

P10, R12-57



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HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)
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DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012

TIME: 10 A.M.

PLACE: AT KAPOLEI HALE 1000 ULUOHIA STREET,
 CONFERENCE ROOMS A, B AND C.

TO: CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
 ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR
 IKAIKA ANDERSON, VICE CHAIR

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
 LAUREN ZIRBEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: RESOLUTION 12-57 URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND UNITED STATES
 FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GENETICALLY
 ENGINEERED FOOD.

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Food Industry Association opposes this resolution.

The practical reality of enforcing this resolution will be a nightmare. If the distributor/grower does not label the produce or advise the retailer that the product is GMO then the retailer is potentially liable for the mislabeling. A retailer cannot identify GMO product by visual or taste inspection. Given that Hawaii imports most of its food it is not possible for Hawaii to label GMO products if it is not also a federal mandate.

This is a federal issue and should be dealt with at that level, with the onus for labeling resting with manufacturers and suppliers, not retailers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.