

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,

Mel S Stephen Stark
795 Lake Holiday Drive
Sandwich, IL 605489318

815-498-2588

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

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Elisha Belmont
10491 Cunningham
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Dana Moss
general delivery
Kapaau, HI 96755

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1849 Whitaker 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.

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,

Janelle Williams
179 Liko Lehua St.
Hilo, HI 96815

Testimony

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Will Ware
65 Cadillac Sqr.
Detroit, MI 48226

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Barbara Best
280 Hauoli
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Malama Aina,

David Storch
45 Mayfair Ct.
Brick, NJ 08723

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Tibor Weinreb
1041 e 83 st
Brooklyn, NY 11236

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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.

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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,

jesse soto
7141n 23lane
phoneix , AZ 850021

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Cathy Robinson
774 Willow Springs Drive
Mobile, AL 36695

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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I support a ban on all GMO-taro.

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Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago, IL 60680

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kathryn Ku'uilei Letkey
290 Lee St. #204
Oakland, CA 94610

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Malama Aina,

glory dassi
HCR 74 Box 22210
El Prado, NM 87529

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

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In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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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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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,

Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

No GMO crops in Hawaii - NONE!

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,

Judith Lyon
PO Box 112953
Anchorage, AK 99511

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Keani Kaleimamanu

P.O. Box 7220

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Malama Aina,

Diana Lopez
3260 Field Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

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Anthony Olayon
HCR 1 BOX 4011
Kea'au, HI 96749

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808 696 4280

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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,

Amy Marsh
1510 Francis Street
1510 Francis Street
Albany, CA 94706

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

beverlea weaver
PO Box 1679
willits, CA 95490

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Michael Saiz
PO Box 562
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Malama Aina,

tina horowitz
4701 pine street m8
philadelphia, PA 19143

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2702 High 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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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.

We fooled with mother nature by pollutants and now we've reap the whirlwind resulting in global warming, melting icecaps, intense urays thru a tear in the ozone, sick seas and sea animals. Let's stop rape of mother nature.

Malama Aina,

Joseph Nu'uanu, S.M.
Retired Educator & CEO
22683 Alcalde Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

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,

Dwynn Kamai
1238 Kaeleku St
Honolulu, HI 96825

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Malama Aina,

Tiffany Anderson
916 Niulani Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

Terry Tokuda

POB 648

73-4599 Kukuki St KK HI 96740

Holualoa, HI 96725

Testimony

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Robert Mitnick
PO Box 416
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708

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2531 Titcomb St
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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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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,

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

303 447 9772 (c)

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Desdra Dawning
25626
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

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Malama Aina,

paahana kincaid
1824 Vancouver Pl
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Malama Aina,

Cha Smith
4117 Black Point Road
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Britany M.K.M. Edwards
89-125 Mano Ave.
Wai'anae, HI 96792

668-2386

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Laura N. Quintal

Laura Quintal
1111 Fort St. Mall
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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,

CarolLee Averill
538 Pohai St
Kahului, HI 96732

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

jamie oshiro
1801 b 10th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

We know from our work with GMO crop research around the world, that GMO strains cause massive inflammatory response in lab animals and in humans. The dissected bodies of rats exposed to GMO diets have greatly-enlarged livers, spleens and kidneys, nearly 3x their normal size. This is a clear indication of the body desperately attempting to clear this toxic material from the system, and the response in human beings, measured by massive increases in fibrin in live blood analyses, proves similar findings.

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,

Tony B. Rich
59-1526 Kohala Ranch Road

Kamuela, HI 96743-8536

808.756.0504

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Jennifer Kane
15 N. Hiena Place
Makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ann Van Eps
P O Box 1378, 10989 Kamehameha V Hwy
10989 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Kaela Gallagher
2250 King Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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-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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-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,

Anitra Pickett
46-112 Kiowai St Unit 3011
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

janice palma-glennie
pobox 4849
kailua-kona, HI 96740

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trond borg
46-112 kiowai st
kaneohe, HI 96744

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Malama Aina,

Ina Roessler
4184 kekuaaoa
princeville, HI 96722

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I grow taro and home for family and friends and I VOTE.

Respect Nature and Culture. Some things are best not toyed with by man.

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Malama Aina,

David Yoshida
121 Maikailoa St.
Pukalani, HI 96768

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kathleen Luiten
3660 Kaweonui Road
Princeville, HI 96722

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I reject the genetic modification of ALL plants & animals, including taro, and support a ban on all GMO.

I am deeply concerned about health risks, environmental risks, irreversible threats to natural ecosystems, cultural disrespect to Hawaiian beliefs and practices, patenting and bioprospecting of things found in nature meant to be FREE and AVAILABLE to ALL, as well as potential harms to local farming economies associated with GMO's.

-GMO's cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. I know because I am one of those people who react to them. This problem is further exasperated by the lack of labeling to identify GMO products, but even worse, toxins and allergens appearantly become air-born. At times I get headaches, sinus stuff, start sneezing, and become lethargic living in Kihei near the test fields.

