

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

esther szegedy

6 st

Kea'au, HI 96749

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Raenette Rogers
22 Amber Drive
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290 Lee St. #204
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Daniel Tanaka

Kamaile

Wailuku, HI 96793

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Representing the collective voice of many residents from the island of Molokai, I am asking our Hawaii State Legislature to protect our island as well as the State of Hawaii from the potentially damaging effects occurred by the introduction, propagation and experimentation of genetic modification of all taro varieties grown within the State of Hawaii.

The introduction of genetically engineered taro has the potential of creating irreversible damage to our native ecosystems, demonstrates a complete disregard for Native Hawaiian Culture and allows for privatized patenting of Hawaii's natural resources.

The genetic modification of crops in general is an infant science whose complete effects are yet to be known. Many documented cases of the harmful health effects on humans of GMO crops exist including- allergenic problems, respiratory problems, intestinal reactions and skin problems. Further conclusion through reasonable scientific deduction suggests increases in miscarriages, birth defects and cancer. Regardless of these evidences, adequate studies in regard to the effects of GMO crops on humans have not been conducted.

In laboratory tests on mice and rats scientific laboratory tests unequivocally reveal that genetically modified crops have caused damage to kidneys, stomach lesions, sterility, excessive cell growth to the small intestine and even death. Field studies on cows, goats, sheep and pigs have revealed similar devastating results.

Taro remains the world's only allergy-free carbohydrate and contributes significantly to the welfare and health of human life. On the other hand the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus, any transgenic contamination to indigenous varieties of taro as well as to other natural growing varieties of taro, has the potential of robbing Native Hawaiians and consumers alike of this uniquely important medicinal food source.

At this time we understand there to be no proven benefits of GMO Taro to taro farmers or consumers and all proposed benefits remain to be purely speculative. The Taro Security and Purity Task Force, established under Act 211, has acknowledged that GMO Taro is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming or the most suitable option in protecting consumers in Hawaii. Options for the control of taro disease include cold water induction, reduction of over planting and recent developments which include the introduction of non contaminating fish toxins to successfully control such diseases.

In representing the community of Molokai, we will not tolerate such disrespect of our culture, blindly except the potential damaging consequences to our 'aina or except the health risks placed upon our people .

Mahalo,

Steve Morgan/ Hui Ho'opakele 'Aina

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Steve Morgan
P.O. Box 72
Maunaloa, HI 96770

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Hallie Van Patton
163 Chatham Rd.
APT B
Asheville, NC 28804

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

james trujilloq
1728 Hulu Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is Seth Raabe. I am a farmer at Kikoo in Kipahulu on the Island of Maui. I plant kalo along with many other things in a natural way. There is always abundance so we are supported economically as well as physically nourished.

I firmly believe that a viable future for these Islands can only be achieved by returning to balance with our environment.

This is why I am calling out to all of you to support the bill banning genetic modification of our life staple. To not protect our main food source in a natural state would be sheer stupidity. Look around the world. Look at Mexico... contaminated beyond repair. Hawaii nei is the heartland of the kalo plant; by far the greatest diversity of varieties in one place on Earth. I hope this is common knowledge for all of you making this decision.

So I respectfully ask each and every one of you voting on these bills to look into your heart and ask what is more important for our future: continuing the natural legacy of the kalo plant, or giving it up for an elite sector to gain patent rights and power to alter our life staple. Think of the consequences of both paths.

From Kipahulu,

Seth Raabe
HCR1 Box 170
Hana, HI 96713

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Gordon Noice
1720 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Keoki Baclayon
91-1209 Kaneana St J-7
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join ohana and communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties. This ban on GMO-taro is crucial not only for the species, but for Hawaiian culture. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

While GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

claire Sanders

74-5602 alapa St. #350

DO NOT SHARE OR SELL THIS ADDRESS PLEASE

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Richard Powers
P.O. Box244
Naalehu, HI 96772

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Malama Aina,

Shien-lu Stokesbary
1336 Argonne Ave
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Malama Aina,

Sandra morey
3461 Laguna Ave
Oakland, CA 94602

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1194 Akumu Street
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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

mark jacobs
23 kulawai pl
maunaloa, HI 96770

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Carlton Kalani Handley JR.

