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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

heidi and gary garcia
p.o. box 223447
princeville, HI 96722

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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As a strong supporter of natural (not GMO) taro farming in Waipi'o, Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kauanoelehua Chang
P.O Box 437148
Kamuela, HI 96743

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Malama Aina,

Suzanna Ohoiner
2708 Kolo Pl. #7
Honolulu, HI 96826

(909) 292-5120

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Malama Aina,

Nalei Kahakalau
P.O. Box 1764
Honokaa, HI 96727

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Malama Aina,

douglas fox
pob 100
honaunau, HI 96726

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Malama Aina,

Deva Sage
Pohoiki Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

all this is just wrong for us hawaiians and affects everyone the people the land and the aina also this is affecting the land of the ancient people dont upset the island. just think our gods wouldnt want this today

Malama Aina,

william hardisty
48-5182 waipio rd.
honokaa, HI 96727

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Gary Wiseman
515 Pualani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,
Warren Kundis

Warren Kundis
94-141 Kuanalio Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789-2138

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Waimea Williams
45-539 Pahia Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Barb Kay
8 waipihia pl
Haiku, HI 96708

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

William Golove
6610 Hill St
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been growing taro in Kurtistown for nearly 30 years, and before that I grew taro on Oahu. On Our Malu-Aina farm we have more than 30 varieties of taro. Today we marketted organic taro leaves and root to Island Naturals Hilo store. Last Wed. we donated 50 pounds of taro leaf for the new Hawaiian pastor's luau at Ola'a Hawaiian Congregational Church in Kurtistown.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jim Albertini
P.O. Box AB
Kurtistown, HI 96760

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Lindyl Lanham
PO Box 30878
Anahola, HI 96703

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Shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
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Malama Aina,

Cindy Crawford
6821 E. Mantova St.
Long Beach, CA 90815

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Unmani Groves, Groves, Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consult
105 Kulipuu
Kihei, HI 96753

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Malama Aina,

David Bishaw
PO Box 933
PO Box 933 Hilo Hi 96721
Hilo, HI 96721

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Scott Jarvis
PO Box 1664
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

I AM

RR 2 Box 3330

Pahoa , HI 96778

Testimony

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carla buscaglia
2623A Halelena Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Leslie Yee Hoy
1305 Hele
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

jeani martin
4174 walleia place
princeville, HI 96722

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Malama Aina,

instrutor/supervisor Pualani Evangeline Kauila
instrutor/supervisor
2640 Dole Street Ste. 208
2640 Dole Street Ste. 208
Honolulu, HI 96816

945-1404

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Donna Werner
2172 Iiili Rd
Kihei, HI 96753

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In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Hilary Harts
51 Kamila St
Kula, HI 96790

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Kane Turalde
PO Box 1022
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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Andrea brower
5155 papaa road
Anahola, HI 96703

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Mililani Trask
400 Hualani Street
Hilo, HI 96720

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Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

aaron ANDERSON
12-147 KIPUKA ST,
pahoa hi,, HI 96778

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro. More importantly though, Haloa is my ancestor and it would be spiritually damaging to me and my family if modifications were made to the genetic make up of my ancestor in some western lab. Cross pollination and human selection of particular strains of Haloa is one thing, but injecting foreign DNA is completely disrespectful.

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Malama Aina,

Janelle Williams
179 Liko Lehua St.
Hilo, HI 96815

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Without reservation I join the communities across our State in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties. The banning of GMO-taro is pono! I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Our God given, Naturally grown taro deserves the best available science- To alter the natural being of our Hawaiian staple, taro is not a road we'd loke to travel. We shouldn't tamper with Mother Nature's perfect package and we must remain steadfast in the ways we've fed generations past and those to come. We see the effects of growth hormones and the "progress of science" in our children and grandchildren today. The onset of puberty starts years before it should in may of our keiki. To say that we must prevent disease in taro is not reason enough to cause the irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations in our naturally-grown staple is unacceptable and a potential danger to all. It is essential to protect our unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farms and water sources-- without GMOs. .

