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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 12, 2015
4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**SENATE BILL NO. 885
RELATING TO GENETIC ENGINEERING**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 885. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent, or minimize the adverse effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering. The Department respectfully opposes this measure.

The Department of Agriculture plays a unique role as both a regulator and promoter of the agricultural industry. In all decisions that are made at the Department the concerns are for the health and well-being of the community and then that of the agricultural industry. As such, the Department is supportive of all agricultural endeavors that are conducted responsibly and follow approved rules and regulations; regulations that are imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration.

To this point, the peer-reviewed science and research data has not shown that the practice of biotechnology has directly caused adverse effects on human health. In making any decision that could impact the public or the agricultural industry, the Department relies on peer-reviewed scientific research and data. At this time we are not aware of any such peer-reviewed scientific study that points to the harm of biotechnology, however we welcome having an open and fair discussion on the topic.



Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 3:47:44 PM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Monsanto Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

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46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 885, RELATING TO GENETIC ENGINEERING

**Senate Committee on Agriculture
Hon. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Hon. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 12, 2015, 4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

Honorable Chair Ruderman and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 885, relating to genetic engineering.

Genetic engineering regulation is about one thing: freedom of choice for consumers. In the absence of federal regulation, it is incumbent upon states to ensure that food products containing genetically modified material are safe properly identified. Over 70 percent of processed foods contain at least one ingredient derived from genetically modified crops, according to the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest. Other organizations, like the Grocery Manufacturers Association, put that number at closer to 80 percent. We believe that the introduction of genetic engineering into food consumption should be subject to the precautionary principle, which states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, then the burden of proof that it is safe falls on those taking an action, i.e. companies experimenting with genetic modification. We urge policymakers to require the State Department of Agriculture to follow this principle in its assessment and handling of biotechnology.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM*
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:55:59 PM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nomi Carmona	Babes Against Biotech	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Cc: rrabago@ahfi.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 3:48:01 PM
Attachments: [SB885 AGL 2-12-2015.doc](#)

SB885

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Pinel	Western Plant Health Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: brock002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 3:20:32 PM
Attachments: [Testimonyadverse affects.docx](#)

SB885

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Brock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: jpappas60@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 1:20:04 AM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Agricultural Committee members, Thank you very much for introducing this bill! For a long time many of us have been trying to promote the Precautionary Principle as a reasonable approach to genetic engineering in agriculture. I agree that GMO crops were proliferated way too fast and without proper testing or safeguards. Conventional farmers were ecstatic because no-till and less pesticide spraying meant less work for them. They weren't expecting the superweeds, the (now) double doses of pesticides and the dwindling number of pollinators that have resulted from GMO farming. We've been sold a bill of goods, and now we're finding out the product doesn't have the advantages we thought it had. If genetic engineering has a future in agriculture, it should only occur after we fully understand the ramifications to our environment and living organisms. It should never occur in open fields where contamination can occur. It's time to rethink what kind of agriculture we really want and need in Hawaii. It's time for healthy, truly sustainable agriculture that will enhance our lives and honors the precious environment that means so much to all of us who call Hawaii home. Thank you for supporting SB885. Sincerely, Jan Pappas Aiea, Hawaii 96701

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Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:35:40 PM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM*
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:09:50 AM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB885 on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 7:55:02 AM

SB885

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

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