

P10, R12-57

April 25, 2012

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CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

TO: Honolulu City Council

FROM: Doug Luka, County President  
South Oahu Farmers Association

RE: Resolution 12-57 (CR-99) – Urging the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to require labeling of genetically engineered food.

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Council Chair Martin and Council Members:

On behalf of the South Oahu Farmers Association, we are strongly opposed to Resolution 12-57.

The South Oahu Farmers Association is affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, a non-profit agricultural organization, addressing many of Hawaii's issues affecting farm and ranch families. Our chapter has about 227 members primarily covering the regional area from Hawaii Kai to Central Oahu.

The South Oahu Farmers Association continues to advocate for agricultural science and technology to improve farmer's production and success overall. Farming is one of the most difficult and risky types of businesses as farmers have to contend with the elements, pest and disease pressures and must be competitive in the market place. We cannot farm like we have done in the past. With increased regulatory requirements, urban pressure, and aging industry, farmers need to be the most sophisticated and technologically advanced business person to be successful in today's world. We have to produce more with less land and resources.

The papaya industry is one of our local industries that have benefited from biotechnology. If it weren't for the science and technology, our papaya industry would not exist today. It is now a thriving industry that has benefited hundreds of local farmers statewide. FDA, USDA and EPA have found no negative health, safety or nutritional issues associated with papaya or any other agricultural product for that matter.

Resolution 12-57 is an anti-gmo and anti-science measure. Requiring a label specifically for "gmo" makes a false assumption that it has a negative affect without any facts or data. This resolution is based on fear and philosophical differences. Labeling requirements should be science based. We urge your opposition to this measure.

MISC. COM. 1013

COUNCIL