

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jlee@cochawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:33:49 AM
Attachments: [1.27.2014 SB 2736 Sen HTH - Food Labeling.docx](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Lee	Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This testimony is submitted by Jenny Lee on behalf of Sherry Menor-McNamara for The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Thank you.

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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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health
Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

RE: SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **opposes** SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling.

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

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

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

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

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:30pm

by
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos
Vice-President for Research and Innovation, University of Hawai'i

SB2736 – RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

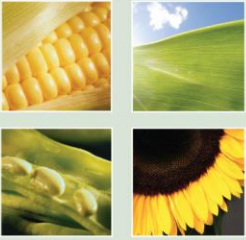
Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i is opposed to the current language of SB2736 and has particular concerns regarding the ability and cost to the state to verify and enforce the conditions for labeling set forth under this bill. The University's objections are based on technical and scientific aspects of the current language of the bill and not in the broader social issue of product labeling, to which we remain neutral.

In SB2736's proposed language for a new section of HRS §328-, more thought must be given to the unintended consequences of the overly broad definition of what would constitute a 'genetically engineered material' as some of the materials identified in this section would in fact contain no genetic material or DNA (e.g. sugar from a genetically engineered plant) or have no trace of genetically engineered material in the product (e.g. baked and fermented products, some made using proprietary yeasts or bacteria).

The bill instructs the Director of Health to 'adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 91, necessary for the purposes of this section, including rules for the testing of foods to determine the presence and content of genetically engineered material'. However, in the instances above, and in many other cases, there is simply no testing available that would allow the state to detect 'genetically engineered material' that is not present in the product.

The University's final concern is that no agency has been identified and no funding is proposed for the testing of food products and enforcement of the proposed rules.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director
SB 2736 – Relating to Food Labeling
The Senate Committee on Health
Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:30 pm, Room 229

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Alicia Maluafiti

Position: Strong Opposition

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers and a proud member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. We oppose SB 2736.

SB 2736 Hurts Our Poorest Local People and their Families

With our 1.2 million residents located in the middle of the pacific ocean, we already pay the highest prices for our food – up to 40 percent more than on the mainland. And for poorer families, they spend a greater proportion of their income on food. Since we import 80 percent of our food, the question is “what will food product manufacturers do if Hawaii passes a GMO labeling mandate and how will this impact the cost of food?” There are three options and they are all bad for kama’aina.

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

Simply – local people, local families – all will be the losers of Bill 2736. Fewer choices. More expensive food. For those families struggling the most in Hawaii (the majority), they will have the most difficult time putting food on the table.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why New Hampshire Killed GMO Labeling

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

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

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

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

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

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

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=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>





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January 27, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 2736
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING
Room 229
1:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please oppose this measure.

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

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

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

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



Kona Hawaiian Civic Club

"Serving the Kona community for 62 years"

January 26, 2014

Testimony by the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2736 Relating to Food Labeling

Welina mai Chairman Green and members of the Committee on Health,

The Kona Hawaiian Civic Club ("KHCC"), founded prior to statehood in 1952, is an organization devoted to education and scholarship. It has advocated for the rights of indigenous Hawaiians' and the general public at large for many years.

As such, the KHCC strongly supports Senate Bill 2736. The KHCC believes that the people of Hawai'i have the right to know what they are taking into their bodies, as this is a basic essential function of all forms of life.

Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i believed in the capacity of the people and building their strengths through education. Education is a basic Hawaiian cultural value. Hawaiian language literacy rates for Native Hawaiians from 1840 through her reign have been estimated at greater than 90%. Over the years, up until 1948, nearly 70 different newspapers were published in Hawaiian, and Hawaiian was the language generally used by the Territorial Legislature through the turn of the century (*Readingonline.org – Electronic Classroom Technology and the Hawaiian Language*).

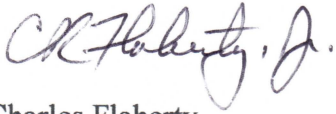
Now, as the 50th state of the United States of America, the KHCC would like to share the following quotes from one of the Founding Fathers and past President, Thomas Jefferson:

"No other sure foundation [than public education] can be devised for the preservation of freedom and happiness... Preach a crusade against ignorance; establish and improve the law for educating the common people. Let our countrymen know that the people alone can protect us against the evils [of misgovernment]."

"I hope we shall... crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

"The selfish spirit of commerce knows no country, and feels no passion or principle but that of gain."

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony as authorized by the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Flaherty, Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

Charles Flaherty,
Chair, Government Relations Committee



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Date: Monday, January 27, 2014

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Conference room 229

SB2736, RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

In SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Green, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the committee,

My name is Bart Dame and I am testifying today on behalf of Progressive Democrats of Hawaii, in strong support of this bill.

We believe this is a matter of simple, "Truth-in-Labeling," a recognition consumers have a right to know what they are buying. More importantly, that people have a right to know what they are putting into their bodies, what food they are putting into the bodies of their young children.

The giant biotech companies want to deprive consumers of the basic right of "informed consent." They insist genetically-modified foods are identical, in every important way, with the original, natural equivalent. They say to the consumer, "You are too ignorant to make the decision, so trust us to decide for you."

But not all consumers agree. Not all consumers are prepared to accept as conclusive the research on this matter. For many of us, the science of bio-engineering is in its infancy and the eventual, longterm consequences of genetic engineering, both to human health and to the environment, cannot be predicted. Nor do we trust studies financed by the industry, nor the judgment of government agencies staffed with officials with close ties to the industry they are supposed to be regulating. Like too many regulatory agencies, there is a revolving door between employees of the agency and the industry.

Fortunately, as legislators, you do not have to take a crash course in genetic engineering in order to vote on this bill. You do not have to read, understand and evaluate competing scientific claims, or pass judgment on the weakness of specific scientific studies.

The biotech companies, as well as the huge conglomerates who dominate the processed food industry, oppose labeling because they KNOW consumers are likely to cut their purchase of foods labelled as "GMO." They do not want us to have access to information necessary to make informed decisions because they know, in advance, we will shift to more natural products, if we are given the choice..

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2736, RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

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

Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Green and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2736, relating to food labeling.

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

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: aubrie.marie@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:47:03 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubrie Marie Allen	Babes Against Biotech	Support	No

Comments: Aloha my name is Aubrie Allen Labeling Genetically Modified foods is extremely important to me & over 90% of Americans that want it labeled. To date, there has been no long-term human safety research conducted on GMOs. To assume that they are safe defies common sense, as we lack any scientific evidence to prove that they do not pose a threat to human health. In fact, more research points towards potentially harmful effects of consuming GMOs. A review of 19 studies concluded that consuming GMO corn or soybeans leads to significant organ disruptions in rats and mice, particularly in livers and kidneys. The researchers who conducted the review stated that the GMO soybean and corn varieties used in the studies "constitute 83% of the commercialized GMOs" that Americans currently consume." A French research team published a study in a peer-reviewed journal showing that rats exposed to low doses of both GMO corn and the widely used herbicide Roundup developed horrifying mammary tumors and widespread organ damage. The researchers said that 50% of males and 70% of females died prematurely, compared with only 30% and 20% in the control group .A study published in Reproductive Toxicology detected a GMO insecticide chemical, known as Bt toxin, in human blood, offering proof that its widespread use is a major public health concern. Upon taking blood samples, researchers detected the Bt toxin in a shocking 93% of pregnant women, 80% of fetuses and 69% of non- pregnant women. The fact that Bt toxin was detected even in unborn babies shows that the chemical persists far longer than the biotechnology industry claims it does. A shocking study showed that genetically modified plant DNA leads to the development of "GMO" microorganisms, which reproduce continuously inside the human body. These microorganisms actually become part of the bacteria in our digestive tracts and reproduce continuously inside us — even after we stop eating GMO foods. No one knows what the implications of having genetically engineered genes permanently living inside our guts may be. Research from Norway suggests that eating GMO corn and corn-based products, as well as meat from animals that are fed GMO grain, will cause you to weight gain faster and retain the weight. The study also linked GMO consumption to significant changes in the intestinal tract, kidney and liver, as well as pancreas, genitals and the immune system. Clearly, if their GMOs were so amazing for solving food problems, wouldn't they want to flaunt it, rather than hide it? I think they surely would, unless they have something to hide,

and are concerned about liability.

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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Courtney Bruch

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JAN 27, 2014

BEFORE THE SENATE HTH, CPN/WAM Committees
Thursday, January 27, 2014 Conference Room 229
SENATE BILL NO.2736
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING.

TO: Chairperson Green and Members of the Committees,

FROM: GMO FREE MAUI
Courtney Bruch
Director

SUBJECT: HEARING OF JANUARY 28, 2014; TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF**
OF SB .2736 RELATING TO FOOD LABELING.

RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF PESTICIDES, GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS & CREATING BUFFER ZONES

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important
measure.

GMO Free Maui supports this measure for the following reasons:

50 Countries already have the right to know. We deserve the same right
in Hawaii. Because of the revolving door between the chemical/GM cor-
porations and the Fed. Gov't we can not rely on the USDA or FDA to pro-
vide safety from GMOs. They are bought out. We need labeling in HI, on a
state level.

1.“National polls consistently show that more than 90% of Americans
want to know if their food’s been genetically modified. This is a right
that people in 50+ other countries already enjoy,” said Martin Dagob-
erto, an organizer with MA Right to Know GMOs. The group is part of a
national coalition of 37 state labeling initiatives, which has been work-
ing to pass legislation across the country.

2. More and more toxic GM crops are being released and without labeling people don't even know they are eating genetically modified food!

EU Eco Groups Slam New 'Agent Orange' GM Crops:

<http://sustainablepulse.com/2014/01/27/eu-eco-groups-slam-new-agent-orange-gm-crops-new-report/>
[#agentorange](#) [#gmcrops](#) [#EU](#) [#24D](#)

"2,4-D is known from its use as a compound in Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. The most visible detrimental effects on human health at that time were caused by contaminations with dioxin, which can occur as a highly toxic byproduct. Dioxin is classified a human carcinogen and is also capable of causing reproductive problems and damaging the immune system. As this report shows, dioxin still can be found in some 2,4-D", says Hans Muilerman from PAN Europe. "For the substance 2,4-D, additionally, academic studies show toxic effects on DNA, birth deformations and endocrine disrupting effects."

Long-term independent studies on animals show mammary tumors, intestinal inflammation, reproductive problems and more. Genetic altering causes new proteins in an inconsistent manner and makes them different enough to be patented. GMOs with pesticides incorporated within them (BT corn) are not under the FDA's jurisdiction because they're classified as pesticides. Derivatives of BT corn, RR soy and other GMOs are in 90 percent of processed supermarket fare.

3. Independent studies indicating the dangers of animals eating genetically modified plant foods are growing.

Pigs: A GMO Feeding Trial Exposes Problems

<http://justlabelit.org/pigs-a-gmo-feeding-trial-exposes-problems/>

Please protect the keiki for the present and future generations. Support the RIGHT TO KNOW and LABEL GMOs.

Mahalo~

GMO Free Maui

Courtney Bruch, Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: fernrosenstiel@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 5:05:56 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Rosenstiel	'Ohana o Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

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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
Josh Frost		Support	No

Comments: Submitting on behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

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Monday, January 27, 2014

Relating To Senate Bill 2736
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Green, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **strongly supports SB2736 Relating to Food Labeling**, which would establish labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in Hawaii that contains, or was produced with, genetically engineered material.