567 uluhaku st

kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

My name is PuaNani Rogers, and I live on Kauai where most of our kalo from poi is grown. Poi is a most important food for me, my family and especially our na keiki. Please do not allow scientist to genetically modify any taro varieties. It would make us hesitate about feeding it to our na keiki, our na mo`opuna.

I support any science that will protect our kalo from disease, apple snails, water studies to replenish and purify our streams and rivers that feed our lo`i.

Therefore, I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

Please listen to the people of our community, I am a kupuna and am speaking for my generation as well as for the next, and the next, and the next generations yet to be born.

Mahalo for voting NO to GMO-kalo!

Puanani Rogers
4702 Mailihuna Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

821-2267

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kamaka Jingao

Kamaka Jingao
1809 B Lanakila Ave
Honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Ingrid Tillman
HCR2 Box 6954
HCR2 Box 6954
Keaiaua, HI 96749

808-966 5093

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

ashley osler

Puuopae

Kappa - , HI 96746

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago, IL 60680

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Leiana Lobre
1204 Elizabeth Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Elizabeth McCormick
13-6348 Kapoho-Kalapana
Pahoa, , HI 96778

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Kuuleilani Reyes
3385 Likini St.
3385 Likini St.
Honolulu, HI 96818

232-5413

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

nohealani casperson
p.o. box 6106
hilo, HI 96720

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Malama Aina,

becky robison
1049 uluopihl loop
kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Cindy A. Lance
2711 Anuenue St.
Cindy
Honolulu, HI 96822

808-988-4408

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Brett Thomas
4125 Black Point Road
Honolulu, , HI 96816

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Alanna Bender
919 Kainui
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Marc Albert
178 Horse Pond Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Dolly Keahiolalo Crawford
1810 Double D Drive
El Cajon, CA 92021

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sara Bartlett-Valente
59-618 Akanoho Pl.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

pete sayer
pobox767
makawao, HI 96768

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Genetic Modification of taro is immoral, scientifically weak and an affront to the cultural and spiritual values of native Hawaiians. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Nancy McPherson
PO Box
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Raphael Kealoha Kaliko
1671 Pensacola St. Apt. E
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Honolulu, HI 96822

349-6412

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Liam Gray Gray
45-426 Ohaha St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Lindsay McDougall
706-650 Parliament Street
Toronto, ON M4X1R3

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Malama Aina,

Danielle Ledward
67 Tower Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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Malama Aina,

lauren achitoff

po 110

Kaaawa, HI 96730

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Susan Douglas
3145-A Makamae Pl
KIHEI, HI 96753

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Jenn Perell
925 Mokulua Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Lisa Kasprzycki
411 Haumana Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

kamuela E Moraes
p.o. box 612
volcano, HI 96785

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Daphne O. Sing
P. O. Box 2332
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Malama Aina,

Faith M. Willcox
47 Junction Rd.
Westport, ME 04578

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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Katherine Ross
PO Box 603
Papaikou, HI 96781

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Fern Anuenue Holland
4664B Apopo Rd
Kapa'a, Kauai, HI 96746

8088230619

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Malama Aina,

mikel Athon
1468 bear creek road
cedar hill, TX 75104

972-291-8372

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Malama Aina,

Raechel Doughtyq
375 Church St.
North Adams, MA 01247

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Sari Powell
284 Keanae Rd
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informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Linda Pascatore
PO Box 949
3769 Akea Road
Hanapepe, HI 96716

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Verbeke Dominique
Kapucijnenlaan 48
Izegem, Flanders,Belgium, ot 8870

032472799949

Testimony

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Cynthia Nadalin
7079 Seitz Rd
Felton, PA 17322-8718

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Malama Aina,

Haley Ann Bupil
PO Box 1033
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

Testimony

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4223 Kaimanahila St.
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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Shannon Dodge
6820 s. pENNSYLVANIA sTREET
Centennial , CO 80122

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Dana YK Shim-Palama
3886A pAPALINA RD.
KALAHEO, HI 96726

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Malama Aina,

Carolyn Keala Norman
Mikohu St #21C
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I have been researching genetic modification and am thoroughly convinced that it is a TERRIBLE idea. I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

andrew binstock
po box 1268
haiku, HI 96708

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Faith Rose
342 Ainakula Rd
Kula, HI 96790

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77-6477 Seaview Circle
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Alea Schechter
1777 Ala Moana Blvd. #813
Honolulu, HI 96815

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

courtney Bruch

Piiholo

Makawao, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

Victor Pellegrino
1420 Kilohi Street
Waikapu, HI 96793

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Malama Aina,

Susan Bender
73-1326 Awakea Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Tia Christensen
PO box790717
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Barb Kay
Kuiaha
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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Malama Aina,

Mahina Lenta
po box 1405
haiku, HI 96708

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Elaine Starrett
2771 Ohina St
Kihei, HI 96753

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Malama Aina,

Cynthia Unmani Groves, Groves, Health Care Practice Mgmt. Consult
105 Kulipuu
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Malama Aina,

Sydney Seaver
P O Box 922
1260 Makawao Ave.
Makawao, HI 96768

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Suzzana Goodwin
3543C Baldwin Ave
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melody Zeitler
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Felicia Waialae
94-207 Waipahu Street
306
Waipahu, HI 96797

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

madeleine migenes
2590 Alohia Street
Haiku, HI 96708

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Malama Aina,

randy keller
75 Kino St
Makawao, HI 96768

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Malama Aina,

Jane Rubey
75-5719B Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

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naima hills
270 auhana rd
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kaela Gallagher
2250 King Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Brad Parsons
P.O. Box 223374
Princeville, HI 96722

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Malama Aina,

stephen skogman
1333 kekaulike ave.
kula, HI 96790

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Malama Aina,

Jane Saeger
126A Front Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Catherine Ann Okimoto
RR4 Box 2251
14-869 Hapu'u Rd.
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Ramon Mitra
22 Inoa Po Pl
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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jeannie Pheasant
5641 Kahiliholo Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

darlene toth
box 215
maunaloa, HI 96770

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Malama Aina,

Debi Wilson
P. O. Box 7
Anahola, HI 96703

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Malama Aina,

Tinker Blomfield
59-473 Hoalike Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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Malia Hall
1176 Ocala Avenue
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Jan Celebrado
911017 B Hawea St.
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sarah White
2137 Kaumualii st.
Honolulu, HI 96819 #3

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Janelle Akiona
94-719 Kamalo Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Johnette Kaluna
716 Lukepane Ave. #410
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Malama Aina,

Eva Kapelaonaalii Collins
89-327 Palikea St.
Wai?anae, HI 96792

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

TammyLeigh Mahuka
85-638 Farrington Highway#1006
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Rose Benjamin
234 Ohua Ave #109
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Johnette Kaluna
716 Lukepane Ave. #410
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

kathy valier
4771 B Powerhouse Rd
Hanalei, HI 96714

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Victoria Hanohano-Hong
1020 E. Jefferson St.
Chardin Hall
Seattle, WA 98122

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Sharol Awai
940 AINAKO AVE
Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of all taro varieties, by supporting a ban on GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

I am of Native Hawaiian ancestry. My ancestors cultivated kalo as a means of survival and reverent honor to Haloa. The Hawaiian World View is one of being "part" of the land, not "master" of the land and animal inhabitants. Hawaiians, for the most part, worked with nature, honored nature by giving back and taught these practices throughout the ages.

These environmental practices shouldn't be ignored, shouldn't be negated because of its simplicity and should be recognized as the future. History is cyclical and it is time for us, as people, to return to the traditional methods of agriculture. Besides, modern technology has brought us to disconnect from each other, from the land, from the Earth and compartmentalized our lives. We are not superior to nature, we are subservient.

Malama Aina,

Christine Makahilahila
PO Box 124
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

i am Rino Kalamalino'lino'onalani Geremen, better known as Lino. I am the hawaiian studies makua at kuhio elem. i strongly support this bill for no gmo in kalo.

please put a stop to this and make it pono. leave our kalo alone don't try to mess it up. kalo is our ohana.

how would yall feel if we did something stupid to something yall own? would that be okay with you? i don't think so. once again leave our kalo alone.... no gmo...

hewa....

Rino Geremen

2250 ahe st. 52 a

honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Aloha Senators and Representatives

-Kalo is a hypoallergenic food.

If you mess around with that, it ain't going to be hypoallergenic anymore.

-GMO kalo will contaminate our organic taro.

Take away our livelihood.

We cannot coexist.

-GMO proponents are only thinking about chemicals and their pockets.

-It's not going to be a pure taro anymore.

Pure taro is going to be like an artifact.

You will only find it in the museum.

