

FEB 16 2010

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCERS AND RETAILERS TO DEVELOP A CONSISTENT SYSTEM OF  
LABELING TO BETTER INFORM CONSUMERS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED  
ORGANISMS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a strong interest in  
2 promoting diversified agriculture as a means to help our island  
3 state achieve greater self-sufficiency; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the growth in genetically modified agricultural  
6 production has been swift and pervasive throughout the nation,  
7 but a quick acceptance of the new technology may pose serious  
8 consequences for the health and safety of our citizens; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the terms "genetically modified foods" or  
11 "genetically modified organisms" (GMOs) most commonly refer to  
12 crop plants created for human or animal consumption using the  
13 latest molecular biology techniques in the laboratory to enhance  
14 desired traits such as increased resistance to herbicides or  
15 improved nutritional content; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the best known example of this is the use of  
18 *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) genes in corn and other crops,  
19 which is a naturally occurring bacterium that produces crystal  
20 proteins that are lethal to insect larvae; B.t. crystal protein  
21 genes have been transferred into corn, enabling the corn to  
22 produce its own pesticides against insects such as the European  
23 corn borer; and  
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25 WHEREAS, numerous nations, including countries of the  
26 European Union, Japan, and the Republic of China, require  
27 labeling of GMO foods; and  
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29 WHEREAS, polls consistently demonstrate that seventy-two to  
30 ninety-four per cent of United States citizens support labeling  
31 of GMO foods, and a poll conducted by the University of Hawaii's



1 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources shows that  
2 seventy-two per cent of Hawaii's residents feel that it is very  
3 important that GMO fruit be labeled; and  
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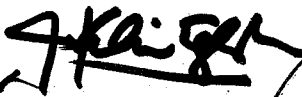
5 WHEREAS, recent collaboration between independent natural  
6 foods retailers and technical consultants has resulted in a  
7 consensus-based, industry-wide system for addressing GMO  
8 contamination and a "Non-GMO Project Verified" label; and  
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10 WHEREAS, local agricultural producers and retailers could  
11 benefit from a consistent labeling system to better inform  
12 consumers of the varying methods employed to develop  
13 agricultural products; now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
18 Agriculture is requested to facilitate increased cooperation  
19 between agricultural producers and retailers to address consumer  
20 concerns, including whether a product is GMO contaminated; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
23 and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and  
24 Human Resources are requested to work in cooperation with  
25 organic and natural food producers and retailers to evaluate and  
26 implement a labeling system for non-GMO products; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
30 Board of Agriculture, the Dean and Director of the College of  
31 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of  
32 Hawaii, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
33 Federation, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the  
34 Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, the Chairperson of the Board  
35 of the Hawaii Farmers Union, the President of the Board of  
36 Directors of the Hawaii Cooperative of Organic Farmers, the  
37 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Food Industry Association,  
38 the Chief Executive Officer of Down to Earth, the Cooperative  
39 President of Kokua Market, and the Manager of the Hawaii Whole  
40 Foods Market, Inc.  
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OFFERED BY: 



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