



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Agriculture, Higher Education and Judiciary and Labor
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by
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SB2454– RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Nishihara, Taniguchi and Hee, Vice Chairs Kouchi, Kahele and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the intent of SB2454 and the creation of a task force to explore the establishment of a state regulatory regime to address the agricultural use of genetically modified organisms. The University applauds your committees and the Senate for seeking expert guidance on this difficult issue. We do however request your consideration of two amendments.

First, in Section 1.b.(1) we ask to replace the UH Mānoa Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources with the UH System Vice-President for Research and Innovation. As you know, UH has agricultural, chemical, medical, educational and sociological expertise throughout the state and the coordination of those UH resources through the office of the VPRI will bring the full capacity of UH expertise and knowledge to the task force.

Second we ask that the language of Section 1.c.(2) be amended so that it does not presuppose the outcomes of the analysis called for in Section 1.c.(1). Only if the task force, through its study of the benefits and drawbacks of establishing regulations for agricultural genetically modified organisms, determines that state regulations are needed, should it proceed with making recommendations on the structure of such a regulatory regime.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.