

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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.

Do not allow such unnatural practices to pollute Hawaiian taro or our sacred land. These false ways of farming are not wanted or needed.

For love of Mother Nature & good crops the way nature intended, Linda Lee Evans

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

831-655-4979

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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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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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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.

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Malama Aina,

Anna Reycraft  
12000 North Bayshore Drive  
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2302 Columbia Street  
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Amy Marsh  
1510 Francis Street  
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2702 High Street  
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reseda, CA 91335

## 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 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,

Arnold Kotler  
PO Box 790445  
Paia, HI 96779

## Testimony

### In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

From across the Pacific, 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. The unique, fragile ecosystem of Hawai'i is NOT the place to experiment with genetically-modified crops; rather, the historic and present importance of taro should be protected for current and future generations.

#### -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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**-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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**-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.

I am fortunate to have visited the islands a few times in my life, and with each visit, I gained a deeper and richer appreciation of the culture, people, history, language, flora and fauna, land and water. I also firmly support measures to protect and sustain Hawaii's unique ecosystem. 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,

Katy Fogg  
3737 Central Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98501



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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Terry Tokuda  
POB 648  
73-4599 Kukuki St KK HI 96740  
Holualoa, HI 96725

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Malama Aina,

Sharon Fairclo  
33 Lokelau Place  
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Malama Aina,

Lea Lea Padilla  
724 Walnut Avenue  
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Redlands, CA 92373

(909) 792-5078

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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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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.

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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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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,

Diane Marshall  
73 Hale Nani St.  
Hilo, HI 94270

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Malama Aina,

Dayle Bethel  
1441 Victoria Street, #402  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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**Malama Aina, a me ka mahalo nui loa no kou kokua!**

Randy Bartlett  
POB 11197  
Lahaina, HI 96761

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Malama Aina,

Doreen Redford  
98-288 Kaionohi St.  
#3004  
Aiea, HI Aiea

486-2513

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Malama Aina,

Richard Miller  
PO Box 662083  
Lihue, HI 96766

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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,

Shannon renee Rudolph  
P.O. Box 243  
P.O. 243  
Holualoa, HI 96725

808-322-6604

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Pumehana Miriam paisner  
3250 O'neal Cir #24-H  
Boulder, CO 80301

303 447 9772 (c)

## Testimony

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Blessings of Love and Peace

Jeremai Cann  
2680 ipulei pl  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Malama Aina,

Andrea jepson  
1111 Koohoo Place

Kailua, HI 96734

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Malama Aina,

Monika Seiz  
P.O.Box 876  
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Victor Pellegrino  
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Waikapu, HI 96793

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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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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.

### -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 an 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,

Susan L. Gierman  
POBox 1400  
Kealakekua, HI 96750

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

marti buckner  
529 kaiko'o  
wailuku, HI 96793

## 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,

Diane Krieger  
po box 208  
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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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,

CarolLee Averill  
538 Pohai St  
Kahului, HI 96732

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Isao Kaji  
2039 bachelot st  
honolulu, HI 94121

## Testimony

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Malama Aina,

kimo stowell  
nu'uauu ave  
Honolulu, HI 96792

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

In my family we eat poi every week.

Please do not genetically alter this staple of our diet and our culture. I support taking care of the land from which the taro grows. Please help to assure steady, clean water sources for nourishing haloa. Please do change the plant's genetic structure.

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,

Lori Fernandez  
P.O. Box 11197  
Lahaina, HI 96761

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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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.

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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,

leilea satori  
po box 1200  
honoka'a, HI 96727

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Michael Saiz  
PO Box 562  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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Zenna Galagaran  
P.O. Box 847  
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808-779-3268

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Malama Aina,

Anne Pierce  
333 Haumana Rd  
Haiku, HI 96708

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475 White Chapel Ave  
San Jose, CA 95136

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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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#### -Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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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.

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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,

Sharon Naehu  
HC-01 Box 750  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

## 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,

Kanoe Kapu  
P.O. Box 10433  
P.O. Box 10433  
Hilo, HI 96721

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Bill Akiona  
P.O. Box 404  
Waianae, HI 96792

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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,

Airielle Pearson  
pmb 119 p o box 791540  
Paia, HI 96779

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ella Alcon  
170 Iliahi  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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As a subsistence taro farmer in Halawa and Waialua valleys in East Molokai, 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.

Aloha Aina,

Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross  
P.O. Box 1461  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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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.

-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.

-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 an 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,

Lori Leimamo Buchanan  
P.O. Box 220  
P.O. Box 220  
Kualapuu, HI 96757

(808) 553-5236

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

To Whom it may concern,

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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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,

Rosemary Bak  
2801-N2 La-I Road  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Harmonee Williams  
PO Box 1334  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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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,

Matt Yamashita  
PO Box 1304  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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,

Wendy Wells  
188 Hale st. Apt. 6A  
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Lisa Ann Hookano  
911085 kauiki st  
ewa beach, HI 96706

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Malama Aina,

Mariah Bath  
20 Hoaka Rd  
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Malama Aina,

Natashja Tong  
87-101 Hookele St.  
Waianae, HI 96792

Testimony  
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I object to any genetically modification of taro. If this was a grass roots effort on the part of Hawaiians requesting research to be done, then it would be a different story. But this is science being crammed down the throat of Hawaiians. This science ignores the cultural significance of the taro as a food staple. The science ignores the relationship of taro to the Hawaiians as the "older brother", as a family member. Instead it is as if an surgical experiment is being preformed on a live conscious human being with the same amount of horror being expressed by the Hawaiian people.

Taro breeding programs are the best route to go, but genetically modification is unacceptable.

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Malama Aina,

Sharon Naehu  
HC-01 Box 750  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

## Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Satya Anubhuti  
PO Box 1010  
Pahoa, HI 96778

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In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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Mary Detrick  
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St. Petersburg, FL 33710