

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1226
RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1226. The purposes of this bill is to 1) preempt certain state and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms and 2) exempt state and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified taro. The department supports this measure.

Article XI, section 3, Hawaii State Constitution states, "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." Hawaii's agriculture needs a strong and clear State Policy associated with a commitment of resources relevant to today and tomorrow's Agriculture to assure timely expansion of the industry. As such, State and County policies must be consistent in their support of agricultural viability. This measure will move us forward in these objectives.

To insure agricultural viability, we must be at the forefront of research and development to remain competitive in the global marketplace. At the same time, it is essential that we preserve and perpetuate our island cultural values

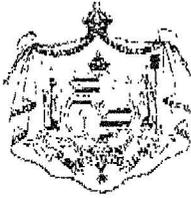
Agriculture, from its beginning to present, has suffered from pest and disease infestation causing enormous, unpredictable losses in food production. Biotechnology is a critical tool used in many countries to combat crop threatening insects and diseases. Without the biotech

development of the ringspot virus resistant papaya, all papaya production in Hawaii, both conventional and organic would have been devastated by the disease. There is a perception, promoted by opponents to biotechnology, that there is something inherently wrong with the technology which is contrary to what is widely accepted by the scientific community.

The loss of taro or any major industry in agriculture, by any means, would be devastating to Hawaii. However, advancements in biotechnology exist only through continued research. Passage of this bill will protect a valuable tool available to us which may prevent industry losses. Some threats have already arrived, while others are knocking at the door. We hope that serious consideration is given to the known threats of diseases and pests to taro versus the perceived fears of biotechnology.

The department acknowledges and respects the testimony of the Kauai Taro Growers Association, that in deference to the Hawaiian culture, no genetically engineered research should be done on stated Hawaiian cultivars and that research done on non-Hawaiian cultivars shall be limited to approved facilities with consultations with the Hawaiian community.

Instead of undermining ongoing efforts to seek alternative solutions, let us continue to support co-existence among all agricultural sectors.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN OPPOSITION TO

HB 1226, RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Committee on Agriculture

Hearing date, time and place: Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Room 312

Aloha Chairperson Tsuji, Vice-Chair Wooley, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1226, which preempts, overrides, and, if passed, would supercede any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans or restricts certain activities relating to genetically modified plant organisms. The bill states, "Any state administrative regulatory action in contravention of this section shall be void as against public policy".

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs have adopted formal positions in support of taro farmers. Although HB 1226 carves out an exception relative to the testing, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro, the Association opposes HB 1226 because no provision is made to safeguard against the discharge, emission, or liberation of any genetically engineered organisms, or the product of a genetically engineered organism, into the open environment, as provided in HB 1663, relating to taro security. Furthermore, no labelling of products containing GMO substances is required.

The Association's membership has passed several resolutions expressing serious concerns relative to genetic modification of organisms. These concerns include the related aspects of bioprospecting; misappropriation of natural resources, such as Hawaiian healing plants; patenting and licensing of Native Hawaiian genetic material; and intellectual property rights. Resolutions that address the foregoing are also enumerated and described in testimony on HB 1663, relating to taro security, and are incorporated herein by reference.

On November 30, 2007, Association delegates passed Resolution 07-14 specifically relating to GMO, "Urging the State of Hawai'i to Require the Labelling of all Products Containing GMO Substances".

In passing this resolution, the delegates found that present processes used to genetically modify organisms are unnatural and invasive to the cell's normal living condition. In order to introduce the genetic material into the DNA of the cell, its natural defenses must be overcome. To do this, many types of viruses and molds are used which are normally considered to be toxic to the body's processes.

Other invasive processes involve firing bits of foreign matter into the cell mechanically to bypass the normal protection provided by the cell's walls and other natural defenses. The use of antibiotic markers in genetic experiments, which enables researchers to detect whether or not the altered genetic structures are present in subsequent generations of cells, causes a lessening in the effectiveness of antibiotics against diseases and infections and hastens the day when antibiotics will no longer be effective in combating disease and infection.

Citizens need to be able to make the choice of whether or not they want to consume these GMO products and contribute to the lessening in antibiotic effectiveness that such use will bring. The long term use of GMO food products is unresearched and there are no studies that show or prove that there are no harmful effects that accumulate as a result of using these products.

Inasmuch as HB 1226 promotes GMO by preempting, overriding, and superceding state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans or restricts activities relating to GMO, and actually goes so far as to enshrine this pro-GMO stance as public policy, the Association must respectfully oppose this bill until provision are made to safeguard against cross-contamination of organisms in their natural state and environment, and the labelling all products containing GMO substances.

By way of background information, the Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-five Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 1126.



Food Company Hawaii

1116 Whitmore Avenue Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

March 3, 2009

HB 1226, Genetically Modified Organisms

Hse AGR, Weds, March 4, 2009

9:00 am – Room 312

Position: Support

Chair Tsuji and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Michael Conway. I am the Director of Agriculture for Dole Food Company Hawaii.

Dole Food Company manages 3,000 acres of pineapple, 155 acres of Waialua Estate Coffee on Oahu's North Shore and 20 acres of the nation's only commercial cacao crop producing world class Waialua Estate Chocolate.

We see the value of genetic engineering research and development when it is done responsibly and under federal regulations. Bans or moratoriums of such research tools should not be legislated. It ties the hands of farmers when other solutions are not possible. Sometimes, conventional or organic methods of pest and disease management simply do not work.

However, this bill is a compromise bill. It preempts state and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms if those crops are grown with a valid permit from a relevant federal agency. At the same time it does not preempt the existing ban enacted on the Big Island, and bans research on genetically engineered taro.

We support it because it will ensure that growers have a choice to use genetic engineering to resolve disease, pest or drought tolerance because all other options have failed.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I can be reached at (808) 622-3206.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

92-1770 Kunia Road

Kunia, Hawaii 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE BILL 1226

RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

March 4, 2009

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and its research and support staff.

HARC supports the University of Hawaii's position and amendments on House Bill 1226, Relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms which recognizes the importance of the scientific process and the regulated process in place.

Considering the depressing economic times we need to be careful of the business messages we are directly or indirectly sending to industries that provide some diversification to our lopsided economy. All forms of biotechnology need to be welcome in this state and any anti-biotech message is counter productive to the 'technology welcome' message our state has been touting.

Once again I would like to emphasize the process of Research and Development that without a willing buyer a product does not succeed in the marketplace. The following is an explanation I have repeatedly used to help in the understanding of the business of producing a new plant product. If the producers of taro and all the other specialty crops grown in Hawaii, do not chose a new plant product then there will be no commercialization. This is true for any improved plant no matter what genetic manipulation process is used.

Research and Development

Research does not produce instant results. New technologies are developed for major markets and take decades to be developed if ever for smaller markets. In this technology the process includes determining how to grow a plant in a tissue culture system from plant cells. This process often differs from plant to plant. Other steps are to determine what part of a plant is receptive to gene insertion, to acquire a useful gene and get it into a usable form, to insert the gene, to grow and select cells that acquired the inserted gene, to use the tissue culture system to

HB 1226-March 4, 2009

HARC

develop leaves, stalk and roots, to test the selected plants for the presence and functionality of the gene, to successfully transfer selected plants to potting material, to test the material to determine effectiveness and stability of the inserted gene and finally to safely determine effectiveness and stability under field conditions.

In the early stages to set up a system a researcher practices with different plant parts of several varieties and an easily recognized gene. Like color or fluorescence. The regrowth process can take several months and years can be dedicated to trying to reduce this time lag. Decades have passed in the development of systems for some of Hawaii's crops. Because of the exploratory nature of this part of the process it may be financed through public funds. For the most part research on minor crops is done by the public sector: colleges, universities or non-profit research centers funded by foundations or competitive federal grants.

Commercialization

Assume the research community has developed a new plant. Before this plant becomes commercially available industry/farmers have to be willing to go through any intellectual property licensing process if applicable and any applicable regulatory process before a new plant will progress further. This is what is commonly referred to as technology transfer: from the research community to the user community and is applicable to all new products developed not just agriculture. **It is not uncommon for products for any economic sector to be dropped at this stage. The reason for this is there needs to be some compelling economic outcome associated with a product to justify its adoption.** The present national agricultural grant system focuses on basic research of wide and/or regional applicability and not on the commercialization of individual products. Private sector involvement and resources are required for commercialization.

The point here is that just because there is research on a particular product does not mean that it will end up as a commercial product. This is as true for an agriculture product as well as for any other product in our society. For Hawaii for genetically modified plants, the affected industry sector will have to step up to the plate just like the papaya industry did. If they do not step forward to participate in the later stages of product development, intellectual property right's acquisition and deregulation, there will be no commercial product.

HARC, a non-profit scientific organization, supports the University's suggested changes to this proposed legislation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments for your consideration.

HAWAII COFFEE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 250, Kualapuu, Hawaii 96757

March 3, 2009

HB 1226, Genetically Modified Organisms

Hse AGR, Weds, March 4, 2009

9:00 am – Room 312

Position: Support

Chair Tsuji and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Michael Conway, Board Member of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association (HCGA).

HCGA is a statewide organization representing 10 member companies that farm approximately one-half of the 7,200 acres of coffee grown on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui and the Big Island. We are a grower-based organization and should not be confused with the Hawaii Coffee Association, which is the marketing arm of the industry. It is important to note that HCGA considers acres under cultivation by its individual member companies as the true representation of the coffee industry in Hawaii.

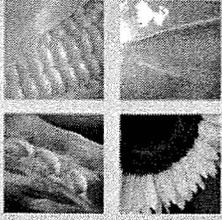
The HCGA strongly supports this bill because we believe that state government should not restrict responsible research and development that is strictly regulated by federal agencies and state agencies. There is a misperception that the majority of growers are opposed to genetically engineered research and development.

We believe that the long-term survival of the Hawaii coffee industry depends on research and development that includes the flexibility of using traditional, organic, and transgenic breeding practices. We face global competition from countries like Indonesia and Taiwan who are developing new varieties that will shadow Hawaii's coffee industry unless new, patented Hawaiian varieties are developed.

Currently, there is no solution for Kona root nematode, which makes a spectrum of research and development a necessity. One of the promising developments is the nematode resistant gene, which is specific to the rootstock and does not affect pollen production or the coffee bean. The insertion of the nematode resistant gene into the rootstock protects the plant against nematodes. Organic and conventional plants can be grafted onto the plant and retain its market characteristics.

This measure, while it does exclude the Hawaii Island County Council ban on genetic engineering research of taro and coffee, and excludes taro research, rightly protects all other permitted crop research under federal regulations. This is a huge step forward in asserting a strong state policy for solutions that actually will help Hawaii agriculture and farmers.

I can be reached at (808) 622-3206 if you have questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Adolph Helm

HB 1226, Relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

House AGR Committee - Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Room 312, 9:00 am

Position: Strong Support, with Suggested Amendment

Chair Tsuji, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

My name is Adolph Helm. I am a Molokai resident and Project Manger at Dow Agro-Science, a seed corn research and production company on Molokai. The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

As stated in previous years and in testimony for HB 1663, HCIA member companies do not grow taro nor do we have an interest in kalo as a commercial research and development crop. We have not supported legislating a moratorium on kalo or any other agricultural crop grown in Hawaii. Such policies send a chilling message that Hawaii is not in support of science and technology. It undermines future investments and growth potential for responsible use of agricultural biotechnology as a 21st Century tool for farmers.

However, we see HB 1226 as a bill whose time has come---a measure that seeks to balance the passionate and conflicting perspectives about kalo research and development, and the acknowledgement of responsible science and technology that is strongly regulated by the federal agencies, in conjunction with the State Department of Agriculture. It is in Hawaii's best interest to ensure that biotech research and development continues here and is governed by science-based, consistent regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment. County-by-county legislation creates a patchwork of regulations even when they lack the resources and expertise to appropriately regulate the science. This type of action inhibits investment in agriculture biotechnology statewide.

Suggested Amendment: Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on kalo, research on non-Hawaiian varieties must be allowed to continue to address real, human needs.

Passage of HB 1226 will have far-reaching, positive impact on Hawaii's farmers, as well as global farmers who are facing disease and pests where other remedies have failed. Genetic engineering research and development may be available for crops such as banana and citrus, and may save those industries much like how the transgenic papaya saved the papaya industry from papaya ring spot virus.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

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director@hciaonline.com
www.hciaonline.com



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N
2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

TESTIMONY

House Agriculture Committee

RE: HB 1226 RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau on behalf of our member farm and ranch families and organizations expresses **strong support with amendments** of HB 1226, preempting certain state and county regulatory actions.

The discussion of this measure comes at a very significant time. Daily we see TV, radio and newspaper articles about the serious state of Hawaii's budget and the challenges faced by State and County governments to meet financial shortfalls to provide community services. Long hearings are being held at the legislature to find the best way to address shortfalls in revenues. At the end of the day, the practical reality is that government will be forced to downsize, meeting the critical needs of its' people. Duplicative actions at the expense of meeting critical needs will be unacceptable.

This measure discussed today, recognizes the various levels of regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms. Understanding of this topic requires an understanding of the sciences as well as risk management. While there is healthy and legitimate discourse on the subject, there are those who use fear, intimidation and distortion to assess an opportunity that can bring benefit to everyone in society. These debates happen at the Federal, State and local levels. During this time of critical resource shortfalls, several questions must be considered:

1. Do our decisionmakers whether at the State or County levels have access to resources to evaluate this technology fairly and correctly in ways exceeding that done at the Federal level?
2. Will the benefits of such an exercise outweigh the costs ? Are the benefits in excess of those programs/activities that did not happen due to the redirection of funds?
3. Can Hawaii's agricultural production remain viable in a global marketplace without access to this technology?

This measure takes the bold step to face the reality of Hawaii today. It recognizes that there is a place for Federal preemption in the interest of society as a whole. It protects Hawaii by making sure that we make the best and most responsible use of scarce resources.

In the middle of this debate is Hawaii's taro industry. There are two points in which we believe everyone can agree:

1. Taro is important to Hawaii
2. There is a cultural significance associated with taro

HFBF respectfully comes before you today to recognize that commercial taro production can coexist with protecting the cultural integrity of this crop. Commercial taro production is the growing of taro to put on the table for every teacher, legislature, fireman ...everyone in Hawaii who wants to eat taro but does not have the time to grow it themselves. It does so at a price that is affordable to all of us. At the same time the farmers of this crop have a right to a fair living. To do so, their operations must be viable, able to withstand, not only economic challenges but those put forth by nature through inclement weather or pests. Worldwide, there are many diseases that do not exist in Hawaii. The devastation that can happen when a new pest enters Hawaii was demonstrated by the Erythrina gall wasp devastating the coral trees across Hawaii. Are we ready to risk the same for taro? Those who say that threat is not real must face the reality of what happened to the coral trees ...it could just as easily have been taro. As growers of this crop, our farmers want to make sure this crop will be available for future generations. We do not have the right to risk that potential by denying scientific advancements that can mitigate problems faced by this crop. Discussions of moratoriums on research does just that.

