

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ken Ng
3557 Butler Ave,
LA, CA 90066

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First of all, I am against GMO crops of any kind. These crops can desaminate our food supply. It's also possible that they can make us all very sick. Do your homework. Find out exactly how scientists modify genes. I can tell you what I know. In order to break down the cell wall of the original plant, they need a potent bacteria that can get in there. In some cases, which are documented, they used e-coli for this purpose. How can we assume that cells that are injected with e-coli will be safe for us to eat?? This defies logic. Maybe GMO is the problem behind our current national peanut problem.

Next, I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

noel al-khatib

po box 343
hilo, HI 96721

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Dona van Bloemen
1117 3rd. Street
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Malama Aina,

isobel storch
1105 DeVictor Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1704

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becky robison
1049 uluopihi loop
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I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Haunani Kalama
64-607 Puu Ohu Place
Kamuela, HI 96743

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Cindy Williams
8550 Condalia Ave
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

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Malama Aina,

Barb Kay
Kuiaha
Haiku, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

Aimee Brown
Po Box 975
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Dave Kisor
45-223 Makahinu St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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1720 Perry St
HONOLULU, HI 96819

841-5011

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sara Bartlett-Valente
59-618 Akanoho Pl.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Testimony

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Theodore Banta
131308 Kahukai St
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Juanita Kawamoto
1924 Pauoa Rd.
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Malama Aina,

Patricia Blair
522 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 967344410

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Richard Powers
P.O. Box244
Naalehu, HI 96772

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Malama Aina,

cynthia McKean
p.o. box 1502
Honokaa, HI 96727

Testimony

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Danielle Ledward
67 Tower Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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John Keoni Monte
1312 Transite Ave
Transite Ave
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(619) 934-7297

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healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Judy Dalton
4330 Kauai Beach Drive,
4330 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue, HI 96766

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

celeste borges
po bx 6342
kaneohe, HI 96744

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Malama Aina,

Laura Espaillat
147 Royal Drive
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Malama Aina,

Karena Biber
848 Kamalu Rd.
848 Kamalu Rd.
Kapa'a, HI 96746

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Lila Mortell
4462 Imua Place
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P.O. Box 5451
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Malama Aina,
Limor Farber

Limor Farber
po box 2217
kapaa, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

Åse Borg
Sørsvnaasveien 54
Arendal, ot 4848

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1028 Wainee St E-5
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Carmen L

Madrid

Madrid, ot 00000

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Maile Bryan
635 Wanaao RD.
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Lia Cain
po box 884
honokaa, HI 96727

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Malama Aina,

Chasity Cadaoas
146 Ehilani St.
Pukalani, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

Mary Hunter Leach
4474 Kapuna Road
4474 Kapuna Road
Kilauea, HI 96754

8088280152

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kelly Sato
4150 Momi Street
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Mililani Hanchett Krause
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Laura Giubardo
261 Awalau Road
Haiku, HI 96708

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Beverly Montel
6455 Makana Road
Kapa'a, HI 96746

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Malama Mapumai,

How is going to pay for medical problems, that might cause lawsuits against the taro industry because of the GMO?

Anita Mapumaikealoha Arconado
942 Calle Carrillo
San Dimas, CA, CA 91773

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Malama Aina,

james patitucci
palaoa
naalehu, HI 96772

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Malama Aina,

Fern Anuenue Holland
4664B Apopo Rd
Kapa'a, Kauai, HI 96746

8088230619

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LorrieAnn Santos
45-415 Loli`i Street
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lila Liebmann

msc 1592, 0615 SW palatine hill road

Portland , OR 97219

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Brad Parsons
P.O. Box 223374
Princeville, HI 96722

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Malama Aina,

Malama Minn

1050 Bishop St 459

Honolulu, HI 96813

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Malama Aina,

Kerry Beck
3565 Ross Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

donald stevens
2725 abbey road
winter park, FL 32792

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Malama Aina,
Ephrosine Daniggelis, MPH, PhD

Ephrosine Daniggelis
P.O. Box 61201
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Honolulu, HI 96839

