

RECEIVED

JAN 8 7 47 AM '13

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
 Special Meeting  
 CITY CLERK  
 HONOLULU, HAWAII City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session  
 Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
 10 a.m.

Aloha Chair Martin, and Respected Council Members,

As a representative of the neighbor island of Molokai, I am respectfully submitting testimony in opposition of the possible inclusion of mandatory labeling of GM foods, in the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) legislative package. I humbly ask you to consider the following:

- **GMO CROPS ARE SAFE AND NO DIFFERENT:** The FDA has determined that where genetically-modified crops don't differ from non-GM crops, that products containing them don't have to be labeled. FDA does require the product to be labeled if the ingredient is a potential allergen, or somehow changes the nutritional properties of the food. To date, no approved biotech crop is either an allergen, or has any significant nutritional differences from non-GM counterparts.
- **UNDERMINE LABELING LAWS AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE:** Requiring labeling for ingredients that don't pose a health issue would undermine both our labeling laws and consumer confidence.
- **MANDATORY LABELING WOULD BE COSTLY:** Ensuring that such labeling is accurate would also put a huge burden on state regulatory agencies.
- **VOLUNTARY LABELING ENSURES CONSUMER CHOICE:** Individuals who make a personal decision not to consume food containing GM ingredients can easily avoid such products. In the U.S., they can purchase products that are certified as organic under the National Organic Program. They can also buy products which companies have voluntarily labeled as not containing GM ingredients. The law allows for voluntary labeling so long as the information is accurate, truthful and avoids misleading consumers about the food.

I respectfully ask that you oppose adding this item to the Hawaii State Association of Counties legislative package.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Talon  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Monsanto Molokai  
 1351 Maunaloa Highway  
 Kaunakakai, HI 96748