In recognition of the cultural sensitivity of critical Hawaiian varieties, we will agree to a moratorium on research on those varieties. However, we feel it is our responsibility to future generations to strongly advocate for sound research to allow taro cultivation in Hawaii today and tomorrow. Our ability to withstand new as well as existing serious pests and diseases is important and it is our responsibility to address them. We respectfully request that the moratorium be limited exclusively to critical identified Hawaiian varieties and that work on all other commercial varieties be permitted.

HFBF respectfully **requests passage of this important measure, with an amendment stating that the restriction on the genetic modification of taro is limited to a list of identified Hawaiian varieties.**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.



HB1226: Relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

DATE: March 4, 2009

TIME: 9:00AM

PLACE: Conference Room 312

TO: Committee on Agriculture
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

FROM: Lisa Gibson
President
Hawaii Science & Technology Council

RE: Testimony in Support of Intent with Amendments HB 1226

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HISciTech) supports the intent of HB1226. However, we believe that the bill needs to be amended to be applicable to all islands including the Island of Hawaii. While we have deep respect for our native culture, the recent Hawaii County Council measure prohibiting the growth of GMO taro crops is anti-business, anti-science and is not based on peer reviewed data and as such will be detrimental to the island's agricultural potential. In addition, while the bill offers a compromise to ban research on kalo, research on non-Hawaiian varieties of taro must be allowed to continue to address real human needs.

If passed without amendments, HB1226 will send a powerfully negative message about Hawaii Island and the entire state at the precise time when data tells us that science and technology growth is outperforming the growth of the overall economy. Here are a few highlights from our recently released report, *Innovation and Technology in Hawaii: An Economic and Workforce Profile*.

- Science and technology companies account for 3.6 of the State's employment or 31,106 jobs.
- Science and tech contributes approximately \$3.0 billion to the state's economy or 5% of the overall \$61 billion economy. To put this in context this is about the same as the state's accommodations sector.
- However, our tourism sector has declined by over 17% in August alone while Hawaii's science and tech sectors have outperformed growth for the overall economy by nearly 32%. It is projected that in the future science and tech will outperform the overall economy by over 50%.
- The average tech job pays approximately \$1,500 more per month than the average non-tech job or \$63,613 per year.
- On the Big Island tech jobs comprise 2% of the workforce with the largest opportunities in diversified agriculture, astronomy, energy and aquaculture. These sectors contributed \$97.8 million in earnings or 2.7% of the island's total earnings.



- Last year the average tech working on Hawaii island earned \$51,585 annually, almost 34% more than the average worker.
- The astronomy sector pays the second highest average salary of any tech sector with salaries averaging nearly \$71,000 per year.

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HISciTech) is a 501(c)6 industry association with a 28-member board. HISciTech serves Hawaii companies engaged in ocean sciences, agricultural biotechnology, astronomy, defense aerospace, biotech/life sciences, information & communication technology, energy, environmental technologies, and creative media.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lisa H. Gibson
President



*promoting sustainable agriculture
educating about the risks of genetic engineering*
PO Box 2352, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
hawaiiseed@hawaiiseed.org

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday March 4, 9AM
Conference Room312

Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1226

Chairs & Members of the Committees,

My name is Meleana Judd, for the past year I worked as the Oahu Coordinator for Hawaii SEED—a statewide nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and educating the public about the risks genetic engineering pose to the health of our islands. I have resigned from my position to start a farm, but am hoping my last testimony on letterhead is heard LOUD AND CLEAR, that Hawaii SEED Oahu is in strong opposition of HB1226.

We have much to learn about genetic engineering. Because of diversity throughout our State, Counties need to maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems. The language of HB1226 is not new and similar legislation has been fought by educated and motivated citizen groups across the Nation.

Throughout the month of February Hawaii SEED hosted GMO health expert Jeffrey Smith. Mr. Smith even came to the Capitol but only Representative Wooley came to ask him questions. Thank you Representative Wooley, I am sure you learned something at the presentation that would cause you to oppose HB1226. I heard that each of you received a complimentary copy of “Tomorrow’s Table”, a pro-GMO book, at the beginning of Session. Over the past couple years we have handed out copies of “Facing Hawaii’s Future” and hope you have had a chance to read that as well. For those of you who could not make Mr. Smith’s presentation on the documented health effects of GMO foods, I suggest reading or watching any of the following. Unfortunately we do not have the budget to provide each of you with copies, but I would be more than happy to lend you mine.

Books

Genetic Roulette. Smith, Jeffrey.
Seeds of Deception. Smith, Jeffrey.
Your Right to Know. Kimbrell, Andy.
Uncertain Peril. Cummings, Claire.
Stolen Harvest. Shiva, Vandana.

Movies

Islands at Risk
The World According to Monsanto
Future of Food

Again, we have much to learn about genetic engineering, and passing this type of preemption legislation would simply be bad policy. Mahalo for your consideration.

Malama Pono,
Meleana Judd
Meleanajudd@gmail.com
551-8132

Hawaii SEED
Hawaiiseed.org

Arlina Agbayani

From: Hilo Coffee Mill [coffee@hilocoffeemill.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 1:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony

To the Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

Oppose HB 1663

This bill prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, and growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii (**HB 1663**).

- We value and respect the spiritual and cultural significance of taro to native Hawaiians. However, this bill goes too far in calling for a ban on research of ALL varieties of taro (Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian).
- We have seen the decimation of taro in Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Solomon Islands from diseases, pests, and global warming. These countries continue to seek out the expertise of Hawaii's researchers and see value in the tools of biotechnology to address the many agricultural challenges in their communities.
- Activists have said: "Hopefully this moratorium will lead to not only a BAN on GMO taro, but ALL GMOs in Hawaii and elsewhere." Do not let them use the Hawaiian culture to further their own extreme anti-GMO which is based on ideological and philosophical positions rather than scientific research.

Support HB 1226 with amendments

This is a **compromise** bill that preempts state and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms if those crops are grown with a valid permit from the relevant federal agency - also known as federal preemption (**HB 1226**). The bill does **not** preempt the existing ban enacted on the big island and bans research on genetically engineered taro.

- It is in our state's best interest to ensure that biotech research and development continue here - governed by science-based, consistent regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while also ensuring that products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.
- HB 1226 reinforces the important role of our federal agencies that utilize scientific evidence and prudent risk assessment to address legitimate public policy concerns and eliminates redundant regulations that hinder the growth and benefits of biotechnology.
- Federal agencies with the appropriate expertise and resources - in collaboration and coordination with our state agencies - can oversee agricultural biotechnology in Hawaii more consistently than at the county level.

- Continued county legislation inappropriately circumvents the federal government's role, creates a patchwork of regulations, and inhibits investment in agricultural biotechnology statewide. They lack the resources and expertise to appropriately regulate the science.
- HB 1226 also respects the rights of farmers to select organic, conventional or biotechnology growing practices, and ensures the academic freedom of researchers to solve some of our world's most pressing food security challenges.
- **Amendment to the bill:** Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on kalo, research on non-Hawaiian varieties of taro must be allowed to continue to address real human needs.

Aloha,

Jeanette Baysa
Hilo Coffee Mill
Paradise In Your Cup

PO Box 486
Kurtistown, HI 96760

Phone: 808.968.1333
Fax: 808-968-1733
www.HiloCoffeeMill.com

Hilo Coffee Mill works diligently to bring East Hawai'i coffee to the forefront of the world market and to add East Hawai'i to the list of 'Best Coffee Growing Regions Worldwide'. For more information or orders, visit www.hilocoffeemill.com, email coffee@hilocoffeemill.com, or call (808) 968-1333, or toll-free (866) 982-5551.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Bruce Corker [corkclan@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 4:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1226

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB1226
Hearing--Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 am in Room 312
Chair Clift Tsuji

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA), I submit this testimony in opposition to the GMO Preemption Bill--HB1226.

At its meeting on February 18, 2009, the KCFA Board of Directors adopted a resolution in opposition to HB1226. Our opposition is based, in part, on the following:

1. HB1226 will block or impede efforts to protect Kona Coffee against GMO contamination from GMO coffee introduced (legally or illegally) from other Hawaii counties.
2. If GMO contamination of Kona Coffee occurs, we risk severe economic damage from the loss of markets in Japan and Europe and the loss of "specialty coffee" status.
3. HB1226 (with its prohibition on "discrimination" against GMO) would hamper or preclude the Hawaii Department of Agriculture from adopting effective regulations to prevent introduction of GMO coffee into Hawaii County. Even without limitations of the type written into HB1226, the HDOA already finds it difficult to prevent the introduction of unwanted plants and pests—for example, varroa mites, coqui frogs, and unfumigated foreign green coffee beans.
4. HB1226 seeks to undermine Hawaii's strong tradition of "local control" in order to advance the economic interests of Mainland chemical and bio-engineering companies at the expense of Hawaii farmers.

We urge the Committee to defeat HB1226.

With aloha,

Bruce Corker, President
Kona Coffee Farmers Association

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony opposing HB 1226.doc

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi
Address: 894 Queen Street
Phone: 808-597-6550
E-mail: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

Papa Ola Lokahi is a community-based consortium of Hawaiian organizations and public agencies committed to improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and others.

Papa Ola Lōkahi strongly opposes H.B. 1226 and any law prohibiting or preventing the state or counties from regulating GMOs in Hawai`i.

This attempt by the biotech industry for preemption would:

1. Allow biotech and GMO activities to happen in Hawai`i without any public, county, or state oversight or regulation. **JUST SAY NO!**
2. Deny Hawai`i's citizens the right to know and choose what is in the food eaten and what experimental crops are grown in their communities. **JUST SAY NO!**
3. Deny state and counties "home-rule" or the ability to decide what agricultural activities and protocols happen in our communities. **JUST SAY NO!**
4. Prevent independent monitoring and oversight of the effects that GMOs have on the health of Hawai`i's people, food sources, and ecosystem. **JUST SAY NO!**
5. Be a taro trade-off in the form of a ban on GMO taro in exchange for permission to do all other biotech and GMO activities on Hawai`i's other food sources, plants and animals without local community oversight. **JUST SAY NO!**

Recent food safety disasters (i.e., peanut butter, tomato and spinach recalls) affirm the need to establish the broadest safety net possible. Hawai`i's people deserve comprehensive food safety standards, methodologies and processes, which must include government regulation and control.

GMOs are not the same as natural plants. GMOs are created by artificially forcing genes from one organism into another, using virus, bacteria & antibiotics. This process creates unknown mutations that have never before been in the food supply or ecosystem.

Scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and deadly reactions. GMOs have NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that they are safe for consumption. The bottom line for biotech corporations is profit, not the safety or health of Hawai`i's people, traditional food source or environment.

Chemical and biological contamination from industrial GMO-agriculture could have irreversible, devastating effects on Hawai`i. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMOs may harm native insects, birds, fish, and soil health--with unknown long-term impacts on Hawai`i's unique ecosystem.

Like any living organism, GMOs would be impossible to recall or control when planted in the open or distributed unknowingly. GMOs are also patented and owned by large multi-national corporations. In Hawai`i there are no legal protections for small local farmers against the types of corporate lawsuits that can be filed against local farmers whose natural crops are accidentally cross-pollinated with the patented GMOs.

It is of great concern that experimental GMO crops and the toxic chemicals used to grow them exist around our schools, watersheds, and coral reefs. Group harm, by not protecting consumer and community rights, must be taken into account. It should be a red flag to lawmakers that biotech corporations refuse to label their products, give public notice of their activities, and seek preemption from regulation. Government must also require informed public consent to ensure a safe, rigorously sound and transparent process. If GMO products are safe and the industry's science is sound and open to public review biotech businesses and researchers would not work so hard to circumvent or prevent oversight.

The people of Hawai`i want, need and deserve safe and healthy food--and expect their elected officials to work to protect them. Your opposition to this attempt and others like it to weaken or limit State or County authority to regulate genetically modified food in Hawai`i is essential.



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAI'I CHAPTER

P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 / hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 4, 2009, 9:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 1226

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with over 5500 dues paying members statewide, strongly opposes efforts to preempt regulation over genetically modified plant organisms from all agencies and counties.

Hawai'i is ground zero for experimentation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with more plantings of experimental biotech crops than anywhere else in the nation—or the world. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture website, Hawai'i leads the U.S. in the number of open-air releases of GMOs with over 2,500. Yet, the State has done little to ensure the safety and sustainability of these activities. The State needs to assert active oversight over GMO experiments to protect the public and our environment, not remove control from the governmental bodies that do take action.

Thousands of experiments have taken place in Hawai'i right in our backyards. These experiments alter food crops such as corn without any proper studies of the risks to human health and the environment. They are taking place not in a laboratory, but in the open air, in locations concealed from the public. The latest wave of experiments called "biopharming" seeks to grow drugs and industrial chemicals in food crops.

Hawaii's small size, its close proximity of agricultural and populated areas, and its unique, sensitive natural environment combine to dramatically raise the stakes of testing GMO crops here. Contamination through pollen and seed dispersal, water runoff, birds, animals, and accidents could ruin the food supply and harm native plants and animals. Hawaii's economy, including conventional and organic agriculture, also stands to suffer from the loss of markets caused by any contamination. Numerous containment outbreaks and violations have already occurred, including several incidents in Hawai'i.

Consider:

- Between 1987 and 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized 4,566 test plots of genetically engineered plants on the Hawaiian Islands.
- An escaped genetically modified organism cannot be recalled.
- There is a lack of rigorous studies on GMO's effects on human health and the environment.

The Sierra Club's General Statement of Principle regarding genetically modified organisms states:

The Sierra Club urges full public disclosure, discussion and evaluation of the potential hazards, the potential benefits, and policy options for genetic engineering research and the development and use of products from that research. We urge the development of adequate regulatory, legislative, and other controls and that these decisions be based on a reverence for nature and life, as well as socioeconomic equity.

We call for acting in accordance with the Precautionary Principle, meaning that when an activity raises the possibility of serious or irreversible harm to the environment or living creatures, precautionary measures that prevent the possibility of harm shall be taken even if the causal line between the activity and the possible harm has not been proven.

In accordance with this Precautionary Principle, we call for a moratorium on the planting of all genetically engineered crops and the release of all GEOs into the environment, including those now approved. Releases should be delayed until extensive, rigorous research is done which determines the long-term environmental and health impacts of each GEO and there is public debate to ascertain the need for the use of each GEO intended for release into the environment.

