

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 11:19 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: wekeis333@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Sylvester	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Committee members, Please take some time to watch this video and especially at the end.

Genetically engineered fish will be the only way to save our oceans from overfishing and total loss of diversity. Do not limit the tools of the future that have the potential to save our oceans. I highly recommend everyone read the book "Four Fish": The future of our last wild

food.https://www.ted.com/talks/paul_greenberg_the_four_fish_we_re_overeating_and_what_to_eat_instead?language=en Mahalo, Tony Sylvester

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:38 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: danandsheryll@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Clegg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Why would we ban an opportunity to feed ourselves?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:51 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: davidsher@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:55 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please remember the damage that was done by DLNR importing to'au, ta'ape and roi to Hawaii, our state marine waters are valuable beyond measure and we should not be experimenting like this with them Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:25 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: tkpetzoldt@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Yet again, propaganda and scare tactics are overtaking reason in Hawaii's legislature and this bill is yet another example. There has been twenty years of research, FDA approval and a lot of science behind genetically engineered salmon, it's safe and we know it is safe. Please stop listening to the Center for Food Safety and other activist organizations and concentrate on the actual needs of the people of Hawaii. This does not include legislating against imagined monsters such as biotech, it means fixing our overheated schools, paying our teachers, repairing the roads and focusing on the difficult tasks of finding a solution to our booming homeless population. I oppose any and all bans on GM Salmon in Hawaii including this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:47 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:41 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:38 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: natalie@nataliebrownpotography.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support prohibiting GE salmon in Hawaii. And everywhere else in the world!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:16 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: KimberlyUsherMauiRainbow@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Usher	fightforyourhealth.blogspot.com	Comments Only	No

Comments: Anything genetically modified should be banned...Salmon, food, vaccines, trees... Stop pandering to the so called "educated"...You all know very well the people who stand up and say they love GMOs have their fingers in the pie...Conflicts of interests... I was just looking at Kanela Ing's FaceBook page, and he is being attacked by people who act nice to him, but are TROLLS working for biotech... I want to go so far as closing down all fish farms in Hawai'i...UNHAWAIIAN! It's all a big scam for the same people who destroy everything real people hold sacred, and dear...Life! Fish farming is a filthy, and disgusting business...Besides unhealthy for the fish, humans, and the surrounding area... Problems...are diseases in the fish...over use of antibiotics in fish...dioxin in the feed...PEOPLE pretending they won't get sick by eating a fish with a disease, because some "scientist" that works for the gov. says our body temperature is too hot to survive in humans to get the disease from the fish...or the fish can't escape...GMOed...Atlantic Salmon is not the same as Pacific... Just because Aquabounty has erroneously spent all their time, and money on some pie in the sky idea does not make them right...Just ARROGANT! We are not responsible for them thinking Hawai'i and the world are part of the Idiocy they, and their friends in Norway think exists. The feed is fishy too...I learned this after BP destroyed the Gulf of Mexico, and coast of LA... BP will profit off DEAD OCEANS...because they own all the feed for the fish...Along with Monsanto their partners... Frankenfishy? 1899: Skretting is founded in Norway as an agricultural merchant. 1928: Hendrix Voeders is founded as an agricultural products wholesaler, which enters the animal feed business in the 1930s. 1931: Adolph Trouw founds a company producing vitamin and mineral mixes for animal feeds, and later begins its own production of animal feeds. 1963: Skretting begins producing extruded fish feeds, which becomes its sole focus. \par 1968: Moore-Clark is founded in Canada. 1975: British Petroleum establishes BP Nutrition and acquires Trouw. \par 1979: BP Nutrition acquires Hendrix. 1980: Trouw acquires Skretting. 1981: Trouw Chile is founded. 1986: BP Nutrition acquires Purina Mills and Moore-Clark. 1994: Nutreco is formed from the management-led buyout of BP Nutrition. 1997: Nutreco lists on the Amsterdam stock exchange. 2000: Nutreco acquires most of Hydro Seafood from Norsk Hydro. 2003: All fish feed operations are regrouped under the Skretting name. BP's chemical interests also expanded during this period, especially

after 1978, when it acquired major European assets from Union Carbide and Monsanto.
<http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Nutreco-Holding-NV-Company-History.html> A patent for a GMO grain that starts the fatty production in a farmed fish.
Here is the patent for the Aguafeed.
<http://www.freepatentsonline.com/y2009/0299083.html>

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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES,
& HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 686
RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH
Room 325
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB opposes HB 686.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau opposes HB 686, "Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish," which would ban the raising of genetically engineered fish in State marine waters. This bill contains no justification, is certainly premature and likely unnecessary, and sends the wrong message about the use of genetic modification in agriculture, despite the determination by federal agencies that this technology is safe and beneficial.