Currently, the United States is one of the few industrialized nations that doesn't require some form of genetically modified labeling for food products. The "Right to Know" is gaining wide support, not just in Hawaii, but nationwide, and polling consistently shows that an overwhelming majority people support labeling food products that contain genetically modified material.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii believes consumers nonetheless have a right to know what is in the food they purchase and consume and encourages this committee to support consumers right to know and move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Alan Johnson, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Subscribe to The World's #1 Natural Health Website† mercola.com Story at-a-glance There are NO peer-reviewed scientific papers establishing the safety of GMO crops. There are, however, both clinical and peer-reviewed scientific papers showing the hazards of GMO crops, including harmful secondary effects Epidemiological patterns show there's an identical rise in over 30 human diseases alongside our increased usage of glyphosate and the increased prevalence of genetically engineered proteins in our food Glyphosate is not "just" an herbicide. It was originally patented as a mineral chelator. It immobilizes nutrients, making them unavailable for your body. It's also patented as a potent antibiotic that can devastate human gut bacteria The EPA recently doubled the amount of glyphosate allowed in food. Soybean oil is now allowed to contain a whopping 400 times the limit at which it can impact your health Monsanto's Roundup Herbicide May Be Most Important Factor in Development of Autism and Other Chronic Disease 437,124 Views GMOs: Find Out What You Need to Know Toxicology Expert Speaks Out About Roundup and GMOs October 06, 2013 | 262,340 views Visit the Mercola Video Library By Dr. Mercola Dr. Don Huber is likely the leading GMO expert in the world. He is an award-winning, internationally recognized scientist, and professor of plant pathology at Purdue University for the past 35 years. His agriculture research is focused on the epidemiology and control of soil-borne plant pathogens, with specific emphasis on microbial ecology, cultural and biological controls, and the physiology of host-parasite relationships. His research over the past few decades has led him to become very outspoken against genetically modified organisms (GMO) and genetically engineered (GE) foods and the use of Roundup in agriculture in general. He's really one of the best scientists we have in the GMO movement for documenting the dangers of genetically engineered foods. "I appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit of my research and the research of many other scientists who are expressing concern; recognizing that we've missed the boat in much of this discussion and much of the process, because it's really a food and health safety issue that we're dealing with here," he says. Three Things You Need to Know About GMOs There's a lot of confusion about the basic validity of concerns about genetically engineered (GE) foods. Many have been deceived into thinking that there's really no difference between GE foods and conventional fare, and all these worries are just paranoid fear-mongering. According to Dr. Huber, the following three facts are some of the

most important that everyone needs to understand about GMOs: 1. Despite what the media and so-called “experts” proclaim, there are NO peer-reviewed scientific papers establishing the safety of GMO crops. According to Dr. Huber, so far, no one has been able to establish that there’s a safety factor to either the genetically engineered proteins (i.e. the foreign proteins produced by the genetically modified plant) or the chemicals we’re consuming in ever larger quantities as a result of the genetic engineering process. There are, however, both clinical and peer-reviewed scientific papers showing the hazards of GMO crops, including harmful secondary effects. “A group of us met with top USDA administrators. They assured us that they based all their decisions on peer-reviewed science. When we asked them if they would share any of that, they were unable to produce any,” he says. 2. Epidemiological patterns show there’s an identical rise in over 30 human diseases correlated with our increased usage of glyphosate and the increased prevalence of genetically engineered proteins in our food. 3. Genetically engineered foods, as well as conventional crops that are heavily sprayed with glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto’s herbicide Roundup), have lower nutrient density than organic foods. They also contain high amounts of pesticides with documented harmful health effects, along with novel, highly allergenic, proteins.

Little-Known Facts About Glyphosate You can’t really discuss genetic engineering without also addressing the chemicals these plants are engineered to tolerate. About 85 percent of all genetically engineered plants are herbicide-tolerant—designed to tolerate very high levels of herbicides, glyphosate in particular. These are the so-called Roundup Ready crops. It’s important to realize that glyphosate is not “just” an herbicide. As explained by Dr. Huber, it was first patented as a mineral chelator. It immobilizes nutrients, so they’re not physiologically available for your body. “You may have the mineral [in the plant], but if it’s chelated with glyphosate, it’s not going to be available physiologically for you to use, so you’re just eating a piece of gravel,” Dr. Huber says. Naturally, health effects are bound to occur if you’re consistently eating foods from which your body cannot extract critical nutrients and minerals. Mineral deficiencies can lead to developmental and mental health issues, for example. Glyphosate is also patented as an antibiotic—and a very effective one at that—against a large number of beneficial organisms. Unfortunately, like all antibiotics, it also kills vitally important beneficial soil bacteria and human gut bacteria. “Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, Enterococcus faecalis—these are organisms that keep you healthy either by providing accessibility to the minerals in your food or producing many of the vitamins that you need for life. They’re also the natural biological defenses to keep Clostridium, Salmonella, and E.coli from developing in your system,” Dr. Huber explains. “When you take the good bacteria out, then the bad bacteria fill that void, because there aren’t any voids in nature. We have all of these gut-related problems, whether it’s autism, leaky gut, C. difficile diarrhea, gluten intolerance, or any of the other problems. All of these diseases are an expression of disruption of that intestinal microflora that keeps you healthy.” Glyphosate was first patented as a chelator in 1964 by Stauffer Chemical Co. It was patented by Monsanto and introduced as an herbicide in 1974. And then in 1996, Roundup Ready crops hit the market. There’s been a steep increase in the usage of Roundup since then, because you can apply it multiple times without damaging your crop. Making matters worse, they’re now also using glyphosate as a ripening agent—even for non-GMO crops. It’s applied right before harvest time to ripen off the crop. “We have about a five-fold increase in

glyphosate usage on many of our GMO crops. With the Roundup Ready-resistant weeds, we see that rate going up exponentially,” he says. Did You Know? EPA Just Increased Allowable Limits of Glyphosate in Your Food Despite well-understood health risks, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is repeatedly approached by agricultural and biotech companies asking for increased limits of this pernicious toxin in your food. “The companies say we have to increase the amount of glyphosate that we can have in your food, so we can have a ‘safe’ product – not based on science but based on how much chemical is actually in our food!” Dr. Huber says. On May 1, the EPA went ahead and doubled the amount of glyphosate allowed in food... Soybean oil may now contain as much as 40 parts per million (ppm) of glyphosate. Meanwhile, research by Dr. Monika Krueger at Leipzig University shows that a tenth of a part per million is all that it takes to kill your *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, and *Enterococcus faecalis*! So soybean oil is now allowed to contain a whopping 400 times the known limit at which it can impact your health. Can GMOs Coexist with Conventional Crops? On September 20, agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register asking for public comments on how agricultural coexistence in the US might be strengthened. At the time of this writing, the USDA has not yet published that notice, but you can search the Federal Register for the latest notices here.¹ According to the media release:² “The Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture recommended that USDA support agricultural coexistence by strengthening education and outreach on this vital issue... In response, with this notice, we are asking all those with a vested interest in coexistence to help us learn more about what coexistence means to them, how they are already contributing to it, and what more is needed to achieve coexistence. With this input, we can continue the dialogue begun by the AC21 group³ and find practical solutions that will help all sectors of American agriculture be successful. ... Coexistence is defined as the concurrent cultivation of crops produced through diverse agricultural systems including traditionally produced, organic, identity preserved, and genetically engineered crops. USDA supports all forms of agriculture and wants each sector to be as successful as possible providing products to markets in the United States and abroad.” Vilsack wants comments... How about we start with the suggestion that “Biotech Government of the Year shouldn’t be running the show.” He says the USDA supports ALL agriculture, yet the USDA primarily subsidizes junk food crops—corn and soy—and cave in to the multi-million dollar lobbying of the biotech industry. Meanwhile, the USDA has all but wiped out raw milk, heritage hogs, and most small farmers. So, really, the only agriculture the USDA support is the chemical variety. When asked whether he believes that it’s ever appropriate or possible for GMOs to coexist with conventional and organic crops, Dr. Huber replies: “We know how to get these genes in; we don’t know how to remove them,” he says. “I don’t see any opportunity for coexistence with the current technology that we have because of that promiscuous nature of the genes. If you have a gene that is spread by pollen, like Roundup Ready alfalfa, it’s just a matter of time before bees or the wind is going to transfer that particular pollen to every alfalfa crop that you’re going to grow. There’s a very high probability that you’re going to see that genetic component in it.” The StarLink Case—Proof Positive GMOs Can’t ‘Coexist’ with Natural Plants According to Dr. Huber, our knowledge of what we’re doing in the genetic engineering process is extremely limited. Contrary to popular belief, we’re still only in

the initial stages of understanding what we're doing in that whole process: "We do know that it's more like a virus infection than it is a breeding program. In other words, you're throwing genes in, but you're not moving all of the regulatory and control mechanisms with those genes so that they're only going to function at a time when the plant needs it or under conditions when it needs it. It's a flawed science to think that you have one gene or one little group of genes and it's going to do this particular function and not the other things." Clearly, that's not the general perception. Most people are still under the illusion that genetic engineering is a very precise approach. That's certainly what the industry wants you to believe. But as Dr. Huber points out, we learned some very important facts from sequencing of the human genome: There aren't nearly enough genes to do all of the things we know are done within the human body. This is related to the profoundly important relationships that epigenetics controls. We found out that a gene actually functions in relation to the environment and its relationship to other genes or other genetic components in that code. When you disrupt those relationships and the integrity of the genetic code, you end up with mutations and epigenetic effects that we've yet to explore. "We know they occur because for every one of those successful expressions that you get from genetic engineering, you have over a million other things that take place that are negative," he says. "We also have potentially negative [effects] with the one that succeeded in expressing a particular protein that you want for genetic engineering. But nobody even looks for all of those other epigenetic effects that occur. One of the things that we do know, since we don't have the regulatory genes that would normally be part of those components from a regular breeding program, is that the genes that are being inserted are extremely promiscuous. They're not stable. They may stay in and be transferred through a regular breeding program after they're introduced. But we know that they can be transferred to soil microorganisms when the stubble or the grain is digested and decomposed in the soil—or in your gut." In the latter case, your gut flora can then pick up those same genes, and can start producing those foreign proteins, which are extremely allergenic. A perfect example of this was the StarLink corn, which produced a protein that turned out to be very toxic to humans. StarLink was grown 10 years ago for a pharmaceutical process. It was pulled off the market when they realized it had escaped from its confines and had the ability to contaminate corn destined for food production. We know that GE crops decimate agricultural variety—countless varieties have been wiped out in order to foster a few monocultures. Now, if GMOs are removed, will there really be less food variety? This ridiculous concept was recently brought forth by Scientific American.⁴ The erroneous and illogical claims made in the editorial mirrors claims made by Monsanto—such as the idea that GMO labels could destroy the market for genetically engineered foods in a country where 70 percent of processed foods already contain them. This, they want you to believe, would result in "less variety and higher costs." Look, we're primarily talking about ingredients like corn syrup and soy! And food companies do not appear to have any major problems supplying Europe, where GMOs have to be labeled, with products that do not contain genetically engineered corn and soy. It's funny how times have changed at Scientific American, as they now tow the biotech line like a well greased PR firm. It wasn't all that long ago that they had the right idea, questioning the logic and safety of restricting GE crop research to the seed companies that make them.⁵ Could YOU Be Altering Your OWN Genes When You Eat GMOs? As discussed by Dr. Huber, research clearly shows that the novel

proteins created in genetically engineered plants are highly allergenic, with the capability to promote diseases like cancer and liver or kidney failure. But Dr. Huber points out that there are other factors involved as well, which have some scientists concerned about the spread of those genes into the human gut... Not only do GMOs alter your intestinal microflora, but research shows that human cells are also able to transfer those novel genes, thereby affecting the human genome. "Especially with generation two genetic engineering, called gene silencing—that section of the nucleic acid can actually be picked up or attached to your own genes, and then start shutting down your own physiology in that process... It's well-documented in the scientific literature." Indeed, last year, University of Canterbury Professor Jack Heinemann released results from genetic research he conducted on this type of GE wheat, which showed without "any doubt" that molecules created in the wheat, which are intended to silence wheat genes to change its carbohydrate content, may match human genes and potentially silence them. If that's not a concern, I don't know what is! University Professor Judy Carman agreed with Heinemann's analysis, stating in Digital Journal:6 "If this silences the same gene in us that it silences in the wheat -- well, children who are born with this enzyme not working tend to die by the age of about five." Heinemann reported that his research revealed over 770 pages of potential matches between two GM genes in the wheat and the human genome. Over a dozen matches were "extensive and identical and sufficient to cause silencing in experimental systems," he said. Experts warned that eating the wheat could lead to significant changes in the way glucose and carbohydrates are stored in the human body, which could be potentially deadly for children and lead to serious illness in adults.

Glyphosate—Another Culprit in Bee Die-Offs? Glyphosate may also play a role in bee colony collapse disorder. As stated by Dr. Huber, there are three established characteristics of colony collapse disorder that suggests glyphosate may be (at least in part) responsible:

1. The bees are mineral-deficient, especially in micronutrients
2. There's plenty of food present but they're not able to utilize it or to digest it
3. Dead bees are devoid of the Lactobacillus and the Bifidobacterium, which are components of their digestive system

The bees also become disoriented, suggesting endocrine hormone disruption. Neonicotinoid insecticides, which are endocrine hormone disruptors, have been demonstrated to make a bee disoriented and unable to find its way back to the hive. Glyphosate is also a very strong endocrine hormone disruptor. Dr. Huber cites a study on glyphosate in drinking water at levels that are commonly found in US water systems, showing a 30 percent mortality in bees exposed to it. And that's just from common levels of glyphosate in drinking water... Glyphosate Is a Cumulative Chronic Toxin Americans are in a tough spot right now, as there's no telling which foods might contain genetically engineered ingredients tainted with high amounts of Roundup. Labeling would at least tell you that much, and give you the freedom to choose another product. "A consumer needs to be very concerned. They need to be active in the labeling aspects," Dr. Huber says. "They also need to be active in the requirement for safety studies. These haven't been done. When the EPA employed the term 'substantially equivalent,' it gave the chemical companies essentially a waiver on doing any of the safety tests. The only thing that they've ever tested for is acute toxicity. Well, we know that glyphosate, for instance, isn't an acute toxin. It's a serious chronic toxin. That's been well-established in peer-reviewed scientific articles. We have more of those coming along all the time. There is no question that it's a chronic toxin." According to Dr.