We urge that where there are safer alternatives to the use of GEOs, these technologies should be given preference. For example, genetic engineering solutions should never be used to divert attention from the solutions to the problem of hunger that carry less biological risk (e.g., better distribution of food, land reform, sustainable soil conservation strategies, promotion of regional sustainability, reduced consumption of animal products, and stabilization of population).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE**

HOUSE BILL 1226

RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

**PRESENTED TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

MARCH 2009

Dear Chairman Tsuji & Members of the Committee:

VERY STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Loren Mochida, General Manager of THP in Keaau, Hawaii. THP is a processor and exporter of Hawaiian Premium papayas to CONUS and Japan and represents over 50 papaya growers. I am also a Director on the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA) Board.

Tropical Hawaiian Products (THP) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 1226 preempting certain state administrative regulatory actions and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms.

After much thought, we support HB 1226 because it will rightly protect those research and development crops that will be or are under the federal and state regulatory agencies oversight. Genetic engineering is a tool that can be used when biological controls, chemical applications, or soil health does not address the devastation caused by pests and viruses.

Research and approvals of all biotechnology crops takes years to complete. The research to develop the transgenic Rainbow papaya took approximately ten (10) years to develop. Another seven years were added for the approval process with the USDA Agriculture Department, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These included laboratory tests.

Once the process was approved, only then did the USDA perform field trial test in a protected area in Hawaii.

At the same time, this measure allows past county actions before January 1, 2009 – which by the way, I am embarrassed to say, refers to my island's county council passage of an ordinance that is unenforceable and shortsighted. It also appears to address those who are concerned with no genetic engineering research and development of all taro. If that community can live with the probable demise of taro varieties in Hawaii, we can too. After all, I understand that 20% of taro in Hawaii is imported, and because Hawaii is an international port, it is only a matter of when, not if, that an invasive species and disease will impact Hawaii's taro

We urge the committee to seriously consider prohibiting any State or County Administration from banning or restricting a person from genetically modifying, testing, planting, or growing within the State of any plant organism if the genetic modification is performed in accordance with a valid permit from the relevant Federal Agencies. Please SUPPORT HB 1226; It is one of those bills that will have a positive effect on Hawaii agriculture and move our communities past this divisive and unnecessary discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 12.

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 6:19 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shanti108@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Bailey
Organization: Individual
Address: . Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: shanti108@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

This bill would place unnecessary restrictions on State and County agencies. It appears to be an attempt by the biotech industry toward complete control of what is grown here. With conventional and organic crops already contaminated from the vast acreages of GM test fields, why ask for more of the same? Please kill HB1226. Mahalo.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Colehour Bondera [colemel@kanalanifarm.org]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 5:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 1226

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

Aloha Chai Tsuji and Committee members,

As a coffee, taro as well as fruit and vegetable farmer in Honaunau, HI it is sad to find out that the people representing us are still not paying attention!

We must protect the integrity of Hawaiian agriculture.

We must see that it is not appropriate to prohibit ALL counties or state agencies from "discriminating against GMOs" forever.

I am opposed to the idea of not listening to the farmers and the people affected and protecting research entities who are looking out for money and for themselves and bypassing counties and state agencies to simply work with situations as they unfold and work with GMO's as they are developed and not decide in advance that all of them are good!

Please do NOT support this bill, but rather try to work with and listen to farmers on a topic (GMO's) which can easily destroy crops and heritage permanently and essentially never be removed from the circumstances once trialed outside and/or released...

Thanks for your attention to this important matter and supporting Hawaiian farmers!

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera
KANALANI OHANA FARM
PO Box 861
Honaunau, HI 96726

wooley1-Christopher

From: Colehour Bondera [colemel@kanalanifarm.org]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 6:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: OPPOSING HB 1226 Preemption

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

Dear Chair Clift Tsuji,

I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB 1226. Please do not allow this bill to pass your committee.

I am a small family farmer on Hawaii Island. I grow HOFA certified organic food for my community. I grow 100% Kona coffee. In order to protect my crops, my markets, and my family's food supply, I may need to have laws passed.

This bill prevents small farmers from protecting our livelihood and the food supply from a failed technology that benefits trans national corporations at the expense of farmers and communities. Around the world, laws have been passed protecting specific regional staple and specialty crops such as the Hawaii County Council law 361. These are necessary. These do not impinge on research or appropriate crops.

It is time the Hawaii State Legislature started supporting MAS (Marker Assisted Selection) which is acceptable to all farmers instead of this outdated transgenic method.

Do not pass this pre-emption bill. Taro and Coffee on Hawaii Island are not our only treasures, Hawaii's commons, crops that need protection. These small regional bills will not affect the seed corn industry.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bondera
Kanalani Ohana Farm

Honaunau, HI
Hawaii Island

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: **Support with amendments**

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Ryan Braun, I live in Kekaha on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ryan Braun
Ryan.braun@syngenta.com
7965c ulili st
Kekaha, HI
96752

wooley1-Christopher

From: oahu hawaiiseed [hawaiiseedoahu@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 3:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226 testimony from Carla Buscaglia

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carla Buscaglia** <carliakala@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 27, 2009 at 10:46 AM
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226
To: hawaiiseedoahu@gmail.com

hawaiiseedoahu@gmail.com

Carla Buscaglia
carliakala@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI 96822

Friday, February 20, 2009 12:55 PM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carla Buscaglia

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 7:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kinglaulau@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: 253.JPG

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: jim cain
Organization: Individual
Address: honoka'a Hi
Phone: 808-
E-mail: kinglaulau@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb1226. Any attempt to prohibit public participation in the decision making process is not in the public's best interest. The days of George Bush democracy are over, please kill this bill. Not only is this bad public policy, it is bad science. In its place, I suggest a senate concurrent resolution to convene a working group commposed of people from all concerned parties to look at the issue of genetic engineering of our food supply, and to come up with policy as it relates to labeling, open field testing and other concerns. Mahalo, Jim Cain

wooley1-Christopher

From: Elizabeth Cole [bcole47@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 6:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Agriculture Committee Hearing, HB 1226 Preemption Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312, Chair: Clift Tsuji

Aloha,

I am writing to request that the 1226 Preemption Bill be defeated. Hawaii Island should be able to decide how it wants to develop its agricultural sector. We may want an organic seed business which would be threatened by open fields of GMO plants and seed. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS ORGANIC OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM OUR ISLAND. There are plenty of places that grow GMO seed; please allow for open pollination as well--this may be as important to the future of genetic diversity as anything we do.

Mahalo,
Betsy Cole
Paauilo
808

wooley1-Christopher

From: Alex Cox [alexgcox@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 1:50 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Alex Cox
alexgcox@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI 96822

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Caren Diamond
P. O. Box 536
Hanalei, Hi. 96714

March 2, 2009

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 1226

AGR

Room: 312
3/4/2009
Hearing Date 9:00:00 AM

Aloha Committee Members,

Regardless of how you feel about the GMO issue, taking away local voters' rights is a very serious threat to our democracy. This Preemptive legislation's sole purpose is to revoke local control and decision-making. The bill is sweeping in its effect and proposes to preempt local control of genetically modified organisms, stripping local authority of control on all seeds and plants . This will lead to very poor management of our crucial agricultural lands. There is growing concerns that genetically modified organisms will produce ecological contamination and prove detrimental to less intensive, more sustainable farming systems, that are so important for Hawaii's sustainability and ability to feed ourselves into the future.

As stewards of the land , please preserve local control and oppose preemption of local authority . Caren Diamond

wooley1-Christopher

From: DILL JR, GERALD M [AG/2111] [gerald.m.dill.jr@monsanto.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:21 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Opposition to Bill HB 1663 and Support of Bill HB 1226

I would like to voice my opposition to HB 1663. Banning research on any crop is a bad decision indeed. I respect the place that Taro holds to Hawaiian people and its culture and support the grower's free choice to select and grow organic varieties of all crops. However, legislation that stops research will stop development of tools and solutions to future problems that may arise from disease and pest pressure. Biotechnology is responsible for some of the most impactful plant diagnostic tools ever developed. The adoption of the tools and advances developed in this industry should be used to help improve genetics and crop performance in all crops.

All research done in accordance with and under valid permit from relevant federal agencies should be allowed to proceed. I ask you to join me in opposing HB 1663 and support the alternative HB 1226.

Sincerely,

Gerry Dill

Kapolei, HI

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wooley1-Christopher

From: Martin Donohoe [martindonohoe@phsj.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Joey Manahan; Rep. James Tokioka; Rep. Barbara Marumoto
Subject: re opposition to HB 1226, support of HB1663

3/3/09

I am a physician who volunteered with Americares on Kauai after Hurricane Iniki. I have since made over 10 trips to vacation (and sometimes work) at the old Garden Island Medical Group in Waimea and at KVMH. I am also the Chief Science Advisor for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility's Campaign for Safe Food, which is concerned about the spread of GMOs and biopharmed crops. Given the increasing data on contamination of native crops by GMOs and the adverse environmental and health consequences of GMOs, it would be a shame (and potentially harmful to Hawaii's economy and even tourism) for the islands to permit farming of GM coffee and taro. I hope you will do whatever it takes to prevent planting of these GM crops. Thus I hope you will not support HB 1226, and that you will pass HB 1663 without any changes. Slide shows and articles covering GM crops can be found on the food safety page of my website at http://phsj.org/?page_id=14. The web address for the entire website is below.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely

Martin Donohoe, MD, FACP
Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Community Health
Portland State University
Chief Science Advisor, Campaign for Safe Foods and
Member, Board of Advisors
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Senior Physician, Internal Medicine, Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center
<http://www.publichealthandsocialjustice.org>
<http://www.phsj.org>
martindonohoe@phsj.org

wooley1-Christopher

From: KonaBen [bendysart@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:58 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Virginia Easton-Smith
Subject: Opposition to HB 1226

Aloha Clift Tsuji.
Chair of Hawaii's House Agriculture Committee

As I understand it HB 1226 will prohibit the Hawaii Department of Agriculture from freely controlling (and prohibiting) the introduction of Genetically Modified coffee strains into the Kona coffee growing environment. We as growers of a unique coffee ("arguably one of the two best coffees in the world") cannot risk cross pollination of our genetic strain. I am not against research into genetic modification of plants as insurance against damaging infection but in our instance cross pollination could be disastrous. I strongly recommend that such experimental work not be allowed in our open air growing environment. Protection against Invasive species is very difficult, Kona has an increasing population of Cocqui frogs (also known as the potential "snake smorgasbord") but in this case the invasive element would be created by humans and is potentially more controllable. We need to promote, not inhibit control.

Please do not allow HB1226 to be enacted.

Mahalo, Ben Dysart, Holualoa, the Big Island...

House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth legislature 2009
State of Hawaii
March 3, 2009

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 1226

AGR

Room: 312
Hearing Date 3/4/2009
9:00:00 AM

Aloha Committee Members,

This letter is in concern to the proposed House Bill 1226 regarding the preemption of County and State regulatory action in regards to genetically modified plant organisms. As a college student and resident of Kauai, I strongly urge you to withdraw your support from HB1226. As representatives for the people of Hawaii, it is your obligatory responsibility to keep decision making at the local level. The decisions and laws that are passed now are not only effecting our current generation, but all the future generations to come. It is imperative that the people of Hawaii are able to voice their concern in these important decisions. Once again I urge you stand against proposed HB1226.

Mahalo
Emily DeVille

wooley1-Christopher

From: OFSTONE@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 9:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: OFSTONE@aol.com
Subject: In opposition to HB 1226

Jeri Di Pietro
GMO Free Kaua`i
PO Box 343
Koloa, HI 96756
808

agrtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji
Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

Please object and vote no on HB1226, regarding the preemption of county and state law.

Each county has the right to regulate the safety and human health aspects of genetically engineered, and to assign responsibility for this research.

Imagine these mainland corporations having the power to denying our state and counties of their "home-rule" or ability to decide what agricultural activities and protocols happen in their own communities.

Look at the power these chemical corporations (Monsanto, DuPont/Pioneer, Syngenta) are having on your Agricultural committee. I am shocked that your Speaker, Calvin Say, would feel inclined to introduce this bill, knowing that there is a massive number of voters against this.

Not only are voters from across the state in opposition to this bill, these voters and food growers have been asking for protection from these mainland chemical research corporations for years.

Please represent the voices of the kama`aina, of the people who vote for you. of the neighbors that you come home to, and of the thousands of people giving their time to develop sustaining food growing systems.

With all the biotech acres on Kaua`i, there is not one field that we can eat. We cannot not afford to continue to misuse and disallow our resources of land and water.

It is one thing to let these experiments happen on our land. It is another thing to let them happen here without any regulation, EIS or the principles of precaution.

Independent monitoring or oversight of the effects that GMOs have on our communities and `aina have never occurred. These unintended consequences are something the rest of the world is beginning to see, like the ill effects of on human fertility, antibiotic resistant infections, economics, honey bee's and traditional food production

This current technology is an issue of freedom. It complicates the planting of food in our backyard garden. Already organic and conventional farmers cannot grow open pollinated corn in their yards without taking the chance that biotech pollen may get into their field. Farmers are at risk of losing their organic certification on their specialty crops because these unrestricted, open air test sites.

This technology is crude and dangerous. When GMO food crops were first developed, the human genome mapping project was in it's early stages. GE science was built on the theory that there was one gene for each trait. We now know that is false. We have about 25,000 genes in the human genome, but we express over 100,000 traits. The insertion of unrelated plants, animals, humans and viruses into commodity food crops cause mutations in the DNA strands. The unintended consequences of these foods on our bodies, soil, food and water should be assessed. It is rather suspect that a good scientist would not be curious. Scientist who have these questions are producing data showing harm have been cut off from funding and discredited.

Do not allow these chemical/biotech companies to strong arm you. It is you who holds the power, it is you who holds the key to our future land use and lifestyle.

So far, these biotech crops have only produced chemical resistance and pesticide producing genomes. It is apparent that the focus is on selling more chemicals, something we need to move away from. Their passion is based on the patenting of seeds and life forms.

Please oppose this bill, and preserve our option to enforce safety laws and assign liability. Do not give multinational chemical companies with documented histories of terrible pollution and environmental degradation, carte blanche in our state. Opposing this bill does not make it impossible for them to do business, it just helps to keep us safe from harm. We deserve that. It would be foolish to relinquish that power of home rule.

Sincerely, and with aloha,
Jeri Di Pietro
GMO Free Kaua`i

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Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: **Support with amendments**

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Robert Gandia I live in Kekaha on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Gandia,
P.O. Box 115 Kekaha, Hi 96752
bitos1@yahoo.com

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 9:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: veronica.r.garcia@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB1226.doc

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Veronica Garcia
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: veronica.r.garcia@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

Please oppose this preemption bill. Hawaii already imports over 60% of its food and is the state most dependent on petroleum. It is important to maintain a level of sustainability in a land like ours. Crops are tampered with all the time. Please make our health a top priority, as well as Hawaii's scarce and unique resources.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Suzanne Garrett [fettogo2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 6:08 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Suzanne Garrett
fettogo2@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96826

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,
I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.
I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.
Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.
Mahalo for your consideration.