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

JIM PEDERSEN
POBOX 551751
KAPAAU, HI 96755

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Wendi Faria
1758 6th Avenue
Unit 12
San Diego, HI 92101

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Linda M. Karr
P.O.Box 6638
POBox 6638
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Kahaulani Sablas
577-A Pohaku St.
Kahului, HI 96732

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Give the Hawaiians a break! Let us all have GMO-free taro. It's important to their culture as well as to nutrition. We don't know what the effect of GMO-ed taro will be on children, as well as adults. No GMO-ed taro for peace in Hawaii.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Angela Kay Kepler
PO Box 1298
P.O. Box 1298
Haiku, HI 96708

(808) 573-5847

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Malama Aina,

Lynlie Waiamau
PO Box 3723
Lihue, HI 96766

Testimony

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Carolyn Moore
5402 E. McKellips, #289
5402 McKellips Rd. Lot 289
Mesa, AZ 85215

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Selina Heaton
P.O. Box 30867
Anahola, HI 96703

(760) 208-1820

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ronna mceldowney
po box 450
laupahoehoe, HI 96764

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Malama Aina,

Valerie Loh
2552 peter street
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Malama Aina,

Sheldon Brown
761 Malaihi Rd
Wailuku, HI 96792

870-1584

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1978 leleiona
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ramona Fernandez
3662 Shearwater Lane
East Lansing, MI 48823

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha,

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Malama Aina,

Shannon renee Rudolph
P.O. Box 243
P.O. 243
Holualoa, HI 96725

808-322-6604

Testimony

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Victoria Fiore
1911 Kalaniana'ole Ave Apt 505
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Malama Aina,

Christine Walters
2216 Metcalf St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Malama Aina,

Tracey Schavone
POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

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Deva Sage
Pohoiki Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Charles Lawson
27400 132nd ave se #F302
Kent, WA 98042

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Judith Waters
211 N. Makaleha Pl.
Makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

I've learned what scientist did with the "gorilla ogo" and where are they today to clean up their messy? The indigenous people had their own way of improving their food by always using the best of the crop to be replanted. This was and still is the best way of improving our plants producing foods, the natural way. The side effects, none?

Stronger and healthier foods means stronger and healthier people. Hawaii is and island and it is all we have. Keep Hawaii, Hawaii!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Malama Aina,

Alyson Barrows,
803 Ho'omau St
Wailuku, HI 96793

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Theodore Firestone
HC 165A
Hana, HI 96713

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

barton susan
41-1680 Kaala Rd
O'okala, HI 96774

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am writing to state my opposition to ALL genetic modification of taro for ALL varieties. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bio-prospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible genetic mutations whose safety to citizens and the environment is not and cannot be scientifically proven. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening citizens who eat this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the people, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the

valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of traditional taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

John Schinnerer
HC2 Box 6482
Kea'au, HI 96749

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,
Jessica DelaCruz

Jessica DelaCruz
56-193 Pualalea st.
56-193 Pualalea st.
Kahuku, HI 96731

(808) 218-4123

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Ron Dixon
po box 223403
Princeville, HI 96722

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sherryl Royce
335 Awini Place
HOnolulu, HI 96825

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina, dana yk shim-palama

Dana YK Shim-Palama
3886A pAPALINA RD.
KALAHEO, HI 96726

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Albert Sikirdji
PO Box 1567
Makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Lani Loring Howell
62-2009 Mahua St.
PO Box 6336
Kamuela, HI 96743

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

J. Zender
P.O. Box 86432
Hilo, HI 96721

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Malama Aina,

Tommy Cook
Kuli rd. Kalaheo
Koloa, HI 96756

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Malama Aina,

Esta Marshall
pob 916
Honaunau, HI 96726

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Meghan Au
41-582 Inoa'ole St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

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73-1326 Awakea Street
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

suzanne garrett
2023 lime st. #J
honolulu, HI 96826

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

patricia westbrook
P.O. Box 713
Makawao, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