At this time, the only genetically engineered fish that has been approved for culture in the U.S., or that is even close to approval, is a variety of salmon. Salmon is a cold-water fish which could not be raised successfully in Hawaii's warm marine waters. In addition, the fish has been approved only for culture in biosecure facilities, not for culture in marine waters. The approval process has taken many years. There is not likely to be any FDA-approved, genetically modified marine fish suitable for culture in Hawaii for many more years, if ever.

Further, any attempt to culture fish in Hawaiian waters is subject to an extensive permitting process by both Federal and State agencies. Any type of fish (genetically modified or not) that might cause harm if it escaped the culture system *would not be permitted*. A ban on genetically modified fish would add nothing to the current safeguards.

We note that HB 686 contains no justification for a ban on genetically modified fish. Passage of HB 686 would send the wrong message: that Hawaii's Legislature is against the use of genetic modification in agriculture, despite the determination by Federal agencies that this technology is safe and beneficial. The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports all forms of agriculture, whether organic, conventional, or biotech. We therefore urge your Committee to defer this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:25 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: phredwise@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Freddy Von Essen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please keep these creatures as far away from Hawaii as possible. This gives the term "Invasive Species" a new meaning. Please do what is right. Mahalo and Aloha.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:26 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: Rockahulagal@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandee PhillipsJohnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:28 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: tulsi@mauiishome.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support this bill. We do not need any GMO fish in Hawaii!
Thank you for your time. Tulsi Greenlee

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:04 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: krantz3k@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Krantz	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I am in support of this bill in its entirety! We can not allow genetic fish into our waters, there needs to be a lot more testing done before we jump on the bandwagon. We should have extensive studies done before allowing any altered fish in our waters. Jeff Krantz

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Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 7:31 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 7:17 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mmcardle19@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:53 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: Salinasckl@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I greatly support this bill.

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Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:17 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: svickery@hawaii.rr.com
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HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Prohibit gmo fish in state marine waters throughout.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:58 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mailetakahashi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Takahashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:56 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: takahashimark@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick Takahashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:55 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: reeftour@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Takahashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support for prohibiting genetically engineered fish.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:55 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: gurushabd@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gurushabd khalsa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Say no GMO fish on Hawaii... Thank you
Gurushabd Khalsa

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:46 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: marcyfrommaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcy Koltun-Crilley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Strongly Support this bill and thank you in advance for doing the same.
Marcy Koltun-Crilley RN Kihei, HI

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Testimony from Dr. Joe Ritter - Kihei Maui Hawaii 96753 House District 11 Senate District 6

Measure Title: RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH.

I SUPPORT HB686, do not allow GM fish in Hawaii.

This bill prohibits propagating, cultivating, or farming genetically engineered fish in state marine waters. I agree we must not allow GM fish in Hawaiian waters.

I am an interdisciplinary scientist. I first came to Hawaii as an Oceanographic researcher on a NASA/NOAA project. I know something about the sea. I first set foot on Maui from a zodiac on shore leave from an oceanographic research vessel. I used to work in a Genetics lab and I even flew a Genetics Payload on NASA Space Shuttle Mission STS-91. (The GRaDEx: Genotoxicology and RADiation Dosimetry Experiment). Consider this as evidence that I know a little about Genetics too.

Do you know what will happen if GM Salmon escape? I do not. But I do know that Transgenic Atlantic salmon are capable of hybridizing with wild fish creating offspring that carry modified growth genes. As a larger fish will they outcompete other fish and alter the aquatic ecosystem? Do you know what will happen? If you are not certain then you must act to ban all GE fish here in HI for the same reason, Not just the GE salmon.

