

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 30, 2014

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 1:41 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Chair
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Vice-Chair (Temporary Chair: 4:31 to 5:12 p.m.)
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member (In 2:00 p.m.)
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member (In 2:46 p.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Mike White, Member

STAFF: Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Sharon Brooks, Legislative Attorney
Tammy M. Frias, Committee Secretary

Ella Alcon, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)
Tina Thompson, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Crivello, assisting at Molokai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary, assisting at Lanai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)
Dawn Lono, Council Aide, Hana Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

ADMIN.: Edward S. Kushi, Jr., First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Wailuku testifiers:
Sunny Savage-Luskin
Kiva Herman
Sandia Siegel
Ilse Menger
Hank Kline
Paul Singleton, President, Pacific Produce Inc.
Kenneth Findeisen, President, Hawaii Grower Products
John Gelert
Robert T. Martin, President, Biological Applications, Inc.
Laura VanWagner

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Ray VanWagner
Rebecca Sydney
Tara Grace
Bruce Douglas
Leo Agcolicol
Pat Simmons, Jr.
Christine Somner Simmons
Dario Bernacchi, Monsanto Company
Carol Reimann, Monsanto Company
Albert Arcinas, Research Associate, Monsanto Company
Darren Strand, President, Maui Gold Pineapple Co.
Chris Strickland
Adam Lottig
May Fujiwara
Anita T. Yamafuji
Don Gerbig
Lloyd Fischel
Dan Clegg, Land Manager, Monsanto Company
Deborah Mader
Glenda Frederick
Tom Creagh
Annie Quigley
Jen Azuma Chrupalyk
Shawn Perry
Kurt Adams
Clarence A. Fune
Zandra Amaral Crouse, Owner/Manager, Aina Hawaii
Vance Del Castillo, Monsanto Company
Jerome "Tiger" Metcalfe
Dr. Maureen Traub, MD
Jim Porowski
Frances Pearre
Frank Rich
Charles Mort
Chandrika McLaughlin
Keith Ranney
Aubrey Bumatay, Monsanto Company
Alex Franco, President, Maui Cattle Co.; and Representative of Hawaii Cattlemen's
Council
Harry Hashimoto, Maintenance Projects Manager, Monsanto Company
Mike Barlow, Facilities, Monsanto Company
Brian Ferreira, Monsanto Company
Maryanne Texeira, Research Assistant, Monsanto Company
Artemio Magaoay, Field Crew Leader, Monsanto Company

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Tyler Meier, Monsanto Company
Nate Dorsey, Research Assistant, Monsanto Company
Daniel Bolosan, FCA, Monsanto Company
Virgin D. Edmalin, Monsanto Company
Florence Cuaresma, Monsanto Company
Hayde Sim, Field Associate, Monsanto Company
Paul Solomon
Stephen Beidner
Dennis Gonsalves
Netra Halperin
Dr. F. DeWolfe Miller
Mae Nakahata, Hawaii Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S)
Warren Watanabe, Executive Director, Maui County Farm Bureau
Mark Wood, Monsanto Company
Eugenia Sitts
Ernesto Galinato, Monsanto Company
Steve Paselk
Eloise V. Engman
Ann Pitcaithley
Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Executive Consultant, Go Maui, Inc.
Autumn Ness
Christian Harting
Steve LaFleur
Rev. Dr. Beth Savitt
Gayle Groff, Community Organizer, Joy to the Worlds/Children
Lorrin Pang, MD
Dr. Joe Ritter
Greg Godwin
Meleana Higgins
Judy Levy
Paul Fenelon
Coreena Neri
Sean Loa, Account Representative, American Machinery
Sheryl Roberts
Bill Jones
Alika Atay
Janet Ashman
Nomi Carmona, President/Lobbyist, Babes Against Biotech
Lauryn Rego, Chapter Coordinator, Babes Against Biotech
Darcy Henderson
Shelley Mack
Megan Powers
Shay Sunderland, Hawaii Technical Outreach Lead, Monsanto Company
Sam Small

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Chris Mentzel
Linda Green
Deborah Eudene
Rev. Roma Carlisle, SHAKA Movement
Steven Davis
Dr. Joseph Kohn, MD
Michelle Kwik
Kate Griffiths, Publisher and Parent Outreach Facilitator, The Maui Mama
David R. Doyle
Nancy Rahr
Shen Gandolfo
Adounay Dabo
Anthony Brown
Heather Salmon
Dr. Joe Marshalla
Michael Covich
B. "Lokahi" Sylva, Owner, Royal Hawaiian Venison
Kawai McEwen

