

From: Denise Snyder [mailto:scott101@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 11:34 AM
Subject: Council Meeting Testimony - Strongly Support Resolution 12-57, April 25th, morning hearing

Chair and Members of the Council of the City and County of Honolulu,

I strongly support Resolution 12-57. URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD.

Over the last two decades our food has been changed, without the knowledge or consent of consumers. The FDA takes the political & legal position that GMO food is 'substantially equivalent' to conventional food. This assertion is not based on science. The majority of the FDA's own scientists disagreed with this position, requested further testing, and did not want GMO foods to be released into our food supply. GMO seeds contain genes from a foreign species, most also include viruses anti-biotic resistant bacteria. The very process of genetic manipulation produces 'unintended consequences'. GMO seed is patented, often having three or more patents per seed. How can something that is 'substantially equivalent' be considered unique enough to be patented?

The majority of GMO crops have been genetically modified to either be sprayed with toxic Roundup and not die or produce the Bt toxin in every cell of the plant (registered with the EPA as a pesticide). Other pesticides registered with the E.P.A. require warning labels, why are these GMO seeds and GMO foods exempt?

The latest generation of GMO seed is stacked-trait GMO seed. Monsanto's stacked-trait GMO sweet corn, being sold in stores in the U.S.A. with no GMO label, produces the Bt toxin in every cell and has been sprayed with toxic Roundup, usually several times.

Without long-term human feeding trials and generational animal trials, many of us are concerned that there are long- term risks from eating GMO foods. Those living near GMO fields have additional concerns. They worry about the environmental consequences from the application of toxic chemicals and the contamination of conventional plants with GMO pollen.

It is time for our government to require labeling of GMO foods. We must have the legal right to know what we are feeding ourselves and our families. The present policy is at its core an affront to our democracy and freedom. The people want GMO foods to be labeled.

Please support Resolution 12-57 and bring us one step closer to getting GMO food labeled.

Thank you,
Denise Snyder
Honolulu, Hawai'i

"When even one American -- who has done nothing wrong -- is forced by fear to shut his mind and close his mouth, then all Americans are in peril." Harry S. Truman

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. – Elie Wiesel

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