Huber, glyphosate at a mere 0.5 ppm is toxic to your endocrine hormone system, which includes your pituitary, thyroid, and reproductive hormones. Ten ppm is cytotoxic to kidney cells; one ppm is toxic to your liver, and 0.1-10 ppm are toxic to a whole series of human cellular functions or cells directly. Dr. Huber has even likened glyphosate to DDT in terms of toxicity. Consider that, and then consider that we are currently using some 880 million pounds—that's nearly ONE BILLION pounds—of glyphosate annually on crops grown worldwide. As Dr. Seneff and Samsel reveal in a recent study conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, glyphosate is probably the most harmful chronic toxin we've ever encountered, both in our environment and on our dinner plates. Their findings show that two of the key problems caused by glyphosate in the diet are nutritional deficiencies, and systemic toxicity. "It's just that you don't get killed or die today from it; you have to suffer through the process of gluten intolerance, leaky gut, Crohn's, Alzheimer's, autism, or any of those diseases that are related to the health of your gut, which we're seeing now on an epidemic scale in our society," he says. Why Is the USDA Ignoring This Health Threat? Two years ago, in 2011, Dr. Huber wrote a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, informing him of many of the safety concerns surrounding genetically engineered crops, along with yet another groundbreaking finding that could spell absolute disaster for your entire food supply. He warned Vilsack about the emergence of a brand new electron microscope-sized organism associated with something called Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) in soy. It's also found in a large variety of livestock given GE feed who experience both spontaneous abortions and infertility. This includes cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Might it affect humans in the same way? Dr. Huber urged the USDA to investigate the matter and suspend approval of GE alfalfa until proper studies have been completed. "We know that all herbicides are chelators, mineral chelators. That's how they compromise the plant's physiology: they tie up a particular nutrient and shut down a physiologic pathway," he says. "This wasn't new from that standpoint. But the thing that was different [with glyphosate] was its biocidal effect. It's not only a chelator, but it's also a strong antibiotic to beneficial microorganisms. How do you compensate for that? How do you restore biological activities? Much of my research, which was focused on glyphosate, was focused on the biology and restoration of those mineral nutrients. I served on the National Plant Disease Recovery Program. I was chairman at that time and also for the USDA. I've also served for 40 years on our various threat pathogens committees and recognized what the potential problems were with Roundup Ready alfalfa." The American Stock Growers' Association also testified before Congress, saying that infertility was threatening the animal industry. Dr. Huber saw how all of these issues were connected—via genetically engineered crops and the application of glyphosate. He felt an obligation to alert the USDA secretary and to ask for his help in getting the research done before further jeopardizing not only our fourth most important crop, but also our entire animal production because of the prevalence of this new abortogenic entity, found in high concentrations in GE or high-glyphosate intense growth conditions. His warnings were ignored, and GE alfalfa was deregulated that same year. Why is the USDA ignoring warnings from a scientist with 50 years of experience with plant pathology, soil-borne diseases, microbial ecology, and host-parasite relationships? "A group of us met with the top administrators. I've never met with the secretary personally. But we did have the privilege of meeting and sharing our concerns and 130 or so peer-reviewed scientific articles that support our

position with top administrators in USDA and some of the other agencies. They assured us that if we could do the work, they would be willing to look at it. Well, they haven't looked at any of the other peer-reviewed science... And the USDA scientists, who have a tremendous amount of knowledge on the impact of glyphosate, have all been muzzled. They're not permitted to say anything about it. I got a phone call from one a few weeks ago. He said, 'I'll be retiring fairly soon. I plan on moving off and sharing that stage with you because I have a lot that I want to say. I just can't say it right now.'" GMOs Are Not the Solution to Feed a Burgeoning Population There is simply no question and there is irrefutable evidence that genetic engineering is not the solution to feed a growing world population. Rather, it actually increases disease susceptibility of plants by impairing their immune response. It also reduces, not increases, yield potential. There's never been a genetically engineered plant that increases the intrinsic yield of a plant. Improved plant yield is accomplished through traditional breeding programs that promote improved gene expression. "We're only expressing 25 or 30 percent of the genetic potential for yield in any of our crops now," Dr. Huber says. "There's tremendous potential there. It's a matter of using that traditional breeding as we've done for many years and getting better expression – not throwing in additional genes to act like a virus and disrupt the integrity of the whole process that's required for yield and quality. We can increase all of the nutrient density with traditional breeding. In fact, the Brazilians are doing that. They've just released new varieties of soybean with higher vitamin A, and corn with higher vitamin A and vitamin C. We can do all of that with traditional breeding. We've been doing it for years. You don't need to disrupt the genetic integrity and introduce all the collateral damage with its long-term effects." I can personally attest to this fact as well. High-performance agriculture is one of my new passions, so much so it's turning into something of a second career—to learn and understand how to optimize plant growth and the environment. I've been applying what I've learned in my own garden for a few months now, and I've been able to personally witness the maximization of genetic potential that is possible. For example, by using compost tea and mineral amendments, the leaves on some plants, like my lime trees and oleanders, are literally 300 to 400 percent bigger than the typical leaf of these plants. It's truly extraordinary! You wouldn't even imagine that plants could grow that big. Part of the problem is that we've gotten used to less than mediocrity, when it comes to plant performance. According to John Kempf,⁷ an Amish farmer and one of the leaders in the field of high-performance agriculture, farmers and food producers routinely harvest only about 10 to 15 percent of the inherent genetic capacity of any given crop. In a nutshell, the foundation of health – whether we're talking about plants, soils, animals, or people – it really boils down to two things: 1. Having adequate mineral nutrition, and 2. Having that nutrition, in the case of plants, be supplied by an active soil microbial community, or having a strong soil biology. Genetically engineered crops decimate both. How could it possibly be the answer to rising food demands? Vote with Your Pocketbook, Every Day The food companies on the left of this graphic spent tens of millions of dollars in the last two labeling campaigns—in California and Washington State - to prevent you from knowing what's in your food. You can even the score by switching to the brands on the right; all of whom stood behind the I-522 Right to Know campaign. Voting with your pocketbook, at every meal, I encourage you to continue educating yourself about genetically engineered foods, and to share what you've learned with family and

friends. Remember, unless a food is certified organic, you can assume it contains GMO ingredients if it contains sugar from sugar beets, soy, or corn, or any of their derivatives. If you buy processed food, opt for products bearing the USDA 100% Organic label, as certified organics do not permit GMO's. You can also print out and use the Non-GMO Shopping Guide, created by the Institute for Responsible Technology. Share it with your friends and family, and post it to your social networks. Alternatively, download their free iPhone application, available in the iTunes store. You can find it by searching for ShopNoGMO in the applications. For more in-depth information, I highly recommend reading the following two books, authored by Jeffrey Smith, the executive director of the Institute for Responsible Technology: •Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies about the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating •Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods. For timely updates, join the Non-GMO Project on Facebook, or follow them on Twitter. Please, do your homework. Together, we have the power to stop the biotech industry from destroying our food supply, the future of our children, and the earth as a whole. All we need is about five percent of American shoppers to simply stop buying genetically engineered foods, and the food industry would have to reconsider their source of ingredients—regardless of whether the products bear an actual GMO label or not.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Comments:

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GMO Labeling Bill SB2736, Hearing: 27th Legislature, Jan 27, 2014

Aloha, Hawaii Legislatures,

I support labeling of all GMO "food" products sold to the public for their consumption, for all the obvious reasons connected to preservation of good human health and prevention of GMO-related illness and eventual loss of life.

Labeling of any food as a practice in the U.S. was first established to keep food producing companies practices and methods transparent and to help public consumers and public consumer agencies hold all food-related companies accountable. This was the "gold standard" we set for the rest of the world to follow. It is what set our country up as leaders in the food industry, and protectors of transparency when it comes to anything potentially impacting public health. Labeling was first established to allow consumers to "vote" through purchases on whether the food is agreeable to their dietary requirements, and to avoid setting off allergic reactions.

We, as a country, are now trailing the rest of the world when it comes to protecting the public from the effects of GMO substances falsely being presented as being no different from natural non-GMO foods. The rest of the world knows the difference, and so do we. We must align our actions with what we know, not succumb to having our votes bought off by any corporation's ambition, and in so doing reinstate ourselves as world leaders in all things affecting human safety and welfare.

For instance, in the past if any food company ever added or eliminated any substance or made their foods in environments that pose risk to peanut allergy consumers they were required to reflect it in the label, as a cost of doing business. GMO related substances should be no different.

Also, labeling has always allowed public to indicate preference of any food or food company to exist and/or approval of the agricultural growing practices used by those companies that either preserve or undermine human, animal and environmental health and public liberties.

Making conscious buying choices and holding accountable those companies who sell to the public has been a proud part of living in a democracy and being an American. We have a right to know what is in our food and what affect our buying choices are having on our environment and all life forms now and ongoing.

We also have a right to monitor whether our public health agencies and policy makers are looking out for the health of the public; that they are doing their job as promised when voted in by the consumer and not succumbing to personal conflicts of public interest. It is our right to know all of these things, and to have the opportunity to make conscious buying choices to act on what we know is an essential part of the accountability process.

In summary, anything short of labeling would be an undemocratic fraudulent abuse of public trust, at best. We are counting on you, our elected leaders, to protect us as Hawaii residents and citizens of a country whose liberties we fought to protect and uphold as a gold standard for all human beings in their right to life.

Mahalo,
Aliitasi Ponder

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Rinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Everyone of my neighbors, friends, and coworkers in North Kohala, Hawaii are in support of GMO labeling and the right to know what we are feeding ourselves and our keiki. We are in support of an "all natural" Hawaii, and support the removal of glyphosphates from pesticides, and the end to GMO crops and Biotech bullies in Hawaii.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Seber	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB2736. Many people, including myself, desire not to eat GMO foods for various reasons including possible health risks and certain environmental effects as well as damage to nearby organic crops. I have been avoiding all non-organic foods in an effort to avoid GMOs. Labeling would allow me to eat more conventionally grown foods and is a benefit to the business of companies that distribute them. Those that are not concerned with GMOs will continue eating GMO foods. No one is going to be concerned with it on the label if they are not concerned with it already. At worst, it will do no damage to the business of food companies and at best it will improve their sales if their products do not contain GMOs. It is good and right to insist on GMO food labeling for the health-conscious decisions of consumers. Other nutritional labeling is important and so is the labeling of GMO foods.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 4:25:38 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
Andrew Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Is there any scientific proof that genetically modified produce actually are harmful to the consumer? Why must the state senate focus on something that will have a negative impact on small scale farmers? I thought we were trying to encourage home grown produce and yet you put additional burdens on the farmers. I fear that the only produce that we'll be eating in the near future will be from the mainland; those will be genetically modified. Those products may be limited due to drought and freezes as being experienced today. I wonder if there are any produce being sold in our markets that are not in some way genetically modified.

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File attachment: AcroRd32.exe
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ann.c.russell@gmail.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 5:33:59 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Russell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please see the peer reviewed article for the long term negative health effects of Monsanto's GM corn: de Vendômois JS, Roullier F, Cellier D, Séralini GE. A Comparison of the Effects of Three GM Corn Varieties on Mammalian Health. Int J Biol Sci 2009; 5(7):706-726. doi:10.7150/ijbs.5.706. Available from <http://www.ijbs.com/v05p0706.htm> Please see the lists of articles about the health effects of glyphosate (Roundup) which is sprayed on GMO corn: <http://responsibletechnology.org/gmo-dangers/health-risks/reference-health-effects-of-glyphosate> Knowing that Bt-toxin producing GMO corn is injurious to mammal health, it's important to note that it's pollen travels hundreds of feet, cross pollinating with nonGMO food: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/agf-fact/0153.html> I live in Ohio and I farm. When I feed my chicken GMO corn, they develop respiratory problems within weeks. Bt toxin producing GMO corn (meaning corn which continues to produce insecticide for the corn rootworm IN THE GI TRACT OF THE ANIMAL) which is a large percentage (>80%) of corn grown in the contiguous 48 states is damaging to animal health. I don't know why it is fed to people. I don't eat it, plant it, or feed it to my animals for the reasons I have outlined above. I am merely passing along my experience with GMO corn so that you may make a more informed decision. Thank you, Ann

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: apollo@core-light.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:48:20 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Apollo Grace	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's really important to me to know what I'm eating. I'm not completely averse to GMO, but I want to be able to make the choice, and be able to see how GMO and non-GMO feels different in my body.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: aniko2@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:03:08 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
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is about time the legislature looks to approve GMO labelling, no matter how much money the GMO food industry throws against you. For our safety, please pass this measure - it is a start in the right direction.

