
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO COMPILE A REPORT
ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD CROPS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a strong interest in
2 promoting diversified agriculture as a means to help our island
3 state achieve greater self-sufficiency; and
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5 WHEREAS, genetic modification of food crops is a
6 controversial issue; and
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8 WHEREAS, proponents of genetic modification of food crops
9 say that crops can be genetically modified to increase their
10 resistance to disease and harmful insects and that further
11 research, including field testing, is needed; and
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13 WHEREAS, opponents of genetic modification of food crops
14 say that they fear that pollen from genetically modified crops
15 might contaminate non-genetically modified crops, particularly
16 organically grown crops; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Hawaii to
19 protect the viability and sustainability of its diversified
20 agriculture industry; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii also has a strong interest in
23 protecting our precious environment and food sources and
24 promoting the health and safety of the public; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Legislature needs impartial information in
27 order to make an informed decision; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
32 Reference Bureau is requested to compile a report on genetically
33 modified food crops; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to include in its report:

- (1) A summary of findings from the literature on the issue, including the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation's coexistence report;
- (2) A summary of arguments for and against genetically modified food crops, including benefits and drawbacks;
- (3) Information on laws in other states that regulate genetically modified food crops, including the use of moratoria;
- (4) Information on other states in the United States and countries that have instituted restrictions on the importation of genetically modified food crops;
- (5) Information on the types of genetically modified food crops that are now being grown in Hawaii and available information on:
 - (A) Revenues generated;
 - (B) Acreage used; and
 - (C) Workers employed;
- (6) Information on which companies are currently growing genetically modified food crops in Hawaii and which islands they are growing them on;
- (7) Information to the extent practical of sites in Hawaii where genetically modified food crops are being field tested or grown;
- (8) Information on what precautions are being taken by growers of genetically modified food crops in Hawaii to prevent or minimize cross-contamination with non-genetically modified food crops;

1 (9) A discussion of the risks and consequences of cross-
2 contamination of non-genetically modified food crops;
3 and

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5 (10) Possible compromises between proponents and opponents
6 of genetically modified food crops; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
9 Bureau is also requested to explore possible regulation to
10 prevent cross-contamination of non-genetically modified food
11 crops; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
14 Bureau is further requested to consult with any interested
15 parties in both the public and private sectors for assistance;
16 and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
19 Bureau is requested to submit any findings and recommendations,
20 including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature
21 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
22 Session of 2008; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
26 Legislative Reference Bureau, the President of the Hawaii Farm
27 Bureau Federation, and the President of the University of
28 Hawaii, and the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
29 Human Resources.

