
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STUDIES RELATING TO THE RESEARCH OF ISSUES ARISING FROM THE POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS LABELING OR RIGHT-TO-KNOW REGIMEN.

1 WHEREAS, the question of whether to label food products as
2 containing genetically modified organisms (GMO) has garnered
3 much debate throughout the country; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in addition to legislative proposals seeking the
6 labeling of food products containing GMO material, other
7 legislative proposals would seek to establish, as an alternative
8 to GMO labeling, a GMO registration regimen, also known as a
9 right-to-know regimen, where suppliers of genetically modified
10 food products register those food products with a state agency;
11 and
12

13 WHEREAS, before establishing any GMO labeling or GMO
14 registration regimen, it is critical that the relevant issues,
15 as well as the intended and unintended effects, arising from
16 such a course of action be analyzed and understood by members of
17 the Legislature and the agriculture industry, as well as
18 consumers; and
19

20 WHEREAS, relevant issues include: a determination of
21 whether GMO labeling, GMO registration, or the status quo is the
22 preferred action; the economic effects of any labeling or
23 registration requirement on consumers and the local agricultural
24 industry; the costs of implementing such a labeling or
25 registration requirement; and whether food products containing
26 GMO pose any long-term safety threats; now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
31 Hawaii Economic Research Organization is requested to establish
32 an economic model, conduct an economic impact study, and submit



1 a report on the economic impact of implementing a GMO labeling
2 or GMO registration requirement on consumers, the local
3 agricultural industry, and the State's 2050 sustainability
4 goals; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
7 in collaboration with the Departments of Health, and Business,
8 Economic Development, and Tourism, are requested to research and
9 submit a report: examining whether implementing a GMO labeling
10 or GMO registration regimen is practicable, including issues
11 relating to ease of enforcement and administration of a labeling
12 or registration requirement, and whether such a program would
13 adversely affect the Hawaii 2050 sustainability goals and
14 determining how the preferred program, if any, should be
15 implemented; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
18 is requested to provide a report that includes detailed cost
19 analyses on implementing GMO labeling and GMO registration
20 regimens, including any additional personnel requirements and
21 any other departmental processes or procedures that may need to
22 be changed to effectuate such a regimen; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
25 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is requested
26 to submit a report that includes an analysis of peer reviewed
27 literature and studies regarding the long-term safety of GMO
28 crops grown in Hawaii and information on farming practices in
29 Hawaii; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following entities are each
32 requested to submit an individual interim report and final
33 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
34 convening of the Regular Sessions of 2014 and 2015,
35 respectively, on the research requested in this Concurrent
36 Resolution regarding the various issues and effects arising from
37 the implementation of a GMO labeling or GMO registration
38 regimen, including recommendations on other areas of concern
39 that may arise:
40

- 41 (1) University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization;
- 42
- 43 (2) University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture
- 44 and Human Resources; and



1
2 (3) Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the
3 Departments of Health and Business, Economic
4 Development, and Tourism; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic
9 Development, and Tourism, the Director of Health, the Executive
10 Director of the University of Hawaii Economic Research
11 Organization, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College
12 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