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1226 With Amendments
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE**

CHAIRPERSON: Representative Cliff Tsiji
BILL NO: HB 1226 Growing of GE Crops in Hawaii
TITLE: Growing of Genetically Modified Crops in Hawaii
HEARING DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.
HEARING LOCATION: Room 312 Room

Chairperson Cliff Tsiji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Don Gerbig, a retiree from the agricultural industry, a private citizen, and an advocate of sound science and the use of biotechnology (genetic engineering) to improve our crops and fight hunger in the world.

I am strongly in favor in the passage of this bill out of Committee.

The biotech industry in Hawaii is constantly be threatened by unsubstantiated pseudo-science and scare tactics. The biotech industry employees thousands of local people and contributes over \$70 million annually to our economy.

Not one person has ever become ill from a genetically modified food, yet this healthful technology is constantly being held back by fear-mongers and their partners with no substantial scientific studies to back up their frivolous claims. Anti-biotechnology activists often deluge the public with irrelevant, untrue, or partly true information that leaves Committee members like yourselves, incapable of making good decisions or possibly using poor judgment. Be aware.

It is a fact, that all GE crops are examined much more by the EPA, USDA, FDA and our own DOA, than any organic or conventional bred crop. This legislation insures that current biotech regulatory requirements are not pre-empted with unmanageable and unneeded additional regulatory burdens on the biotech industry or our own local growers. Once biotech crops are approved by all the above government agencies, then the regulatory requirements have been met. Additional regulations added by counties is unnecessary and often done without scientific basis or knowledge of the subject being regulated.

The use of good agricultural scientific research, including biotechnology (GMO's) to increase crop yields, is vital to the world since the price of feeding a global population of more than six billion is going to have a huge environmental impact.

I urge you to pass this legislation so that we can insure and encourage scientific research within the state of Hawaii, and future employment in the biotech industry.

Don Gerbig

Lahaina, HI 96761-8322

wooley1-Christopher

From: Michael Gibson [michaelgibson111@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 7:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1226

Aloha,

I am dismayed and angry that an attempt is being made to circumvent the voice of many residents statewide who believe, as I do, that GMOs have not been dealt with in an honest or sufficiently cautious manner. This potentially dangerous technology has been given undeserved green flags in this state - and Bill 1226 is evidence of that - while funds for the age-old and proven and effective and adequate methods of sustainable forms of agriculture have gotten short shrift. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1226.

Thank you,
Michael Gibson
Honoka'a

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: Support with amendments

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Laurie Goodwin, I live in Kekaha on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurie Goodwin

P.O. Box 994

Kekaha, Hawaii

96752

u142520@gmail.com

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
by
Andrew G. Hashimoto

HB 1226 - RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 1226. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

The purpose of HB 1226 is to address genetically modified plant organisms by preempting any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans or restricts certain activities relating to genetically modified plant organisms, with an exception from the preemption for any county ordinance that became effective before January 1, 2009 and made unlawful certain actions relating to particular species of genetically modified plant organisms. The measure also exempts from the preemption any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans, restricts, or otherwise regulates the growing of genetically modified taro.

I support the intent of HB 1226, with reservations on the constraints placed by the measure on research. The exceptions to the preemptions provided in the bill include: 1) any county ordinance that became effective before January 1, 2009, and specifically names the County of Hawaii's Ordinance No. 08-154 which bans taro and coffee research; and 2) "...any state administrative or county regulatory action concerning the genetic modification of taro or the testing, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro."

CTAHR has, out of respect for the cultural significance of Hawaiian taro, agreed not to conduct any transgenic research on Hawaiian taro. We have honored the terms of the May 24, 2005 agreement and will continue to do so.

Of particular concern with the bill as written, however, is the broad reference to a ban on genetic modification of all taro, not only Hawaiian taro, and by reference to Ordinance No. 08-154, includes the Hawaii County's ban on coffee research as well. We see no reason for the restriction on coffee.

Please note that there are other places in the Pacific Basin that are concerned with the effects disease and other threats to non-Hawaiian taro. We would like to continue to provide aid to and research on these non-Hawaiian taro varieties. To be prevented from conducting any research on taro would be a great disservice to our clients and to our obligations as a land grant university, and may eventually affect the future availability of taro and other plants.

We appreciate that this bill is a good attempt to compromise these rather contentious issues in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
by
Ching Yuan Hu

HB 1226 - RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ching Yuan Hu, and I serve as Associate Dean and Associate Director of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 1226. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

The purpose of HB 1226 is to address genetically modified plant organisms by preempting any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans or restricts certain activities relating to genetically modified plant organisms, with an exception from the preemption for any county ordinance that became effective before January 1, 2009 and made unlawful certain actions relating to particular species of genetically modified plant organisms. The measure also excepts from the preemption any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans, restricts, or otherwise regulates the growing of genetically modified taro.

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CTAHR has, out of respect for the cultural significance of Hawaiian taro, agreed not to conduct any transgenic research on Hawaiian taro. We have honored the terms of the May 24, 2005 agreement and will continue to do so.

Of particular concern with the bill as written, however, is the broad reference to a ban on genetic modification all taro, not only Hawaiian taro, and by reference to Ordinance No. 08-154, to include the Hawaii County's ban on coffee research as well. We see no reason for the restriction on coffee.

Please note that there are other places in the Pacific Basin that are concerned with the effects disease and other threats to non-Hawaiian taro. We would like to continue to provide aid to and research on these non-Hawaiian taro varieties. To be prevented from conducting any research on taro would be a great disservice to our clients and to our obligations as a land grant university, and may eventually affect the future availability of taro and other plants.

I appreciate that this bill is a good attempt to compromise these rather contentious issues in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Kim Isaak [kci@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Kim Isaak
kci@hawaii.rr.com

Honolulu, HI 96822

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: janet jones [janet@konamist.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB-1226

Clift Tsuji
Chairman

Congratulations! to Darjeeling, India, who are celebrating their triumph worldwide, in attaining legal protection of the name "Darjeeling" for the gourmet tea we have known traditionally, and now is legally protected. No one can use the name to peddle something else.

The islands of Hawaii used to have sugar, pineapple, etc. They are gone. The times demand leaders who know what is the trend in the whole world.

As Kona coffee farmers, our family looks to our elected officials to do the right thing for their constituents. Vote down HB1226. Defend us.

Janet Pierce Jones

wooley1-Christopher

From: Margaret Krum [marymjoy@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 10:13 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Margaret Krum
marymjoy@mac.com

Honolulu, HI 96816

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards to genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: langberg@roadrunner.com
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 8:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Kim; Pam; Rolando; Wayne
Subject: HB1266 &HB1663 Testimony

To: agrtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Regarding:

- > Agriculture Committee Hearing
- > HB 1226 Preemption
- > Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
- > Chair: Clift Tsuji
- > OR:
- > Agriculture Committee Hearing
- > HB 1663 Taro Bill
- > Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
- > Chair: Clift Tsuji

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please vote no on these bills! It is again a travesty that anyone would want to alter the genetic make up of two of Hawaii's most renown and precious crops; Kona Coffee and Taro. These bills are a threat to the livelihood of us farmers and the agriculture of Hawaiian coffee and taro. Quoting from an article by Amanda Spaur from The Big Island Weekly Feb. 25, 2009: "After explaining the technical process involved with genetic engineering, how little is known about the likelihood of error, and how there is no technology that could reverse the effects of releasing GMO into the environment." The article also discusses the health affects occurring in India from Monsanto and that safety evaluations are not required by the FDA in order to release GMO foodstuffs into the market.

We are Kona Coffe, avocado, mango, and various fruit farmers in Kealakekua, Hawaii and are grateful for your vote to keep Hawaiian agriculture GMO free!

Mahalo,

Maureen and Frederick Langberg

. Kealakekua, HI 96750

wooley1-Christopher

From: Esta Feedora [feedora@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 8:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Bruce Corker
Subject: No to HB 1226 -Please protect the people and land of Hawaii from experimental genetically engineered varieties.

To: agrtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

I am a small Kona Coffee farmer. I want to testify my objections to HB1226. This bill seeks to undermine Hawaii's strong tradition of local control and will advance the economic interests of Mainland chemical and bio-engineering companies at the expense of Hawaii farmers.

The Preemption Bill HB1226 - which would prohibit ALL counties or state agencies from "discriminating against GMOs" forever, would also "grandfather" in Hawai'i County Bill 361 (banning the growing and research on GMO taro and coffee). This bill needs to be rejected in committee now.

I believe it is a dangerous practice to remove democratic process from local control.

Mahalo Nui for your time and energy put forth to protect all the advances that have been made over the years to protect the people, the farmers, and the lands of Hawai'i from experimental genetically engineered varieties.

Aloha,

Esta Marshall
Feedora Farm
P.O.Box 916
Honolulu, HI 96726
feedora@hawaiiantel.net

wooley1-Christopher

From: John McClure [jmcclure@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: GMO's

Gentlemen;

Its my understanding that you are considering a bill to allow GMO coffee on the Big Island.

What are the GMO modifactions of the coffee to be tested;

What assurance to you have that it will or will not cross fertilize with existing plantations;

What is the necessity of testing on the Big Island.

I am a Kona coffee farmer and might be adversely affected by your decisions.

Respectfully,

John McClure
McClure Farms
jmcclure@hawaii.rr.com

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 1:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: brock002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diana Montgomery-Brock
Organization: Syngenta
Address: : Mililani, HI
Phone: (808)
E-mail: brock002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

wooley1-Christopher

From: Marilyn Morgan [hilynn1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 10:26 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Marilyn Morgan
hilynn1@hotmail.com
:
Honolulu, HI 96816

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,
I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.
I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.
Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.
Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Nadine Newlight, Director [nadine@mauilearningcenter.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 2:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 1226 Preemption and HB 1663 Taro Bill

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

Aloha reps;

Please do not take this important decision away from local control. Maui County is vehemently opposed to further GMO experimentation on our `aina. Vote NO! Mahalo.

Nadine Newlight

Pa`ia 96779
808-

and

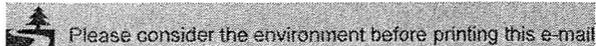
Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1663 Taro Bill
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

Aloha reps;

Please prevent kalo, the Hawaiian ancestor from being tampered with in the name of unproven threats. Maui County is vehemently opposed to further GMO experimentation on our `aina. Vote YES! Mahalo.

Nadine Newlight

Pa`ia 96779
808-



wooley1-Christopher

From: Cynthia Ning [cyndy@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 2:54 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Cynthia Ning
cyndy@hawaii.edu

Honolulu, HI 96822

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Adrienn&Paul Olson [adrien_honduras@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Oppose HB1663; Support HB 1226 with amendments

To the committee on agriculture:

Attn: Reps. Clift Tsuji, Chair & Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

My name is Paul Olson, and I am a resident of Kalaheo on the island of Kauai. I was born on the Big Island in Honoka'a more than forty years ago and grew up eating poi. My family on both sides were farmers, and my childhood idol was the agricultural innovator and humanitarian, George Washington Carver. After finishing my undergrad degree in Botany with an emphasis in Anthropology, I worked in the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer with the Department of Natural Resources. Later on I completed a Ph.D. in biology. Presently I am employed at Pioneer in Waimea, where I have the chance to serve humanity doing crop research.

From all these experiences I have learned that plant research, including biotech approaches, could help preserve taro. Insect and disease pressures change over time and it seems counter productive to exclude any approaches. At the same time I also believe the Hawaii community should have a leading voice in preserving taro - given taro's significant role in Hawaiian history. I am concerned that antiGMO activists are hitchhiking their anti-science agenda onto a culturally sensitive issue. I also believe the ali'i were exemplary innovators and would have had a balanced view on genetic modification - that it is just another tool in the plant breeders tool box.

I oppose the bill because it sets a bad precedent for our state. The bill sends an anti-science message that would likely scare other businesses from investing in Hawaii. And if Hawaii is perceived as anti-science, it will become more difficult for children of your constituency to find meaningful employment in the Islands.

On the other hand, HB 1226 with amendments reinforces the use of scientific evidence and prudent risk assessment to address legitimate public policy concerns and eliminates excessive regulations that hinder the growth and benefits of biotechnology. It is a reasonable compromise. Federal agencies with the appropriate expertise and resources - in collaboration and coordination with our state agencies - can oversee agricultural biotechnology in Hawaii more consistently than at the county level. County agencies lack the resources and expertise to appropriately regulate the science. Adding more to county administration will impede investment in agricultural biotechnology statewide.

Moreover, HB 1226 respects the rights of farmers to select organic, conventional or biotechnology growing practices, and ensures the academic freedom of researchers to solve some of our world's most pressing food security challenges. The amendment to the bill offers a compromise to ban research on kalo; research on non-Hawaiian varieties of taro must be allowed to continue to address real human needs.

In conclusion, I'm sure that we both prefer that Hawaii be known as a technology leader and center for creativity. Biotech has aided papaya, and has potential to help anthirium production and other small crops. I would be ashamed to see Hawaii place a moratorium on any crop. Hawaii is a state that can model healthy coexistence of a variety of agriculture. I would prefer to see the legislature focus their precious time on devising ways to preserve and protect taro, for taro farming education and training programs, to promote funding to evaluate ways to control major pests like apple snails, and a Senate bill for continued discussions between taro farmers, OHA, Hawaii Dept of Agriculture and University of Hawaii. Let's show aloha, not alienation, to science and humanity.

Please oppose HB1663 and support HB 1226 with amendments.

Mahalo for your attention.

Paul D. Olson

r.

Kalaheo HI 96741

March 4, 2009

Hearing Before the
House Committee Agriculture

Testimony on
HB 1226

Chair Tsuji and members of the committee:

I am Fred Perlak, Vice-President of Research and Business Operations for Monsanto in Hawaii and I ask that you consider my testimony in strong support of HB1226.

This bill is important because it provides the security for farmers to choose the type of farming operation they prefer. It respects the rights of all farmers to select organic, conventional or biotechnology growing practices. These technologies are highly regulated by both the state and the federal government. These agencies have the expertise and the resources to objectively research, evaluate, test and question the safety and suitability of all forms of agriculture from genetically engineered crops to the latest pesticides to organic growing practices and procedures. These agencies provide a fair framework for regulation and minimize the potential for local or regional legislation that may be used to restrict the rights of farmers to choose their legal farming practices.

