2736 – Relating to Food Labeling-- OPPOSED

Chair Green and Vice-Chair Baker and members of the committee. My name is Douglas L. Vincent and I am a Professor and Animal Scientist in the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences (HNFAS) at University of Hawaii at Mānoa and in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on SB 2736. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa or HNFAS or CTAHR. I present testimony against Senate Bill 2736.

The Hawaiian Papaya Industry would be severely injured should this bill be enacted. Currently a \$9.7 M industry, our papaya industry was saved by the development of the transgenic ring spot virus resistant variety of papaya. This genetically modified fruit has been in the market place for over 15 years, approved for use by the FDA and USDA and designated “generally regarded as safe.” There have been no incidences of illness, allergy or other problems with this variety. The transgenic papaya has recently been approved for importation into Japan. To force papaya growers to now label their crops would create confusion in the marketplace and result in real monetary damage to Hawaii farmers. If other food producers, food manufacturers and grocers are to be required to make these labels, only in Hawaii, that will add additional costs to Hawaii consumers, while confusing the consumer and resulting the avoidance of perfectly nutritious and healthful products currently in the market place.

It should also be noted that in California, the country’s LARGEST agricultural economy, that voters defeated Proposition 37 in 2012 by a wide margin, which would have required labeling of foods containing GMO foods. In Washington State, another large agricultural economy, the voters also defeated GMO labeling legislation in 2013. While Connecticut passed legislation, it requires neighboring states to do likewise before implementation. In a time when Hawaii food costs are among the highest in the nation, we should not require these labels as it will most assuredly increase costs for consumers and disadvantage Hawaii farmers. GMO foods are SAFE.

I urge defeat of this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mtrotto@liu.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:11:04 PM
Attachments: [Here we go again letter on GMO.docx](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dr. mary trotto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: unless there is extensive research on GMO Foods and there impact on the health of the developing child, we can not allow our children to eat these foods. Thus they need to be labeled Ask yourself, why are so many children now allergic to foods, why is children cancer and autism rates so high?

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:26:08 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edie Bikle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha from the Big Island of Hawaii. As a consumer, I would really like to know what is in the food I buy. Many other countries have banned GMO products- and that would be my personal preference to have them banned. Since too many politicians are bought by these big corporations, that may not happen. So I and many others would like the option of making wise life-saving decisions in the grocery aisles. Until more research is done-by unaffiliated groups, I think the whole rotten mess should be tabled. But for now, please give us the chance to let the big bio-tech people know how we feel with our wallets. Thank-you in advance for making the right decision for your constituent's good health and that of generations to come-Mahalo!

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:09:56 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edwyna Spiegel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Every time I am in Europe, I find the Continent has REALLY delicious food. Why? They have NOT allowed GMOs into their food stream. When I return to America, the vegetables are absolutely tasteless, unless one shops at our Down to Earth. The genetically altered papayas at Costco are worthless as regards to taste. Buy one at an organic store, and they are sweet as sugar. Our aina is so precious. Let the big agri businesses find somewhere else to scientifically develop cardboard food. And, with so many scientific reports on the DANGERS of GMO on nature, it MUST stop now! Mahalo.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:24:47 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick Bauld	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: gene_lamkin@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:29:08 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It's not necessary at the state level. Federal regulations are enough to provide food safety.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: georgeandmary@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:02:19 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Outlaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: gfilaban@aol.com
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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:12:49 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Ilaban	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's my right to know that GMO foods are labelled. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine reported that "Several animal studies indicate serious health RISKS associated with GM food," including infertility, immune problems, accelerated aging, faulty insulin regulation, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system. Mahalo for your consideration.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:02:22 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hardeep Kharbanda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:35:40 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haydn Huntley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like GMO ingredients to be labeled, because GMO crops often are produced using more herbicide (or produce their own herbicides!) than conventionally grown crops, and it is common sense to let the public be informed about chemicals, so that they can make their own decisions about them.

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Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health

Monday, January 27, 2014; 1:30 pm

by

J. Kenneth Grace

SB 2736 RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 2736, which proposes to establish, beginning January 1, 2015, labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions; establishes violations; and requires director of health to adopt rules.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace, and I am Interim Associate Dean and Associate Director for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am providing personal testimony today on SB 2736, and my testimony does not necessarily represent the position of either CTAHR or the University of Hawaii.