Frederika E Ebel
PO Box 701
Flemington, NJ 08822

908-391-0949

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Malama Aina,

Victor Brandt
4211 Waiialae Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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PO Box 390087
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73 Poplar St.
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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

isobel storch
1105 DeVictor Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1704

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Marie Elena Juario
694-C Huali Way
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Malama Aina,

Kory Payne
945 Lunahai Pl
Kailua, HI 96734

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Malama Aina,

royce kovacich
45-422 ohaha st
kaneohe, HI 96744

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Malama Aina,

Marguerite Beavers
55 Halili Lane 11H
Kihei, HI 96753

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I strongly support every effort to uphold the public's right to access the shoreline. Current protections for beach access are threatened by poor enforcement. Please pass S.B 1088/H.B. 971 and help improve enforcement of the public's longstanding right to beach access.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BEACH IS CRUCIAL TO HAWAII'S FUTURE

For generations, the people of Hawaii have lived and thrived by the beach. Our unique beaches are a source of health and revitalization for everyone who considers Hawaii home. Ensuring access to the beach is a basic element of maintaining a high quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Many Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners actively visit the beach at dusk, dawn, and throughout the day as part of traditional and customary practices, including surfing, gathering, and religious observances. As access to the beach becomes more difficult, so too will it become more difficult to perpetuate our unique Hawaiian culture.

Moreover, Hawaii's economy earns more than \$700 million a year from ocean-based recreational activities. According to Hawaii's comprehensive "Ocean Resources Management Plan, 80% of all visitors to Hawaii engage in shore-based activities that generates over \$360 million every year. This has spawned over 1,000 ocean-related tourism companies. Impeding access to the beach undermines this vital, sustainable aspect of our islands economy.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SHORELINE IS IN JEOPARDY

Although Hawaii's Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the public's right to access the shoreline and inland recreational areas based on our unique political and cultural history as an independent nation, it is increasingly difficult for people to actually use those rights. Beach-front developments, military installations, private gates, no trespassing signs, and high parking fees all stand where paths once invited people to the shore.

Conflicts between beach-front property owners and the general public are on the rise. Major protests were held throughout the islands last year to demonstrate residents' frustration with the lack of enforcement of shoreline protections - including public rights-of-way and shoreline setbacks. These conflicts can only be expected to grow, as Hawaii's population is anticipated to expand by another 30% over the next 20 years.

Adding to the pressures of shoreline development is the loss of beach front to erosion. At least 17 miles of beach on Oahu and 8 miles of beach on Maui have been lost to shoreline armoring and sea level rise. According to the State of the Beach Report published annually by the Surfrider Foundation, beaches in front of seawalls are 50-70% narrower than natural beaches.

SUPPORT IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING PROTECTIONS

This is why I strongly urge you to please pass S.B. 1088/H.B. 971. This bill improves enforcement of existing shoreline access protections currently provided for under Hawaii Revised Statutes sec. 115. This law was passed in 1974 because legislators recognized that "development pressures were undermining the public's right to access the shoreline and inland recreational areas." Unfortunately, today those pressures have only gotten stronger, while the ability of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enforce these rights has gotten weaker. Passage of this bill will help to fulfill the public's right to beach access, while lessening the burden on state enforcement officers.

Mahalo for your support,

Robert Wagner
3100 Sweetwater Rd
Apt. 3112
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am Lino Geremen. I am the makua at Kuhio ELEM. School.

It is my kuleana to stand for what is pono. i teach my students about caring for the 'aina.

i say a'ole to gmo. dont touch our kalo. please put this bill in its right place, which is the 'opala.

once again no to gmo it will destory our kalo and it would not have any meaning. kalo is hawaiian not gmo....

mahalo,

Rino Geremen

2250 ahe st. 52 a

honolulu, HI 96816

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Marti Townsend
Kaneohe
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Moses Goods
3110 Paliuli Street #2
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

CC Peyton
P.O. Box 658
Kekaha, HI 96752

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Malama Aina,

Tiffany Anderson

Tiffany Anderson
916 Niulani Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Raphiell Nolin
PO Box 1216
Puunene, HI 96784

