

**From:** Ron Carlson [ddscarlson@hawaiiintel.net]  
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**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony April 25 10 am Kapolei Resolution 12-57 GMO Labeling

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 12-57 April 24, 2012 10 AM To the Honorable Members of the Council of the City and County of Honolulu,

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony regarding Resolution 12-57. As time passes and we learn more about the risks of growing and eating genetically engineered foods, it is becoming clear that we have been duped by the present day snake oil salesmen who have convinced our lawmakers, researchers and communities that biotech would save the world and feed the starving millions. We have been denied informed consent because the government agencies which were supposed to protect the consumers have been taken over by corporate executives who beguile our legislators with campaign contributions and promises of improving science and modernizing agriculture.

In medicine the precautionary principle is applied, that when a drug or vaccine shows physical harm or death, it is withdrawn from market. But with genetically engineered foods, corporations have controlled the scientific experiments, covered up their findings and use the media to placate the questioning public or avoid presenting all the facts. It has mainly been through the persistence of grassroots organizations and concerned independent researchers and scientists that we see a growing awareness about the dangers of releasing GMO seeds into nature and consuming their products in the form of processed foods and animals that have been given GMO feed, antibiotics and hormones manufactured by the same companies that patent the seeds, sell the chemicals and bind farmers to contracts that fail to yield the promised benefits and profits.

I have been keeping track of my patients eating GM papaya who thought it was as healthy as papaya was twenty years ago, and I am seeing a disconcerting pattern. Each person reacts differently but there are increasing allergies, digestive complications and reproductive challenges among those eating large amounts of soy, corn, canola and papaya. Prisoners being fed GM soy to reduce their meat consumption have developed health problems but is anyone really concerned? WE are all being used as human guinea pigs, and the doctors deny the connection because they themselves are unaware of the risks.

In a recent visit to the Midwest I saw a huge billboard declaring "Disease Control. Plant Health. And 13% revenue advantage over the nearest competitor." paid for by one of the five major corporations which are proudly making their presence known in the Hawaiian islands. These companies are settling in Hawaii because people don't know their promises are empty. The devastation they have brought to other countries have driven 210,000 Indian farmers to commit suicide by drinking the chemicals they spray on their failed crops, contaminated indigenous species, forced impoverished farmers and families into the slums of the cities, and monopolized seeds in the control of a few corporations whose main interest is to sell more chemicals which have decimated beneficial insect, bee and Monarch butterfly populations. Thus it is likewise futile to hope and believe that humanitarian efforts by organizations such as Bill Gates Foundation, USAID, and IMF/World Bank who promote GMO have any sincere desire or consciousness to improve the conditions of the countries they enter and manipulate.

Today this City Council must take the first step in asserting itself that it supports us in creating a healthy food supply and sustainable future for Hawaii. There is no room for delay or excuses because each day brings greater destruction to our food supply and loss of wellbeing as a society and planet. 90% of the public demands labeling of GMO foods, and our State Legislature must have the courage to pass laws concerning GMO, or they will no longer receive a vote of confidence from their constituents. Please pass this resolution.

Sincerely,  
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