I believe that if I respond to them the way that I do, they must also harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages are irreversible: as no unbiased studies have been done, long-term affects cannot be known, and therefore no research COULD have been done on mitigating or reversing these harmful effects.

Genetic modification of taro, specifically, 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 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.

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.

As a strong supporter of local farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural animals and plants by establishing a ban on GMO's in Hawaii.

Malama Aina,

Frances Pitzer
14 Hakoi Hema Place
Kihei, HI 96753

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 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

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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.

-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 a me Na Kupuna,
Leimomi Wheeler

Leimomi Wheeler
HCR 2 Box 6865
Keaau, 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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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,

Alea Schechter
1777 Ala Moana Blvd. #813
Honolulu, HI 96815

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,

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

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

There are too many unknowns about genetic engineering. This needs to stop until more is known about health and environmental risks.

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,

Mark fontaine
3087 Puhala Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

9881303

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,

Rene Siracusa
15-2929 Pahoia Village Rd
Pahoia, HI 96778

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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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,

Cynthia Unmani Groves, Groves, Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consult
105 Kulipuu
Kihei, HI 96753

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,

Nina Puhipau
67-427 Kekauwa Street
Waialua, HI 96791

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Malama Aina,

Paul Massey
1659 Wanaao Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

Kaitlyn McKee
P.O. Box 2196
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Noyita Saravia
56-154 Puuluana Pl. #53
Kahuku, HI 96731

293-1871

Testimony

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Charles Lawson
27400 132nd ave se #F302
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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,

courtney Bruch

Piiholo

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,

phil kay
box 920
8050 Kam Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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Malama Aina,

mary Manley
2136 Alaeloa Pl
honolulu, HI 96821

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Malama Aina,

Malia Acohido
55 S. Kukui St
Apt DH 1412
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Malama Aina,

mark young
193 Akai st.
kihei, HI 96753

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5-5435 Kuhio HWY
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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,

Roger Harris
RR 2, Box 3902
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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Malama Aina,

hillary marsh
general delivery
honokaa, HI 96727

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Malama Aina,

pamela Palencia
3318A Kaha Dr.
Kihei, HI 96753

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Malama Aina,

Mary Detrick
8115 37th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

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Malama Aina,

Hallie Van Patton
163 Chatham Rd.
APT B
Asheville, NC 28804

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David Bishaw
PO Box 933
PO Box 933 Hilo Hi 96721
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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,

kehaulani kea

1511 nuuanu ave # 14

honolulu, HI 96817

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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-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

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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Malama Aina,

Brucella Halani Berard
77-6379 Kenika Place
77-6379 Kenika Place
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

1-808-334-1305

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I am writing to you now about taro, but I wish you to know that I have the same concerns regarding all genetic modification. GM is a genie that cannot be returned to its bottle and it behooves us to be very very careful: genies have a way of creating far more complications than benefits. Scientists are expected to be clever at science, this however does not qualify them to make decisions as to how or even whether their inventions and discoveries are used.

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,

Elin Sand
HCR 3 Box 10056
Kea'au, HI 96749

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

kimo stowell
nu'uanu ave
Honolulu, HI 96792

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ken Taylor
1720-A Makaleha Pl.
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Walter Andrade
P.O. Box 586
Holualoa, HI 96725

Testimony

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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,
Chana Dudoit

Chana Dudoit
95-1174 Ahoka St
Mililani, HI 96789

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,

Karen Alvarado
P.O. Box 4887
Kailua Kona, HI 96745

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Malama Aina,

June Davis
81 Lae St
Paia, HI 96779

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Malama Aina,

Robin Reinhart
1322 Kaupakalua Road
Haku, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

Dixie van der Kamp
HC 01 Box 959
Kaunakakai, Molokai
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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Janet Smith
P O Box 1361
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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,

Carolyn Moore

5402 McKellips Rd. Lot 289

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Mesa, AZ 85215

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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Cindy A. Lance
2711 Anuenue St.
Cindy
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-988-4408

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Malama Aina,

greg moser
1355 mainsail drive #1515
naples, FL 34114

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Malama Aina,

Ernest Messersmith
#206
810 Haiku Road Ste 113
Haiku, HI 96708-4899

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Malama Aina,

Lisa Chipkin
16 Sirard Ln
San Rafael, CA 94901

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681 Akoakoa Street
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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,

tom jackson
1124 s king st
denver, CO 80219

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,
mahalo
Harrison Kaji

Isao Kaji
2039 bachelot st
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Malama Aina,

zach franks
875 kumulani dr.
kihei, HI 96753

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Miranda Watson
PO Box 390087
Keauhou, HI 96739

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Because I and thousands of others across the globe have severe food allergies I am begging you to please stop messing with our food supply. The only people to benefit from genetic engineering are the companies doing it. Nature has always taken care of us and still will as long as we stop interfering with it.