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am a part-time farmer in Hilo and have just begun planting taro.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Ronald Fujiyoshi
1196 W. Kawaihani St.
Hilo, HI 96720

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Claudia Herfurt
P.O. Box 1261
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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joel fischer
1371-4 hunakai
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Susan Walsh
14 Kai Makani Loop
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Malama Aina,

David Bishaw
PO Box 933
PO Box 933 Hilo Hi 96721
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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kim Payton
645 Pauku Street
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Dona van Bloemen
1117 3rd. Street
Apt. 5
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Lisette Langlois
55 Kii Rd
Waimea, HI 96796

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Malama Aina,

Ralph Theron davis
57581 Alder Creek Rd
Scappoose, OR 97056

503-246-7898

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Joan Matsukawa
2786A Booth Rd
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony

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Aloha Aina,

Marissa Leimakanalani Sperry
664 Kamalu Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Barnaby Benton
15 North Hiena Place
Makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Dharma Wease

5109 Iolani Place, Princeville HI 96722

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Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Ralph Boomer
760 Honopou Rd
85a S Holokai Rd
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

Pohakamalamalama Palmer
Kam Highway
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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Malama Aina,

Florence Eli-Adam
84-740 A Farrington Hwy
NA
Waianae, HI 96792

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Teri Skillman-Kashyap
1720 Perry St
HONOLULU, HI 96819

841-5011

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Being Native Hawaiian I find the idea of GMO Kalo an assault on my religion, my heritage and my culture. Kalo is our elder brother not just a food source. He gave his life so we could have ours and he deserves our respect, gratitude and care.

From a scientific view, science is THEORY and may be dis-proven by another scientist. Therefore, the only "scientist" to rely upon is MOTHER NATURE herself. She has given us food from all different sources, made the food with just the right nutrients. We don't know the long term effects of continued GMO products. The science has not been around as long as nature, evolution!

Another view may be is it morally right to have a "greater than thou" hand in food production? The issue is not that there is NOT enough food to supply the ever expanding population...the issue is why go to GMO food crops when fields upon fields of rich, nutrient filled soil is laying fallow in the mid-west and here in Hawaii as well. Put the farmers back to work doing what they love instead of paying them subsidies to leave fields fallow or being economically forced to sell to big conglomerate farm companies.

Hello...moral issue? Yes - don't use GMO food crops!

Mahalo for your time
Christine Makahilahila
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Christine Makahilahila
PO Box 124
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Testimony

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kaela Gallagher
2250 King Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

robin Rabens
box 444
Idyllwild, CA 92549

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Joan Heartfield
PO Box 1044
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Malama Aina,

Julia Morgan
254 Hualii Street, Aptl 6
Honolulu, HI 96813

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hannah bernard
P.O. Box 790637
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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Cee Elbert
PO Box 487
Hana, HI 96713

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Margaret Primacio
480 New Camp
P.O. Box 92
Kahuku, HI 96731

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a consumer and strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

james trujilloq
1728 Hulu Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Åse Borg
Sørsvnaasveien 54
Arendal, ot 4848

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

vincent mina

1768 Kalawi Pl.

Wailuku Maui, HI 96793

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Rosa Enriques
39 makqni road
makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Vickie Innis
538 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Marie-Eve Hobeika

paihi

paia, HI 96779

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Malama Aina,

Garid Faria
479-4999

Garid Faria
2605 La'au St.#101
2605 La'au St., Apt 101
Honolulu, HI 96826

979-4999

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Naia Kelly
1428 W. Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

Susan Goldberg
120 Kapuahi Street
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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

PALANI VAUGHAN
PO BOX 1617
HONOLULU, HI 96806

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Justin Wagner
12-7157 LOKE PL
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Malama Aina,

Joan Levy
POB 160
Kapaa, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

mike irvine
46-104 William Henry Rd
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Elisha Belmont
10491 Cunningham
Westminster, CA 92683

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha,

As a gardener with 15 varieties of kalo in my backyard, I support the ban on any and all GMO-kalo in Hawai'i. My children are 4 and 7 months. They have the right to grow their native food crops in full biodiversity without fear of genetic meddling and its potential harms. As a mother and producer of food, I, too, have the right to plant and harvest and exchange huli without fear for the purity of the propagules. Please support these rights! Ban all GMO kalo now!