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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: Monday, January 27, 2014 1:25:45 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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	Support	No

Comments: I submitted my testimony yesterday and mistakenly marked oppose. I support GMO labeling. Thank you, Barbara Barry

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: livingfoodshawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:29:22 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
Benjamin Cohn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: bguerr4@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:27:47 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Guerrero	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support this bill. We deserve the right to know how food was produced so that we have choices about what goes in our bodies.

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From: [Bob Stout](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:50:22 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee;

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bob Stout
986 Kailiu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Charles Iona](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB 2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:03:11 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this brief testimony opposing SB 2736. At age 54, I never thought a day would come that all foods have to be labeled. To me this is utter nonsense. The Federal Government has an oversight right now that insures the safety of every man, woman, and child but it is we the consumer who at times, despite the warning labels, still engage in practices that is detrimental to our health. What labeling will do is drive up the cost for that particular product because I'm sure the producer already has to pay a a large sum just to produce the product let alone add another feature to its costing pro forma. The bill also gives exemptions. What sense is that because the very ones asking for disclosure, I would think visits restaurants and eat out so how are they assured what they are eating is just that? To me this legislation, if passed, goes totally against the recent proposal for the "right to farm" bill. SB 2736 may seem simple but in the long run complexities will arise for sure.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Charles Iona from the island of Kauai, born and raised on Oahu.

Mahalo,

Charles Iona
(808) 478-5042

"Have a wonderful day"
This email was generated
by my iPad

From: [Chester Lee](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:30:37 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

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

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Chester Lee
94-1054 PALAIKI ST
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: chetanaa@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:51:16 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
Chetanaa Petra Zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am strongly for labeling any genetically modified food, so that the consumer has a choice. Personally I like to avoid genetically modified foods and labeling will make that a lot easier for me and the many people who feel like me. Mahalo!

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Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:20:32 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
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello legislators, Why are GE foods different enough to need a patent...but not different enough to need a label? Gee whiz, you'd think manufacturers would be just dying to label them!

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Cc: tamboracai@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:36:14 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	wright	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: dspitzrealtor@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:21:01 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
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Danny Kim](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:44:31 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

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

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Danny Kim
1080 S Beretania St Apt 1003
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Diana Dericks](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#); [Diana Dericks](#); [doc-roswitha.shanahan](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2577
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:49:10 AM

HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Diana Dericks

January 26, 2014

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair, the Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, and other Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Health

RE: PLEASE OPPOSE SB2577 Relating to Naturopathic Physicians (Hearing scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:30 pm in Conference Room 229)

Dear Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to oppose SB2577 relating to naturopathic physicians. This bill would be detrimental to Hawaii's health care consumers because it would unreasonably restrict naturopathic physicians from practicing according to their high standards of education, training, competency, and safety.

Naturopathic physicians were granted prescriptive authority by the legislature in 2009, and the Board of Naturopathic Medicine establishes rules regarding injectable medications, minor surgery, standards of practice and care, and a code of ethics. Naturopathic physicians are required to meet additional appropriate qualifications to perform injection therapies and minor surgery, and to prescribe pharmaceutical products. I know from experience that my naturopathic doctor prescribes procedures and medications that are safe, is extremely well educated, and follows the highest standards of care and ethics.

With all due respect, it would be both unreasonable and redundant to require that naturopathic physicians have licensure as MDs or osteopaths to qualify for prescription privileges. The training of naturopathic physicians is already so extensive as to more than qualify them in this regard. Naturopathic medicine is a unique form of health care with its own rigorous educational, examination, and training requirements, comparable in many ways to the requirements of other types of physicians such as MDs and osteopaths. Naturopathic physicians receive ample training at nationally accredited naturopathic medical schools, including the same basic sciences taught in conventional medical schools, such as standard methods of physical, clinical, and laboratory diagnosis. They are trained in therapies given by injection, and highly qualified to safely prescribe medications. SB2577 would hinder their ability to practice according to their training, and according to standards that have long been upheld in other states.

The people of Hawaii have repeatedly demanded access to quality naturopathic care because our naturopathic physicians are an invaluable part of our healthcare system. As the general practitioners and primary care physicians who are most highly trained in preventive medicine,

they are uniquely qualified to collaborate with other health care professionals in providing truly complimentary care. By unreasonably restricting naturopathic physicians from practicing according to their training, SB2577 would have many negative consequences on the overall quality of health care in Hawaii. It would drastically reduce our naturopathic physicians' capacity to effectively serve the public, and limit Hawaii's ability to attract top-quality naturopathic physicians. Please allow our naturopathic physicians to practice as trained, and allow me to continue receiving high quality naturopathic care.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing of your opposition to SB2577.

Sincerely, Diana Dericks

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: djp@kona.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:44:27 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: amstokes@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:09:06 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Ashley M. Stokes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 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 Ashley M. Stokes and I am the CTAHR Extension Veterinarian and member of the Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers Alliance. I'm representing myself with this testimony. I Strongly Oppose 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 do not try to endorse one over the other. I don't see that the advancement of one, should be at the risk or detriment of the other. I believe it is detrimental for all, if one attempts to market their product by saying or implying the other is bad for consumers. I 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"? 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 have 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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From: [Hillis, Eric](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to 2736
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 6:48:05 PM

I strongly oppose the bill requiring labeling for all GMO products in Hawaii. There are no scientifically based reasons to assume that GMO food or products are any safer or more nutritious than non GMO. It will also increase food prices in a state that already has the highest in the nation along with Alaska. Please spend your efforts and time on areas that really need our attention here in Hawaii such as teenage pregnancy and drug use (specifically methamphetamine). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thanks,
Eric Hillis
Sent from my iPhone

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Cc: catgirlhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:42:01 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gail Howell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: GMO need to end in Hawaii- its already a big problem and more problems down the road if we do not fix this now

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: egroves11-politics@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:41:59 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
Gene Groves	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I feel we all have the right to know what's in the food we buy, especially if it's of questionable value or effect. Please support us in this consumer right of informed choice.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: shaw.geoff5@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:04:30 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
Geoffrey Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Glenn Sakuda](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:44:32 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

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

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Glenn Sakuda
115 Mokauea St
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: juggler@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:18:08 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
Graham Ellis		Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance with over 650 members state wide supports this Bill. Labeling GM products has worked in Europe for decades and gives consumers the chance to make informed decisions. It is our right to know what we are eating.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: hartson.doak@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 4:08:53 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
Hartson Doak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:13:50 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
	Individual	Support	No

Comments: just label gmos! mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: koanet@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:56:04 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: If GMO products are so great why not label them so that consumers can find them? Louis Vitton and Apple label their products. So what is the difference? The difference is that we don't want to consume GMO products, so they have to be forced or foisted on consumers. Label them.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:53:24 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If GMOs are safe, why not label? Consumers need to know. Citizens deserve to. mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jasonmoniz73@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM [UNSCANNED]
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:06:14 PM
Attachments: [Replace.txt](#)

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
Jason Moniz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:21:43 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
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need GMO labeling because biotech companies are introducing new bacteria, new genetic material, and new proteins that have never been in these foods before. For example, in the case of allergic reactions, affected individuals could no longer simply avoid foods they know they are allergic to, as GM crop breeding could allow a toxic, allergenic or sensitising protein to be inserted in any food, with no warning labels. Consumers should be informed about the true risks of GMOs through accurate product labeling. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jeffdelaney@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:27:44 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
Jeffrey Delaney	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support labeling of GMO products

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ja@malu-aina.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 3:55:17 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
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	No

Comments: As president of Malu 'Aina, I have been farming in Kurtistown on the Big island for 34 years. Our organization supports labeling GMO products as long overdue. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: namaka@interpac.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:29:27 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:52:30 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
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: People have the right and responsibility to know what they are eating.
www.WeAreOne.cc

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From: [WHITWORTH, JOSEPH J \[AG/2349\]](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Don't Label
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:43:57 AM

This labeling issue should be based on science. I as a consumer do not want false or misleading information on food labels, which is the intention of the pro-label people. If we label it should be consistent for all states, at one time, based on real science and facts.

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
404 WARD AVE.
HONOLULU, HAWAII
Email - ecodemhi@gmail.com
Website – greencaucus.weebly.com

January 26, 2014

Re: Testimony for SB2736 relating to Food labeling

Aloha Senate Chair Josh Green, vice chair and committee members of the Health committee and Senate chair Rosalyn Baker, vice chair and committee members of Commerce and Consumer Protection committee

My name is Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto, subcommittee chair of Food and Farm Sustainability for the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

The Environmental caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2736 relating to Food Labeling.

The Environmental caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii has advocated for the labeling of all food and raw agricultural products that contain genetically modified materials since 2012 when our party voted in support of GMO labeling at our State convention. The “Right to Know” has been the driving force during our campaign to help with food awareness and consumer protection.

Pharmaceutical drugs carry similar GMO ingredients and place a label on the product to indicate the potential side effects caused by this product.

Organic and natural farms share their knowledge of crop and seed production with the entire community and therefore better food products can be trusted. Everyone is included in the process.

The world today has shown us all how important an issue it is to be able to choose what kinds of foods we consume. Depriving citizens the “Right to Know” by opposing GMO labeling is similar to withholding information that could be detrimental to our very lives. Genetically modified materials contain poisonous pesticides as a part of its genetic makeup, it is designed to reduce the need for additional herbicides. The quantities of this poison has various reactions and side affects that could cause harmful or deadly results to sensitive people. Just as other potentially hazardous allergens such as nuts or seafood must be labeled so should foods and raw products that carry GM materials.

The State of Hawaii has a absolute responsibility to protect the health and well being of their citizens and to do any less would be inexcusable.

We would greatly appreciate this committee's efforts, voted in trust by the people of Hawaii as our elected officials, to pass this bill

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto
Subcommittee Chair of Food and Farm Sustainability
Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: judie@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:11:04 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
Judie Hoepfner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support GMO labeling

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Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
SB 2736 – Relating to Agriculture and Food Labeling

January 27, 2014

Dear Committee Chair Green and Committee Members:

I am writing as representing the interests of our HAWAI'I -grown papaya industry and I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill SB2736, as it creates a perception to the consumer public that our product is not safe. Our HAWAI'I-grown papaya is recognized worldwide to be the best tasting papaya.

Our papaya industry is re-building from near-devastation of the papaya ringspot virus, although we are not virus-free as the threat of the virus is on-going for every farmer of papaya. Through technology, namely bio-technology ,the Industry has been given a second chance . But, of late it has not been an easy road.

We would wish that consumers could learn about biotechnology and understand what it means to them while considering the effect to the farmer and his livelihood. Unfortunately, this SB7236 and other anti-GMO legislation hurts everyone. Labeling initiatives as SB7236 sadly do not inform the consumer; instead it most likely places confusion in their minds. These proposals possibly scare consumers with their shopping choices i.e. organic vs. traditional/non-GMO which results in dividing agriculture.

This state-level proposal to mandate biotech labeling hurts consumers, small businesses and famers!

- Mandatory labeling of foods produced using biotechnology would un-necessarily result in higher food costs for consumers, especially those least able to afford it.
- The State-borne costs to enforce mandatory labeling provisions may be in the millions of \$\$\$.
- As California's Proposition 37 estimated annual food costs for an average income family would increase by approximately \$400.00, how could Hawai'i's residents afford this when our cost-of-living is already high?

The U.S.Federal Policy on Food Labeling states it must be "truthful and not misleading":

- Foods containing biotech ingredients are compositionally the same as conventionally produced foods; distinguishing with a special label would mislead consumers by falsely implying they are different.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has consistently held that:

There is no significant difference between foods produced using bio-engineering as a class and their conventional counterparts".

The American Medical Association stated in June 2012:

“There is no scientific justification for special labeling of bioengineered foods, as a class, and that voluntary labeling is without value unless it is accompanied by focused consumer education.”

The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences stated in October 2012:

“The FDA does not require labeling of a food based on the specific genetic modification procedure used in the development of its input crops. Legally mandating such a label can only serve to mislead and falsely alarm consumers.”