I realize that this is a political decision, but I believe that public policy decisions should be grounded in science rather than based on unsubstantiated beliefs and feelings. In the United States, foods are required to be labeled in order to provide important nutritional information to consumers or to warn against possible hazards (such as peanut allergies) to a significant portion of the potential buying population. Foods may also be labeled voluntarily to describe cultivation or processing in accord with particular third party standards (such as Certified Organic, or Kosher labeling), or to appeal to the beliefs of some consumers for marketing purposes. However, this is voluntary labeling.

There is no evidence of any harm from ingestion of foods containing or produced by genetically engineered agricultural materials. The few isolated and anomalous studies purporting to demonstrate harm have been extensively critiqued and repudiated both individual researchers and established scientific organizations, and the most well-known of such studies was withdrawn by the journal in which it was published. Since it is difficult to dispute the fact that there is no evidence that the use of genetic techniques causes any innate harm, opponents of GM crops often skirt this issue and argue instead that they may contain higher pesticide residues (which is not substantiated), that the farming companies that grow them may not follow safe or legal farming procedures (again, not substantiated), and that large multinational corporations cannot be trusted to produce safe food (certainly an opinion, but hardly substantiated since it is difficult to see how such companies could remain in business). Individuals who hold such beliefs are certainly entitled to do so, but I do not believe that "beliefs" alone should be used to create public policy, at substantial cost. Imposing a label statement for which there is only belief, and no scientific basis, is equivalent to imposing a scarlet letter on the product. Such a public policy decision is self-fulfilling ("They have to put it on the label, so I know that it must be bad"), and reinforces unfounded public fears that they are entering a minefield of unsafe products when they shop for food.

Currently, those whose belief systems oppose modern agricultural methods, or oppose large companies and large-scale agriculture, can currently see the voluntary organic label on products and buy those products if they wish to do so. Playing on these sentiments, some manufacturers have also labeled their products as “Non-GMO” for marketing purposes, even taking it to the absurd extreme of “non-GMO salt.” As long as the claim is accurate, this voluntary distinction is perfectly acceptable on a label for marketing purposes, and again encourages those who hold a particular belief system to purchase these products.

The important distinction here is between required labeling for public health and safety purposes, and voluntary labeling for consumer preference and marketing purposes.

If there was actual evidence of any detrimental health effects from ingesting products such as corn oil produced from transgenic corn plants (which contains no genes) or Rainbow papaya (which certainly does contain genes, as do all the produce, fish and meat that we consume every day), then the inconsistency of SB 2736 in not requiring similar “safety labeling” for food products produced in retail establishments or sold in restaurants in Hawaii would make no sense at all.

If in the end, the public policy decision is really that the “right to know” of some consumers with certain beliefs trumps evidence and the established system of required and voluntary product labeling in the United States (but oddly only in some cases, and not when the product is made in a retail establishment or sold in a restaurant), then any new labeling requirement, illogical though it may be, should be imposed at the federal level. To impose a patchwork of individual state requirements (again, against evidence of any objective need for such requirements) will limit the product choices available to Hawaii consumers, and increase the already high cost of food.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 2736.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: flowergitha@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:32:45 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: aloha members of the committee, please accept this testimony in favor of GMO labeling for food and agricultural products. consumers have a right to know what is in their food. GMO technology is new and many folks are not comfortable with it's widespread use. labeling of GMO in food products will help consumer choose the right products that they want to purchase. mahalo for hearing this bill and considering this testimony in favor of GMO labeling in all food and ag products. with respect and aloha, james g trujillo po box 33 kapaa, HI

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jlouis@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:06:13 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Louis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: jessica3travel@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:51:35 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Friedberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Friday, January 24, 2014 5:04:45 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please allow mothers like myself to make informed decisions on what we are feeding our families. We have the right to know. Please support Gmo labeling. Mahalo nui for your time.

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Jan 26 2014

Dear Legislators,

I am a doctor and I have enough concern about GMO products that I do not wish them in my body.

Most people in society today can not grow all their own food, they must depend on the government to protect them. This is why we pay taxes.

1)GMO products all have one or more antibacterial DNA segments in the genome. Antibiotic resistance can come from this.

2)There have already been some fatal allergic reactions from the GMO product antigens.

I could go on and on.

