



## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD.

WHEREAS, a poll conducted by the University of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources shows that seventy-two percent of Hawaii's residents feel that it is very important that genetically modified fruit be labeled; and

WHEREAS, over 50 countries around the world, including countries of the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China, require labeling of genetically engineered food; and

WHEREAS, Japan recently approved importation of genetically modified papayas labeled as such; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii has a national reputation for growing high-quality food and maintaining a pure and preserved natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the State's unique agricultural heritage and vitality of its tourism industry rely upon this reputation; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's per capita seafood consumption is greater than three times the national average; and

WHEREAS, over thirty-five species of genetically engineered fish are under development; and

WHEREAS, these fish are engineered with various traits, for example to grow more rapidly or to resist certain diseases; and

WHEREAS, mandatory labeling of genetically engineered whole food:

- (1) Would meet the demand of Hawaii's residents for informed choice concerning the food they consume; and
- (2) Would provide the basis for limiting dispersal of seeds from genetically engineered whole food into the agricultural landscape and environment, thus mitigating the adverse environmental, agricultural, and economic impacts accompanying genetically engineered crop contamination episodes; and



RESOLUTION

- (3) Could be implemented at a minimal cost to food producers and the government;

now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Hawaii State Legislature to require labeling of genetically engineered whole food and fish, including fish products produced, sold, or distributed in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the United States Food and Drug Administration to require clear labeling of genetically engineered food; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Legislature's Senate President and Speaker of the House, and Administrator of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Mrs. Gabbard*

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**FEB 29 2012**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers