

wooley1-Christopher

From: Annie Suite [suiteness@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 6:35 PM
To: Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Jessica Wooley; AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong opposition to HB1226

LATE
To: Tsuji

Clift Tsuji
Jessica Wooley
Committee on Agriculture

Annie Suite
suiteness@gmail.com

Kialua, 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.

wooley1-Christopher

From: unmanib@maui.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Protect Hawaii! Oppose HB1226, Support HB1663

LATE
Testimony

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,
Cynthia F. Groves
1
Kihei, HI 96753

wooley1-Christopher

From: kahoolimana@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2009 8:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Protect Hawaii! Oppose HB1226, Support HB1663

LATE
Testimony

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

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

Sincerely,
Shawn Naone

Kapolei, HI 96707