To elaborate on that fundamental point: If the GM salmon hybridize with other wild Genus Salmo or Genus Oncorhynchus, some will carry the enhanced growth gene. Those that escape to the wild will likely outcompete other fish for food because of this growth factor. Multiple scientists (see citation below) say there is a real threat of this event. Therefore the precautionary principle must apply.

A second fundamental point is this: Interspecific hybridization MUST be explicitly considered when assessing the environmental consequences should transgenic animals escape to nature. And they do. Have you considered this?

Please see [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#). the paper titled "Hybridization between genetically modified Atlantic salmon and wild brown trout reveals novel ecological interactions" by Krista B. Oke, Peter A. H. Westley, Darek T. R. Moreau, Ian A. Fleming
Published 29 May 2013.DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2013.1047
<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1763/20131047>

This peer reviewed science suggests there may indeed be a real hazard. And if you think otherwise let's insist upon hearing the science from an UNBIASED source with NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST, not a GM food producer. After all the National Science Foundation has strict guidelines on disclosing conflict of interest (often ignored in Hawaii by GM scientists and compaines). On that note I do not work in that field, receive no money from either side of this issue and so here freely state that I have no conflict of interest on this topic, to the contrary, my interest is in the public health and the health of our environment and ecosystem.

With my sincere thanks for introducing this bill and Aloha,
Joe

Joe Ritter Ph.D.

-Kihei Hawaii 96753 House District 11 Senate District 6

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=686

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 686
RELATING TO GENECIALLY ENGINEERED FISH**

House Bill 686 proposes to prohibit propagating, cultivating, or farming genetically engineered fish in state marine waters. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) takes no position on this measure but would offer that we already have the authority to regulate certain non-native organisms, including those that may be genetically modified. We offer the following comments.**

The Department currently uses Section 187A-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to issue licenses to persons wishing to commercially culture regulated aquatic life. One of the conditions of this license is to prohibit the release of any animal cultured under this license into the wild without written authorization from the Department. Any aquatic life with modified DNA would be considered a non-native organism and prohibited from release without approval.

We note that aquatic animal culture may occur on private lands in enclosed ponds or freshwater that would not be prohibited under this bill. Neither would it be prohibited to possess, sell, or attempt to sell any such engineered fish.

Furthermore, depending whether the animal was imported into the state already engineered or native, then born engineered in Hawaii, it may be subject to different existing state regulations. Lastly, we are not versed enough with the current state of recombinant DNA technology to determine if the proposed definitions in the bill would sufficiently cover all examples of these kinds of animals that the bill intends. There is a whole range of what may be considered genetically engineered from minimally to extensively modified, some of which do not appear to be visually different from the wild stock.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:20 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: alohalways@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please don't let them breed or bring any GMO animals or fish to Hawaii! I Support the passage of this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:43 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:49 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AlanaRoss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the prohibition of Genetically Engineered Fish. Please do NOT ALLOW Them to GMO our fish supply. This could cause huge problems in our already fragile ecosystem here in Hawaii. Thank you for Supporting this bill. Mahalo, Alana Ross Hana, HI

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1201 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 962-9513
www.bio.org

**Testimony of the
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)**

Hearing of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Conference Room 325 State Capitol
Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Re: House Bill 686, Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

The Honorable Kaniela Ing, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 686 on behalf of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) – a Washington, DC-based trade group representing more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations that are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. Hawaii's biosciences sector consists of 212 entities, employing 3,524 people, who earn an average salary of \$57,832.

As introduced, HB 686 prohibits the propagation, cultivation or farming of genetically engineered (GE) fish in state marine waters. Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, the term "state marine waters" is defined "as extending from the upper reaches of the wash of the waves on shore seaward to the limit of the State's police power and management authority, including the United States territorial sea, notwithstanding any law to the contrary. [L 1990, c 126, §1]"