Consumers do have a choice in the marketplace:

- Consumers who prefer to purchase food products that don't contain any biotechnology-derived ingredients, can choose foods labeled “certified organic” or “non GMO”.
- The Industry supports the Voluntary labeling of food products, as long as those labels don't infer any difference in healthfulness or safety.

Committee members, please do not add additional burdens to our Industry either by cost or tainting the consumer perception that our product is somehow unsafe. Papayas are safe and we **Proudly** grow both GMO and non GMO papayas for Hawai'i and the world. We sincerely ask your cooperation and kill this Bill.

Sincerely,

Karen K. Umehara
Office Manager
The Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: kativasti@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 1:01:25 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Lahey	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support GMO labeling 100%! We need to keep moving forward on the GMO issue. The signing of bill 113 was monumental, and getting GMOs labeled will be a very progressive stance to take and will make Hawaii a leader on the issue of food security. It is high time we get our food labeled properly so that people can make educated, informed decisions about the food they buy and consume. Mahalo for debating this very important topic.

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Cc: baylyk001@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:20:07 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
katy bayly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Karen Umehara](mailto:karen.umehara@gmail.com)
To: ken.ogawa@cpsagu.com
Cc: [HTHTestimony](mailto:HTHTestimony@gmail.com); Lorie.Farrell@gmail.com; toikoma@hotmail.com; miyasaka@hawaii.edu;
Richard@hamakuasprings.com; eric@greenpointnursery.com; alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY STRONGLY OPPOSING SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 5:05:34 PM

Kenn, great emotionally-spirited writing!
an' we all say,
"AMEN"
~karen

on Jan 27, 2014, **Ogawa, Ken** <ken.ogawa@cpsagu.com> wrote:

ALOHA,

I AM A SUPPORTER OF ALL THE LEGITIMATE, HARDWORKING FARMERS IN HAWAII THAT ARE RELYING ON TECNOLOGY TO HELP THEM TO PRODUCE A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE CROP WHICH ENABLES THEM TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

AGAIN, GMO FOODS ARE BEING ATTACKED AND SINGLE OUT BY GIVING THE "PERCEPTION" THAT THEY ARE UNSAFE TO CONSUME, ALL THE WHILE BEING AS SAFE, IF NOT SAFER TO EAT THAN CONVENTIONALLY AND ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS!!

GM FOODS HAVE BEEN STUDIED OVER 25 YEARS BY MORE THAN 500 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GROUPS AND CONCLUDE THAT THEY ARE NO MORE RISKY THAN CONVENTIONAL PLANT BREEDING TECHNOLOGIES.

THIS IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISION AND SECONDED BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSN WHO ALSO ADDS THAT "THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR SPECIAL LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS.";

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SAYS "ALL CRITICISMS AGAINST GMO'S CAN BE LARGELY REJECTED ON STRICTLY SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA.";

AND BY THE UNION OF GERMAN ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES & HUMANITIES, SAYS THE RISK FROM GM FOODS " IS IN NO WAY HIGHER THAN IN THE CONSUMPTION OF FOOD FROM CONVENTIONALLY GROWN PLANTS...IN SOME CASES, FOOD FROM GM PLANTS APPEARS TO BE SUPERIOR IN

RESPECT TO HEALTH-e.g. GOLDEN RICE W/ VITAMIN A...”;

BESIDES THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT WOULD BE TACKED ON TARGETED TOWARD THE CONSUMERS FOR THIS UNNECESSARY LABELING, WHY IS IT THAT ONLY THE FARMERS ARE AGAIN BEING “SINGLED OUT” BY FORCING THEM TO LABEL THEIR PRODUCE?

IF YOU’RE GOING THIS FAR, WHY NOT “FORCE” ALL THE RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, STORES AND ALL THE PEOPLE SERVING GMO FOOD TO PUT UP SIGNS AT THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS TO LET THE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY’RE EATING??

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT GMO FOODS HAVE BEEN OUT THERE FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS...IF PEOPLE WANT TO BUY “NON-GMO” FOODS, PLEASE DON’T PUT THE BURDEN ON THE REST OF US (CUSTOMERS OF HEALTHY GMO FOODS AND FARMERS) BY “**FORCING**” HIGHER FOOD COSTS...;

WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH RULES TO FOLLOW...WHY MAKE MORE THAT HAVE NO REASON TO BE MADE??

THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION TO TAKE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE NOT EATING GMO FOODS WITHOUT HAVING TO IMPOSE ANYTHING ELSE ON THE FARMERS IS TO “BUY ORGANIC”!!!!

THERE IS ALREADY A CHOICE OUT THERE, SO PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON ALL OF US, AS WELL AS THE FARMERS, BY HAVING TO SPEND MORE MONEY FOR FOOD!

WE ALREADY PAY A “PREMIUM” FOR OUR FOOD IN HAWAII-IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THIS BILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE OF GMO TECHNOLOGY AND REALLY BELIEVE ALL THE **MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION THAT WELL FUNDED SPECIAL INTEREST “ANTI-TECHNOLOGY” GROUPS HAVE BEEN SPREADING.**

THE TECHNOLOGY IS VERY SPECIFIC IN WHICH GENE IS MODIFIED AND

THE OUTCOME IS PREDICTABLE, UNLIKE ANOTHER WELL USED, LESS (IF ANY) REGULATED SOURCE OF “MUTATIVE MODIFICATION”, OF WHICH THE MODIFICATION IS DONE BY “IRRADIATION”, WHICH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GENES ARE AFFECTED AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT COULD HAPPEN DOWN THE ROAD?

BOTTOM LINE IS THAT IT IS **NOT RIGHT** TO “PUNISH” AND “SINGLE OUT” OUR HARDWORKING FARMERS WHO PRODUCE FOODS THAT ARE DEEMED SAFE BY THE WORLD’S SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND ALSO EXEMPTING OTHERS (FOOD SERVICE, RESTAURANTS WHILE PRODUCERS OF “NON GMO” CROPS DO NOT HAVE TO LABEL THEIR CROPS!!

WHY IS IT THAT CONSUMERS HAVE A CHOICE TO PURCHASE “GMO” OR “NON-GMO” FOODS IN THE STORES BUT MAY BE SERVED “SAFE, GMO FOODS” IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES WITHOUT HAVING TO NOTIFY THEM OF THE SOURCE OF THEIR FOOD?

AGAIN, PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS FLAWED BILL THAT DEMONIZES GMO FOODS AND THE TECHNOLOGY AND ALL THE SCIENCE AND WORLDWIDE RESEARCH BEHIND IT. ALL OF THE MISINFORMATIONS/DISINFORMATIONS BEHIND THE “ANTI’S” CLAIMS OF CAUSING CANCER, ALLERGIES, LIVER & IMMUNODEFICIENCY PROBLEMS, SPREAD UNCOTROLLABLY AND CAUSE GENETIC POLLUTION AND CONTAMINATE THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM HAVE BEEN DEEMED THOUROUGHLY FALSE THROUGH MORE THAN 500 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GROUPS WITH EFFORTS OF MORE THAN 130 RESEARCH PROJECTS COVERING A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 25 YEARS...;

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME...;

KEN OGAWA

HILO, HI

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From: [Kenneth Kamiya](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:26:11 PM

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

Re SB2736 Relating to Food Labeling

My name is Kenneth Kamiya and I am a papaya farmer on Oahu. We have over twenty acres in various stages of production in Laie and Punaluu.

I strongly oppose SB2736 as it adds additional costs to our operation directly and indirectly. As in any farm operation we are constantly bombarded by rising cost of inputs and any additional addition no matter how small it is touted to be will eventually be significant in the final product. Further, as any labeling of a food product is based on the assumption that there is a significant risk to warrant a label, labeling Hawaii's papaya demonizes a perfectly tested, safe and nutritious fruit. In Hawaii papayas are a staple and many people consume it regularly without any adverse reactions and derive great nutritious value. To discourage or to cause doubt in the consumption of a safe and nutritious packed fruit would be a disservice to all and it will burden me with additional educational and promotional costs.

Please reject this Bill

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to submit testimony.

Kenneth Kamiya

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:22:42 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
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Katie Jacoy
Western Counsel
31 West Road N
Tacoma, WA 98406
www.wineinstitute.org
kjacoy@wineinstitute.org
360-790-5729

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:30pm

Testimony on S.B. 2736, Relating to Food Labeling

Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Health:

Wine Institute ("WI") is a public policy association representing 923 California wineries and associated businesses. WI **opposes** S.B. 2736, which requires food, including alcoholic beverages, sold in Hawaii beginning January 1, 2015 to be labeled as containing genetically engineered material.

The labeling of foods with genetically engineered material is a complicated issue which WI believes is best addressed with a national standard as opposed to a patchwork of local and state laws. We support the concept of Federal legislation similar to that being proposed by the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ngoumbi@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:00:39 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurence rousel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:21:01 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Ho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB2736. I support ALL types of farming & ranching. We have demonstrated to the world we KNOW how to divide our tiny island communities. I believe this bill is detrimental to our intent to support LOCAL agriculture. KNOW your farmers & ranchers! SUPPORT locally grown and raised products!

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HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS

Democratic Party of Hawaii

e-mail: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net or raytanv@aol.com

January 26, 2014

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
SB2736, RELATING TO FOOD LABELING
Hearing, January 27, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Room 229

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges your committee to fully support the provisions of SB2736, Relating to Food Labeling, that would require labeling 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; establish exceptions; establish violations; and require the director of health to adopt rules.

As a people, we look to the legislators to do the right thing to protect us, especially our health. There are numerous publications about the safety and hazards of GMO foods. People don't trust the publications; they just don't have the full confidence in those in the industry. We know, too, that approximately 25 states have bills before them calling for food labeling and that last year, the Hawaii State House of Representatives passed H.R. No. 149 requesting the United States Congress to Support Legislation Requiring the Dept of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration to come up with a Nation-Wide System for Monitoring, Labeling, and enforcing the Labeling of all whole and processed genetically engineered foods.

Among the provisions in H.R. No. 149, legislators acknowledged that 75% to 80% of the food consumed nationally is genetically modified; that over 60 countries around the world, including the European Union, Russia, China, and Egypt, either require labeling or have initiated an outright ban on genetically engineered foods; the only studies of genetically engineered foods in the U.S. have been funded or conducted by the companies producing them; and polls indicate that 90% of Americans favor labeling genetically engineered foods in order to make informed choices about whether or not to purchase or eat these foods.

Therefore, we call upon you to join Connecticut and Maine in passing labeling bills. We ask you to be that bold voice!

The history of the Hawaiian nation and their advanced and progressive agricultural practices and methodology through the "Ahupua'a systems" has successfully nurtured and maintained the health and well being of the Hawaiian Kingdom for over thousands of years. It was successful because the people all shared in the mana'o and the 'ike of how we would plant and mālama the seed of the keiki of the mea 'ai we grew, the people would then carefully and in unity harvest the

fruits of our efforts and then enjoy the ono, healthy and bountiful food as gifts from our gods. During every step of this act of aloha, kulana kauhale or the village was included in the awareness of our most precious resources – care and aloha for our ‘āina, our food and our water as was dictated by the laws of the ahupua‘a.

Thus, we ask that you be that leader that moves us from rhetoric to action to respect the communities “Right to Know”, for to do any less would be a travesty to all that has come before us to make our lives and values so meaningful today.

Support SB 2736!

Respectfully submitted

/s/ by on-line testimony

LEIMOMI KHAN
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: paikoman@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:24:45 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
Lisa Hallett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senate Health Committee Members, I strongly support the passing of this bill because biotech companies are exempt from consumption testing. The public needs to make their own decisions on what they want to consume. Each family is made up of different individuals with different levels of health. Some premature, some immature, some immunity challenged, some with allergies, some with restricted diets, some vegetarian (folks that do not want animal genes crossed w/ their produce), etc. and they all should be able to read a label that clearly states what they are consuming ... exactly. Mahalo for keeping in mind that caregivers/consumers must have this information and it is a fundamental right that they do.

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Cc: ggexcavations@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:00:55 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
Lisa Kirbin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: support labelling of gmo's

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From: [Lorie Farrell](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 2736 - STRONGLY OPPOSE
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:33:56 AM
Attachments: [mytestimonySb2736.pdf](#)

I am a mother, a former farmer and agvocate and a lifelong resident from the Big Island.

--

Lorie Farrell

Community Management

t: Office (808) 895-6525 | m: (808) 557- 2780

| e: me@loriefarrell.com



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Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

SB 2736 ~ Relating to Agriculture and Food labeling

January 26, 2014

Dear Committee Chair Green and Committee Members,

I'm a mom, a former farmer, an advocate and lover of Hawaii Grown Papaya and I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill; it creates the perception that the Hawaii papaya is not safe. It's a safe affordable food, cherished by our kapuna and keiki alike.