Hana testifiers (via telephone conference bridge):

Barbara Ann (Hoopai) Benton, Board Member, Hana Community Association
Peter Priore
Alana Ross
Tosh Christopher
Justine Gabrielle Till
Zachary Zeoc Mosheyev

Molokai testifiers (via telephone conference bridge):

Guy Hanohano Naehu
Ua Ritte
Walter Ritte
William G. Yama Kaholoaa, Sr.
Adolph Helm, Mycogen Seeds
Jill Coombs
Grace Floresca
Minda Guerrero
Olivia Lor
Ray Foster, Site Manager, Monsanto Molokai
Dawn Bicoy, Community Affairs Manager, Monsanto Molokai
Chiemi Talon
Coco Augustiro
Patti Guay
Clayton Withers
Andrew Arce
William Kauwenaole

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Jae Won Perez
Albert Antonio
Jason Matayoshi
Norma Agcaoili
Susan Poaha
Cynthia McCutcheon
Nicholei Galam-Dudoit
Pierre Perez
Eddielyn Maniago
Phyllis Starkey
Shirley Ballocanag
Christina Schonely
Florenda Barrett
Melissa Poepoe
Dartagnon Bicoy
JoAnn Bumatay
Lydia (Roxie) Lalim
Marycris Ballesteros
Paz Antonio
Jorge Camacho
Lionel Adachi
Susan Ragasa
William Casino
Bronson Manaba
Melvin Spencer
Eliza Chang
Jose Escobar
Chris Nartatez
Loke Rawlins
Sam Kaahanui
Gene Albino
Salina Kansana
Aristotle Oamil
Cory Jones
Kali Arce
Kalai Maliu
Ivan Kawamae
Leo Ramos
Taylor Wright
Sheryll Buse
Likeke Schonely
Mapuana Kansana
Moana Keohuloa
Delfin Rabara Sr.

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David Makaiwi
Miles Luuloa
Gina Buehner
Elsie Senica
Jose Avila
Vilma Guillermo
Maria Balangatan
Dana Dudoit
Maxcine Cabanting
Philippe Ragonton
Edgar Alvarez
Salina Victorino
Danielle Bicoy
Helena Miguel
Leanda Rawlins
Liane Kalima
Josie Esteban
Maryrose Maniago
Liberty Rhyne
Moses Phillips
Marivic Agcaoili
Carl Adolpho
Siegfried Maniago
Blake Rabe
Flordelina Ventura
Rugene Arista
Neil Poepoe
Josh Hunziker, Operations Supervisor, Monsanto Molokai
Kai Thielk
Kyley Phillips
Josephine Tancayo
Enrique Campos-White
John Lee Basubas
TJ Harper
Jesse Ah Yee
Jing Kepa
Lisa Weiland
David Aquino
Robert Stephenson, President, Molokai Chamber of Commerce

Additional attendees in Council Chamber: 50+

Department of Fire and Public Safety representatives:
Captain Paul Haake, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Lieutenant Kono Davis, Department of Fire and Public Safety

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Lieutenant Scott English, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Kapono Stupplebeen, Department of Fire and Public Safety

Department of Police representatives:

Sergeant Edith Quintero, Department of Police
Officer Aylett Wallwork, Department of Police
Officer Marjorie-Ann Kahookele, Department of Police
Officer Jhun-Lee Malaque Casio, Jr., Department of Police

PRESS: Melissa Tanji, *The Maui News*
Susan Halas, *Maui Weekly*
Akaku--Maui County Community Television, Inc.

**ITEM PIA-78: INITIATIVE PETITION TO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON THE
CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS (CC 14-166)**

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Council's Committee on Policy shall come to order. Members, this afternoon before we start the Chair will recognize the presence of our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Couch.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (FROM THE AUDIENCE): Louder. Riki, louder.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Those of you in the audience, keep quiet so you can hear our...this is an official business meeting of the Council through its Committee, decorum shall be addressed at all times. If the Chair feels that there is enough disturbance our finest shall personally escort you out of this Chambers. That being said, present today is Mr. Couch our Vice-Chairman.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon. We have Committee members Ms. Cochran --