BIO appreciates and understands the Committee's concern about invasive species and the desire to keep such creatures out of Hawaii. We do not, however, believe that GE animals approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are invasive species. Moreover, we question the germaneness of the legislation, as BIO is not aware of the propagation, cultivation or farming of GE fish in Hawaii's or any other state's marine waters, or any plans to engage in such activity. Indeed, according to the FDA, no GE animals raised for food use are currently approved for such a purpose in the United States. **As such, we do not believe HB 686 is necessary and that further consideration should be tabled. At the very least, additional research, study and deliberation is required before proceeding with this measure. Failure to do so could lead to unintended consequences.**

The FDA regulates GE fish and other animals under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). Under the FD&C Act, it is unlawful to introduce unapproved new GE animals into commerce. Such products must receive premarket approval before they are marketed. Moreover, potentially significant environmental impacts, if any, must be examined before approval as required by National Environmental Policy Act.

As members of the Committee are likely aware, in November of 2015, the FDA approved the first GE food animal for sale in the United States. Specifically, after a scientifically exhaustive and rigorous review that spanned 20 years, FDA approved AquaBounty Technologies' application for AquAdvantage® Salmon, an Atlantic salmon that reaches market size more quickly than non-GE farm-raised Atlantic salmon. In approving the application, FDA determined that food from AquAdvantage® Salmon is as safe to eat and as nutritious as food from other non-GE Atlantic salmon and that there are no biologically relevant differences in the nutritional profile of AquAdvantage® Salmon compared to that of other farm-raised Atlantic salmon. FDA also determined that the AquAdvantage® Salmon did not represent a risk to the environment.

Under the terms of the FDA approved permit, the AquAdvantage® Salmon may only be raised in land-based, contained tanks inside two specific facilities in Canada and Panama, which will be inspected and approved by FDA prior to use. **The approval does not allow AquAdvantage® Salmon to be bred or raised in the United States. In fact, under the product's approval, no other facilities or locations in the United States or elsewhere are authorized for breeding or raising AquAdvantage® Salmon that are intended for marketing as food to U.S. consumers.** Furthermore, AquAdvantage® Salmon are all-female, sterile Atlantic salmon. There will be additional geothermal and physical barriers that render the possibility of survival outside the facility virtually impossible.

Lastly, Congress included a provision in the Fiscal Year 2016 federal spending package that was enacted last December prohibiting FDA from allowing the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of any food that contains GE salmon, until the agency publishes final labeling guidelines for informing consumers of such content.

In light of the fact no GE fish is being propagated, cultivated or farmed in any state marine waters in the United States, that there do not appear to be any such plans to do so and that this activity is stringently regulated at the federal level, HB 686 seems completely unnecessary. Thus, BIO respectfully asks that the Committee table discussion of HB 686 or, at the very least, set it aside for additional research, deliberation and study. I would be happy to answer questions in writing, or if you prefer, arrange for experts to discuss this matter in more detail.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Harrington
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

About BIO

BIO is a national trade organization, based in Washington, DC, representing more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and

related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. Biotechnology researchers expand the boundaries of science to benefit mankind by providing better healthcare, enhanced agriculture, and a cleaner and safer environment.

www.bio.org



HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports HB686

Dear Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am writing in support of HB686, which prohibits propagating, cultivating, or farming genetically engineered fish in state marine waters. Since GE Salmon is currently the only GE fish produced, we are ultimately opposing GE salmon farming in state marine waters. We are concerned about negative impacts of GE fish on our consumer and ocean health.

We are very concerned about the potential toxicity, allergenic effects, and diseases posed by the commercialization of transgenic fish. While data on human health impacts of GE fish is sparse, especially since FDA has yet to share the data it has reviewed, some recent studies have provided cause for serious concern. For example, the routine use of antibiotics to control diseases often found in farm-raised fish may already be impacting human health. Some research has suggested that transgenic fish, including that presented by the FDA for the approval of the AquAdvantage salmon, may be susceptible to more diseases than fish currently grown in aquaculture facilities. Consequently, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher than the amount currently given to farmed fish; already farmed salmon are given more antibiotics than any other livestock by weight. By eating farmed fish treated with antibiotics humans will be ingesting antibiotics that may be harmful. Indeed, some antibiotics are toxic and can even cause fatal allergic reactions.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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HAWAII OFFICE

