

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Genetically modified organisms are organisms resulting from

the use of genetic engineering or conventional breeding. Evidence has shown that biotechnologies are powerful in their ability to genetically modify organisms. Such technologies can be used in virtually all industrial processes using living organisms, such as in the areas of pharmaceuticals, food processing, agriculture, and health care.

It is now possible to transfer genes from any organism into any other organism. Such transformations may pose a number of threats, including but not necessarily limited to, deleterious impacts on the environment, displacement of species, increased opportunities for disease, and hazards to agricultural livestock and crops.

Hawaii is noted for its diversity of species and fragility of ecosystems. The legislature finds that it is necessary to be cognizant of research and development activities which may release genetically modified organisms into Hawaii's environment. Once released, it may be costly or impossible to remove these organisms from the environment.

SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§321- Genetically modified organisms. Any applicant to any federal agency for any permit for or approval of any bioproduct, field testing of genetically modified organisms, or environmental impact assessment of genetically modified organisms shall submit one copy of that application to the department, at the same time that the application is submitted to the federal agency.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 1, 1988.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.