Please support a BAN on GMO KALO in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Demetri Rivera

Kalo farmer

Wai`oli, Hanalei, Kaua`i

Member of Onipa`a na Hui Kalo, an inclusive statewide organization.

Presently member of Kauai Taro Growers Association (KTGA),

which does NOT represent my views on kalo.

demetri rivera

p.o.box 114

kilauea, HI 96754

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Deirdre Moana Tavares
72 Halaulani Place
Hilo, HI 96720

989-1801

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Kahea!

Hear us.

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Rosemary Alles
PO Box 1430
Kamuela HI 96743
Kameula, HI 96743

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Malama Aina,

William Bryant
1181-b Mokuhano Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

395-4755

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Richard Benton
Hawi rd.
Hawi, HI 96719

Testimony

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Tristen Wanke
P.O. Box # 2
makawao, HI 96768

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Stephen Dinion
1441 Victoria St. #505
Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Robert Wagner
3100 Sweetwater Rd
Apt. 3112
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Iokepa Casumbal-Salazar
2626B. Pauoa Rd., Honolulu, HI
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jacques Bargiel
1054 Kainui Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Carol Murry
555 University Ave. #1800
Honolulu, HI 96826

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Malama Aina,

Wandalea Walker
P.O. Box 690
4393 Ulua St.
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Malama Aina,

Miki kaipaka

4330 Kauai Beach Drive, G8

Lihue, HI 96766

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Malama Aina,

Vicki Spina
po box 556
Anahola, HI 96703

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barton susan
41-1680 Kaala Rd
O'okala, HI 96774

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and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Tracey Schavone
POBox 676
Anahola, HI 96703

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Barb Forsyth
550B Malie Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Denise Lytle
73 Poplar St.
Fords, NJ 08863

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Malama Aina,

Deva Sage
Pohoiki Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

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Malama Aina,

Jenna Byrne
PO Box 413
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PO Box 44910
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Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any

informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Deborah Sevy
77-6477 Seaview Circle
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Testimony

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Aloha mai kakou

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Mark schuster
P.O Box 4798
Kailua-Kona, HI 967454798

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PHYLLIS FLOWERS
2325 SALMON DR
WILLITS, CA 95490

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Malama Aina,

FREDDIE LONG
24378 BIRCH DRIVE
WILLITS, CA 95490

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Malama Aina,

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

429-0479

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Malama Aina,

Leilani Resurreccion
P.O. Box 1077
Naalehu , HI 96772

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I would like to add my voices to the many calling for the banning of all GMO taro and other GMO experimentation in Hawai'i.

We can't afford to fall victim to false assurances about the safety of these experiments; we literally have no where to go.

David Adam Edelstein
11336 23rd Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98125

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Shannon Taylor Monkowski
p.o. box 181
Holualoa, HI 96725

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Peter Sanderson
Project Manager
1539 Range Ave # 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes a unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Jeri Baumgardner
75-5719 B Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

and utmost importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed without any informed community consent, raising serious ethical science concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

-Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro-

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

-Legal and Governance Concerns about Preemption Legislation-

In "exchange" for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "preemption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight, and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to preempt legitimate local government regulations to protect public health. Preempting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns-- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Kim Hahn
37 Sirard Lane
San Rafael, CA 94901

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of ANY & ALL taro varieties and by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro.

I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems and cultural disrespect as well as by the patenting, bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are inseparable from GMO-taro.

* Taro Deserves the Best Available Science *

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations. Safety of GMP-taro to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits and is not the best available technology to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii.

Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Since safer and community-integrated varieties exist, no need or demand exists for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

* Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro *

Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the world's only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate.

GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions.

Furthermore, unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands would be massive and irreversible.

* Community and Ethical Concerns re: GMO-Taro*

Cultivated for centuries on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our

unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people.

The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique and extreme importance of this plant to our community, GMO-taro has been developed by corporate interests without regard for impacts on the Hawaiian community and without community consent, raising serious ethical concerns. Businesses and researchers in Hawaii should encourage informed community consent and review, not avoid oversight and involvement from the very communities most effected by their activities.

*** Economic and Bioprospecting Concerns about GMO-Taro ***

The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, the taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro patents and experiments cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

*** Legal and Governance Concerns about Pre-emption Legislation ***

In retribution for a ban on GMO-taro, the biotech/GMO industry may attempt to turn our community's intentions to protect taro into unfair "pre-emption" legislation which would prohibit state or county oversight and public notice of all other GMOs and biotech activities in Hawaii. We do not support any such attempts to pre-empt legitimate local government regulations that protect public health.