Sincerely,

Prana J. Mandoe

Prana Mandoe
667 Laukapu Street
667 Laukapu St
Hilo, HI 96720

935-4328

Testimony

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Elizabeth McCormick
13-6348 Kapoho-Kalapana
Pahoa, , HI 96778

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Scott Jarvis
PO Box 1664
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Virginia Walden
41-1150 Waikupanaha St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

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Malama Aina,

Camillia Elayyan
29-466 Kulaimano Rd
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

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Malama Aina,

Kanoa Nelson
Olokele Ave #6
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Bobbi Aqua
29 Harborview Dr
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Malama Aina,

gabriel donihi
po box 790951
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

John Maxwell
321 Kulana Rd.
Hilo , HI 96720

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Sandrea Chun
2406 Manoa Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822-1902

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Malama Aina,

Paul Moss

1849 Whitaker St.

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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Malama Aina,

Diana Fischer
1402 Sequoia Lane
Darien, IL 60561

Testimony

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Madrid

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pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
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Malama Aina,

Theodora Furtado
5135 67th St
San Diego, CA 92115

Testimony

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Forrest Hurst
415 South Union Street
Westfield, IN 46074

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Jonathan Schwartz
376 President St
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Malama Aina,

Leilani Resurreccion
P.O. Box 1077
Naalehu, HI 96772

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Cheryl Rosenfeld
4340 N. Roemer Rd.
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THE RAMIFICATIONS ARE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD YET, AND WE MUST HOLD TRUE TO THE OLD WAYS OF DOING THINGS MORE NATURALLY. FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

THANK YOU.

Malama Aina,

Loralee Jacobson

Loralee Jacobson

self employed

12304 172nd ST NE

Arlington, WA 98223-7938

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Simms
31637 E. Nine Dr.
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

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Malama Aina,

Lauryn Galindo
po box 982
hanalei, HI 96714

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jennifer beck
1118 chess drive
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DIANA(ANIMALSPIRIT) Martz - Animalspirit
2705 REDLAND LN.
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5330 Ethrington Way
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beverlea weaver
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
P.O. Box 6987
P.O. Box 6987
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Catherine Ann Okimoto
RR4 Box 2251
14-869 Hapu'u Rd.
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Malama Aina,

Karen Affonso
1720 Fallbrook Avenue
San Jose, CA 95130

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is Jeffrey Smith and I am the author of the international bestseller *Seeds of Deception* and *Genetic Roulette*, and I am the executive director of the Institute for Responsible Technology. I have three points:

1. The current generation of GMOs is unsafe and therefore a ban on any GM crop is scientifically justified at this point.
2. The mixing up of GM crops with non-GM crops is inevitable, and will cause economic damage to all farmers of that crop.
3. There is an upcoming tipping point of consumer rejection of GMOs in the US, which will have a greatly damaging effect on the sales of taro from Hawaii, if any taro is modified.

1. My recent book, *Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods*, presents irrefutable, overwhelming evidence that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are harmful. GMOs are linked to allergic and toxic reactions, thousands of sick, sterile and dead livestock, and damage to virtually every organ and system studied in lab animals. Current safety assessments by the FDA and other regulators worldwide are not competent to even identify most of the problems. And industry funded studies are specifically designed not to find them.

It is important to understand that according to peer-reviewed published research, the process of genetically engineering a crop is itself inherently unsafe. Irrespective of which gene you insert, the process creates massive collateral damage in the DNA, which can and often does give rise to unpredictable increases in allergens, toxins, or other harmful substances.

