

**From:** Kevin Kelly [mailto:kevink@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2013 10:29 AM  
**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony: Opposition to GMO Labeling

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Dear Council Members,

Mahalo to the Honolulu City Council for recognizing that a resolution calling for **mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods does NOT belong in the HSAC package**. Food labeling is not the kuleana of the county or the state and it would be fiscally irresponsible to task our local government with another unfunded mandate. We have much more important issues for the City & County of Honolulu to address and do not need to become engaged in federal food safety regulation

This request is driven by people with extreme religious and philosophical opposition to food that they perceive as “unnatural” and dangerous and they want to impose their belief system on the entire state. Their initiatives have been floating through our state and local governments for almost a decade now. First they wanted to outlaw genetic engineering outright, but then learned of the many benefits of the technology (i.e. insulin production for diabetics). Then they went after the GE seed corn companies in the legislature. When that effort failed, they engaged the Native Hawaiian community in opposition to GE taro. That failed as well since there were no GE Hawaiian varieties in existence. Now they have engaged Occupy Honolulu, another activist group looking for a cause to oppose.

Moreover, there is no need for the labeling of genetically engineered food products. The FDA has determined in conducting and reviewing more than **400 scientific studies** that foods made with genetically engineered (GE) ingredients are safe. The American Medical Association (AMA), World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences, and the European Union have thoroughly examined the evidence and found that consuming GE foods are no riskier than consuming conventionally grown foods. If this were not the case and after more than 20 years of consumer use, **where are all of the sick people? There aren't any!**

**Please vote against this resolution. Mahalo.**

Kevin Kelly, Waialua, HI