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Ms. Crivello --

COUNCILMEMBER CRIVELLO: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Mr. Carroll --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --and Mr. Guzman.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: The modification we shall make for today to allow, to take all the testimony for today's posted meeting, the Chair will allow maximum two minutes of testimony. Two minutes. We will assist each one with their testimony time. When your name is called up you will come to the podium and upon your stating your name the time will start, at the 1 minute 30 second mark the yellow light will go on and you have 30 seconds to conclude. At the two-minute mark the red light will go on and you can have one sentence to conclude. If you don't we shall make you conclude. Again, it is the Chair's intent, Members, to take all testimony today, including those at our regional offices, and then to recess this meeting to start the discovery portion of the Committee's workings. Also, as part of the decorum on this Chambers, all those testifying, you shall direct your comments to the Chair of this Committee, not to the audience and not to the Committee members. Your comments are to be directed, once more, to the Chair. We do have a capacity that is allowed by law and under our Fire Code of what is allowed in this Chambers. We have representatives from our Fire Department. If capacity becomes an issue we will make an announcement as to the mitigating factors that we will ask for those who are wishing to participate, including the ability of some of us that have not yet testified to be given that opportunity, and we may need to have some of you asked to be placed at another part of this County campus for you to continue to observe the proceedings. Once more, that will only occur if we are given a notice of capacity within this Chamber area. Also, the Committee will ask that everyone respect one another's differences. The Chair will enforce civility at all times. We shall enforce time limits on all those testifying. And we do...we will do a rotation of our regional offices as well as with the Chamber. Currently the Chair has assessed there is about two to three testifiers on Molokai for every one on Maui, so we're going to make some adjustments on how we take testimony, Members. Any questions for the Chair, Members? That is how we shall proceed with testimony.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR HOKAMA: So we'll first start with our rural district, our Hana Office, Ms. Lono, is there anyone wishing to provide testimony on today's agenda?

MS. LONO: Yeah, good afternoon, Chair. This is Dawn Lono at the Hana Office and our first testifier is Barbara Ann Hoopai Benton testifying on behalf of the Hana Community Association regarding PIA-78.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Lono, before she starts, please remind her of our two-minute time limit for testimony, please.

MS. LONO: Yes, we have been listening to you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Please proceed.

MS. BENTON: Aloha, Chair Hokama. The Hana Community Association would like to go on record in support of a --

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Moratorium.

MS. BENTON: --moratorium on the cultivation of the GMO crops. Many of our farmers in the East Maui community are taking great strides and making concerted effort to grow organic food. Any imposition by GMO crops could potentially cross-contaminate these farms. Using our own seed crops is also important to these farms. We also have many streams that flow from mountain to ocean and the use of heavy pesticides connected with the GMO farms could potentially and negatively impact our drinking water, our groundwater, and our ocean ecosystem balance. The potential negatives associated with the GMO cultivation far outweigh the positives for our community. We appreciate your hearing this important issue and look forward to your support in passing this important legislation. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Ms. Lono, is there anyone else on, in Hana at this time?

MS. LONO: Yes. Would you like me to call my next testifier?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, please do.

MS. LONO: Okay. Peter Priore. He's speaking on behalf of himself.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. PRIORE: Aloha. I live on this side of the island, the Hana side, I live in Kipahulu. We have a farm so we already grow organic, and what I understand in some places that if you grow your own food eventually and using your own seed this is going to be against a law, a law that is a birthright. And I understand this seed that they genetically modify is potentially, you know, seeds are potentially to grow plants and food and with this GMO aspect I won't be able to and I'll only have the right or the ability to buy a seed. This is so against my right as a person, my birthright, and the birthrights state clearly that there should be clean air, clean water, and free thinking and abundance. So this is not an option as I'm concerned, this GMO issue is, it's absurd and it's an insult to people who really care and want a simple life of just the ability to like live freely. So and it also it's affecting our health. The food that is produced by GMO seeds is inferior and it lacks the life force that gives me the abundant health to proceed whatever my dream is. Our lives are challenged and the premise is money and power, and let's get specific, it's Monsanto. It can be bootied out of here, please, as soon as possible.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. PRIORE: And the people who want to challenge the voting that it is legitimate, the numbers that come up in September and October when we have the voting that it is a regulated and it's done by paper and hand and all sides of this issue are freely and equally allowed to see and register and monitor this count. And then it's freely registered and monitored that Monsanto --

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. PRIORE: --. . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. PRIORE: That's my spiel and my speaking from my heart. And I'm...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this afternoon. Ms. Lono, next person, please.