Pre-empting local efforts to protect public health raises serious legal, ethical, and scientific concerns -- our public and environmental safety, as well as our local-governance authority, must be prioritized over private investment concerns and high-risk experiments.

*** Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro! ***

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care which it is shown. There is no proven need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor to patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision-makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal water diversions, and increasing operating costs has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii.

With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Patricia Matejcek
PO Box 2067
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

-Health and Environmental Safety Concerns about GMO-Taro-

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-Community and Ethical Concerns about GMO-Taro-

Cultivated throughout centuries to be abundantly grown on Hawaii's diverse agricultural lands, taro is the sacred foundation of our unique local agriculture, society, traditions and family structure. Genetic modification of taro is an affront to the sacred Hawaiian tradition that respects the taro plant as a family member, an older brother to humanity. This family tradition is rooted in honoring the relationship of mankind with the very plants we depend on for healthy nourishment, and establishes an unique genealogical connection between taro and the Hawaiian people. The wisdom of such healthy community values must be encouraged, not disrespected or desecrated. Despite the unique

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Randy Bartlett
POB 11197
Lahaina, HI 96761

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

-Taro Deserves the Best Available Science-

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

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Malama Aina,

Leimomi Martin
128 A Behtends Ave
Juneau, AK 99901

907-723-2708

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

CHRISTINE Kauahikaua
PO BOX 50
WAIMANALO, HI 96795

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Julie Alessio
1688 Wailuku Dr
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Malama Aina,

Lisette Langlois
55 Kii Rd
Waimea, HI 96796

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Cristian Ellauri
184 North King St.
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2740 Kuilei St.
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GMO-taro is claimed to potentially reduce one type of taro disease in one variety of taro by creating irreversible, unnatural genetic mutations whose safety to consumers and the environment is not scientifically proven. GMO-taro has no proven benefits to taro farmers or consumers and is not the best available science needed to safely perpetuate taro farming and protect consumers in Hawaii. Better and safer options exist. Long-term scientific studies and farming practices throughout the Pacific have resulted in proven scientific techniques to expand the local taro industry, protect unique Hawaiian taro varieties, farmlands and watersheds-- without GMOs. These community-accepted practices include: organically improving soil health, establishing appropriate water-flow standards to prevent disease and pests, stopping imports of diseased taro and pests into Hawaii, and growing many traditional varieties of natural taro with different natural disease resistance. Being that safer science exists, there is no need or demand for experimental GMO-taro from local taro farmers or consumers.

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Taro is a nutritious food crop, especially cherished as a baby food and staple dish in Hawaii for centuries; and around the world as an important medicinal food for diabetes, cancer, autism and serious food allergies. Taro is the worlds only hypo-allergenic, or allergy-free, carbohydrate. GMO-taro, on the other hand, is not the same as natural taro. GMO-taro has never been in the human food supply before, and has NOT been scientifically tested on humans to prove that it is safe to eat. Moreover, the unnatural genetic mutations of GMO-taro can never be guaranteed to be hypo-allergenic, thus threatening consumers of this uniquely important medicinal food source. In fact, numerous scientific studies on laboratory animals show that GMOs can cause toxic, allergic, and even deadly reactions. Unnatural gene mutations introduced through GMO-taro may harm insects, birds, fish, and soil health. Risks and damages to Hawaii's people and lands could be irreversible.

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The right to grow taro naturally and traditionally belongs to the public, and should never be owned by a corporation or university. Private patents and control of our public food resources would cripple our food security, taro economy and violate our inherent public rights. GMO-taro experiments and patents cannot help taro farmers with the real problems that they face and will only endanger the valuable traditional biodiversity of taro in Hawaii.

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-Help Taro, Don't Hurt Taro!-

Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Bobbie Alicen
HCR 2, Box 6824
Kea'au, HI 96749

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

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Malama Aina,

Curt Sumida
41-1009 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
41-1009 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Waimanalo, HI 96795

783-2440

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Michal Stover
3300 Kalihiwai Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Malama Aina,

Pete Shimazaki shimazaki Doktor
2002G Hunnewell St.
2002G Hunnewell St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

943-8484

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Karen Rudolph
370 Solana Drive
Los Altos, CA 94022

Testimony
In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

Dear Senators,

I support SB709, with amendments, to protect all natural taro, and to ban genetically altered taro. I support the amendments that the taro farmers themselves are proposing, by changing the bill language to reflect that of HB1663. The amendments protect all varieties of taro and the economic viability of the local taro industry. The health of our communities and our visitor industry will also be protected from the unknown risks of this untested technology. We cannot assume that genetically engineered taro is safe until proven so.

