



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

S.B.#1847

RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

Testimony Presented Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2005

By

Andrew G. Hashimoto  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i

Testimony for  
Senate Bill 1847

RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

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Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

The Twenty-third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i  
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Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
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I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to the decision-making process on Senate Bill 1847, which prohibits the growing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops in plants commonly used for food or feed, prohibits open-air testing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops, and establishes a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts.

The growing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops is already subject to stringent and comprehensive standards established by federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates crop development and field production, and the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates the resulting pharmaceutical products. These crops are grown and processed separately from food crops. Under regulations established in 2003 to prevent unintentional release of pharmaceutical and industrial crop materials into the environment, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspects field tests of these crops at least five times during the growing season and twice during the following growing season. Current regulations facilitate ongoing auditing by APHIS throughout the field test to ensure that regulations and permit conditions are being followed. These regulations are available on the APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services Web page: [www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/pharmaceutical.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/pharmaceutical.html). They address the production and shipping issues for which SB1847 recommends development of a tracking system.

Human health and environmental safety are best served by one set of rigorous national regulations for the production of pharmaceutical and industrial crops rather than a patchwork of regulations that vary from state to state.

SB1847's blanket prohibition against the growing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops is not necessary given the stringent federal regulation of this process. Moreover, the bill has the potential to prevent Hawai'i-based institutions from participating in useful and beneficial research.

We oppose SB1847. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.