

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in opposition to Resolution 12-57 requiring labeling of genetically engineered materials. This issue has been discussed at the state level many times over the past several years and there is just no justification for enactment of local rules and regulations to address a problem that does not exist. Senate and/or House committees have graciously heard testimony on these bills however no version of this legislation has ever moved out of committee.

And with good reason. This bill attempts to codify into law the personal food preferences of some fringe groups on to the entire population with selfish disregard to the economic impact it may have on consumers and farmers across the state. These groups continue to pretend that GE foods somehow put the public at risk when in fact there is no evidence to support that fear. Contrary to the shrill voices you hear, there are no threats to public health or safety.

For 20 years American has enjoyed the benefits of GE crops; increased yields that keep prices low for consumers, significant decrease in the use of pesticides which ARE toxic, and a decrease in the cost of farming that helps keep Americans on the farms. The result of this technology is the production of high quality foods that the FDA and most scientists agree, are essentially the same as conventionally grown crops.

The most significant argument however is that there is not one case of a person becoming ill or having an adverse reaction to GE food. It just doesn't happen. If there was a potential harm from GE food consumption, someone, somewhere would have gotten sick. But with trillions of servings of these products consumed, I have to believe they are safe and do not require expensive custom labeling only in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote down this resolution.

Kevin Kelly
Kahuku, HI

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