We cannot risk the loss of any more biodiversity throughout our island ecosystem.

We must respect the cultural beliefs of native Hawaiians, and leave these sacred ancestral roots intact. Hawaiian farmers have maintained the largest number of taro varieties for over 1200 years. Please, support this living legacy.

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

Sincerely,
Mary Lacques

Teacher Mary Lacques
Teacher
P.O. Box 14
P.O. Box 14 Hale'iwa HI 96712
Haleiwa, HI 96712

783-8400

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Malama Aina,

Kimo ?

1634 nuuanu ave

1634 nuuanu ave

honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Selina Heaton
P.O. Box 30867
Anahola, HI 96703

(760) 208-1820

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Malama Aina,

Lauryn Galindo
po box 982
hanalei, HI 96714

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Malama Aina,

Caitlin Ross Odom
Po Box 569
Kilauea, HI 96754

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Judith Waters
211 N. Makaleha Pl.
Makawao, HI 96768

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sue lindequist
Kaohe Rd
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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Pilipo Souza
47-774 Hui Ulili Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Vickie Innis
538 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

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Malama Aina,

wainani texeira
po box 492311
keaaau , HI 96749

989-3606

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Malama Aina,

Carolyn Keala Norman
91-1020 Mikohu St #21C
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

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Malama Aina,

heidi and gary garcia
p.o. box 223447
princeville, HI 96722

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robert mceldowney
po box 450
laupahoehoe, HI 96764

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Agricultural science has proven that the taro will be as healthy as the land in which it is grown and the care with which it is shown. There is no actual need to permanently change the taro plant's natural genetic structure nor patent the plant for private profit in order to protect the local taro industry. Rather, farmers, scientists and decision makers must work to solve the broad resource management problems that face taro farming. Lack of meaningful support to address the drastically increasing challenges from invasive diseases, pests, excessive and illegal diversions of water, and operating costs, has led to a decrease in taro farming and a taro shortage in Hawaii. With appropriate political, scientific and community support, taro will once again be a primary resource for Hawaii's food security, contributing significantly to a healthy local diet and economy. GMO-taro and patents, however, could destroy the safety and sanctity of natural taro as an important allergy-free food, cultural resource and local agricultural industry in Hawaii.

As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Mary M. Brewer
Box 607
Box 607
Haleiwa, HI 96712

(808) 239-2121

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Molly ?

Dolestreeet

Honolulu, HI 96822

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Malama Aina,

Nai`a Newlight
45 Laenui Place
Pa`ia, HI 96779-8110

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Malama Aina,
Sheldon Keahiawakea Brown
Wai`ehu Maui

Sheldon Brown
761 Malaihi Rd
Wailuku, HI 96792

870-1584

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Michal Carrillo
PO Box 263
Hawi, HI 96719

Testimony

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Malama Aina,

Martina Roels

Gorinchemstraat 52

Sint Niklaas-Belgium, ot 84635/9100

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As a strong supporter of taro farming in Hawaii, I ask you to protect the security of the health of natural taro and the local taro industry by establishing a ban on GMO-taro.

Malama Aina,

Douglas Phillips
PO Box 44910
Kamuela, HI 96743

Testimony

In Support of Ban on GMO-Taro

Aloha mai kakou

I join communities across Hawaii in rejecting the genetic modification of -ALL- taro varieties, by supporting a ban on all GMO-taro. I am deeply concerned about the unknown health risks, irreversible threats to native ecosystems, cultural disrespect, patenting and bioprospecting of Hawaii's natural resources and potential harms to our local farming economy that are associated with GMO-taro.

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Malama Aina,

Thomas Tizard
591-A Keolu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

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Margaret Campbell
P.O. Box 81599
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Malama Aina,

Andrea Slevin
PO Box 223875
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Malama Aina,

Sharlynn Paet
716A Olokele Ave Apt B
Honolulu, HI 96816