Because of the way taro is propagated, GM taro can be more harmful than other GM crops. After a gene is inserted using either a gene gun or bacterial infection, the transformed cells are cloned into a plant in a process called tissue culture. This process causes hundreds or thousands of mutations up and down the DNA. A huge 2-4% of the DNA is different than the parent cell at this point, due mostly to these mutations. For most plants, scientists cross pollinate the GM plant a few times with non-GM crops, which corrects most, but not all of the DNA mutations. But for crops like taro that are propagated vegetatively, this cross pollination step is left out. This means that the massive mutations, deletions, and disruptions in the DNA all remain intact. It is therefore more likely that GM taro will have dangerous changes in various compounds.

The safety assessments used to approve a crop are not competent to identify most of the unpredicted changes that occur in the GM plants, and harmful products can easily become part of our food supply. This has already happened with the GM crops already on the market, which have shown much higher levels of allergens, new allergens, altered levels of endocrine disruptors, etc.

You may verify for yourself the health dangers of GMOs, as my book *Genetic Roulette* has easy-to-follow executive summaries of the 65 risks associated with GMOs. I encourage you to challenge the

biotech industry to provide you with rigorous, independent data to counter each of these risks. I would be happy to post their responses on our website and post counter arguments. But we know from experience that the industry will refuse. They do not have counter evidence. The data is just not there.

2. Last month I was in Hawaii, where I spoke at the Capital Building, testified at the Big Island County Council, and gave talks on four islands. I got to know several taro farmers, toured taro farms, had the pleasure of helping to harvest, cook, and pound taro. I learned how the community of taro farmers has a long tradition of sharing among themselves the re-plantable parts of their harvested taro. While this has served an important function of promoting biodiversity and integrating the farming community, it will surely guarantee that GM taro gets mixed up with non-GM varieties, if introduced.

3. Our organization is spearheading the Campaign for Healthier Eating in America, designed to generate the tipping point of consumer rejection of GMOs in the US. We have already participated in a similar campaign aimed at educating consumers about the health dangers of GM bovine growth hormone. The tipping point was achieved there, and since then 40 of the top 100 dairies have already banned it, including Wal-Mart, Starbucks, and recently Yoplait and Dannon.

The same education strategy is being deployed around GMOs, and is being facilitated by a network of food manufacturers, distributors, retailers, healthcare practitioners, parent groups, and even religious organizations. We expect to hit the tipping point by the end of 2009 or soon after. This will result in the rejection of GM ingredients by food companies, and of GM products by consumers. Since there is no adequate segregation and labeling of GMOs, consumer rejection will shun both GM and non-GM crops of the same species. We saw how this worked with papaya. Japan closed its doors to all Hawaiian papaya, not trusting any to be non-GMO. This plunged prices below the cost of production and helped to erode the number of papaya farmers and papaya acreage in Hawaii, at a time when papaya consumption on the mainland actually increased. Allowing the genetic modification of taro could be a virtual death sentence to the market at this time, for all taro farmers in the state, not just those using altered seeds.

Genetic pollution self-propagates. We have no technology to fully clean it up. I urge you to find excuses to delay deployment of this irreversible technology. If any doubt whatsoever remains, just say no. You can always change your mind to a yes later. But if you say yes now, you can never go back once the taro is released.

Mahalo

Jeffrey Smith
501 W. Merrill Ave
Fairfield, IA 52556

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Bob Zeller
POB 6767
Ocean View, HI 96737

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

danitza galvan
2095 hanalima st
lihue, HI 96766

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Donald Heacock
2265 Hulemalu Road
Lihue, HI 96766

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat.

Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Thank you

JASON SCHWARTZ
115 BALDWIN AVE- 208
PAIA, HI 96779

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Chris Derauf
1050 Makaiwa Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a descendant of Haloa and kupa aina I heritably support the ban of GMO-kalo. Our kalo is not endeavoured or in shortage, hence the continuing annusance of these scientific atrocities toward our native hawaiian way of life. This plant is not for sale!!!! it is to be cared for so inturn it will care for us. Leave Haloa alone!!!