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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B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825

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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,

Natalie Young
PO Box 32
Hawi, HI 96719

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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250 S. Hotel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Malama Aina,

Patrick Doyle
61-732 Papailoa Rd
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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Malama Aina,

Penny Rawlins-Martin
Lo#28 Kalamaula Hmstd.
P.O.Box 341
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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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,

Carolyn Lunel
12350 Greentree Dr.
Etiwanda, CA 91739

909-899-8284

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,

Sophie Foulkes-Taylor
1010 Front st, A204
Lahaina, HI 96761

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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,

donnalene sing
pob 10305
honolulu, HI 06816

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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

I strongly support taro farming in Hawaii, and I ask you to protect security of health of natural taro and local taro industry by establishing ban on GMO-taro. GMO industry does not care about Hawaii. I expect you to care.

Malama Aina,

Den Mark Wichar
711 W 25 St
Vancouver, WA 98660

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,

April Esterly
5048 Brywill Circle
Sarasota, FL 34234

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

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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.

-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,

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.

-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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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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Malama Aina,

NO GMO!

NO GMO!

NO GMO!

Bryan Milne

486 Rodney St.

Apt. #2

Brooklyn, NY 11211

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Bentley Kalaway
300 Kamaolo Rd
Kula, HI 96790

Testimony

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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,

normand dufresne
p.o. box 587
pahoa, HI 96778

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,

josiane beauvais
553241 akoni pule
hawi, HI 96719

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Regina Gregory
1704 Anapuni St.
1704 Anapuni St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

941-4188

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Sixty years ago as a child I ate poi regularly, I have worked in lo'i, and recently visited east Maui taro farmer. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, and support a ban on all GMO-taro.

-GMO-taro claims are speculative and not scientifically proven.

-GMO-Taro raises health and environmental safety concerns. It is not the same as natural 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.

-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 its sacred Hawaiian tradition.

-In addition, there are economic and bioprospecting concerns about GMO-Taro, as well as legal concerns about "preemption" legislation in "exchange" for a ban on GMO .

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 pono ko kakou Aina,

Waimea Williams
45-539 Pahia Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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,

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,

Ikaika Pestana
3828 Diamond Head Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Rosemary Cuccia
P.O. Box 8410
Honolulu, HI 96830

285-5741

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,

Marcia McDuffie
5691 1/2 San Pablo Dam Road
Martinez, CA 94553-2406

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

daniel greider
1747 billview dr
lancaster, PA 17601

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Malama Aina,

Janet Codispoti
RR-3 Box 1354
Pahoa, HI 96778

Testimony

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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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.

-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 the public's food resources would cripple food security, taro economy and violate 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 the 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. I 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.

I am a visitor to the beautiful islands of Hawai'i and I am a strong supporter of taro farming. Therefore, I ask you to take a very strong stand and protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Katy Fogg
3737 Central Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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,

Mahina Lenta
po box 1405
haiku, HI 96708

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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,

Tutabelle Ojeda
HCR 1 Box 5769
HCR 1 Box 5769
Keaau, HI 96749

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Support sustainable, traditional taro farming--not risky genetic modification!

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,

Cory (Martha) Harden
P.O. Box 10265
P.O. Box 10265
Hilo, HI 96721

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Aggelige Spanos
73-1069 Ahikawa
73-1069 Ahikawa
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha,

Please know that there is still not enough testing done to determine if there are serious side effects of GMO use. Let's not have our children suffer because we choose greed over the ainal

Mahalo

Alexis Horio

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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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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,

Alexis Horio
98-1034 Moanalua Rd
Apt 203

Aiea, HI 96701

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

wayne cochran
553 office rd.
lahaina, HI 96761

Testimony

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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. Please leave this natural food alone and support the health of all who eat taro!

Malama Aina,

Odette Rickert
PO Box 12
PO Box 12
Hilo, HI 96721

Testimony

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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,

Rosemarie Grassa
P.O. BOX 1918
Kapa'a, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ru Carley
PO Box 133
Honaunau, HI 96726

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Shirlee Newman
P.O. Box 1692
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Testimony

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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,

Shirlee Newman
P.O. Box 1692
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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,

Guadalupe Ojeda
hcr 1 box 5769 hawaii
Keaau, HI 96749

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a business owner whose business depends on taro I completely reject the genetic modification of all varieties of taro. The consumers and customers that purchase our poi based products will absolutely not purchase if there is even a slight chance of GMO. Whole Foods is one of our biggest clients and it is the policy of Whole Foods and many other leading natural food stores to reject any products containing genetically modified ingredients. Our company claims low allergenic on all of our products and could not safely make that claim if genetically modified ingredients were involved. Previously one of our products contained taro and papaya but that product line had to be eliminated as we could not find sufficient papaya in Hawaii that did not have the risk of GMO contamination. Will Hawaii make the same mistake with taro as it did with papaya? Organic and digestive health products are one of the fastest growing categories in the world food market. These categories DO NOT accept genetically modified foods due to the unproven safety to health and the environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela Day

P.O. Box 551796

Kapaau, HI 96755

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,

Tommy Cook
Kuli rd. Kalaheo
Koloa, HI 96756

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,

MARGO Cruse
232Aukahi st
kihei, HI 96753

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,

Carrie Brennan
6050 A Kapahi Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ann Egleston
date Street
Honolulu, HI 96839

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 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,

Valerie Loh
2552 peter street
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Malama Aina,

Nicholas Wilhoite
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Kailua, HI 96734