Dr Jill Voeks

94-658 Ialeleiaka Pl

Mililani Hi 96789 808 551-7289

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: joan@joanlevy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:09:46 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I want to know what I am eating. Most products that are sold have labeling on them. It is imperative that labeling include gmo information. Please support gmo labelling for all packaged food items as well as fresh produce.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:41:26 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Wheelers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As more and more independent studies link GMO to a myriad of illnesses and more and more countries declare their independence rejecting this substances that are not real food,as the FDA described them as a "substance similar to food" when they described them. My father has celiac decease .In short, gluten kills him. He was indeed dying when he was tested and his life was saved. Gluten labeling although relatively new has helped to save his life and the ones of thousands of people.There are more and more reasons to believe that GMO are harming human health and it is our right to decide if we want to put this in our bodies or not. The organic labeling is not enough at this point as GMO have contaminated so many crops. <http://www.responsibletechnology.org/gmo-dangers/65-health-risks/1> notes <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2011/12/10/dr-don-huber-interview-part-1.aspx> I strongly support our human right to have GMO Free food and labeling that warns us about it when exposed to it. Please do the right thing and protect the People. Sincerely, Joanna Wheeler Kapaa,Hi,96746

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John C Norman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: 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 your consideration of supporting this important bill.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, We the People deserve to know what is in the food we eat and to make choices for ourselves and our family based on that knowledge. Please give us a choice! Label food products with any GMO ingredients. Mahalo, John Naylor Maui

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Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:03:30 PM
Attachments: [SB2736testimony.doc](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The GMO labeling issue is not about the right to know rather it is about using consumers' fears to increase market share. There is no scientific evidence to support this and will ultimately hurt the small farmers, who had their livelihoods saved by it. Label for reasons indicated by evidence, no simply on curiosity. I spoke personally and publicly to Representative Wooley that if such a label law were to be proposed that there would be education included. This bill does not include such as she mentioned.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Monday January 27, 2014 1:30 p.m. Room 229

SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling

Establishes, beginning January 1, 2015, labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions; establishes violations; requires director of health to adopt rules.

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committees:

My name is Joni Kamiya, daughter of papaya farmer, Kenneth Kamiya, and I am an occupational therapist and call myself an advocate for the farm. I am not paid to speak on behalf of the farm and these are my own opinions.

*I, Joni Kamiya, **Strongly Opposes** SB 2736.*

I have always felt that labeling, should be a market driven tool, not a regulatory one. I 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. 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.

This bill goes far beyond what was even proposed (and failed) on the California's Ballot, as it also requires that any meat and poultry, milk and eggs (anything from livestock fed with GMO feeds) be labeled. This would require the vast majority of all meat & poultry, milk and eggs be labeled. If we are striving to promote food security in Hawaii, this labeling requirement would put Hawaii more at risk, as it is estimated 80% of the food from here and elsewhere will have to be labeled, adding even more costs to consumers.

I agree consumers have the right to know! However, when researched further, it is clearly not the intent of labeling to begin with.

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

SOURCES:

<http://www.responsibletechnology.org/10-Reasons-to-Avoid-GMOs>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hkff39YWtmg>
<https://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/08/02-0>
<http://www.activistcash.com/person/1562-andrew-kimbrell/>
<http://vtdigger.org/2012/04/17/wanzek-genetically-modified-food-is-perfectly-healthy>
<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2012/02/29/new-vermont-gmo-labeling-policy-officially-introduced.aspx>

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.

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.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jw nalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: Karen@RedwoodGames.com
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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:23:19 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Please pass this bill. Unlike California who has such a big population that they already have labels required only by their state e.g. "The State of California has determined that this contains which is shown to cause cancer", we are a small state. For those concerned about us not having enough clout to require labeling, we could modify this bill not to go into effect until 5 other states pass bills. This is what Main and Connecticut did.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:35:01 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:31:27 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith & Cathie Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: keligirl@mac.com
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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:40:34 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Colbert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please be PONO! We all deserve to know what we are eating! I can't believe it is even an issue. If GMO's are so wonderful and not harmful they should be happy to label them! What and WHY are hiding them?