Kekoa Wong

6053 Summer St

same

Kuliouou, HI 96821

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Samantha Shetzline
PO Box 153
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Diane Koerner
14-5027 Kapoho Bch Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Nameaaea Hoshino

P.O. Box 574

Lahaina, HI 96767

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Avis Yoshioka
436 Ulumau Place
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Beverly Mendheim
P.O. Box 22171
Seattle, WA 98122

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I find it unconscionable that Hawaii continues to be a guinea pig for any kind of genetic alteration that comes down the pike. Because it is isolated in the midst of the Pacific does not mean that it is fair game for genetic testing of questionable products on a consumer base that is accustomed to using these products for daily living.

I also must say, from my own point of view, that we in the U.S. mainland also eat poi. We attend many Hawaiian events and regularly eat poi with the foods served at these events. As a cancer survivor and vegetarian I want to be able to know that when I consume something it has not been genetically altered. Poi is one of the healthiest foods available and we enjoy it greatly. However, we are prepared to discontinue eating it here on the mainland or when we are in Hawaii should this bill be passed.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

sandra morey
3461 laguna ave
oakland, CA 94602

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Patricia Blair
25 Aulike St
Kailua, HI 96734-2765

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Pumehana Miriam paisner
3250 O'neal Cir #24-H
Boulder, CO 80301

303 447 9772 (c)

Testimony

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Tricia Egger
435 Foothills South Dr
Sedona, AZ 86336

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

Justin Michelson
701 Kealakapu Rd.
Kula, HI 97690

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Malama Aina,

Kim Morishige
3253 Catherine St.
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Malama Aina,

Susie Pearson
8063 S. U.S. 27
DeWitt, MI 48820

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Malama Aina,

Barbara Best
280 Hauoli
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2170 Makana Ano Place B
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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kathryn Childs
PO Box886
Hana, HI 96713

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Heidi Ho
3785 Old Pali Rd
Honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Wanda Brown
landscaping, massage
21784 Mare Ct
Bend, OR 97702

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sara McCay
62-2219 Ouli Street
Kamuela, HI 96743

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha from Lahaina,

As a friend of Hawaiian taro growers, and as a consumer of taro, I can tell you that the only danger to taro crops is lack of water, not disease.

Any kupuna can tell you how the Hawaiians took a scarce handful of taro varieties and developed them, naturally, through the time-tested hybrid process, into hundreds of varieties. GMO development is not the same at all. The government officials who voted that GMO is the same as naturally grown were mistaken, just flat-out wrong. The risks are mind-boggling, because what corporate coffers are worth the potential loss of Hawaiians' staple crop? And the original varieties could be lost if this GMO process were applied to taro.

I reject GMO food, and I stand up for all the families of Hawaii to have the right to reject GMO food, especially the most sacred food of this land.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bio-prospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and the potential harmful effects to our local farming economy.

I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Mahalo for considering my mana'o,
K. Corcoran, Lahaina

Kathy Corcoran
886 Kuialua St.
Lahaina, HI 96761

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Carrie Rex
335 65th St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Rose Zellers
1017 Walker Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Valentine Redo
14173 Hana Hwy
Keanae, HI 96708

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Nancy Scarola
69-1010 Keana Place
D103
Waikoloa, HI 96738

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Jacqueline Judd
9172 Pioneer Dr.
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Malama Aina,

Marcia Kerwit
1320 Addison St.
A204
Berkeley, CA 94702

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Mara L. B. Chang
Gr. 5 - Kumu
45-251 Kulauli Street
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anita cook
box 543
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

429-0479

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai
85-1330 Koolina Street
Waianae, HI 96792

808 696-0798

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

GMO IS BASED ON VERY SHORT-SIGHTED THINKING AND INCOMPLETE SCIENCE--DON'T GAMBLE WITH NATURE!

Jaime and Cheryl Snyder

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P.O.Box 3248
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Malama Aina,

Toni A. Wolfson, RN
hummingdeer@yahoo.com
Felton, CA 95018

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun
46-166 Keoe Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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188 Hale st. Apt. 6A
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Roland Chang
149 Kaluamoo St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Viviane Lerner
PO Box 11187
Hilo, HI 9672

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