As a mom who works full time to put food on the table it can be a challenge to feed my family affordable food. Our cost of living is high and wages low. You desire to require all foods be labeled, why would a food manufacturer send his product to Hawaii? Or if they do they will charge higher prices...how much will this non FDA compliant label cost me? \$500, \$1000...Way too much for a crop method which has been proven safe hundreds of times over and by every leading health organization. The safety of biotechnology is well studied. However fear mongering is rampant, this bill only adds to this.

You want a bold faced type saying "**Contains Genetically modified organisms**" this tells me nothing. Producers and manufacturers can label their products voluntarily at NO cost to the taxpayers or consumers its called GMO free and it's an optional label and that is why the organic guys charge and receive premium pricing.

Did you know on Hawaii Island the cost of buying organic food is approximately 40% higher than other grocery stores? I've done the research and read the studies comparing pesticides on organic, gmo and conventionally grown...There is no difference and in many cases organic vegetables have higher levels of bacteria, mycotoxins and fungicides. All can make you ill.

I receive the food safety notices from USDA, they majority are from organic produce....

Consumers already have a choice in the marketplace...Those who prefer to purchase food products that don't contain any biotechnology-derived ingredients, can choose foods labeled "certified organic" or "gmo free. These are niche labels for those consumers who choose them,

Please do not add additional burdens to restrict the future of farming and food security in Hawaii. Vote No and kill this divisive bill. I support local Hawaii producers gmo, organic and conventional...This bill will hurt our small producers and specialty food manufacturers....just vote No....

Sincerely,

Lorie Farrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lynnehi@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:17:40 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a label reader, who routinely returns items to the shelf after I find an ingredient (s) I do not want to ingest, I am in strong support of this bill. We, the consumer and purchaser of products, should know about a product, all about the product, country of origin, GMOs, organic or non-organic, salt content, protein, sugar content, etc., etc. Those against this measure are afraid of something, something they are hiding. We have the right to know what is going into our bodies, the air, etc. Please move this bill forward.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:39:37 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcus Hoapili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: croliv@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:17:02 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
margaret guiler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Labeling already occurs on packaged food products, and so should not prove onerous for manufacturers. All they need to do is add a phrase "contains GE ingredients". Then the consumer can decide to purchase or not. This should be considered a "right to know" issue.

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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 Mark Phillipson, and I am Lead, Corporate Affairs, for Syngenta Hawaii.
Syngenta Hawaii **Strongly Opposes** SB 2736.

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

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"?

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mwillman@illinoisalumni.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:34:41 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: I oppose this bill. It is not necessary. Food labelled organic is sufficient. This bill will make food more expensive and is unwarranted. Please direct your attention to more important matters such as promoting business, affordable housing and the economic improvement of homeless individuals in the state. Mahalo & Aloha ke Akua - Jesu pu Mark

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Cc: streamgirlll@yahoo.com
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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 5:11:02 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
Mary True	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Regardless of whether GMO's are harmless or not, so many constituents feel so strongly about it, that GMO's must be labeled. We have the right to know. Mahalo.

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Cc: mdhaun58@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:29:21 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
Maxine	Individual	Oppose	No

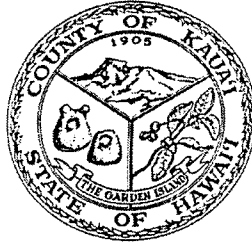
Comments: There is no rational science based reason to “warn” consumers about GMO products. The FDA regulates all food labeling in the United States, and from what I've been reading, in their scientific judgment, there is no significant difference between foods produced using biotechnology and their 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.

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

January 27, 2014

TESTIMONY OF GARY L. HOOSER
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 2736, RELATING TO FOOD LABELING
Committee on Health
Monday, January 27, 2014
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2736, relating to food labeling. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as Chair of the Economic Development (Sustainability / Agriculture / Food / Energy) & Intergovernmental Relations Committee and Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

It is important to point out that many Nations around the world already require labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) products, and that major United States grocery retailers are also now supporting National labeling requirements. Passage of SB 2736 will add further momentum to the National movement to label and Hawai'i can be a leader in this effort.

There are many reasons to support labeling but the core principle is that people have the right to know and the right to choose what they are buying and what they are consuming.

Some consumers are very concerned about possible health implications of consuming GMO foods. Without question the level of sensitivity to chemicals and food allergens vary tremendously from person to person. Without labeling, people are unable to make informed choices. Though there are many numerous studies on the health impacts of consuming GMO products, few of these studies have been conducted by independent researchers focusing on the long term impacts on humans, specifically children and pregnant women.

Other consumers are equally concerned about the moral, ethical and political implications of buying GMO products. They also deserve the right to know and choose. These concerns include:

- The environmental and social consequences caused by the commercialization and patenting of new life forms is far reaching, yet largely unknown.

Senator Josh Green & Committee Members
RE: SB 2736 Relating to Food Labeling
January 27, 2014
Page 2

- The globalization and ownership of the world food supply by a handful of multi-national companies is detrimental to food sovereignty, and threatens the very foundation of traditional agrarian communities.
- The reduction of bio-diversity caused by the concentrations of a single dominant species developed through genetic modification will ultimately weaken the species, and cause yet unknown impacts to related species.
- The transgenic foods created when crossing animal and plant genes have impacts to those whose vegetarian diet may be based on religion or culture.
- Locally, the explosive growth of the GMO industry has driven up the cost of farm land to the detriment of farmers who actually grow food for local consumption.

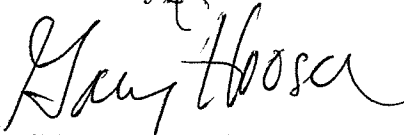
Most of the debate on the GMO labeling issue is focused on the health implications and/or the claim by GMO companies that GMO foods are “substantially equivalent” and thus should not be labeled. However, there are precedents in law for additional reasons to mandate labeling of food items including “Dolphin Safe” labeling laws which were enacted for environmental protection reasons.

For these reasons combined with the health and diet implications, myself and many other consumers believe we should be able to choose whether or not we would like to purchase and consume these products.

It is governments’ role and fundamental responsibility to protect the health and welfare of the people and of the *‘aina*. There is no question that more and more people are trying to take back control of their diets and to make better choices with regards to the foods they consume.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly urge this Committee to unanimously pass SB 2736, and to support the right of the people of Hawai‘i to know what is in the food they are consuming and to make informed choices based upon whatever reason they choose to. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



GARY L. HOOSER
Councilmember, Kaua‘i County Council

AB:mn

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:30:31 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
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 2736 for the public health and safety and in the greater publicinterest.

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:34:35 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
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All people of Hawaii should have the right to know if the food they are buying has been genetically modified. Despite industry claims, the choice should be with the individual consumer. I support this bill. Thank you.

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Cc: kauaichelle@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 5:29:12 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
michelle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I want gmo products labeled in the State of Hawaii. I avoid GMO products as I do not believe they support our health or well being and I want to be able to make informed decisions when buying products in hawaii. please pass this bill.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wholebetter@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:17:47 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: Our soil when it is health has a diversity of life. When you introduce the diversity to a petrochemical it creates a unbalance, killing some and eventuality most of the life that makes the soil has. This life creates soil structure and diversity of life. Structure and diversity of life allows the soil to hold water and drain well and be corrosion resistant while competing off disease and pests. The science on this is absolute. If we want pesticides going to our water supply and killing the soil we eat from then petrochemical are the answer, look how it is working presently ! Harm to us and the soil and the environment, we need to evolve past an antiquated idea that was a bad idea from the start. Recognizing it isn't working and being the adaptive human we are need to switch back to a tried and true method that worked for thousands of years!! Natural Small Farming !! Refer to Dr. Elaine Ingham: THE SOIL FOOD WEB Our soil teems with a multitude of organisms which provide the necessary work for healthy plants to grow free from disease, pests and infertility. These interconnected interactions and feeding relationships (quite literally "who eats who") help determine the types of nutrients present in soil, its depth and pH, and even the types of plants which can grow. OTHER RELATED TERMS Biostimulants Any biological material applied to the soil which enhances metabolic or physiological processes and aids in plant growth and development. Compost Tea A liquid solution obtained by steeping compost in water. It is used as a fertilizer to help prevent plant diseases. Biological Soil Crusts A community of organisms and their by-products which live at the surface of desert soils. Principle components are cyanobacteria, green algae, microfungi, mosses, liverworts and lichens. DR. ELAINE INGHAM BELIEVES GETTING A HEALTHY FOOD WEB BACK INTO OUR DIRT WILL STOP POISONING US AND TURN THIS SICK WORLD AROUND. Our use of toxic chemicals to grow food has greatly imperiled our soil, rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans. In many areas of the world, our impact has been massive and un-remitting, resulting in the loss of many organisms we don't even know exist (we've only identified 10% of the bacterial and fungal species on the planet). Can nature teach us how to grow enough food to feed an abundance of life sustainably, without killing everything in a field simply to grow a single crop? she asks. ELAINE'S NOTE TO FARMERS: Making a more vibrant soil food web begins with making good compost. Properly converted organic wastes are worth their weight in platinum. ABOUT DR. ELAINE INGHAM Dr. Elaine Ingham is the Founder, President and Director of

Research of Soil Foodweb, Inc. She holds a Doctorate in Microbiology with an emphasis in soil. In 2011, she was named the Rodale Institute's chief scientist. ADDITIONAL WEBSITES OF INTEREST Soil Foodweb United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services National Science & Technology Center: Soil Biological Communities Dr. Elaine Ingham- "How to make Organic Compost," Soil not Dirt- Dr. Elaine Ingham talks Soil Microbiology - See more at: <http://www.lexiconofsustainability.com/pop-up-art-shows/soilweb/#sthash.k68OsWYJ.dpuf>

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Cc: thehanamama@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:46:39 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: I would love to see this bill passed. I have children that are disabled and they need to have all opportunities to only have excellent safe substances put into their bodies.

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Cc: nleibow@hotmail.com
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Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 1:55:57 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Leibow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: wilhoiten001@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:07:08 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Ray Wilhoite	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly feel that as consumers, we deserve to know what type of food we are putting in our body. Whether you are for or against GMO agriculture, every person is entitled to make their own choices when it comes to the foods that they chose to eat, and this starts with labeling. Labeling GMO should be of no more consequence than the labeling of food coloring, sugar, preservatives, etc. People need to know what's in their food in order to make informed decisions.

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January 27, 1:30 PM
Support SB2736
Senate Health Committee



Aloha Honorable Chair and Health Committee Senators,

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental awareness, primarily focused on education about the impacts of genetically engineered crop production and industry. Our organization represents over 13,000 members and 21,000 subscribers predominantly in Hawaii and we are in strong support of SB2736 for GMO food labeling on the following grounds.

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

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

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

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

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

exposures and viral campaigns within social media networks. It is time to address GMO food labeling.

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

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

Our organization was formed in response to the dire condition of our legislation and state of our agriculture and local food supply regarding GMO corporations. We advocate for citizen engagement in these issues that are coming about when many are unaware they are even up for consideration. Biotechnology corporations conducting research and production of genetically engineered organisms are, in addition to threatening our fragile ecosystem and food supply, literally exposing us to components of war chemicals, spraying it next to schools, and kupuna homes. They speak only on the brilliant aims of their science, not the failed mutations of their reality.

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

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

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

In addition to performing literally the most open air experimental field trials in the world in Hawaii, they are depleting our natural resources. Hawaii's climate is ideal for agriculture and they are able to turn 3-4 crops per year as opposed to 1-2 most places in the United States. Few other countries allow GMO companies to perform unlimited

open air genetic experiments. Please pay close attention to what GMO farms are doing in Hawaii and protect the organic and non-GMO farmers by regulating GMO's and requiring they disclose their contents in food.

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

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

There are multiple versions of GMO's with pesticides engineered into the food, so when you consume Bt corn, for example, every kernel grows its own internal pesticide. This is for sale in your grocery store. That Bt has been found in the majority of blood samples given by pregnant women and their unborn babies' umbilical blood in a study in Canada alone.

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

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

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

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

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

Ninety day studies performed by the GM companies themselves is what passes these GMO products into the food supply, when animal studies have proven it is the second and third generation effects that will be most mortal, most sterile, and most mutant, increasingly along the generation lines. GM industry funded safety research proclaiming assurances that somehow satisfy our FDA, now headed by a former Monsanto executive, are not sufficient proof of their safety. We need you to address the facts. It may be slow to absorb, but we are in dire trouble having let GMO's into Hawaii in the first place. Please fix it.

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

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

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

Mahalo for considering this testimony in strong support of SB2736 for GMO food labeling.

