
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that genetic engineering
2 is a new science that has not yet received any long-term
3 evaluation of its effects on the health of human bodies, other
4 living creatures, and the environment. Japan, the European
5 Union, and the majority of other nations in the world are
6 limiting, if not barring, the importation of genetically
7 engineered foods into their respective countries and questioning
8 the safety of genetic engineering technology upon human health
9 and the environment.

10 The legislature also finds that the drift of pollen from
11 genetically engineered crops has been scientifically documented
12 to extend two or more miles away from those plantings, and
13 therefore poses potential risks to the organic farm industry and
14 other farms not using genetically engineered crops. Genetic
15 engineering also could have unforeseen effects on Hawaii's
16 precious native ecosystems and the biodiversity of our sensitive
17 island environments.



1 Nevertheless, growth in genetically engineered agricultural
2 production has been swift and pervasive throughout the nation.
3 However, because of the practice of exchanging genetic material
4 between genetically modified crops and conventional crops, wild
5 plants, and organisms is known to occur, genetically modified
6 material and any adverse characteristics it confers or promotes
7 could be irreversibly dispersed into the wider environment.

8 In Hawaii, the taro-growing industry is widely known around
9 the world and deeply imbedded in our culture. The legislature
10 finds that commercially experimenting with the genetic
11 engineering of this crop without examining and evaluating the
12 adverse effects of this process is careless and may have far-
13 reaching, irreversible, and unintended consequences.

14 The purpose of this Act is to create a ten-year moratorium
15 on testing, propagating, cultivating, raising, and growing of
16 genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§321- Genetically modified taro; moratorium. (a) No
21 genetically modified taro shall be tested, propagated,
22 cultivated, raised, or grown in the State.



1 (b) As used in this section:

2 "Genetically modified" means alterations to a life form or
3 its living progeny at the nucleic acid level, using the
4 techniques collectively referred to as recombinant DNA
5 technology.

6 "Recombinant DNA technology" means the transfer of genes,
7 regulatory sequences, or nucleic acid between hosts by the use
8 of vectors or laboratory manipulations and includes the
9 insertion, excision, duplication, inactivation, or relocation of
10 specific genes, regulatory sequences, or sections of nucleic
11 acid. This term does not apply to a material or an organism
12 developed exclusively through traditional methods of breeding,
13 hybridization, or nondirected mutagenesis.

14 (c) This section shall be repealed on June 30, 2017."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Genetically Modified Organisms; Taro; Moratorium

Description:

Provides a 10-year moratorium on testing, propagating, cultivating, growing, and raising genetically engineered taro.

