

SCR 149 / SR 85

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO
INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH FOOD LABELING
REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS & COMMITTEE ON COMERCE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014

10:00 A.M.

Room 229

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 149/SENATE RESOLUTION 85
REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE
LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH FOOD LABELING REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

Chairpersons Espero and Baker and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 149 and Senate Resolution 85, requesting Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation to establish food labeling requirements pertaining to genetically modified organisms. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is in support of the concept that if mandatory labeling is required that it be administered at the federal level.

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

The HDOA would like to point to the voluntary labeling of products as not containing genetically engineered material that have already begun to appear on store shelves. HDOA has consistently held the opinion that mandatory labeling of a product containing a genetically engineered material would be better administered at the federal level to help to create a unified approach to this issue.

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





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April 1, 2014
HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON SCR 149/SR 85

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH
FOOD LABELING REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Room 229
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Espero and Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB 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.

Although independent reviews of thousands of studies on foods grown using genetically engineered plants have to come to the consensus conclusion that GMO crops are safe, HFB recognizes that there is a movement to label these foods.

We have long believed that it would be detrimental to the State to require labeling of this kind, independent from a nationwide labeling strategy. **SCR 149/SR 85** offer a better solution to the issue.

For clarification purposes, we respectfully request the following simple amendments:

Amendment 1 (Title):

"Requesting Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce legislation to clarify establish food labeling requirements pertaining to genetically modified organisms."

Amendment 2 (replace the "now, therefore," with "and" at line 14, page 2, and add a new sentence at line 16, before the "Be It Resolved" clauses):

"Whereas, a federal legislative solution should protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety while ensuring that food remains affordable; now, therefore,"

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.



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Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
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TO:
SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS and
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Espero and Senator Baker, Chairs
Senator Baker and Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 1, 2014
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SCR 149/ SR 85

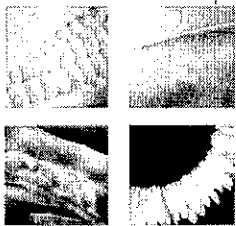
Position: Comments

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

The Hawaii Food Industry Association concurs with the following amendments recommended by the Hawaii Farm Bureau:

“Amendment 1 (in the title): Requesting Hawaii’s congressional delegation to introduce legislation to clarify establish food labeling requirements pertaining to genetically modified organisms.
Amendment 2 (new whereas at the end): Whereas, a federal legislative solution should protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety while ensuring that food remains affordable for all.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony from Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

Support for SCR 149/SR 85 with Amendments
Requesting Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to Introduce Legislation
to Establish Food Labeling Requirements Pertaining to
Genetically Modified Organisms

Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
and Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 1, 2014, 10 a.m., Room 229

Aloha Chairs Espero and Baker and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, and we support SCR 149 and SR 85 and concur with the Farm Bureau's proposed amendments:

Amendment 1 (in the title and first be it resolved statement): Requesting Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce legislation to clarify establish food labeling requirements pertaining to genetically modified organisms.

Amendment 2 (new whereas at the end): Whereas, a federal legislative solution should protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety while ensuring that food remains affordable for all.

Every credible U.S. and international food safety authority that has studied GMO crops has found that they are safe and that there are no health effects associated with their use. In fact, Italian scientists recently analyzed nearly 1800 scientific studies on GMOs, and found overwhelming scientific consensus that there are no harmful effects from GMO consumption. GMO crops use less water, fewer pesticides and reduce the cost of crops by 15-30 percent.

One in eight people among the world's growing population of 7 billion do not have enough to eat. Safe and effective methods of food production, like crops produced through GM technology, can help us feed the world, including those that suffer from hunger and malnutrition in developing nations. The global population is expected to rise to more than 9 billion by 2050 and we will need 70% more agricultural production to meet the challenge. And population growth over the next 35 years will take place during a time of greater climate volatility, placing new and increased pressure on the world's farmers. GMO crops are instrumental to our ability to keep pace with a growing global population and do so sustainably without clearing more conservation land for farming.