Best Regards,

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Key Points of GMO Labeling Cost Discussion by Yo Kobayashi

Summary of major studies: Annual \$5 price increase

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential cost to state

Given cost estimates ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000 for the UK government with a population of 59 million people, the cost to the state of Hawaii should be less, given the smaller population. Please see GMO Labeling Cost Chart in Photos for details.

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

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

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

Resources (Links to Documents):

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

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

Summary of Major Studies

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

Sources:

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

National Economic Research Associates (NERA). 2001. "Economic Appraisal of Options For Extension of Legislation on GM Labelling" (A Final Report for the Foods Standard Agency, UK)

Northridge Environmental Management Consultants. 2002. "Economic Implementation Analysis of Oregon Measure 27" (Prepared for Coalition Against Costly Labeling Law)

KPMG Consulting. 2000. "Phase I Report. Economic Impact Study: Potential Cost of Mandatory Labelling of Food Products Derived From Biotechnology in Canada" (Prepared for Steering Committee, Economic Impacts of Mandatory Food Labelling Study)

Greenpeace. 2007. "Executive summary of the economic study of the costs of mandatory labelling of GMOs in Quebec. Costs 85% lower than those claimed by industry"

Footnotes:

(a) Increases for total society including consumer and government except for Oregon #2 study which is for consumer only

(b) Assumes depreciation of one time costs over 10 years

(c) Annual Total Monetary Price Increase converted into dollars from foreign currency at then rates

(d) Annual cost to government for Oregon #2 study conducted by Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Study assumes labeling to be conducted in restaurants as well and is out of the scope of the HSAC bill

(e) Population at time of study

Over 130 Studies Regarding GMO Labeling

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

American Academy of Environmental Medicine Position Paper on GMO

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

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

http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/our-failing-food-system/genetic-engineering/high-and-dry.html

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

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

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

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

Roundup Threat to Future of Food Safety by Microorganism Degradation Preventing Healthy Soil Conditions for Growth http://www.naturalnews.com/035221_Roundup_soil_health_food_supply.html

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomson Reuters 2010 Survey of National Healthcare Consumers regarding Genetically Engineered Foods showing 93.1% of 100,000 surveyed want GE foods labeled
http://www.factsforhealthcare.com/pressroom/NPR_report_GeneticEngineeredFood.pdf

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

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

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

Statistics from the biotech industry indicating rapid contamination of conventional seed by GMO seed in US indicating GE monocropping on the near horizon
http://www.gmo-compass.org/eng/agri_biotechnology/gmo_planting/506.usa_cultivation_gm_plants_2009.html

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waimea Residents Sue Pioneer

http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/waimea-residents-sue-pioneer/article_82ff2c3e-2632-11e1-9ca7-001871e3ce6c.html

Syngenta Pesticides Poison Elementary School

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

Kauai Large Scale Die Off of Sea Urchins

http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/large-scale-die-off-of-sea-urchins-discovered-off-kaumakani/article_16081484-5a1b-11e1-bca7-0019bb2963f4.html

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

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

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

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/193/4249/239.abstract?sid=5f16e2e1-8ac1-46e0-883b-e6a10084b8e0>

Growth Inhibitor in Immature Soybean Seeds and 2,4-D-Sprayed Soybean Seedlings. JOE L. KEY and DONALD S. GALITZ Science 13 November 1959: 1340-1341. [DOI:10.1126/science.130.3385.1340]

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/130/3385/1340.abstract?sid=5f16e2e1-8ac1-46e0-883b-e6a10084b8e0>

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

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

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

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/26/enlist-dow-agent-orange-corn_n_1456129.html

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

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

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

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

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

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

Widely Used Pesticides Are Killing Bees

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/heather-pilatic/bees-pesticides-studies_b_1389499.html

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

(a) Aris, A and Leblanc, S. (2011) "Maternal and fetal exposure to pesticides associated to genetically modified foods in Eastern Townships of Quebec, Canada" Reproductive Toxicology, 2011 May; 31(4):528-33. Epub 2011 Feb 18.

(b) Antoniou, M et al. (2011) "Roundup and birth defects: Is the public being kept in the dark?" Earth Open Source.

- (1) Agodi, A. et al. (2006) "Detection of genetically modified DNA sequences in milk from The Italian market". *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, 209, 81-88.
- (2) Benachour N, Sipahutar H, Moslemi S. et al. "Time- and dose- dependent effects of roundup on human embryonic and placental cells". *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol*. 2007;53:126-133
- (3) Benachour, N. and Seralini, G-E. 2008, "Glyphosate Formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells", *Chemical Research in Toxicology*, DOI: 10.1021/ tx800218n. Publication Date (Web): December 23, 2008
- (4) Bernstein, I.L., Bernstein, J.A., Miller, M., Tierzieva, S., Bernstein, D.I., Lummus, Z., Selgrade, M.K., Doerfler, D.L. and Seligy, V.L. (1999). "Immune responses in farm workers after exposure to *Bacillus thuringiensis* pesticides", *Environmental Health Perspectives* 107, 575-582
- (5) Chowdhury, E.H., et al (2003) "Detection of corn intrinsic and recombinant DNA fragments and Cry1Ab protein in the gastrointestinal contents of pigs fed genetically modified corn Bt11". *Journal of Animal Science* 81, 2546-2551.
- (6) Cisterna B, Flach F, Vecchio L, Barabino SM, Battistelli S, Martin TE, Malatesta M, Biggiogera M. 2008, "Can a genetically- modified organism-containing diet influence embryo development? A preliminary study on pre-implantation mouse embryos". *Eur J Histochem*. 2008 Oct-Dec; 52(4):263-7.
- (7) Duggan et al., 2003, "Fate of genetically modified maize DNA in the oral cavity and rumen of sheep", *British Journal of Nutrition*, 2003,
- (8) Dutton, A., H. Klein, J. Romeis, and F. Bigler, 2002, "Uptake of Bt-toxin by herbivores feeding on transgenic maize and consequences for the predator *Chrysoperia carnea*," *Ecological Entomology* 27 (2002): 441–7
- (9) Ermakova, I.V. 2006, "Genetically modified soy leads to the decrease of weight and high mortality of rat pups of the first generation. Preliminary studies," *Ecosinform* 1 (2006): 4–9.
- (10) Ermakova, I.V. 2009. "Influence of soy with gene EPSPS CP4 on the physiological state and reproductive functions of rats in the first two generations," *Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, "Modern problems of science and education"* № 5, 2009. UDC: 612.82, 57.02
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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: I support this Bill. That's my entire testimony. Please pass 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
patricia westbrook	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, So much information has been presented in regards to GMO and it is only right that one be able to read what is contained within a product to make a personal decision in regards to its usage. Please vote to allow this sensible move for the good of people of Maui. Mahalo, Patricia Westbrook

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Brock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All GMO's should be labeled.

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is essential, and an ethical necessity, that food should be clearly labeled as to its GMO content(s). Mahalo, Peter Berg

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond C. Best II	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My family and I are in support of a labeling bill. We feel that we have the basic right to know what we are eating. In addition, we cannot always afford to eat organic foods (supposedly this is the only way of ensuring that you are not eating gmo). Please consider these basic requests when it comes time to vote yes on labeling gmo (modified) foods. Thank you for your time.

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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
rick leibow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support bill SB2736!!

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: I have lived on Maui for almost 40 years and I feel it is important that any products that have GMO ingredients be labeled as such so that our citizens can decide for themselves if they choose to eat GMO foods. As it is now it is unknown and those of us that choose not to eat GMO can't actually tell if we are or not as we purchase various products in our local food stores. This is only fair and should be our God given right to know.

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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 Stetson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It the right of each of us to know and decide exactly what we are purchasing to eat. Purchasing a GMO product and believing it is a non-GMO product (because they may look almost identical) ... is a kind of fraud. Many of us are strongly opposed to consuming GMO agricultural products and we ask you to represent us in making sure we can tell the difference through labeling. Please vote YES for SB2736; please vote YES for truth in labeling.

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From: [Rod Gomes](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:23:00 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

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

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rod Gomes
2613 Waiwai Loop
Honolulu, HI 96819

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally Bilodeau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB 2736 as it relates to labeling requirements for genetically modified materials.

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SB2736

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandi Kato-Klutke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill will have a tremendous adverse impact on all our small farmers who are presently struggling to survive. You encourage farmers to do Added Value to supplement their income and then you want them to now have more costs added by requiring labeling.

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SB2736

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2736

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

Comments:

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SB2736

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

Comments: Support.

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SB2736

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shari au	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I work with learning challenged and autistic children who have many food, chemical, and environmental allergies. I personally have many food (soy, wheat, dairy, corn, nitrates, nitrites, sodium phosphate, msg), chemical (pesticides, insecticides, formaldehyde, paint, varnish), and environmental (grass, dust, dust mites, danders, pollens, cockroach, bee sting) allergens. We need GMO foods labeled. Those with fish/seafood allergies can avoid tomatoes containing salmon DNA to resist frost; those with insecticide/pesticide allergies can avoid produce with RoundUp DNA to resist heavy pesticide/insecticide spraying; etc. Epidemic autism and learning disability rates continue to climb. It is obvious to me that tampering with nature, contaminating our food and water, ingested without knowledge of pollutants inherent is responsible for climbing birth abnormalities. Profit industries sacrifice health, welfare, and safety. We must protect ourselves with legislation requiring GMO labeling, identifying the GMO material.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: upcmodify@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:02:07 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
shayne edelhertz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a very serious issue and needs to be taken into account. The rights of the people are at stake we should not have to demand and rant to have information as to our foods quality and purity, large argro business is concerned with profit and the bottom line not peoples health. support this bill and support the Aina it has been abused by greedy men.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sherrie@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:57:24 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
Sherrie Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: At the very least, we the people deserve to know how the food we're purchasing and eating is produced. Organic farmers are required to undergo a rigorous certification process because they WANT the consumer to know what we're purchasing and eating. Why do the producers of GMO foods have a problem with letting us know which foods contain GMO's? It is an outrage that we must sand by while some of the richest and most powerful corporations on the planet, those making up the Biotech Industry, use their money and political influence to try and deprive we ordinary citizens of what should be the most basic of rights, knowing what we're eating.

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Cc: davidsher@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 3:09:23 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
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I strongly support GMO labeling, as do the majority of those in Hawaii. We have a right to know what we are putting in our bodies and the bodies of our loved ones. How people choose to act, once the information is available, is up to them. If companies believe there is no hazard and they choose to continue to use GM products, that is their choice. But the consumer also needs to have the ability to choose whether or not we want to use those products. Thousands in Hawaii have already spoken out. Please represent the will of the people, not the corporations, and support this bill. Respectfully, Sherry Pollack Kahaluu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sonia.wallman@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:14:12 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonia Wallman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: stephanieniona@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:22:06 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
stephanie iona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this Senate bill and ask this,committee to realize how harmful it will be to The Rite to FARM in Hawaii.

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From: [Stephanie Whalen](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: sb2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:01:21 AM

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I have had nothing but trouble with the website when trying to submit testimony. I have sent an email to the webmaster concerning this.

HARC is strongly opposed to SB2736 to be heard this afternoon in HTH at 1:30. I realize this testimony is late.

The purpose of required labeling is to provide health and safety information to the consumer. There are numerous health and scientific association and institutions around the world that have stated that there are genetically modified foods in the marketplace are safe. Legislation should not be about a focused minority's personal philosophy. Energy should be focused on supporting all agricultural sectors.

Anti-corporate activities need to be focused in the marketplace not in the legislature.

thanks you for this opportunity to provide input into the process.

Stephanie Whalen
Hawaii AGriculture Research Center
808 228 0272

"The focused concerns of a minority will always prevail over the unfocused concerns of the majority?"

Richard McQuire, former New York Commissioner of Agriculture

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: grimesguitars@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:43:12 PM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: I support

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From: [Steve Ueda](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB2736
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 11:00:18 AM

Dear Senate Committee Testimony,

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 229

Re: SB2736
Position: Strong Opposition

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

Food labeling is an issue which should be dealt with on the federal level. Here in Hawaii we import roughly 80% of the food we eat, we are also a small market. Mandating label changes just for our state would force our suppliers to either make very expensive changes just for us or simply stop supplying us with food. We already pay such high prices for food. My business, my customers, and our state cannot afford to have these costs driven up even more.

This bill also creates tremendous enforcement problems for my business. I have no way of telling if a food is genetically engineered or not. There is no way to tell by look or taste, and many genetically engineered foods are nutritionally identical to the non-genetically engineered variety. I don't know how I would make sure that the growers, manufacturers, and distributors that supply me are following the rules. But if they aren't I might be liable for the infraction.