Malama Aina,

EVELYN SOUZA
92-848 Palailai Street
Kapolei , HI 96707

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Steven Hookano
245 wailua road
haiku, HI 96708

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a beekeeper, I understand all too well the dangers of genetically engineered organisms contaminating the pollen collected by honeybees, and through them spreading into non-gmo crops. Pollen are microscopic particles and very difficult to contain. There is no need for genetic modification on such a healthy, and culturally sacred plant. There is no room in this already devastated ecology for mistakes! And mistakes always happen... killer bees, varroa mites, coqui... and these are all large organisms!

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

alison yahna
po box 679
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na'alehu, HI 96772

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Malama Aina,

laura and andrew BINSTOCK
po box 1268
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76-6182 Alii Drive
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Valerie Loh
2552 peter street
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Kapa Oliveira
PO Box 61061
Honolulu, HI 96839

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

nancy kobayashi
p.o.box 44
hanalei, HI 96714

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Cynthia Taylor
P.O. Box 391179
Keauhou, HI 96739

808-937-2113

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

clawz lee
3226
ahinahina
hon, HI 96816

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I urge you to reject all genetic modification of taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. There are unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

I am not going to give you more detailed reasons of why there should be a ban on GMO-taro, as I know you have received such information already. Please thoroughly read that info and take it seriously, as you think about your vote on GMO-taro.

Look forward to hearing from you.
Malama Aina,

Marjorie Erway
PO Box 2807
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Michael Daly
442 Kalaimoku St
Honolulu, HI 96815

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Taro is, without doubt, the Staff of Life in the Hawaiian Islands. This applies to all of us who reside here. As such, it is of utmost importance that the genome of taro remain whole and unbroken from genetic modification. Changing the life pattern and blueprint of taro is a violation against humanity.

I voice my concern to any who would consider the taro plant our property and not our partner in the cycle of life. Without our major food crops, we will not live, and changing their inherent nature is a setup for failure, starvation, and manipulation of the balance of power through controlling food sources.

Stop genetic modification in the Hawaiian Islands now.

Peace,

Eliza W. Goodhue

Eliza Goodhue
P O Box 791469
Paia, HI 96779

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Malama Aina,

Walter Maza
1916 Hokulei Pl
Puhi, HI 96766

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Malama Aina,

tracy lyman
po box 171
kapaa, HI 96746

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Malama Aina,

Dana Moss
general delivery
Kapaau, HI 96755

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Malama Aina,

Shane Silva
85-1343 Puhinalo pl.
Waianae, HI 96792

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David M. K. Inciong, II
1107 Acacia Road # 113
Pearl City, HI 96782-2581

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In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

pono kealoha
1107 Acacia Rd. #113
Pearlcity, HI 96782

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

-Protect Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

I don't buy any GMO product. If there is GMO taro, I don't buy it. Most of people who I know are not consuming any GMO food or product, so they won't buy GMO taro, too.

Many of akamai people know what is pono, and what is not pono. Making GEO taro is not pono.

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina, Malama pono,

Mayumi Marks
3109 Mapu PI Kihei
Kihei, HI 96753

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Malama Aina,

P Ling
PO Box 779
Waianae, HI 96792

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Malama Aina,

Paul Moss
1849 Whitaker St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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Malama Aina,

Sheila Ward
265 Calle Sorbona Apt. 2
Urb. University Gardens
San Juan, PR 927

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Kim Young
PO Box 791575
Paia, HI 96779

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Malama Aina,

Aura Lane
2325 Humboldt Ave
Oakland, CA 94601

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Will Ware
65 Cadillac Sqr.
Detroit, MI 48226

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Nancy J. O'Harrow
2289 5th Ave.
Apt. #2
Lake Oswego, OR 97068

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Royelen Lee Lee Boykie
3601 Wisconsin Avenue #505
#505
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rachel kattlove
3804 ahonui pl
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Malama Aina,

James Lopez
8525 SW 29th St.
Topeka, KS 66614

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Carolyn Moore
5402 McKellips Rd. Lot 289
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Mesa, AZ 85215

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Andrew Benson
205 2nd Street Apt. 1
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barton susan
41-1680 Kaala Rd
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Charles Alger
36475 Dubarko Rd
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Malama Aina,

Summer Faria
2553 Komo Mai Dr.
Pearl City, HI 96782

387-1098

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Linda Lee Evans
387B Ocean Ave
387B Ocean Ave, Monterey, CA
Monterey, CA 93940

831-655-4979

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