County and State legislation that contradicts existing Federal laws and regulatory permitting processes is inappropriate and places an unnecessary burden on any business operating in a highly regulated arena. County or local governments do not have the expertise, knowledge, resources, and regulatory mandate to oversee the complexity and technical field of agricultural biotechnology. The Federal USDA, FDA, and EPA along with the State Department of Agriculture already regulate our industry very closely.

HB 1226 reinforces the important role of our federal agencies that utilize scientific evidence and prudent risk assessment to address legitimate public policy concerns and eliminates redundant regulations that hinder the growth and benefits of biotechnology.

Please support HB 1226. Thank you.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Daleth Pyzel [dalipyzel@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Daleth Pyzel
dalipyzel@mac.com
PO Box 1116
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,
I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.
preventing people from coming together and making decisions on what goes on in their backyard is not the vision, or definition of a democracy. Please don't allow special interest financing to erode our rights as citizens of our community, state, and country. The laws being passed that benefit corporate interests over community is wrong and will be judged by future generations as well as our own. Please watch the movie, Future of Foods, a documentary available for instant download via netflix.com to understand the scope of this corporate take over.

Sincerely, Dali Pyzel
Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.
Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Nina Puhipau [nina_kai@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 9:15 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Nina Puhipau
nina_kai@yahoo.com

Waialua, HI 96791

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

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Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: nancy redfeather [nredfeather@kohalacenter.org]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 9:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition HB 1226 Preemption

Nancy Redfeather
Kawanui Farm
P.O. Box 906
Kealakekua, Hawai'i
96750
808-
nredfeather@kohalacenter.org

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

This bill is for the biotech companies. This bill is NOT for the farmers and the people of Hawai'i. One does not have to dig too deeply these days to see the huge opposition to these foods that is occurring state wide, nation wide and world wide. Frankly, we just don't know enough about what we are doing with these crops, and putting a stop to the citizens, counties, and state agencies seeking to have open dialogue and trying to protect people and land, is unforgivable. Even you Representative Tsuji must know that this bill is wrong. Taking away home rule from the Counties, and consumer choice looks like a desperation move to me.

You cannot stifle the truth that is coming forward every day. Scientific studies cautioning use of these crops, and world government legislation are daily exhibiting caution. Yet here, the companies rule. You may not be elected next time, if you succeed with this bill. You should think about your future and the future of all the peoples and farmers and lands of Hawai'i who will be forever affected by strains of genetically engineered crops.

Nancy Redfeather
Farmer
Kawanui Farm
Kona

wooley1-Christopher

From: joanierowe@rowesviewcoffee.com
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 9:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: GMO and taking away our local governments rights!

As a KCFA Board member, and I am in opposition to the GMO Preemption Bill-HB1226. My opposition is based, in part, on the following:

1. HB1226 will block or impede efforts to protect Kona Coffee against GMO contamination from GMO coffee introduced (legally or illegally) from other Hawaii counties.
2. If GMO contamination of Kona Coffee occurs, we risk severe economic damage from the loss of markets in Japan and Europe and the loss of a specialty coffee status.
3. HB1226 (with its prohibition on discrimination and against GMO) would hamper or preclude the Hawaii Department of Agriculture from adopting effective regulations to prevent introduction of GMO coffee into Hawaii County. Even without limitations of the type written into HB1226, the HDOA already finds it difficult to prevent the introduction of unwanted plants and pests, for example, varroa mites, coqui frogs, and unfumigated foreign green coffee beans.
4. HB1226 seeks to undermine Hawaii's strong tradition of local control and in order to advance the economic interests of Mainland chemical and bio-engineering companies at the expense of Hawaii farmers.

The Preemption Bill HB1226 which will prohibit ALL counties or state agencies from "discriminating against GMOs" forever, while "grandfathering" in Hawai'i County Bill 361 (banning the growing and research on GMO taro and coffee), and protecting Hawaiian taro varieties, needs to be killed in committee. Removing the democratic process from local control is heavy handed and not right. We had three meetings on this subject and our county government, which we elected, voted three times against any GMO coffee or tara and even overrode the Major's veto and you just want to take it away without any democratic process. Obviously there is more to this than meets the eye and we need to stop it now or why do we even need a County Council?

I am for to Bill HB 1663 which would ban the growing of GE taro varieties in the state.

Joanie Rowe
Rowesview Coffee Farm

www.rowesviewcoffee.com

wooley1-Christopher

From: Sherryl Royce [roycehi@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 5:32 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Sherryl Royce
roycehi@aol.com

HOnolulu, HI 96825

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: christinesheppard@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 7:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1226

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

Honorable Chairman Tsuji and Respected Committee Members:

We write in Opposition to HB1226. Even though HB1226 grandfathers in Hawaii County Council Bill 361 which banned GMO coffee growing in the County of Hawaii, we feel strongly that statewide protection from GMO contamination is absolutely necessary. The Department of Agriculture already cannot prevent unwanted pests and plants from traveling between the islands (eg. illegal unfumigated foreign green coffee, coqui frogs, varroa mites), and especially with the advent of the Super Ferry it would become an impossible task to prevent GMO seeds and seedlings from coming to Hawaii County if GMO coffee production and experimentation are allowed in other counties.

The case against GMO coffee has been stated so many times that I am sure you dont need to be reminded of the economic disaster that would become of the Kona coffee industry once GMO contamination was found or even just suspected.

This Bill seeks to wrench democratic process of agriculture out of the hands of local counties, and force a state mandated policy which favors mainland and international agribusinesses over the needs and well-being of local farmers.

Please vote in opposition to HB1226.

aloha and mahalo

Kenneth & Christine Sheppard

Kailua Kona HI 96740
808-

wooley1-Christopher

From: Evan Silberstein [skywalker@ecomail.org]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 7:57 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Evan Silberstein
skywalker@ecomail.org

Honolulu, HI 96822

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

2 March 2009

Representative Clift Tsuji
Chair, House Agriculture Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 402
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Tsuji:

I am opposed to HB 1226 that would preempt state and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms if those crops are grown with a valid permit from the relevant federal agency. I am an agricultural scientist, who has lived and worked in Hawaii for 18 years. HB 1226 is not a good bill because it does NOT preempt the existing ban enacted by the Hawaii County Council banning genetically engineered taro.

There is no evidence documenting harmful effects from genetically modified taro. By limiting the types of research scientists can undertake or the cultivars of plants that growers can select from, we contribute to our own self destruction. We must not formulate our laws in ignorance but base them upon sound science and open discussion.

Yours truly,

Brent Sipes, PhD

sipes.brent@gmail.com

wooley1-Christopher

From: Jason Stith [admin@konarosecoffee.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 1226 Preemption

Committee Chair Cliff Tsuji and all committee members --

Please do not allow Bill HB 1226 to progress any further. It is a gross miscarriage of democracy to attempt to override the voice of the people and not allow them to contribute to how they are governed.

How many times must we say 'NO to GMOs" GMOs do not benefit the people or the farmers or the consumers, only the holders of the patents.

There are many other scientific and traditional methods for contributing to the health and growth of our agriculture.

Please allow us to have a voice in how we are governed!

My family and I farm ten organic acres in South Kona. The fallout from GMOs would quite likely lead to the end of our business and farm.

Please say kill BILL 1226 in committee.

Thank you,

Jason stith
Mahina Mele Farm

**OPPOSITION TESTIMONY OF DEGRAY VANDERBILT
RESIDENT OF MOLOKAI
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 312
HOUSE BILL NO. 1226**

Measure Title: RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS

Bill Title: Genetically Modified Organisms; Preemption; Exceptions

Description: Preempts certain state administrative regulatory actions and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms. Expects from the preemption any county ordinance that took effect before 01/01/09 and made unlawful certain actions relating to particular species of genetically modified plant organisms. Expects also from the preemption any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans, restricts, or otherwise regulates the growing of genetically modified taro

Aloha Chair Tsutsui, Vice Chair Wooley and Members Berg, Choy, Evans, Manahan, McKelvy, Tokioka, Wakai, and Muramoto.

My name is DeGray Vanderbilt. I am a thirty year resident of Molokai and have HB 1226 Testimony been involved extensively during these years in Molokai planning and water issues.

I am sorry I am unable to testify in person before you today concerning my strong opposition to HB 1226.

As a former Chair of the Molokai Planning Commission, I am certain that HB1226, if approved, will severely compromise the dedicated efforts by residents throughout our state who take the time and provide many, many volunteer hours to plan for what they hope will be a sustainable future for future generations.

The above description of the bill aptly sums up my concern over the integrity of future statewide planning efforts if HB 1226 is allowed to move forward.

GMO has been a big growth industry in our state...it has grown rapidly.

Whether you are a supporter of GMO or opposed to GMO, HB1226 establishes a dangerous precedent of exempting a special interest group (i.e. the large out of state chemical companies) from any action by a state, county or local community to restrict its continued rapid growth throughout our State.

At a time when the State has embraced a visionary goal of each island becoming truly sustainable (see Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan), one of the key components of the sustainability drive is food security.

And food security means not only preserving agricultural lands, but also, preserving agricultural water sources in order to insure the ag lands that are preserved are able to produce needed food for on-island residents.

Currently, all of Molokai's agricultural water produced from the Molokai Irrigation System (about 4 million gallons per day) is pretty much accounted for. There is little room for ag expansion at this time. Eighty percent (80%) of all the MIS water is used by five major users, two of which are large Mainland chemical companies involved in GMO production.

The MIS serves over 200 customers most of which reside on Hawaiian Homestead Lands, yet only five non-homestead major MIS commercial customers are using 80% of the MIS system's available water supply.

The GMO industry has grown rapidly in our state. It does not need the blank check HB1226 would provide this major business with a blank check for future unrestricted growth anywhere and time, whether that unrestricted growth is on Molokai or on one of our state's other islands.

The rapid expansion of the GMO industry throughout the state has, in part, been achieved as a result of the large chemical companies having the ability to pay a much higher dollar premium than traditional farmers for both the land and the water resources needed to expand their industry here in Hawaii....and like with any other industry MONEY TALKS.

Hopefully, the Agricultural Committee will not allow this dangerous precedent setting bill to move any further this legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony with you

Sincerely

DeGray Vanderbilt

Box 1348

Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii 96748, (808) ;

wooley1-Christopher

From: Doug Weber [jandougweber@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 10:52 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Doug Weber
jandougweber@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI 96816

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Kathy Wood [kathywood@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:05 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB1226

Agriculture Committee Hearing
HB 1226 Preemption
Hearing March 4, 2009 @ 9:00 am Room 312
Chair: Clift Tsuji

We strongly oppose HB 1226. As Big Island farmers we believe that GMO's are an agricultural technology, in some places and at some times appropriate and at other times and places inappropriate. Technology does not have "rights" against discrimination. To see GMO's as "discriminated against" is only slick mainland PR.

The legislature is capable of reviewing applications of GMO technology on a case by case basis. There is no need for the HB 1226 blanket preemption of the question of the acceptance of GMO technology.
Merle & Kathy Wood

wooley1-Christopher

From: Michelle Yamaguchi [raedey@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 4:06 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Michelle Yamaguchi
raedey@msn.com

Honolulu, HI 96816

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Leslie Yee Hoy [lesyeehoy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 1:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Rep. Lyla B. Berg; Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Joey Manahan; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. James Tokioka; Rep. Glenn Wakai; Rep. Barbara Marumoto; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji
Subject: Testimony in support of HB1663 and opposition to HB1226

Aloha

My name is Leslie Yee Hoy and I farm taro in Halawa valley on the island of Molokai. I'm submitting testimony in strong support of HB1663 and in strong opposition of HB1226. I support HB1663, but wouldn't mind if it included all other crops and not just taro. I believe in technology: responsible (moral & legal) technology not irresponsible technology. It appears that these biotech companies operating in Hawaii are trying to silence our legislators and in the process all the people of Hawaii, not just taro farmers. In HB1226 there's mention of some unknown relevant federal agency to be in charge of requiring or not the issuance of permits to these bio tech companies. I would be very concerned about this relevant federal agency and their relationship to these biotech companies. It appears that the whole biotech industry looks at Hawaii as the perfect place to do business, because of the absence of rules or regulations. Public safety, should be the #1 concern. I care about the health and welfare of my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and so on. Do you care about your families welfare? If you honestly believe that these biotech companies and their practices are safe for Hawaii and our families, I can accept that. But, if you have any doubts or concerns about these companies and for some reason or another vote in favor of them operating without any oversight, I find this to be unacceptable. I ask that committee on Agriculture support HB1663 and oppose HB1226.

A hui hou
Leslie A. Yee Hoy

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:15 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: youngakw@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1226 on 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1226

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Young
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808
E-mail: youngakw@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: **Support with amendments**

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Jennifer Scotti, I live in Koloa on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Scotti

i6

JATSco@gmail.com

Arlina Agbayani

From: Blake Corbitt [bjcorbitt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony@capito1.hawaii.gov
Cc: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB1226

I would like to state my opposition to House Bill 1226 to be discussed 2009-03-04.

After reading the bill I cannot see any value that this proposed legislation would provide the citizens of Hawai'i. It serves only the interests of those that develop, grow and sell Genetically Modified Organisms. Furthermore, preemptive bills like this simply do not make sense and only serve to hinder and complicate future changes that may be deemed appropriate given more evidence and experience. This bill limits each island, county and in some instances the state's ability to fulfill the wishes or potential wishes of its respective constituents.

I can't see any reason to even consider passing this legislation short of being complicit in exchanging favors for the entities that proposed, sponsored and probably even drafted it.

Blake Corbitt
Kihei, HI

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: **Support with amendments**

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Alison Sakata, I live in Kalaheo on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alison Sakata

Kalaheo, HI 96741
ali-sakata@hawaii.rr.com

Arlina Agbayani

From: Pamela Boyar [pamela@sfghawaii.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:07 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Pamela Boyar
pamela@sfghawaii.com

Kailua, HI 96734

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States. Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Arlina Agbayani

From: Kaliko Amona [kalikoamona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:08 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Kaliko Amona
kalikoamona@hawaii.rr.com

Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 09:00 AM

Strong opposition to HB1226

Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1226.

I am not "anti-science", but do believe we have much to learn about genetic engineering. I also believe because of diversity throughout our State, that Counties should maintain their regulatory authority in regards genetic engineering and the associated health, environmental, agricultural and economic issues. There is a widely recognized need and opportunity in improving our food security and we need legislation that encourages rather than discourages local food systems.

Please visit <http://environmentalcommons.org/preemption-bills-fail-2006.html> for background on similar preemption attempts relating to agriculture in other States.

Regardless of your feelings on genetic engineering, do not strip local democracy and tie our hands with this kind of legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

environmentalcommons

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Date: March 4, 2009
RE: HB 1226, OPPOSE: Preemption of Local & State Authority for Genetically Modified Plant Organisms
Via: Email

My name is Britt Bailey. I am currently a law student at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law and acting director of Environmental Commons, a non-profit organization dedicated to sound assisting in sound environmental decision-making. Much of my work prior to attending law school centered on the issues and concerns raised by the growing of genetically modified foods ("GMOs"). I do not intend to get into an exhaustive discussion of those issues, as I would like to focus my testimony on state and local preemption and its effects.