MS. LONO: Okay, I have two more testifiers. The next testifier is Alana Ross testifying on her own behalf.

MS. ROSS: Aloha. I support the GMO moratorium for many reasons. First and foremost this decision to enact a moratorium to stop the big biotech companies that are polluting our Hawaiian island chain will be a defining moment in the history of our upcoming generation. This decision will change the course in our history and it's up to us to make the right decision to save our future. I personally do my best to eat only organic food but it's getting harder for me to find healthy food to eat. When I go into the stores like Foodland or Safeway or other chain stores, there's little to nothing I can buy that's not laced with man-made chemicals or produce not sprayed with herbicide. As a result I end up not eating sometimes instead of poisoning my body with toxic food. When I swim in the streams I wonder what chemicals are present in the runoff so I do my best not to get any water in my mouth. I am a farmer in Hana and I find it difficult to buy seeds to plant that are not GMO. The biotech companies are buying up all the seed companies and I'm appalled that this is happening. When I drive in Kahului and Kihei and they're spraying I have to roll up my window to avoid breathing in toxic exposure of the chemical cocktails of poisons that are being sprayed in the air and covering my car with a blanket of who knows what. I am distressed that we are poisoning the soil. This is the number one most important element to keep healthy so we can grow healthy foods, and the biotech companies that are testing the GMO crops are killing the soil to have sterile environments to test their crops. Without micronutrients our plants cannot survive. If we condition the soil instead of killing it we can grow enough food for everyone. The companies that create GMOs are first and foremost poison companies.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. ROSS: They got their start creating poisons and they're starting creating GMO seeds to be compatible with their poison. Currently babies are being born with birth defects and I can't help but think that these poisons are contributing to it. With all my heart I plead to those who vote to cast their vote with our children and their children in mind. With all the devastation going on on our plant do we really need big biotech companies like Monsanto and Dow Chemical wreaking more havoc on our already fragile environment? Thank you for making the right vote to support the moratorium in favor of stopping this . . .(inaudible). . .

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Ms. Lono, your next testifier, please.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Mr. Chair?

MS. LONO: Okay, the last person that we currently have signed up is Tosh Christopher and he is testifying on his own behalf.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Just a minute please, Ms. Lono. Yes, Mr. Couch.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Yeah. Just a point of order, can we get the testifiers to give their names as well 'cause sometimes we can't hear Ms. Lono say. So can we have the testifiers identify themselves, please.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for that, Mr. Couch. Yes, we'll ask all testifiers to state their name for the record please, before beginning their testimony.

MS. LONO: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

MR. CHRISTOPHER: Aloha. My name is Tosh Christopher. I've been an organic farmer on Hawaii County and Maui County for the past eight years. I moved to Hawaii in order to have a pristine environment with clean air, clean water, clean land where I could grow food and raise my children, and the threat of GMOs to me really appalls me. Not only does it promote more pesticide use but the possibility of genetic transfer which is a very under-questioned part of this technology is truly devastating in its implications of how it could affect future agriculture not only here in Hawaii but throughout the world. A wise man once said the love of money is the root of all evil, and I see a lot of evil going on here. I see a lot of people being sold out for large companies to make a profit in ways that don't even support our people of Hawaii or our land of Hawaii. These crops are not being grown to feed our people or even, you know, to make a good benefit in feeding people around the world, it's mostly used for feeding livestock and it's used for creating biofuels. It's really it's all about finding ways to make money and we don't need that here. We've got so much abundance here, we've got so much natural beauty that the creator has provided on this land, and we're here to take part in that and to help with the creator to make a beautiful island and a beautiful land for all the generations to come. And so I just urge everyone to really look into their hearts and ask what's true and what's right. Do we need more companies --

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MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. CHRISTOPHER: --making more money in some other place, exploiting our land and our people? Or do we need to turn our eyes to a brighter future for our own island and start doing what we know is right to grow our own food in a clean way and to support the health of our people and our island? Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon. Ms. Lono, anyone else in Hana Office?

MS. LONO: There is no one currently waiting to testify, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Ms. Fernandez, Lanai, anyone wishing to provide testimony?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez on Lanai and there is no one waiting to testify at this time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Molokai, Ms. Alcon, anyone wishing to provide testimony?