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Why a Federal Solution is Pono

A 50-state patchwork of GMO labeling laws would mislead consumers, raise the price of groceries for American families and do nothing to ensure food safety. America's food safety laws should not be determined by political campaigns or state and local legislation.

State-based GMO labeling laws would be misleading and costly to consumers and food and beverage companies. A federal solution will protect consumers and provide food and beverage companies with a uniform set of standards established by the FDA, the nation's foremost food safety authority. Since its establishment in 1907, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has served as America's ultimate and most trusted food safety authority.

We need a federal legislative solution that will protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety:

Eliminate Confusion: Remove the confusion and uncertainty of a 50 state patchwork of GMO safety and labeling laws and affirm the FDA as the nation's authority for the use and labeling of genetically modified food ingredients.

Advance Food Safety: Require the FDA to conduct a safety review of all new GMO traits before they are introduced into commerce. FDA will be empowered to mandate the labeling of GMO food ingredients if the agency determines there is a health, safety or nutrition issue with GMO technology.

Inform Consumers: The FDA will establish federal standards for companies that want to voluntarily label their product for the absence-of or presence-of GMO food ingredients so that consumers clearly understand their choices in the marketplace. Whole is already asking their vendors to this without government regulation.

Provide Consistency: The FDA will define the term "natural" for its use on food and beverage products so that food and beverage companies and consumers have a consistent legal framework that will guide food labels and inform consumer choice.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 6:16 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR149 on Apr 1, 2014 10:00AM

SCR149

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Apr 1, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports this bill with the amendments offered in testimony by The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

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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We Grow 93% of Hawaii Island Agriculture Crops

~ 625,000 acres of land in production ~ \$194 Million in Revenue ~

March 31, 2014 ~ SCR 149/ SR 85 ~

Founding Association Members

Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA)

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Big Island Banana Growers

Hamakua, Hilo & Kohala Farm Bureau Counties

Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Association

Supporting Partners

Hawaii Coffee Association

Hawaii Farm Bureau

Hawaii Island Economic Development Board

Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association

Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC)

Grassroots Council

Ross Sibuciao
Oliver English
Eric Tanouye
Judi Houle
Eric Weinert
Jason Moniz
Chris English
Richard Ha
Peter Houle
Michael Madamba
Dennis Gonsalves, PhD
Lorie Farrell, Coordinator

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,
Senator Will Espero, Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protections
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Dear Committee Chairs Espero & Baker and Committee Members,

We Support the intent of this resolution with amendments.

Amendment 1 (in the title): Requesting Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce legislation to clarify establish food labeling requirements pertaining to genetically modified organisms.

Amendment 2 (new whereas at the end): Whereas, a federal legislative solution should protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety while ensuring that food remains affordable for all.

We concur with the Hawaii Farm Bureaus position and proposed amendments on this resolution.

Mahalo,
Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 5:01 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR149 on Apr 1, 2014 10:00AM
Attachments: SCR 149 Congressional Delegation and CC-GMO Labeling.gif

SCR149

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Apr 1, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	1,978 "Conventional People"	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair, Sen. Will Espero (PSM) & Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, CPN Committees Vice Chair(s), & Right Honorable Members of the Committees Thank you for hearing this worthy and laudable measure. We thank the co-sponsors: Senators SOLOMON, DELA CRUZ, ENGLISH, GALUTERIA, KAHELE, KEITH-AGARAN, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO, Ige, Ihara, Ruderman, Taniguchi, Tokuda, & Wakai. We believe that a Federal level coordinated action and perhaps a 3 year sunset Executive Order from the White House will help this along for a start. Labeling of food products and ingredients as a given, as is FDA labeling and usage instructions for Prescription Drugs. It is only common sense and good business practice to show-case the use of GMO since the proponents think so highly of its efficacy. Why not be proud of it and broadcast it across the supermarket "isles"/"aisle" (sic.)? Thank you again for hearing this very commendable legislation. Hope that it is reported out with minimum of acrimony and resistance. Anything can happen with the U.S. House of Representatives shifting its membership this election cycle. Arvid Tadao Youngquist Spokesman, Founder, & Administrator *Note: Registered voter, CD1, U.S. House of Representatives district (Kalihi Valley resident)

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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