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:52:53 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 your consideration of supporting this important bill.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:23:38 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Larsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please require labeling for all genetically modified food and seed. We have come to trust that the government has verified through extensive testing that the food and medicine available to consumers is safe and labeled appropriately for us to make informed decisions. LABELING IS STANDARD PRACTICE I strongly support SB2736 and urge you too.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Wingate	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We deserve the right to know what is in our food! This isn't about if GMO'S are good or bad. This is about people having the right to know what they are eating Mahalo

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Grazier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All people on Hawaii deserve to know the source of their food. Regardless of the position on GMO, people should have the knowledge of the food source so they are able to choose whether they want to eat GMO products.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Sola	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I try to omit all GMOs from my families diet and find this very difficult to do without the cooperation of the food industry. I'm left with no options for packaged food and have been buying nearly all food at the farmers market. But with labeling, I'd be able to buy some manufactured food and purchase some food from stores again. I would think it would be in the interest of the food industry to label what is safe so that people like me could buy it.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I simply believe that everyone has a right to know what is in their food, whether or not they are in favor of GMOs.....it is a matter of EDUCATED CHOICE... warnings against cigarettes are prominent on the packages, yet folks still smoke. Likewise, labeling will not necessarily interfere with GMO profits...if just will let us consumers know what is in the food, so we can make our own choices...

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Lori Nakamura-Higa in support of Bill SB2736

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and committee members. My name is Lori Nakamura-Higa I am here today speaking as a private citizen, constituent, and voter mom. You have my written testimony and I stand by it. I want to first say thank you for those of who have are listening and have introduced these bills, especially for labeling GMOs as I am for it.

Chemical warfare poisons applied experimentally and now awaiting approval at the USDA to grant deregulation permission to apply a component of Agent Orange to GMO so-called food crops for the mass to consume unwittingly is a ruthless, malicious, heartless and an unacceptable crime. So goes the same for those GMOs already released into our food supply without our informed consent.

Just to have the Vietnam Veterans and their families unwittingly ingesting anything remotely relating to Agent Orange and their makers is beyond nauseatingly, repulsive and a horrific injustice revisited to these American soldiers and their families with every breakfast, every lunch, every dinner and every meal in between.

I know of the suffering effects of having a love one drinking from the Agent Orange sprayed water wells in Vietnam and this love one doing his earnest desire, still today accepting to reconcile the past to move on with his positive attitude, yet reminded daily by the loss of quality of life trying to persevere with this plaguing struggle. Are we seeing a revisit of Vietnam atrocities in our own backyard? This is NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ANY LEVEL.

I as a mom having to contend with a child's food intolerances while these novel GMOs goes unlabeled makes for quite a complicated, unmanageable and frustrating task to attempt an elimination diet when we don't even know where these GMOs are hidden in our food supply, yet only afforded the right to know that Agent Orange applied to GMO crops is coming soon and if they get approval, we won't get to know where they maybe hidden also under the status quo. With all of the duties and responsibilities that come with being a mom, these unlabeled GMOs just add another unwanted burden to our already busy schedule. The health of our children and their future should not be left in the strong-hold manipulations of these poison chemical companies, and the American Academy of Pediatrics warns, "Prenatal and early childhood exposure to pesticides is associated with pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioral problems." [1]

To date the people of the states of Connecticut and Maine have spoken and their law makers including their governors have listened to the will of their people, their constituents, their voters, their moms. They have GMO labeling laws in place, and there are NO preemptions existing to prevent states from pursuing this as some of you have been led to believe. All the shibai grandstanding and tantrum displays of drawing attention to name callings such as; ignorant, fear mongering, anti-science, anti-farming, misinformation, fear of soaring food costs, feeding the hungry, etc., were dismissed and blown out of the waters in those states as well as those 64 other countries whose governing authorities and law makers have dismissed those claims, and either label GMOs or outright ban them from their people, constituents, voters and their moms. [2]

By gosh, they make up the majority portion of the world's consumers that have been granted the right to know what's in their foods with labeling GMOs. We moms are not asking for the world, all we're asking for is what the rest of the world already has.

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, "Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius – and a lot of courage – - to move in the opposite direction."

All of us, the people, your constituents, your moms in your communities appreciate all of you geniuses who will move us in the opposite direction with labeling GMOs. I respectfully thank you again for your time and we'll meet again real soon.

