

Aloha Safety, Economic Development and Government Affairs Committee,

I oppose resolution 12-57, urging the State and Federal government to require labeling of genetically engineered foods.

My name is Harry Bittenbender, I'm a UH professor of tropical agriculture and have been St. Louis Drive home owner for 26 years. I oppose this resolution.

Our federal FDA does not require this type of labeling because the products once reviewed and approved by FDA are considered safe.

If Hawaii enacts a law or resolution like this it is not because of health, safety or nutrition; this has been addressed scientifically at the national level. Rather because some of our elected officials are philosophically opposed to genetic engineering. Their philosophical opinions are not sound reasoning; and should not be used to make laws that will have a negative impact on our economy and counter our Federal laws.

Required labeling of GMO food will hurt Hawaii farmers economically. If someone demands non-GMO food then they should buy certified organic with the USDA label.

Please address other important issues that will truly improve our lives in Hawaii.

I urge you not to pass Reso 12-57.

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