

## wooley1-Christopher

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**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**

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**From:** kahoolemana@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