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2107
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808-681-7688

office@centerforfoodsafety.org

centerforfoodsafety.org

Genetically engineered fish pose irreparable risks to wild populations of fish and our marine environment. Each year, millions of farmed fish escape from open-water net pens, outcompeting wild populations for resources, reducing genetic diversity through interbreeding, and straining ecosystems. Further adverse environmental impacts of industrial aquaculture include the release of untreated wastes and nutrients; increased risk of disease and parasite transmission (such as sea lice) from farmed fish to wild fish; the use and release into the environment of drugs and chemicals, such as antibiotics, pesticides, fungicides and hormones; and the over-fishing of vast quantities of smaller forage fish to feed carnivorous farmed fish, such as salmon. In fact, a recent study found that humans have caused a reduction of fish populations in the Hawaiian archipelago by as much as 78%ⁱ. GE fish will only worsen these impacts. The environmental threats posed by GE fish could alter the biodiversity of our entire ecosystem.

Many U.S. cities and states have already proposed to ban GE crops. States that have successfully passed laws banning GE fish are California and Washington. Municipalities including Burlington, VT, and Boulder, CO have passed laws related to banning GE crops, as well. In addition, 9,000 grocery stores and numerous restaurants vowed not to sell the GE fish that the FDA legalized last year. Not only did businesses call out in opposition of this ruling, but nearly 1.8 million people submitted comments in opposition of legalizing GE salmon.

In the U.S., there is no single law or federal agency that oversees the products of biotechnology. Instead, the government oversees GE products under a mosaic of existing laws that were never intended for that function. This unfortunate approach has raised numerous “square peg, round hole” problems, and GE animal oversight is a good example.

We believe that GE fish farming in state waters would represent a fatal threat to the survival of native fish populations, many of which have already suffered severe declines related to industrial aquaculture and other man-made impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any follow up questions or provide additional analysis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ashley Lukens
Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

ⁱ Williams I.D., Baum J.K., Heenan A., Hanson K.M., Nadon M.O., Brainard R.E. (2015) Human, Oceanographic and Habitat Drivers of Central and Western Pacific Coral Reef Fish Assemblages. PLoS ONE 10(4): e0120516. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0120516

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:29 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:28 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: wwmsteiner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

LATE

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William W. Steiner	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This is to testify that I support HB686 which allows no genetically engineered fish or marine life in Hawaiian waters. State support of good conservation practices will allow all the fish we need, and the chance of engineered gene sequences escaping from engineered fish through viral or bacterial pathways is to great a threat to our existing fisheries. As a professional geneticist, I know that such escape has been found in grasses, from plants to insects, and from crops to weedy species and are a matter of record.

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To: omhtestimony
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William W. Steiner	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This is to testify that I support HB686 which allows no genetically engineered fish or marine life in Hawaiian waters. State support of good conservation practices will allow all the fish we need, and the chance of engineered gene sequences escaping from engineered fish through viral or bacterial pathways is to great a threat to our existing fisheries. As a professional geneticist, I know that such escape has been found in grasses, from plants to insects, and from crops to weedy species and are a matter of record.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:06 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We can't rule out gmo fish. If this method will help feed people then let's not stop it. If there was a list of fish or species being proposed i would decide on what to support or not.

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My Name is Levie Yamazaki Gray. I am a retired School Psychologist and a practicing Licensed Mental Health Counselor. I am also a husband and father of two girls. I live on Molokai.

I SUPPORT THIS BILL - HB 686.

I believe that Genetic Engineering is too new and carries far too great a magnitude of risks to allow it to occur without strict regulation. I have not seen any convincing proof that producing G/E fish can be guaranteed to be safe for our ecology and I fear that once the ' cat is let out of the bag' -any unanticipated and unwanted changes could be devastating and irreversible. The same is true of my concerns about potential health issues which may exist from human and animal consumption. I do not believe that there has been sufficient and conclusive research and evidence to assure that they are safe.

I have on the other hand read numbers of studies, largely done in European countries where the agritech companies do not have such a political stronghold, which suggest that GMO foods may be responsible for a wide variety of health problems. I believe that ultimately the introduction of GMO fish would not benefit the state of Hawaii and the majority of it's citizens but rather mainly the bottom line of a few large corporations. I urge that you support this bill- HB 686.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my opinions on this matter.