[1] <http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/AAP-Makes-Recommendations-to-Reduce-Children's-Exposure-to-Pesticides.aspx>

[2] http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/sc/1305/countries_label_ge.html

[3] <http://www.examiner.com/article/what-countries-have-banned-gmo-crops>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hgMFzsR4kNjggRJicQltlKQvj3KQ?docId=CNG.c221a591015fa271ece90ac7754f747d.a81>

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/scientists-call-for-10-year-moratorium-on-dangerous-gmos/491687.html>

<http://www.nationofchange.org/french-president-maintains-monsanto-gmo-corn-ban-1376575830>

<http://www.peruviantimes.com/17/ten-year-ban-on-genetically-modified-seeds-and-foods-takes-force-thursday/17479/>

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/gefood/countrieswithbans.cfm>

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/338369>

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Cc: luly.unemori2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:56:04 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luly Unemori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I oppose this bill that would require mandatory labeling of GMOs. There are so many products already labeled as organic or GMO-free that I believe this bill is useless and unnecessary and I am unwilling to spend more as a taxpayer and grocery-shopper on mandatory labeling of GM foods. I believe the American Medical Association when it says GM foods are safe. I would rather see more energy spent on things that make a real difference for our community, like fighting illegal drugs, supporting elder care and improving education for the kids. Thank you for your consideration.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:57:19 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lyle robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It seems obvious that foods should be appropriately labeled so that consumers are able to make educated and informed decisions regarding the foods we purchase. If there is nothing wrong, health wise, with GMO foods, then labeling should not pose any threat. If indeed these practices are questionable, then those of us concerned should have the access to information in order to opt out of ingesting foods we are wary of. Mahalo for doing the right thing for the people of Hawaii and supporting us all in our quest for health, Dr. Lyle Robinson

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Date: Friday, January 24, 2014 7:04:21 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill, we do have a right to know what is in our food and to make a choice. It is truly a democratic option. Thank you

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Fuimaono	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha, Thank you for hearing testimony on this very important piece of legislation. GMO foods have been on the market for 20 years, without labeling. This has made it convenient for the seed producers and chemical companies who own patents on GMO products to have no responsibility for their products. Foods containing GMO ingredients have been shown to have higher levels of pesticide residue than conventionally grown foods. This is concerning to me, in the past year the two largest medical bodies for women and children American pediatric association and American college Of gynecology released statements stating that pesticide exposure in children can cause ADHD, pediatric cancers, early puberty and in women miscarriage, babies that are small for gestational age etc. (I will bring supporting journal articles when I testify). With that said labeling is the bare minimum that can be done to protect consumers. The GMO industry has fought this tooth and nail throughout the country which makes me wonder what are they hiding? If their products are superior you would think they would want to brag about it. So please consider the will of the people and your constituents and vote for yes for labeling. Thank you Me Fuimaono RN, MSN

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:01:11 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Please support what your constituents want -- that is labelling so all will know what we are eating!! It's vital for the Director of Health to adopt the rules. Please vote YES!!!!

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Cc: don.matthew.rose@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 10:02:24 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Rose	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is a poorly crafted bill, for a number of reasons: 1) No reason given for why necessary to force labeling on GE food sold in state, when there is no evidenced based proof that it is somehow unsafe. 2) No requirement for an economic impact study on food growers, suppliers, and importers in our state. 3) Obvious economic benefit to some of the legislators who introduced the bill that are tied to organic or natural food businesses, who hope to gain my driving consumers away from GE food to organic, out of a needless fear for safety. 4) Aggressive campaigning by the anti-GMO activists and lobby groups, many supported by the organic industry, that use negative propaganda and rhetoric with no evidence based proof, to scare consumers into avoiding GE foods. 5) Not enough resources for enforcement, opens up a can of worms for lawsuits to fatten lawyer's pockets, and tries to enforce food labeling on mainland and global food suppliers that will choose to just not ship here if push comes to shove, jeopardizing our food supply. This issue should be taken up at the federal, not state level, after first being well-vetted.

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Cc: megan.pittsley@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Friday, January 24, 2014 4:45:56 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support our right to choose.

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Cc: mirasharan@pacific.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:31:49 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mira walker	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: GMO foods have not been proven to be safe for human consumption. People have a right to choose and be informed. Thats what labeling does. Please vote for disclosure and labeling of GMO foods. Mahalo

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Cc: mauimiranda@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:03:18 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miranda Camp	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have every right to know what is in my food so I can make the best choices for myself. That is EXACTLY what this country of ours is all about. How can it be possible that we are not allowed this right????? This bill must be supported or this can't be the free country of the United States of America. This country was founded on the rights of it's citizens over corporations, but it has been changing and only money speaks now. Show us that this is no longer true by supporting this bill and putting people first!

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Cc: miri@rweinstein.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:09:56 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Please require labeling of all genetically engineered foods.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:01:12 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: GMO labeling is important to Hawaii citizens as we need to protect our health and environment. We label food with the amount of calories, vitamins, food coloring and fats. GMO identification is another piece of information that we need as consumers. Nancy Roemer

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Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:38:32 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Label gmo food.