MS. ALCON: My first testifier is Guy Hanohano Naehu.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. NAEHU: Aloha. My name is Guy Hanohano Naehu. I'm a _____ local, a fishpond operator, and I am in support of the moratorium. . . .(*spoke in Hawaiian*). . . . The land is the chief's and we humans are the servants. On Molokai there is a bunch of workers and most of 'em I do not know, they not from Molokai. And for those that are from Molokai, family, friends, there's so much aloha for you but the fight is not with you. We have tried so many different ways to keep these GMOs, these contaminations, these chemicals in check, and all it seems to do is make you guys grow. Over here we've asked them to take less water, to stop getting more fields and they've been full speed ahead. So much so the fields are popping up right next to Kualapuu School. This school is the only immersion school we have on the island, so I implore especially the Hawaiians that work for these companies, think about our aina, think about our future, think about our children. For those of you that love to hunt, for those of you that love to fish, this job is going directly against that kind lifestyle.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. NAEHU: This is so serious and I'm sorry it came to this point but the corn companies, the big bosses, and the billions and billions and billions of dollars they make, they no care about little communities like this, they don't care about people, they don't care about our kids. And again

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you going hear plenty people say I need this job. If your job is poisoning everybody else, please, please consider our island --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. NAEHU: --consider our kids, consider our aina instead of being selfish. Because . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much for your testimony.

MR. NAEHU: And again some of us --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Your testimony time is done.

MR. NAEHU: --starve and do things for love and for aina and not for money.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Alcon, next.

MR. NAEHU: Please consider how important the aina is.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Next person please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Kalani Ua Ritte.

MR. U. RITTE: Aloha. My name is Ua Ritte and I support this moratorium because what Monsanto doing on Molokai right now is unacceptable. Like Hano said they're clearing fields right across Kualapuu School, right across the high school, and right across Kualapuu Town. Monsanto start testing and spraying dangerous chemicals next to these places, chemicals so dangerous that Monsanto is heavily regulated, so dangerous that its employees have to go through strict and rigorous safety training. Chemicals so dangerous that some have safety labels dozens of pages long. Okay. But no matter how much safety training you get and how much regulations you put on these farming practices, incidents and accidents will happen. Case in point, a short while ago a fence line team subcontracted by Mycogen was accidentally sprayed by a Mycogen sprayer, okay. Accidents happen. According to testimony provided by Hawaii State Teacher Association Director Tom Perry about a spraying incident that took place on January 25, 2008, at Waimea Valley School on Kauai, which is located right next to some test field used by Syngenta, he said, quote, that day the Kona winds were blowing very hard and teachers called me and said they were really sick here, we have kids sick here, everyone is getting sick, we need you to come down and stop this. So I drove out and that morning when I got there, there was ambulances in the courtyard by the health room and there were students were getting sick in large numbers along with teachers. This style of farming practices going get incidents and accidents.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. U. RITTE: Monsanto claims that they care about Molokai and its people and that they are good stewards to the land, but why would a company that says these things put our most valuable and precious assets, our kids at risk? Finally, if you support these companies, you support their farming practices then you support the spraying of dangerous pesticides next to school children 'cause that's what they're doing right now. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Ms. Alcon, your next testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: My next testifier is Walter Ritte.

MR. W. RITTE: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We shall maintain decorum.

MR. W. RITTE: Aloha. My name is Walter Ritte and I'm here in strong support of this initiative. I've been involved in this issue of GMOs for the last 15 years of my life, and I've done my homework. The problem we're having right now is that consumers are nervous, consumers are concerned about their health. People who live next to these fields are concerned about their health. People with children with these fields next to schools are concerned about the health of their children. If you put all of these people together there is a definite reason why our government needs to put controls over these new farmers that are on our farmlands with their heavy pesticide use. I'm a homesteader, I'm on a farm lot, I love farming. I'm not against farming, I am against farming that is detrimental to our health and farming that is detrimental to our lands, our waters, and our ocean. And of all the homework that I've done over the years I'm talking from experience and from somebody who has done the research, these people need to have regulations. We need regulations from these corporations because the stories of them coming so close to our schools on the island of Kauai and now on the island of Molokai shows you that we need regulations. If people are not self-regulated the interest in profits are making them do things that are dangerous --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. W. RITTE: --for our people and dangerous for our lands. So I'm here to support this initiative and I'm hoping the Council will support this initiative, because this initiative reflects the idea that we need to bypass our elected officials in order to protect ourselves and that is a bad trend. So support this initiative so this doesn't become something that we do as people all the time --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. W. RITTE: --and bypass our elected officials. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Ritte, for your testimony. Ms. Alcon, your next Molokai testifier, please.