LATE

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:44 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nomi Carmona	Babes Against Biotech	Support	No

Comments:

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HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming

In Strong Opposition to HB 686
Relating to Genetically Engineered Fish

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Affairs and Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday 02-10-16 9:00 am in conference room 325

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA strongly opposes this measure because it is not necessary since there is no propagation, cultivation and farming of GE fish in Hawaii or even in the United States.

We realize that sponsors of this bill may have heard about the first GE food animal for sale in the US, which was called ***Aquadvantage Atlantic Salmon*** and may understandably be concerned with its potential presence in our marine waters.

But actually, the Food and Drug Administration, in granting its approval, has determined that the GE salmon should not be bred or raised in the United States but instead **in land-based container tanks located in Canada and Panama.**

We ask the Committee to be deliberate in their action. At the very least, additional research, study and deliberation is required before proceeding with this measure. Failure to do so could lead to unintended consequences.

We hope you will vote "no" on the measure.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

P.O. Box 126 Aiea, HI 96701

Telephone: (808) 594-3611 Email: Director@hciaonline.com

www.bettercrophawaii.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:25 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: jreppun@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John L Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Ing, Committe Members: Mahalo for the introduction of and consideration of this measure. It is wise for The State of Hawaii to exercise the precautionary principle with regard to this issue...and look closely and with concern at examples in other bio-regions where fish populations (salmon in the North West and Pacific Coast in Canada) are now threatened by careless practices. Our success with productive fisheries canny rely on genetic engineering ; rather, we must focus our efforts on ensuring optimal management and care for the ocean habitat itself. I urge yor support for this measure moving forward.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:25 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

LATE

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Support good science and if this tool could be used to help save endangered species, don't smash the sword before battle. Evidence based policies must lead the way, not fear mongering.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:17 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:17 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: makani.christensen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
makani	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: -No position on Genetically modified Fish. -We are not opposed to good science. -Science is helping feed people throughout the world. -Why has this bill been introduced? -Can Genetically Modified Help fish stocks? -Is there an event in Hawaii where fish stocks have to be genetically modified? -How will this measure affect shrimp farms and fish farms throughout Hawaii? -To date GMO has helped feed the world, are ensuring food security for the world? -We have seen introduced fish ruin the native ecosystem in Hawaii: Roi, Taape, and Toau. -Our mission is to protect and promote the right to hunt, to farm and to fish through advocacy, education and collaboration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:06 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

LATE

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support bill HB686. I am so very glad to see proactive thinking and protecting of our marine and human life by prohibiting genetically modified fish and toxic by-products as the result. Mahalo, Katarina Culina Po box 2142 Pahoa, HI 96778

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:02 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure. The intent is a valid concern. Generally, it can be morally problematic for genetically engineered fish to be in the wild, capable of hybridizing with wild populations. However, genetic engineering may also be necessary for conservation purposes in the future, to raise fish that are, for instance, resistant to warming waters or resistant to the pathogens that those warming waters will favor. I recommend amendments to clarify what exceptions would be appropriate for the conservation of native fish, in a depleting and changing world.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:54 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: matt.htfa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/9/2016
Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill. While the aquaculture of any species of fish in Hawaii raises numerous potential problems, genetically modified fish are not inherently bad. Proper safeguards are needed to protect our environment and local fisheries against invasive species, but a complete ban goes too far.

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 10, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 686
RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

Chairperson Ing and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 686. This bill revises Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include a new section to make it unlawful to propagate, cultivate, or farm genetically engineered fish in state marine waters. The Department respectfully opposes this bill.

Today, Hawaii imports nearly 90% of its food supply. As agriculture proponents, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is tasked with identifying, facilitating growth and promoting safe and viable products (including fish) that can help offset this concerning trade imbalance. Until products are deemed unsafe by either the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), HDOA believes that all products should be given full consideration as a possible food source for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:03 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM*

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:18 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: fernrosenstiel@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB686 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Rosenstiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill and ensure the integrity of our wild fish stocks and environment into the future.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB686

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SUPPORT SUPPORT SUPPORT!!! Please PASS BILL HB686 RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH. Mahalo. Kapua Wai'anae

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