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Cc: mistermidnight@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:14:39 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Hooper	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please add my name to the list of many who would like to see you pass the GMO labeling bill. It is the pono (right) thing to do. Mahalo

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Cc: dubielsdesign@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 3:53:11 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please, protect your constituents. As a veteran teacher, 25 years at Sunset Beach Elementary, it is my duty to be an advocate for the children of Hawaii. It is your duty, too. Protect the children, they will suffer the most without regulation. Thank you.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rhonda Stoltzfus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Labeling genetically modified foods in this manner will increase our food costs, as well as give the impression that these foods are not as safe or nutritious as others. Labeling is best left at the federal level, and should only be based on nutrition and safety. Multiple studies have shown that these foods are safe. Please don't require additional burdensome labels for Hawaii's food supply.

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From: [Richard Bidleman](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: GMO labeling
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:06:06 PM

Consumers need to be given a clear choice on products they have the opportunity to purchase. *GMO* products is one of these choices. Manufacturer's simply need to change their labeling.

Please support the passage of this legislation.

Mahalo

Richard Bidleman
Pahoa

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Cc: neswmusic@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:16:02 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Morse	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representatives: Three reasons why I believe people should know if there eating GE foods - 1. FDA scientists & as well as other scientists warned the FDA no to put GE foods on the market due to the unpredictability of knowing how the inserted gene will affect future crops...and we still don't know because the technology does not exist: <http://biointegrity.org/FDAdocs/index.html> 2. If there is a moratorium on GE vaccines due to lack of knowing what the inserted genes will do in the vaccines, why isn't there a similar moratorium on GE foods? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07BgYkGuVDc> 3. It is food that is created in a lab. Thank you for your time. --Rick Morse

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:30:36 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is imperative that food be labeled so consumers can have a choice to introduce genetically modified foods into their system. There is no long term proof that ingesting these types of food will not have an adverse effect. If we wait for problems to manifest it may be too late.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Gaffney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Kory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Rios	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ron bass	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please NO GMO foods in Hawaii

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Cc: sanaekeyser@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:04:31 AM
Attachments: [Remember Agent Orange.docx](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sanae Keyser	Individual	Support	No

Comments: GMO labeling laws are constitutional.

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Remember Agent Orange? The 2,4-D chemical concoction commissioned by the U.S. Army to defoliate jungles and destroy food crops during the Vietnam War?

U.S. corn and soybean farmers could soon be using more of this toxic herbicide than ever before. Unless we convince the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to put the brakes on plans to approve Dow AgroSciences' new "Enlist" brand corn and soy—GMO crops designed to resist massive doses of 2,4-D herbicide.

- See more at:

http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50865/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8850&track=FB&tag=FB#sthash.UFDwm6sK.XRiuZq2X.dpuf

A large body of [evidence](#) indicates major health problems result from exposure to 2,4-D, including cancer, reproductive problems, neurotoxicity and auto-immune disorders. And 2,4-D is devastating to the environment. It's currently the seventh largest source of dioxin [pollution](#) in the US and Dow is the second [largest](#) dioxin polluter.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concedes that Dow's new 2,4-D-resistant crops could speed up the evolution of new "superweeds" which would ultimately require even heavier applications of ever-more toxic herbicides, and could also have "off-target" effects.

Still, the agency signaled (on January 3, 2014), in the release of its Draft Environmental Impact Statement ([DEIS](#)), that it favors approving the new GMO crops.

Most corn and soy grown in the U.S. is already genetically engineered to resist Monsanto's Roundup. And 2,4-D is already the third most popular herbicide (according to the industry [web site](#)) used in the U.S.

But if the USDA approves the new 2,4-D-resistant corn and soy, the use of 2,4-D is projected to increase [50-fold](#).

For the chemical companies, the whole point of genetically engineered herbicide-tolerant crops is to increase herbicide use. If the crop isn't genetically engineered to be

resistant to herbicides, farmers have to be careful to spray only the weeds. Currently, the use of 2,4-D is largely limited to controlling weeds in the fields before the crop sprouts, or after the crop is harvested. Genetically engineered 2,4-D-tolerant crops allow for the indiscriminate use of the herbicide.

For consumers, that means that the herbicides that used to be sprayed on the fields where our food was grown will now be sprayed directly on our food.