The food business is competitive and difficult. I operate at a profit margin of around 1 percent. This bill would make it even more difficult for me to continue to do business feeding the people of our state.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steve Ueda
268 Noelani Loop
Hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: cleerlite@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:54:04 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 bohannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have the basic right to know how the food i eat is grown, if its organic and GMO free. Thank you Susan Bohannon Kula, Hi 96790

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: naritaslee@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:45:53 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 Law	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: Nekokichigai@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:32:14 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
Suzanne Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There has been a growing awareness of the negative impact that GMO's in our food products and produce can have on our health. I fully support SB2736 which would require labeling for any food or produce that we buy in Hawaii. This will enable those who want to know what they are eating to be able to make informed decisions for themselves. I believe it is the consumer's right to know. We require info such as Carfax for any used vehicle we purchase, so we should be as diligent about providing information to consumers about the foods they are eating. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: gizmografix@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:36:39 AM

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: tia.pearson@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 3:24:45 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
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: naritalaw@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:50:01 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
Tim Law	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I tease my wife because she always reads the labels before she buys groceries. But it's important to know what is in our food, and therefore to have the right to decide whether or not we want to ingest GMO foods. So we both support this GMO labeling bill. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: tjsimms2000@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:58:11 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
tj simms	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Label it! No GMO

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Re: SB2736 Hearing; Jan 27th, rm 209 Senate Health Committee

Measure Title: RELATING TO FOOD LABELING.

Report Title: Genetically Engineered Material; Labeling Requirements

Description: 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.

Aloha Senate Chair Green and Vice Chair Baker,

I am writing in support of SB 2736. I am a mother who is very concerned about GMOs and would like the RIGHT to KNOW if they are in the food I am purchasing for my family to eat. It should be my right as a consumer to choose and know the food I am buying and not be decided by corporations who make GMOs. Regardless of the debate whether GMOs are safe to eat or not, the issue is my right to know and choose. 64 countries now require labeling or have outright banned GMOs. During last years legislative session, I heard GMO lobbyists say if we label GMOs the price of food will rise and what about the poor people on food stamps. Truth is I was on food stamps, and I live pay check to paycheck, and I am pleading with my government officials to hear my voice and give me this right to choose. California and Washington State both had their ballot initiatives defeated when GMO companies invested nearly \$75 million dollars to keep labeling from happening. These are same folks telling me that GMOs are safe to eat. Can you see the disconnect? As a mother this is a huge red flag. If they feel their products are so very safe then they should be more than happy to label them. I am urging you to please listen to rising voices asking for a **Right to Know**- remember we are not talking about the science or the safety, this is a basic right to choose. I ask you to please support SB2736 and the labeling of GMOs in foods.

Sincerely,

Trisha Gonsalves

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: unmanib@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2736 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:54:10 AM
Attachments: [TESTIMONYSB2736.doc](#)

SB2736

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: Support with amendments. See enclosed testimony. Date of hearing corrected on resubmittal.

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TESTIMONY
OF
UNMANI CYNTHIA GROVES
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
BEFORE
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 1:30PM RM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2736
RELATING TO HEALTH / CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RELATING TO FOOD LABELING

Aloha Chairman Senator Greene, Senator Baker and Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. In general I support the intention of this bill. However, I would propose a consideration of specific additional amendments based on well informed studies and behavior in regard to “informed consent and disclosure” issue with GMO labeling:

Regarding still a belief by a number of state legislators that federal level is regulating GMOs. An attorney who has been in court opposing the GMO companies advised me that once GMOs were approved years ago, those GMO crops and foods were **deregulated** when categorized GRAS (generally regarded as safe) based on 3-4 month studies on rats and monkeys in the 1980 or 1990s. Assumptions made then in the studies have since been shown in independent studies in scientific journals to be based on outdated theories and practices, which when GMOs were given to domesticated animals have shown results that GMOs were less than healthy. Results of harm are showing up in humans. Industry may claim they are correlations, not causation even in the L-Tryptophan deaths and hospitalizations. Federal safety parameters have been very limited in determining GRAS--Generally Regarded As Safe—focussed on methodology rather than impacts to humans. Adverse effects have been subsequently limited primarily to 1) how many people were hospitalized and 2) how many died. Deemed less significant at the federal level, a far bigger range of adverse affects from simple, immediate acute symptoms subacute, and chronic long term symptoms not addressed at the federal level.

Independent studies on GMOs and health are available via the transparency the internet affords us such as: **GMO Myths and Truths: An Evidence Based Examination of the Claims Made for the Safety and Efficacy of Genetically Modified Crops.** 123 pages annotated report of studies, facts and fiction: Downloadable PDF of the full [GMO Myths and Truths report](http://earthopensource.org/files/pdfs/GMO_Myths_and_Truths/GMO_Myths_and_Truths_1.3b.pdf) http://earthopensource.org/files/pdfs/GMO_Myths_and_Truths/GMO_Myths_and_Truths_1.3b.pdf

We have serious issues unaddressed by legislators and regulators to date by the introduction of GMOs and heavier pesticides in our food and grown on our lands, particularly with the amount of GMOs throughout our food supply at this late date.

Particularly note in a 1/21/13 article: concerns by regulators regarding a hidden viral Gene VI in GMO crops that went unreported for years by a major company in HI despite knowledge after approval that that gene can cause autoimmune responses (the system attacking itself). **"Regulators Discover a Hidden Viral Gene in Commercial GMO Crops"**
<http://www.independentsciencenews.org/health/regulators-discover-a-hidden-viral-gene-in-commercial-gmo-crops/> We should not so easily dismiss such data.

I have enclosed: **GE Crop Risk Assessment Challenges: An Overview** By [Dr. Charles Benbrook](#) 5/6/13 who has testified in court on numerous occasions with great respect by the courts and his peers is worthy of attention.

Suggest you consider an intentional vs unintentional violation clause and add five other amendments:

1. Regarding (3)e I recommend that an **"intentional" violation** due to GMOs used and promoted without proper GMO labeling should be treated differently than an **"unintentional" violation** due to an unsuspected GMO ingredient and fined accordingly. \$1,000 fine does nothing to a flagrant disregard of the rules and regulations and may be considered a drop in the bucket to those who profit more by disregard than by compliance.

2. "It shall be a violation to falsely advertise that GMO labeling will increase cost to consumers or cause harm to the consumers pocketbooks:

"Why Labels on Genetically Engineered Foods Won't Cost Consumers a Dime /Financial Audit" using the Affidavit system, go to http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_27317.cfm

A number of studies have shown it will NOT increase costs, but inform consumers.

Regardless of the shortfall at the federal level, there are good reasons why consumers want labels and are frankly disenchanted with biotech companies and front organizations interfering with their right to know and consumer ability to make an "informed choice" for themselves and families on whether GMOs are appropriate for them.

Washington attorney is looking into violations from the Grocers

Manufacturers Association for attempting to block GMO Labeling Initiatives by shielding campaign contributors

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/16/us-usa-gmo-labeling-idUSBRE99F19B20131016>

3. Requirement to add to labels: “There are no long term studies that show the safety of GMOs in foods.”

Labels provide a measure of “informed consent” for consumers in a free market democratic society to make decisions based on their needs, desires, health concerns, and in this case give them control over their own genetics and genetic lines with their children.

4. It shall be a violation to distribute, grow or sell unlabeled GMO foods including unlabeled GMO seeds in Hawaii.

From a health standpoint, the Federal government does not consider the full range of parameters of health risks and potential harms. My Kaiser Permanente physician told me personally that Kaiser Permanente does not have a toxicology lab on Maui, and their lab on island has a very limited range of ability to test whether for GMO food related symptoms or pesticide exposure. Further, one HI State House Rep just told me the medical facilities don’t find it profitable to have a toxicology lab. Pesticide exposure requires immediate action, and the staff is untrained to deal with this situation. Further, the state has not provided funding or requirements of disclosure to provide tests. This leaves the public without disclosure of allergic reactions to the food, or what pesticides they have been exposed to, and are at the mercy of the biotech companies without alternative help.

5. Should GMO foods remain unlabeled, The State Finance Division shall set a tax on gmo/ pesticide/ chemical companies and manufacturers who continue to grow and sell unlabeled GMO foods, seed and food products without long term tests for health consequences to humans, animals, and the environment. A state fund shall be set up to make provisions for proper testing and proper treatment protocol.

6. Further, It shall be a violation to continue to distribute, produce and sell labeled or unlabeled GMO food without providing “required disclosure” and samples to the state and medical facilities in order to set up testing for treatment protocol of allergies, endocrine disruption and other illnesses from GMOs and their associated pesticide exposure.

GE Crop Risk Assessment Challenges: An Overview

By [Dr. Charles Benbrook](#) | May 6, 2013

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2013/05/ge-crop-risk-assessment-challenges-an-overview/#.UuYTKvZ6eS5>

There have been dramatic changes in the transgenic composition of GE corn and soybeans over the last five years, coupled with a substantial increase in reliance on pesticides and Bt toxins. Compared to the first five years of commercial use (1996-2000), today's GE corn and soybeans in the U.S. require:

- About twice as much herbicide per acre, with glyphosate/Roundup accounting for essentially all the growth;
- In corn, two to six Bt toxins to deal with European corn borer and the corn rootworm complex;
- Delayed release, systemic seed treatments including at least two insecticides and two fungicides, one of which is a nicotinylnil implicated in honey bee Colony Collapse Disorder;
- A return to corn soil insecticide use as a component of Bt-gene, resistance-management programs (eroding a portion of the reduction in insecticide use brought about by Bt corn);
- Significant and historically unprecedented increases in fungicide use on corn (11 percent of crop acres were treated in latest USDA pesticide use survey [2010], no more than 1 percent was treated previously); and
- Approval and commercial planting in the U.S. of the first GE crop that will be consumed in significant quantities by humans in a largely unprocessed form – Bt and RR sweetcorn.

The move to stacked varieties expressing multiple traits, coupled with the above changes in the intensity of chemical use required to bring GE crops to harvest, raises new questions about new routes of exposure and about cumulative levels of exposure to GE proteins, potential allergens and pesticides, especially via drinking water, certain foods made from corn or soybeans, and, for infants, breast milk, cow's milk, soymilk, and formula. It also raises new testing challenges arising from the likely presence of multiple transgenes, DNA fragments, promoters, regulatory sequences and chemicals from pesticides

(active ingredients, metabolites, surfactants, adjuvants, etc).

These changes pose serious risk assessment challenges that are, for the most part, being ignored by the industry and regulatory authorities. New information is essential to convince regulators that they must invest substantially more public resources in the independent testing of GE crop safety. The two core goals for a new testing initiative should be to (a) resolve lingering uncertainty over the safety of the GE traits currently on the market, and (b) develop advanced testing methods and protocols for application in the testing of future GE food traits.

At a minimum, the following steps should be taken to explore key questions about today's GE crops:

1. Quantification of the levels of pesticides and their metabolites/breakdown products associated with GE crops in key foods and human fluids (blood and urine), encompassing initially glyphosate, AMPA, nicotiny seed treatments and Bt proteins. Top priority foods to test include whole wheat grain and flour, whole wheat bread, and soy-derived ingredients and foods. Essential liquids to test include cow's milk, breast milk, soymilk and infant formula.

2. Development of methods to accurately quantify GE protein exposure levels in tissues and organs of concern in evaluating human health risks. The research would also be designed to track the breakdown products formed as GE proteins move through the digestive system. Methods would be developed to identify the form of novel proteins or other phytochemicals from GE foods, as well as the quantities passing from the GI tract into the bloodstream, from the blood to the kidneys and liver, and in the case of pregnant women, across the blood-brain barrier.

3. Methods must be developed to assess the impacts on fetal development following pre-natal exposure to GE proteins via maternal blood flows. Focus should be on epigenetic patterns of gene expression and the frequency of auto-

immune diseases including food allergies, asthma and behavioral problems.

4. In light of novel combinations of exposures, including combinations of glyphosate, AMPA, a nicotyl insecticide and Bt proteins, short-term cell assays should be used to test for toxic potential of each of these singly and in various combinations. The results can be used to target subsequent, long-term testing.

5. An appropriate, government agency or international organization should fund long-term toxicology and cancer feeding studies in at least two species of laboratory animals on a cross-section of the major traits now in GE varieties. Trials should cover the most widely planted Bt endotoxins alone, the EPSPS gene conferring resistance to glyphosate alone and these two traits in combination. At the conclusion of a first round of testing, the research team should issue recommendations for the design and conduct of future cancer feeding trials applied to GE food traits and render judgments regarding the need for additional testing.” Included with permission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Unmani Cynthia Groves

Health Care Practice Management Consultant to Professionals since 1985
unmanib@maui.net
Makawao, HI

808 281-4212