Background:

Preemption bills related to GMOs were first introduced in 2005 after four California counties passed measures to regulate GMO usage. To date, fifteen states have passed such "preemption bills" disallowing local governments from regulating GMOs, thus reserving that regulatory authority for the States. An additional six states have introduced preemption bills though they have been defeated for various reasons.

Hawaii's GMO preemption bill is very unique. Not only has the author introduced a bill that removes the regulatory authority of local governments, but also, in its reading, Hawaii will become the first and likely only state in the country to preempt itself to the federal government. The only other state to attempt such broad preemption of GMOs to the federal government was Missouri, home to Monsanto Company. Missouri twice introduced such a bill and twice it failed.

HB1226

According to the puzzling language of HB 1226, the bill would disallow the agricultural agency from restricting one's testing, growing, or planting of GMOs as long as a valid permit has been issued by the federal government. The bill further states a regulatory agency may regulate GMOs as long as it is in a manner that is considered "not discriminatory." A regulatory action is deemed "discriminatory" if the action has a regulatory effect on a genetically modified plant organism that differs from the effect on a similar non-genetically modified plant organism. In a very round about way, this bill states Hawaii's agricultural agency can regulate GMOs as long as you do not regulate them. The very essence of the bill eliminates the state's ability to regulate or respond in any way to foods that are genetically modified.

In HB1226, Hawaii is considering preempting itself to the federal government just as many states are embracing regulatory systems for GMOs. In the past ten years, thirty states have passed laws providing special regulation or oversight for GMOs apart from their conventional counterparts. The bills range from protecting farmers who choose to use or not use the

technology, providing labeling, prohibiting certain types of crops such as GMO-based pharmaceuticals, creating public notification systems, and creating a study or task force to look at the effects of GMOs to health and the environment. States such as Arkansas, Alaska, Minnesota, and Washington have passed bills regulating GMOs so that they can better protect their specific and unique non-GMO crops and foods.

Why, particularly now, would Hawaii want to give up agricultural authority to the federal government? Not only have unfortunate incidents occurred which have required strong state response, but also the federal regulations concerning GMOs have proved to be sorely inadequate. The last two scientific assessments (National Academy of Sciences & an internal USDA audit report¹) have concluded:

- "APHIS lacks basic information about the field test sites it approves and is responsible for monitoring, including where and how the crops are being grown, and what becomes of them at the end of the field test."
- "By refusing to require submission of protocols, APHIS is relinquishing its regulatory responsibility in favor of self-certification by the notification applicants." In many instances, this may represent a significant risk to public health and the environment."
- "Weaknesses in APHIS regulations and internal management controls increase the risk that regulated genetically engineered organisms will inadvertently persist in the environment before they are deemed safe to grow without regulation."
- "There has been no environmental monitoring of transgenic crops, so any effects that might have occurred could not have been detected. "

In closing, Hawaii is simply too unique both geographically and climatically, to pass on its responsibility for creating an economically viable, healthy, and secure food system to the federal government. I strongly urge your "NO VOTE" on HB1226.

Respectfully,



Britt Bailey

¹ Environmental Effects of Transgenic Plants: The Scope and Adequacy of Regulation, Washington, DC: National Academy of Sciences Press, 2002. ; Audit Report: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Controls Over Issuance of Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permits, U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General, Southwest Region, Audit #50601-8-Te, December 2005.

HB 1226, Genetically Modified Organisms
Hse AGR, Weds, March 4, 2009
9:00 am – Room 312
Position: Support

Chair Tsuji and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is PePe Miranda. I am a native of the high land of the republic of Panama and have witness devastation on some pest and dices more specific in Coffee. also taro is a fundamental part of Our diet.

Today I am a Hawaii Island coffee farmer who believes that genetic engineering research and development, done responsibly and under federal regulations, is something that all farmers should have the option of using. Research is a long-term process and costs millions of dollars. When disease destroys a crop, it is too late to begin research to find a solution.

I saw first hand the emotional and non-scientific discussion and decision making of the Hawaii Island County Council to pass Bill 361, which is not enforceable as the Police Department, Prosecuting Attorney and Department of Agriculture testified.

This bill calls for a compromise that does not preempt the existing ban on my island on genetically engineered taro or coffee. It will, however, ensure that other counties do not inappropriately circumvent the federal government's role, creating a patchwork of regulations when they do not have the expertise or resources to regulate the science.

I believe that HB 1226 respects the rights of all farmers to select organic, conventional or biotechnology growing practices, and ensures academic freedom of researchers to solve some of the world's most pressing food security challenges.

I ask that HB 1226 be amended to state that research on non-Hawaiian varieties of taro be allowed and Hawaiian taro only be protected. The protection of Hawaiian taro only from genetic engineering research and development would be in response to the cultural significance of taro to the Hawaiian community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I can be reached at (808) 443-7100

Thanks again

Jose PePe Miranda

Testimony Presented before the
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2009
TIME: 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

by

Richard M. Manshardt, Professor
Department of Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

RELATING TO **HB1663**, REGARDING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TARO.
This bill prohibits the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting,
and growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

My name is Richard Manshardt. I am a professor and plant geneticist in CTAHR at UH Manoa. I have 25 years of research and teaching experience in crop sciences at UH, including work in conventional crop breeding and the development of genetically engineered virus-resistant papaya varieties for Hawaii growers. I am providing testimony on my own behalf, not officially presenting the position of CTAHR or UH on this bill.

I respectfully oppose HB1663.

Most of the text of this bill tells of the spiritual significance of taro in the Hawaiian culture. The drafters of the bill hold the taro plant in special regard, connecting it with the origin of Hawaiian culture, much as others in our multicultural society place the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the central role of the Christian community. We are guaranteed our freedom of belief by the first amendment to the US Constitution, and this is good and right.

But if one group's beliefs are used to justify restricting the actions of others, that may not be good or right. The stated objective of HB1663 is to impose a moratorium on research or production of genetically engineered Hawaiian taro, but there is no logical development of ideas to show why a moratorium is an appropriate. The bill doesn't explain the connection between taro's spiritual importance and genetic engineering, so the reader is left to conclude that the drafters of the bill want the moratorium because genetically engineered taro violates their belief in a genealogical relationship to taro. The bill basically says, "You can't use genetic engineering to improve taro, because we don't like that idea, and no other justification is needed."

Because agriculture is dynamic, with crop varieties, weather conditions, and pests that influence production changing from year to year, researchers need all the tools they can get to protect and improve farm production. In my experience, genetic engineering is a useful, effective, and safe tool for crop improvement. Genetic engineering is not appropriate for all breeding objectives and is not going to replace conventional breeding methodologies based on cross-pollination, but a moratorium on its application to taro or any other crop is not going to serve the long term interests of growers or consumers in Hawaii. At a minimum, we need to be able to do genetic engineering research to properly evaluate the risk/benefit ratio of this approach in improving taro. Please remember that new variety development, whether by conventional means or genetic engineering, is a decade-long process and cannot be turned on and off arbitrarily.

The legislature has a clear role here to support the concept that technical problems need to be addressed and resolved in a scientific context, where logical thinking based on experimental data is foremost, rather than religious, cultural, or political considerations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and **I ask you to please vote against HB1663.**

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 1226, relating to Genetically Modified Plant Organisms

Room: 312

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4th

Time: 9:00 AM

Position: **Support with amendments**

Dear Representative Tsuji,

My name is Doug Tiffany, I live in Kalaheo on the island of Kauai and I support the passage of HB 1226. It is in our state's best interest to ensure that responsible biotech research and development continues in Hawaii. This industry is governed by science-based regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring that biotech products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on taro I believe that this research needs to be allowed to continue. If we limit the tools we can use to fight future diseases and pests of taro we will regret it later.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

G. Douglas Tiffany, PhD.

4

Kalaheo, HI 96741
tiffanygd@yahoo.com

Testimony Presented before the
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2009
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

by

Richard M. Manshardt, Professor
Department of Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

RELATING TO **HB1226**. ADDRESSING GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT ORGANISMS. This bill preempts certain state administrative regulatory actions and county regulatory actions relating to genetically modified plant organisms. Excepts from the preemption any county ordinance that took effect before 01/01/09 and made unlawful certain actions relating to particular species of genetically modified plant organisms. Excepts also from the preemption any state administrative regulatory action or county regulatory action that bans, restricts, or otherwise regulates the growing of genetically modified taro.

My name is Richard Manshardt. I am a professor and plant geneticist in CTAHR at UH Manoa. I have 25 years of research and teaching experience in crop sciences at UH, including work in conventional crop breeding and the development of genetically engineered virus-resistant papaya varieties for Hawaii growers. I am providing testimony on my own behalf, not officially presenting the position of CTAHR or UH on this bill.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1226, for the following reasons:.

- It is in our state's best interest to ensure that biotech research and development continue here - governed by science-based, consistent regulatory systems that encourage responsible innovation while also ensuring that products on the market are safe for people, animals and the environment.
- HB 1226 reinforces the important role of our federal agencies that utilize scientific evidence and prudent risk assessment to address legitimate public policy concerns and eliminate redundant regulations that hinder the growth and benefits of biotechnology.
- Federal agencies with the appropriate expertise and resources - in collaboration and coordination with our state agencies - can oversee agricultural biotechnology in Hawaii more consistently than at the county level.
- County and/or state legislation may inappropriately circumvent the federal government's role, creates a patchwork of regulations, and inhibit investment in agricultural biotechnology statewide. As demonstrated in Bill 361, passed unanimously by the Hawaii County Council in 2008, counties lack the resources and expertise to appropriately regulate technology, or even address the issue in an objective manner. Too often, emotionally charged issues like the GMO crops debate are treated as fodder to rally political supporters, rather than as technical issues requiring a logical approach and an understanding of the underlying science. Federal regulatory agencies are professionally competent to make the appropriate assessments.
- HB 1226 also respects the rights of farmers to select organic, conventional or biotechnology growing practices, and ensures the academic freedom of researchers to solve some of our world's most pressing food security challenges.
- **Amendment to the bill:** Although the bill offers a compromise to ban research on kalo, research on non-Hawaiian varieties of taro must be allowed to continue to address real human needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and **I ask you to please support HB1226.**

wooley1-Christopher

From: Hector Valenzuela [hectoruh@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 3:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: testimony HB1226 and HB1663

March 3, 2009

TO: House Agriculture Committee
Clift Tsuji, Chair

FROM:
Hector Valenzuela, Ph.D.
Mililani, Hawaii

RE: TESTIMONY- IN OPPOSITION to Bill HB1226 – Please say NO to GMO preemption bills in Hawaii and

&

RE: SUPPORT for HB 1663, to ban the growing of ALL taro varieties in the state.

Dear members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I write this testimony in OPPOSITION to bill HB1226 (on preemption) and in strong support of HB1663, which would ban the research and field planting of genetically modified (GM) taro in Hawaii

I have worked as a UH-Manoa Professor and Crop Production Specialist for 18 years, but write this on a personal capacity. My research is in the area of sustainable and ecological agriculture. As someone who supports sustainable agriculture, I have become increasingly concerned about the unregulated open-field plantings of GM crops in Hawaii. In general I have concerns about the health and environmental risks, and about the long-term cultural and socioeconomic impacts on our communities.

I am opposed to bill Bill HB1226 for the following reason:

I see this bill as highly undemocratic, and feel that it steps over the basic principle of “home-rule.” In this day and age when the federal government has been unable to properly oversee the safety of our food, and the health and safety of our financial systems, it is inappropriate to once again let lobbyists, large transnational corporations, and corrupt federal politicians, to dictate the future of agriculture in the state. Our citizens in Hawaii have the right to become educated and to participate in the democratic process- to determine the future of their communities. Our citizens have the right to analyze each GM crop on a case by case basis, and if needed, to enact legislation for any particular GM crop, if they feel that it risks the health of their families or community. Please say NO to bill HB1226.

Below I summarize key positions concerning my support for HB 1663 which would protect ALL taro varieties from genetic modification, and contamination:

1. **Lack of data showing the safety of GM crops.**

Statements made by GM proponents are not backed by scientific, peer-reviewed data. No studies have been conducted in Hawaii or elsewhere to evaluate the short- or long-term effects on humans from having consumed GM crops over the past 12 years.

2. Lack of oversight/regulations.

GM crops are poorly regulated or in most cases DEREGULATED. Our federal courts and internal USDA and FDA reports have found that our regulatory agencies are often incapable of detecting potential side-effects from the consumption or planting of GM crops.

3. Unintended Consequences (see references below).

Recent findings in the scientific literature have shown that GM crops do indeed pose potential health and environmental risks, and that the benefits to farmers have not always been matched with the promises made by GM proponents.

- a. A comprehensive literature review published this month in a scientific journal documents a wide range of potential health side effects from the few animal feeding studies that have been conducted to date (Dona and Arvanitoyannis, 2009).
- b. A recent refereed publication showed that the commercial planting of GM cotton was NOT more profitable than that of conventional varieties (Post et al. 2008). Similarly, several publications have shown that the yields of GM crops are similar or lower to than that of conventional varieties.
- c. A recent publication from Spain showed that contamination was inevitable and that the principle of co-existence was not working in that country (Binimelis, 2008). Contamination has occurred in all regions where GM crops have been planted. GM corn contamination has been documented in several states of Mexico, even though there is a ban on GM plantings in that country.
- d. There are still many unknowns about potential environmental risks. For instance the toxic Bt from GM crops was found to affect non-target organisms in nearby aquatic habitats (Harwood et al. 2005; Rosi-Marshall, 2008). Also, antibiotic genes from Bt crops were found to transfer to microbes in nearby aquatic habitats and aquifers (Koike et al 2007). As another example the Bt toxin from GM corn was found to affect the growth of earthworms in the soil (Zwalhen, 2003).

4. GM taro is not the answer for Hawaii.

My overall assessment as a Crop Specialist is that GM taro is not the answer for farmers in Hawaii, and that GM taro would not contribute toward our self-sufficiency and sustainability. The only plant disease epidemiologist at UH-Manoa concurs, having stated that we already have all of the tools at our disposal to manage the major pests and diseases in taro- by following traditional pest control strategies.

Mahalo for your consideration in opposing HB1226 and in support of HB1663 (all varieties).