The USDA has already received more than 450,000 comments opposing Agent Orange crops, but so far it is ignoring public comment.

Things are no better at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) where Michael Taylor, a former Monsanto lobbyist, heads up food safety. Ignoring the demands of the [American Medical Association](#), which wants the FDA to require “mandatory pre-market systematic safety assessments” of new genetically engineered foods, the FDA conducts no review, as long as the biotech company assures it that the genetically engineered food is not "materially different" from normal food.

In December, Dow [announced](#) that the FDA had given its 2,4-D-resistant crops the rubber stamp, marking the end of the voluntary consultation process for its Agent Orange crops.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a separate [review](#) of Agent Orange crops to examine the impact of expanded use of 2,4-D. But in 2012, the FDA rejected a [petition](#) from the Natural Resources Defense Council citing dozens of studies linking 2,4-D exposure to cancer and birth defects as cause to ban the dangerous chemical.

- See more at:

http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50865/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8850&track=FB&tag=FB#sthash.UFDwm6sK.XRiuZq2X.dpuf

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:18:56 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Steiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, I absolutely support labeling GMO's. We have a right to know what we are eating! Do not be misled by huge corporations who may try to bribe you with money. Think of your own families, especially kids and grandkids. Vote with Aloha for the People and the Aina!

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Stoddard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: sa.boyer@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:46:26 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Boyer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please keep our air,water and land free of GMO's!

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:47:24 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There must be labeling....

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Cc: sherrianwitt@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 2:02:02 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Due to many health concerns and allergies to GMO products it is imperative that we label any Genetically Modified food or substance. We have the right to know what is in our food supply. As research has shown that GMO foods and products can cause humans to become sterile, in order to allow people to have children in it is important to make informed choices.

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Cc: stephandjim@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:57:53 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Citizens have the absolute right to know what they are eating, and feeding to their keiki and families!

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Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:01:06 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, Thank you for taking the time to read these comments. I am in full support of SB 2736. It is time that we know as consumers what it is in our food. Food companies voluntarily label their foods with all kinds of information and now it is time to label whether there are GMO products in our food. Since Federal level politics has prevented this on a wider scale Hawaii State must stand up for its citizens and require companies to inform their consumers of these products. If they are confident in their products there should be no reason they would have resistance to labeling these as such. Thank you for standing up for citizen rights. Mahalo, Steve Sakala

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Cc: suelang.watson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:19:30 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suelang Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's our right to know whether or not the food we are putting in our bodies and feeding our families with has been genetically modified (therefore TOXIC!). GMO labelling should be mandatory on ALL food products.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sumfaria@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:54:18 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Summer Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Countries around the world are opposing GMO crops and companies. Hawai'i is too small a land area to allow any GMO's here. The least we can do is label so people know, what they are buying. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 2:17:14 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: suzboatright@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:05:43 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Boatright	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: It is our right to know if we are purchasing GMO food products, labelling is the first and most basic step to informing consumers what they have a right to know.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sd3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:22:20 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sfloyd@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:30:13 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan floyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All citizens have a right to know what is in what we eat, breathe or drink. Please help us to make that information available. Please support this labeling bill! Mahalo.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: suzannakauai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:12:48 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanna Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. We have the right to know what's in our food so we can make conscious choices! Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: titus96720@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:44:54 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Titus Bontea	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Read the wind of change if you want to remain in office.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sundownertoni@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:26:12 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mandalaluna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:15:59 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Holloway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to strongly support SB2736. It is imperative that people have the right to know what is in the food they are eating and with this bill becoming law, they would have that right secured. This is no different from other labeling laws, which give people the information they need to make informed choice about what food is right for them and their families and even which cosmetics to buy. Please vote Yes to passing SB2736.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: manicanical@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:34:06 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: billdickerson8@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:28:55 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Dickerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Consumers and children deserve to know what is in their food. Don't cave in to big Ag, do what's right for HI and the USA. Mahalo.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:01:23 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: willsilver@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:16:40 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Navran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is absolutely no good reason not to label foods that are GMO. We all have the right to know what we put into our bodies and that choice is no one's but ours.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: yomo@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:03:38 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yomogida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: y.ricciuti@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:29:21 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Ricciuti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mauizoe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:36:44 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zoe Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii is a unique eco-system. More and more research is demonstrating serious problems with GMOs and Roundup for the environment and for human/animal health. Please protect our Aina.

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