Sincerely,

Hector Valenzuela
94-1070 Anania Cr. No. 107
Mililani, HI 96789
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~hector/>
tel. 808-625-1277

References

- Binimelis, R. 2008. Coexistence of plants and coexistence of farmers: Is an individual choice possible? *J. Agric. Environ. Ethics.* 21(5):1187-7863.
- Dona, Artemis and Arvanitoyannis, Ioannis S.(2009). Health Risks of Genetically Modified Foods. *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition*,49:2,164-175
- JAMES D. HARWOOD, WILLIAM G. WALLIN and JOHN J. OBRYCKI
Uptake of Bt endotoxins by nontarget herbivores and higher order arthropod predators: molecular evidence from a transgenic corn agroecosystem. *Molecular Ecology* (2005) 14, 2815–2823
- S. Koike, I. G. Krapac, H. D. Oliver, A. C. Yannarell, J. C. Chee-Sanford, R. I. Aminov, and R. I. Mackie. Monitoring and Source Tracking of Tetracycline Resistance Genes in Lagoons and Groundwater Adjacent to Swine Production Facilities over a 3-Year Period. *APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY*, Aug. 2007, p. 4813–4823 Vol. 73, No. 15
- New York Times, U.N. Urges Radical Changes in Food Production. April 16, 2008.
- E. J. Rosi-Marshall, et al. 2008. Toxins in transgenic crop byproducts may affect headwater stream ecosystems. *Proc. National Academy of Sciences.* 104(41):16204-16208.
- P. Jost, D. Shurley, S. Culpepper, P. Roberts,* R. Nichols, J. Reeves, and S. Anthony. 2008. Economic Comparison of Transgenic and Nontransgenic Cotton Production Systems in Georgia. *Agron. J.* 100:42–51 (2008)
- C. ZWAHLEN, A. HILBECK, R. HOWALD and W. NENTWIG. Effects of transgenic Bt corn litter on the earthworm *Lumbricus terrestris*. *Molecular Ecology* (2003) 12, 1077–1086

Professional Bio:

Dr. Hector Valenzuela a full Professor and Vegetable Crops Specialist at the University of Hawaii-Manoa received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Dr. Valenzuela has conducted applied agroecology research for 23 years in support of commercial farmers, organic farming, and sustainable agriculture. He has authored over 380 technical and educational publications, has conducted over 200 field research trials with over 60 different vegetable and cover crop species, has organized over 60 field days and workshops for farmers in Hawaii and the Pacific Region, given over 200 presentations, and has participated in 13 international assignments. A staunch supporter of organic and sustainable farming in Hawaii, Dr. Valenzuela established the first long-term organic research plots in Hawaii in 1993, the longest-running organic research project in the Pacific Region, and established the first Web sites to assist vegetable farmers (1998) and organic farmers (2005) in the Pacific Region.

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Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on AGRICULTURE
March 4, 2009
by
Stephen A. Ferreira

Supporting HB 1226 with amendments

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephen Ferreira and I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am providing personal testimony on HB 1226. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I support HB 1226 with amendments, because this promotes the use of cutting edge biotechnology research for the benefit of Hawaiian agriculture. It reinforces the role of federal agencies in regulating biotech research and commercialization of this technology.

As a result, growers in Hawaii will have the broadest range of options available to grow their crops, organically or conventionally in sustaining Hawaii's agricultural future.

I ask that you pass HB1226 with amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Jo-Ann Sarubbi [sarubbij001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 4:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB1226

As a coffee farmer from Captain Cook , we need to oppose HB1226. We do not need the risk of contamination of GMO in our products. Hawaii must be able to continue to grow the taro and coffee,as we have done .

Dr. Jo-Ann Sarubbi
Mr Derek Monell
Sarubbi Farms

Captain Cook
HI 96704

wooley1-Christopher

From: bryna@kahea.org on behalf of Kahu Haloa [nakahuohaloo@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 5:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: FARMER TESTIMONY HB1663 SUPPORT / HB1226 OPPOSE

can you print this to be in packets, he will likely be able to testify in person.

mahalo!

IN SUPPORT of HB1663
IN OPPOSITION TO HB1226

Kaipo'i Kelling
Mahi'ai (Taro Farmer, Kane'ohe)

Aloha mai kakou,

This is a letter in support of H.B. 1663 and S.B.709-SD1 to protect all taro from genetic modification. And in opposition to H.B.1226 a preemption on GMOs.

I am a mahi'ai and a ku'i 'ai practioner who believes in keeping Haloa pure for the safety and the purity of our lives and our 'aina. I am a farmer who is concerned about Kalo and the native varieties that remain in our care today. Our Kupuna created the greatest bio diversity of taro in the world and they knew the value of propagation in order to obtain food security.

I may not produce as much kalo as the island of Kaua'i but I also have the right to choose to plant and harvest kalo in the ways that our kupuna have shared with me. Their ways included green manure, fallowing, diversity and adaptation and crop rotation. These ancient practices are a proven method to keep Haloa strong. They stayed away from chemicals, non-fallowing and monocropping which are the standard practices of commerical taro farmers in the state of Hawaii today. These reasons mentioned are a large cause of the problems that taro farmers are facing and they often ask the scientists for their mana'o to kokua.

I am also a practioner in the tradition of ku'i 'ai where I engage in using the board and stone to produce kalo for my 'ohana. The kupuna varieties are known and tested for many generations and are famous for their solidity or kalo pa'a. Pololu, Piko kea, Moi, Ha'akea, ohe, api'i and many others can be produced with the pohaku ku'i 'ai. The varieties that are produced commercially such as Maui Lehua, various new hybrids such as pa lehua and h6 are kalo that are soft and are great for milling poi but they can not stand the mana of the pohaku. I have tried various times to make good quality 'ai or food and I have failed many times because the consistency of the kalo pa'a or hard taro is not found in these commerical varieties.

I am also opposed to the dilemma that the bio-tech industry is currently placing in front of the mahi'ai and taro growers in the state of Hawaii. They are offering a moratorium on all kalo in exchange for the banning of the public's input into other genetic modification of all other plants and animals in my homeland. This is an absurd and unreasonable request because as a tax payer and a concerned citizen of Hawaii I have the right to know what type of experiments are being conducted and tested in my backyard and if I feel that such an experiment is not safe or beneficial for our environment or ourselves than I also have the right to testify against it.

Mahalo nui for listening to my leo,

Kaipō'i Kelling

Mahi'ai

All of the following individuals submitted exactly the same written testimony in support of HB 1663 and in opposition of HB 1226. See attached sample of written testimony.

1. Johnathan Cender
2. Jodi Drisko
3. Tom Gillen
4. Vickie Innis
5. Lehua Kimberly
6. Angela Kirschbaum
7. Spring Manju
8. John Miller
9. Frank Pulaski, III
10. Tracey Schavone
11. Ann Strong
12. Susan Windle
13. Diane Fujimura
14. Debbie Piepgrass
15. Donald Cooke
16. Yoni Silberman
17. Ernest Messersmith
18. Shaunagh Robbins
19. Francesca Bishop
20. Jessy Sconfienza
21. Mililani Trask
22. Carol Beardmore
23. Pamela Dyson
24. Dennys Eymard
25. Erica Rainhart
26. Erica Hahn
27. B.A. McClintock
28. Terese Vaiceliunas
29. Tristen Wanke
30. S. Jenkins
31. Eloise Engman

wooley1-Christopher

From: jkecender@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Protect Hawaii! Oppose HB1226, Support HB1663

Representative Clift Tsuji
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 403
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2425

Dear Representative Tsuji,

As a consumer and supporter of healthy food and agricultural practices in Hawaii, I strongly urge you to oppose H.B. 1226 and any law prohibiting the state or county from regulating GMOs in Hawaii. The federal government has proven itself incapable of adequately regulating GM crops, as evidenced by scores of contamination episodes. Thus, state and county officials must retain their authority to set stricter standards than lax and unreliable federal regulators. This applies particularly to GM plants engineered to produce potentially hazardous, experimental pharmaceuticals, many of which have been grown in Hawaii. In 2006, a federal district court ruled that the USDA had failed to conduct a meaningful environmental assessment before granting permits to grow such hazardous "pharma crops." The state legislature must not rob state and county officials of the ability to protect Hawaiian citizens and Hawaii's fragile environment from such reckless activities. Community and consumer safety is endangered when local governments are prohibited from taking every step to ensure public safety.

Recent food safety disasters (i.e., peanut butter and spinach recalls) affirm the need to establish the broadest safety net possible. Consumers deserve and demand a comprehensive web of food safety standards, which must include state and county governments.

In addition, I urge you to support HB1663, the prohibition on the development, testing, propagation, release, importation, planting, or growing of genetically modified taro in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii needs local community oversight of GMO crops, such as the ban on GMO taro, to protect our health; our unique environment; our local farmers, laborers and economy; and consumer and community rights.

The people of Hawaii want, need and deserve more safe, healthy food--and should expect that their State and local government will be at work to protect them. I urge you to oppose attempts to weaken or limit State or County authority to regulate genetically modified crops and food in Hawaii.

Please oppose the preemption bill, HB 1226, and support the ban on GMO taro in the state, HB 1663.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Cender
PO Box 982

Kahea: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance submitted written testimony in opposition of HB 1226 on behalf of a number of individuals. See attached list of names. Their written testimony is available for public viewing with the Committee Clerk.

CONSUMERS**IN OPPOSITION TO HB1226****House Committee on Agriculture, March 4, 2009, 9:00am, Rm. 312**

First Name	Last Name	City	Zip	County	State	District
Kira	Davis	Honolulu	96826		HI	
Garid	Faria	Honolulu	96826	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 10
Kerry	Hashitate	Hon.	96825		HI	
Vickie	Innis	Honolulu	96825		HI	
diane	wong	honolulu	96825		HI	
Sarah	Aana	Honolulu	96822		HI	
Hokulani	Aikau	Honolulu	96822		HI	
Jack	bennett	Honolulu	96822	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 11
Alana	Bryant	Honolulu	96822	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 10
Aulii	Costa	honolulu	96822		HI	
Pete Shimazaki	Doktor	Honolulu	96822	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 9
Spencer	Leineweber	Honolulu	96822	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 10
miller	lucas	honolulu	96822		HI	
Hattie	Phillips	Honolulu	96822		HI	
Jon	Schmitz	Honolulu	96822	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 11
william	jurgenson	honolulu	96821		HI	
Susan	Lamb	Honolulu	96821		HI	
Mirna	Stoll	Honolulu	96821		HI	
David	Derauf	Honolulu	96819	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 14
J.	Hakuole	Honolulu	96819		HI	
Gayle	Haraki	Honolulu	96819		HI	
Teri	Skillman-Kashyap	HONOLULU	96819	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 14
Charles	Beebe	Honolulu	96817		HI	
Heidi	Ho	Honolulu	96817		HI	
kehaulani	kea	honolulu	96817		HI	
Victor	Brandt	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Chris	Derauf	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Cliff & Mary	DeVries	Honolulu	96816		HI	
joel	fischer	honolulu	96816	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 8
Moses	Goods	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Bianca	Isaki	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Leiana	Lobre	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Valerie	Loh	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Thomas	Noa	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Sheila	O'Malley	Kaimuki	96816		HI	
jamie	oshiro	honolulu	96816		HI	
Chelsea	Pestana	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Ikaika	Pestana	Honolulu	96816		HI	
Cha	Smith	Honolulu	96816	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 8
Beverly	Spalding	honolulu	96816		HI	
K. Subramaniar	Krishnan	Honolulu	96813		HI	
nainoa	Kuna	Honolulu	96813		HI	
Diane	Texidor	Honolulu	96813		HI	
PALANI	VAUGHAN	HONOLULU	96806		HI	

Keapoi	Namakaeha	Waipahu	96797		HI	
JIM	AANA	WAIMEA	96796		HI	
clayton	falvey	waimea	96796		HI	
Lisette	Langlois	Waimea	96796		HI	
Meghan	Au	Waimanalo	96795	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 25
Bryna	Storch	Waimanalo	96795		HI	
Curt	Sumida	Waimanalo	96795		HI	
Alyson	Barrows,	Wailuku	96793	Maui	HI	Senate District 4
Barbara	Best	Wailuku	96793		HI	
Mary P.	Daoust	Wailuku	96793	Maui	HI	Senate District 5
Kahala	Johnson	Wailuku	96793		HI	
vincent	mina	Wailuku Maui	96793		HI	
Sheldon	Brown	Wailuku	96792		HI	
Vince	Dodge	Wai`anae	96792		HI	
Britany	Edwards	Wai'anae	96792	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 21
Florence	Eli-Adam	Waianae	96792		HI	
Kapua	Keliikoa-Kamai	Waianae	96792		HI	
Sellersk	Leilani	Wai'anae	96792		HI	
Ikaika	Lopez	waianae	96792		HI	
kimo	stowell	Honolulu	96792		HI	
Natashja	Tong	Waianae	96792		HI	
Scott	Foster	Waialua	96791	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 10
Nina	Puhipau	Waialua	96791	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 22
Kalei	Luuwai	Wai'ohuli, Kula	96790		HI	
Justin	Michelson	Kula	96790		HI	
Keith	Ranney	Kula	96790		HI	
Lisa	Raymond	Kula	96790		HI	
Stephanie	Seidman	Kula	96790		HI	
julie	signore	kula	96790		HI	
Annjulie	Vai	Kula	96790		HI	
Raphiell	Nolin	Puunene	96784		HI	
Camillia	Elayyan	Pepeekeo	96783		HI	
Donna	Johnson-Elayyan	Pepeekeo	96783		HI	
David M. K.	Inciong, II	Pearl City	96782		HI	
john	maple	Papaikou	96781		HI	
katherine	Ross	Papaikou	96781		HI	
Harvest	Edmonds	Papa'aloa	96780		HI	
hannah	bernard	paia	96779		HI	
gabriel	donihi	paia	96779		HI	
kathleen	kohler	paia	96779		HI	
Dana	Ollech	Paia	96779		HI	
JASON	SCHWARTZ	PAIA	96779		HI	
Satya	Anubhuti	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Luella	Crutcher	Pahoa	96778		HI	
normand	dufresne	pahoa	96778		HI	
Michele Kau'i	Henderson	pahoa	96778		HI	
Marilyn	Howe	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Diane	Koerner	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Geoffrey	Last	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Gemma	Lila	Pahoa	96778		HI	

Elizabeth	McCormick	Pahoa,	96778		HI	
Catherine	Okimoto	Pahoa	96778	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 2
maurie	ortaleza	pahoa	96778		HI	
Sheryl	Palmer	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Deva	Sage	Pahoa	96778		HI	
Shary	Crocker	Naalehu	96772		HI	
jamie	gilmore	naalehu	96772		HI	
Steve	Morgan	Maunaloa	96770		HI	
Edward	Bonse	Makawao	96768		HI	
Carlos	Cardenas, Carlos	Pukalani	96768	Maui	HI	Senate District 6
Maha	Conyers	Makawao	96768		HI	
Linda	De Lima	Makawao, Mau	96768		HI	
Susan	Goldberg	Makawao	96768		HI	
Suzzana	Goodwin	Makawao	96768		HI	
Teri	Holter	Makawao	96768		HI	
ka	russell	makawao	96768		HI	
pete	sayer	makawao	96768		HI	
kathleen	sheehan	makawao	96768		HI	
Albert	Sikirdji	Makawao	96768		HI	
Kathleen	Soule	Makawao	96768		HI	
patricia	westbrook	Makawao	96768		HI	
elaine	durban	puhi	96766		HI	
danitza	galvan	lihue	96766		HI	
Donald	Heacock	Lihue	96766		HI	
chris676	moore	Lawai	96766		HI	
Lynlie	Waiamau	Lihue	96766		HI	
Jose	Castillo	Kalaheo	96765		HI	
Anne	English	Lawai	96765		HI	
Joan	Heller	Lawai	96765		HI	
robert	mceldowney	laupahoe	96764		HI	
ELLE	COCHRAN	lahaina	96761		HI	
wayne	cochran	lahaina	96761		HI	
Kathy	Corcoran	Lahaina	96761		HI	
Amanda	Gravitte	lahaina	96761		HI	
Bonnie	Morgan	Lahaiana	96761		HI	
Brent	Schlea	Lahaina	96761		HI	
Jim	Albertini	Kurtistown	96760		HI	
s	sayles	kurtistown	96760		HI	
nancy	ravelo	kualapuu	96757	Maui	HI	Senate District 6
anita	cook	koloa	96756		HI	
Tommy	Cook	Koloa	96756		HI	
Jeri	Di Pietro	Koloa	96756		HI	
javed	maksood	koloa	96756		HI	
JIM	PEDERSEN	KAPAAU	96755		HI	
Liza	Baer	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Beryl	Blaich	Kilauea	96754	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
william and micdick		Kilauea	96754		HI	
Blake	Drolson	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Anandra	George	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Val	Hertzog	Kilauea	96754		HI	

Jorgen	Lien	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Scott	Mijares	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Janaki	Pendleton	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Kelly	Sato	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Monika	Seiz	Kilauea	96754		HI	
Michal	Stover	Kilauea	96754	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
Marguerite	Beavers	Kihei	96753		HI	
Gwendolyn	Etessami	Kihei	96753		HI	
Tracy	Falite	Kihei	96753		HI	
Judy	Jarvie	Kihei	96753		HI	
Maury	King	Kihei	96753		HI	
pamela	Palencia	Kihei	96753		HI	
kelly	prince	kihei	96753		HI	
barbara	steinberg	kihei	96753		HI	
anita	wintner	kihei	96753		HI	
Barbara	Childers	Kekaha	96752		HI	
CC	Peyton	Kekaha	96752		HI	
Cliff	Sorensen	Kekaha	96752		HI	
Susan L.	Gierman	Kealakekua	96750		HI	
Diana	Burns	Keaau	96749		HI	
Nakoa	Goo	Keaau	96749		HI	
Jazmine	Leitch	Keaau	96749		HI	
Elin	Sand	Kea'au	96749		HI	
John	Schinnerer	Kea'au	96749		HI	
Kathryn	Davis	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Kavika	Estrella	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Yvonne	Everhart	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Jillin	Francis	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
patricia	Hammond	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
thomas	holloman	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Stephanie	Lauifi	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Napua	Leong	kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Nancy	McPherson	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
tanya	naehu	kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Shirlee	Newman	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Pohakamalama	Palmer	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Penny	Rawlins-Martin	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Malia	Waits	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Matt	Yamashita	Kaunakakai	96748		HI	
Noreen	Dougherty	Kapaa	96746		HI	
Fern	Holland	Kapa'a, Kauai	96746	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
Joan	Levy	Kapaa	96746	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
Jill	Richardson	Kapaa	96746		HI	
Annlia	Russell	kapaa	96746	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
Adele	Henkel	Kailua Kona	96745	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Bishops	Bishop	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
celeste	borges	kaneohe	96744		HI	
Abigail	Kamai	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
Dave	Kisor	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
royce	kovacich	kaneohe	96744		HI	

al	miyamoto	kaneohe	96744		HI	
Anitra	Pickett	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
LorrieAnn	Santos	Kane'ohe	96744		HI	
Laulani	Teale	Kane'ohe	96744		HI	
Marti	Townsend	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
Waimea	Williams	Kaneohe	96744		HI	
Peter	Berg	Kamuela	96743		HI	
Kauanoelehua	Chang	Kamuela	96743		HI	
Lani Loring	Howell	Kamuela	96743		HI	
Keala	Kahuanui	Kamuela	96743		HI	
Keala	Kahuanui	Kamuela	96743	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Jessica	Lindsey	Kamuela	96743		HI	
Sara	McCay	Kamuela	96743	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Joseph	Crocona	Kalaheo	96741		HI	
Billie	Dawson	Kalaheo	96741		HI	
Susan	Bender	Kailua-Kona	96740		HI	
Krista	Donaldson	Kailua-Kona	96740		HI	
claire	Sanders	Kailua Kona	96740	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Deborah	Sevy	Kailua-Kona	96740		HI	
Rowena	Vaca	Kailua Kona	96740		HI	
david	schlesinger	keauhou	96739		HI	
Miranda	Watson	Keauhou	96739		HI	
Nancy	Scarola	Waikoloa	96738		HI	
Bob	Zeller	Ocean View	96737		HI	
Jacques	Bargiel	Kailua	96734		HI	
Alanna	Bender	Kailua	96734		HI	
Patricia	Blair	Kailua	96734		HI	
Patricia	Blair	Kailua	96734	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 24
Roland	Chang	Kailua	96734		HI	
christina	Gauen	kailua	96734		HI	
CarolLee	Averill	Kahului	96732		HI	
Cynthia Kahaul	Sablas	Kahului	96732		HI	
Mike	Smola	Kaaawa	96730		HI	
Edwina	Walker	Hoolehua	96729		HI	
Taryn	Waros	Hoolehua	96729		HI	
Elizabeth	Logsdon	Honomu	96728		HI	
Claudia	Woodward-Rice	Honomu	96728		HI	
Takahiro	Ino	Honokaa	96727		HI	
Verdean	Pahio	Honokaa	96727		HI	
susan	sanders	Paauhau	96727		HI	
leilea	satori	honoka'a	96727	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 1
Marci	Peterhans	Honaunau	96726		HI	
Dana YK	Shim-Palama	KALAHEO	96726		HI	
Shannon	Rudolph	Holualoa	96725	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Terry	Tokuda	Holualoa	96725	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Ron	Dixon	Princeville	96722		HI	
Valorie	Owen	Princeville	96722		HI	
Brad	Parsons	Princeville	96722		HI	
Ina	Roessler	princeville	96722		HI	
Dharma	Wease	Princeville	96722		HI	

Marcia J.	Timboy Zender	Hilo	96721	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 1
Darcy	Alameda	Hilo	96720		HI	
Christina	Bishop	Hilo	96720		HI	
Ronald	Fujiyoshi	Hilo	96720		HI	
Akeamakamae	Kiyuna	Hilo	96720		HI	
Jeffrey	Lagrimas	Hilo	96720	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 1
John	Maxwell	Hilo	96720		HI	
Paul	Neves	Hilo	96720		HI	
Ben	Tajon	Hilo	96720		HI	
Leona	Toler	Hilo	96720		HI	
Avis	Yoshioka	Hilo	96720		HI	
Richard	Benton	Hawi	96719		HI	
joshua	frame	hawi	96719		HI	
Cherie	Haffner	hanamaulu	96715		HI	
Tim	Andres	hanalei	96714		HI	
Lynda	Davis	Hanalei	96714		HI	
Lauryn	Galindo	hanalei	96714		HI	
Miguel	Godinez	Hanalei	96714	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
Claudia	Herfurt	Hanalei	96714		HI	
Scott	Jarvis	Hanalei	96714	Kauai	HI	Senate District 7
susan	patner	hanalei	96714		HI	
Samantha	Shetzline	Hanalei	96714		HI	
Cee	Elbert	Hana	96713		HI	
Theodore	Firestone	Hana	96713		HI	
Millilani	Hanchett Krause	Hana	96713		HI	
LAURA	LOUIE	HANA	96713		HI	
Erica	Burt	Haleiwa	96712		HI	
Gary	Gunder	Haleiwa	96712		HI	
Jennifer	Homcy	Haleiwa	96712	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 22
Jeff	Haun	Hakalau	96710		HI	
Ralph	Boomer	Haiku, Maui	96708		HI	
Bryce	Ellory	Haiku	96708		HI	
Sharon	Fairclo	Haiku	96708		HI	
Mary C.	Goodman	Haiku	96708		HI	
Peggy Sue	Hernando	Haiku	96708		HI	
Naia	Kelly	Haiku	96708		HI	
Angela	Kepler	Haiku	96708	Maui	HI	Senate District 6
Robert	Mitnick	Haiku, Maui	96708		HI	
joy	perfetti	haiku	96708		HI	
Anne	Pierce	Haiku	96708		HI	
Valentine	Redo	Keanae	96708		HI	
Suzanne	Villeneuve	Haiku	96708		HI	
pauahi	hookano	ewa beach	96706		HI	
marvin	feldman	capt. cook	96704		HI	
Lawrence	Ford	Captain Cook	96704	Hawaii	HI	Senate District 3
Christine	Makahilahila	Captain Cook	96704		HI	
gia	baiocchi	Anahola	96703		HI	
Selina	Heaton	Anahola	96703	Honolulu	HI	Senate District 23
Abilynn	Rita	Anahola	96703		HI	

Tracey	Schavone	Anahola	96703		HI	
Barbara	Maneja	Aiea	96701		HI	
Sandra	Herndon	Kapaa	95646		HI	
PHYLLIS	FLOWERS	WILLITS	95490		CA	
FREDDIE	LONG	WILLITS	95490		CA	
MABEL	LONG	WILLITS	95490		CA	
Kerry	Beck	Sebastopol	95472	Sonoma	CA	Senate District 2
Peter	Sanderson	Santa Rosa	95401		CA	
Karen	Affonso	San Jose	95130		CA	
Earlene	Cuelho Alexiou	Soquel	95073		CA	
Joseph	Nu'uanu, S.M.	Cupertino	95014		CA	
Shirley	Asuncion	San Anselmo	94960		CA	
Elaine	Belle-Glover	Mill Valley	94941		CA	
Tara	Cornelisse	San Rafael	94903	Marin	CA	Senate District 3
Leilani	Birely	Lafayette	94549	Contra Costa	CA	Senate District 7
jennifer	beck	foster city	94404		CA	
Kaela	Gallagher	San Luis Obispo	93401		CA	
Jaime and Cher	Snyder	Santa Barbara	93130	Santa Barbara	CA	Senate District 19
Mawaekamaka	Copeland	Port Hueneme	93041	Ventura	CA	Senate District 23
Elisha	Belmont	Westminster	92683	Orange	CA	Senate District 35
Jacqueline	Judd	Huntington Bea	92646		CA	
Theodora	Furtado	San Diego	92115		CA	
Wendi	Faria	San Diego	92101		HI	
Anita	Arconado	San Dimas, CA	91773	Los Angeles	CA	Senate District 29
jackie	Raines	Ontario	91762	San Bernardino	CA	Senate District 32
Carolyn	Lunel	Etiwanda	91739		CA	
roy	lunel	etiwanda	91739		CA	
Linda	Lauham	Long Beach	90803		CA	
Nicholas	Marott	Hilo	90672		HI	
Dona	van Bloemen	Santa Monica	90403	Los Angeles	CA	Senate District 23
Ken	Ng	LA	90066		CA	
Carrie	Rex	Albuquerque	87105	Bernalillo	NM	
Desdra	Dawning	Sun Lakes	85248	Maricopa	AZ	
Carolyn	Moore	Mesa	85215	Maricopa	AZ	Senate District 19
Kathy-Lyn	Allen	Pueblo	81003	Pueblo	CO	Senate District 3
Pumehana	paisner	Boulder	80301	Boulder	CO	Senate District 18
Anne	Springall	Oklahoma City	73120		OK	
patrick	Wimsatt	St. Louis	63130	Saint Louis	MO	Senate District 24
Diana	Fischer	Darien	60561		IL	
Mel S	Stark	Sandwich	60548	La Salle	IL	Senate District 35
Paul	Moss	White Bear Lak	55110	Ramsey	MN	Senate District 53
Jeffrey	Smith	Fairfield	52556		IA	
Ramona	Fernandez	East Lansing	48823		MI	
Jeanette	Evans	New Baltimore	48047	Macomb	MI	Senate District 11
Mary	Detrick	St. Petersburg	33710		FL	
Linda	Skempris	St. Petersburg	33707		FL	
Anna	Reycraft	North Miami	33181	Miami-Dade	FL	Senate District 35
donald	stevens	winter park	32792	Orange	FL	Senate District 22
Robert	Wagner	Lawrenceville	30044	Gwinnett	GA	Senate District 5
Unai	Fuente GÁmez	Navalcarnero	28600		ot	

Leimamo	Lind	Alexandria	22314		VI	
Maria	Gallo	Lothian	20711		MD	
tina	horowitz	philadelphia	19143	Philadelphia	PA	Senate District 7
Raenette	Rogers	Delta	17314		PA	
isobel	storch	Pittsburgh	15206		PA	
Jonathan	Schwartz	Brooklyn	11231		NY	
Denise	Lytle	Fords	8863	Middlesex	NJ	Senate District 19
Frederika	Ebel	Flemington	8822	Hunterdon	NJ	Senate District 23
David H	Dinner	Hanalei	6714		HI	
Å...se	Borg	Arendal	4848		ot	
Danielle	Ledvard	Jamaica Plain	2130		MA	
Carmen	L	Madrid	0		ot	
Gillian	Redwood	Vancouver	V6S1C6		BC	
Andre	O'sullivan Anakela	Cork, Ireland.	oooo4		ot	
joseph	cummins	london	N6C4Z9		ON	
Jaime	Rosado	MÃ³stoles (Spa	E28931		ot	
Den Mark	Wichar	Vancouver	98660	Clark	WA	Senate District 49
Kawehilani	Papalimu	Tacoma	98445		WA	
Loralee	Jacobson	Arlington	98223		WA	
Charles	Lawson	Kent	98042	King	WA	Senate District 47
Wanda	Brown	Bend	97702		OR	
Demelza	Costa	Sweet Home	97386	Linn	OR	Senate District 9
Lila	Liebmann	Portland	97219		OR	
Sarah	Sullivan	Portland	97206		OR	
Joseph	Masui	Portland	97203		OR	
Nancy	O'Harrow	Lake Oswego	97068	Clackamas	OR	Senate District 19