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MS. ALCON: The next testifier is William Yama Kaholoaa, Sr.

MR. KAHOLOAA: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MR. KAHOLOAA: My name is William Yama Kaholoaa and I testify against the memorandum...the moratorium that is being placed only because if it's going to hinder the people of Molokai who are also trying to make a living and supporting their family. I understand the issue very much but I know that you Council going make the right decision. That by looking into people that need help here on Molokai until there can be other avenues where people can support their children and their family. Molokai is a special place, special people, whether they work for Monsanto or Mycogen or not. I'm a community individual and I love these workers, they're wonderful, wonderful people. All we need is that...if the moratorium is going to hinder their working condition I'm against that. If you can do a memorandum and help, continue to help this employees continue to work and to put food on the table for their family. That's all I have to say, and I appreciate all those who are concerned --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. KAHOLOAA: --about our children. I have children, I have a grandson who work for Mycogen. He's my first grandson out of 26 grandchildren, and I also have my first great grandson, and I know that he's doing really good by being able to provide for the needs of his family. And that's very important and that's what we all need to understand that we all need to come together and to work together, and hope that the Council --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. KAHOLOAA: --will make right decisions in being able to sort out this problem.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon. Ms. Alcon, your next testifier.

MS. ALCON: My next testifier is Adolph Helm.

MR. HELM: Aloha, Council Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Couch, and Molokai Councilmember Crivello, and respected Council members. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MR. HELM: My name is Adolph Helm, currently a project manager of Mycogen Seeds. I was born and raised on Molokai. My parents originated from Maui and migrated to Molokai in 1932. My mom is full-blooded Hawaiian, was born in Hana, and my father of Hawaiian and Caucasian ancestry originated from Puunene. Living off the land was the lifestyle I experienced growing up on Molokai. My father a farmer grew a variety of crops and raised animals that provided the

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majority of the meals we ate at home. His farming exploit was well documented, noted as the first in Hawaiian Homes' Commission annals to meet the intent and purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Rehabilitation Act. In the November 7, 1954 *Honolulu Bulletin*, the equivalent of today's *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, a featured story dubbed *The Molokai Miracle* described his arduous backbreaking journey in transforming our Kalamaula homestead into the first successful commercial farm project in Hawaiian Homes history. Fast forward today, I as well as my immediate ohana continue to carry my father's legacy of farming and providing food from the land and ocean. It is a subsistence lifestyle many choose to live that incorporates all types of practices and integrates a pragmatic and common sense perspective in managing and using our island --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. HELM: --resources. Agriculture on Molokai, past and present has enabled us to nurture and sustain this unique lifestyle and maintain our rural character, beauty, and open space. The Molokai people do not need the SHAKA organization or anti-GMO and anti-pesticide proponents to tell us how to live and malama the aina. Mycogen Seeds' best management practices helps to ensure we follow --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. HELM: --stewardship efforts to maintain and perpetuate a healthy and safe working environment.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Helm.

MR. HELM: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . of the seed corn industry in contrast to. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Helm. Mr. Helm. Mr. Helm, thank you for your testimony.

MR. HELM: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo. Thank you. Ms. Alcon, next testifier.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jill Coombs.

MS. COOMBS: Hi. My name is Jill Coombs and I come before you today asking you to oppose the bill placing a moratorium on the cultivation of GMOs. I'm a wife, a mother, and a resident of Molokai and an employee of Mycogen Seeds. I have a degree in Plant Sciences from an accredited university and over a decade of experience in a scientific agriculture community. I'm a published scientist who has experience on both sides of the GMO debate. I wanted to share this with you because in my journey so far I have learned the value of diversity and coexistence. Being pro-GMO does not mean that I am anti-organic. I know that we need a combination of many methods in order to feed a growing and diversified world population. This is what I practice in my household and this is what I teach my children. Three years ago I was lucky

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enough to move to Molokai. I have a two-year-old and a two-month-old so for my entire career here I have either been pregnant or nursing, and if you could see this little guy in my arms right now you'd know that that includes presently. My job provides for me and my growing family, and they've been incredibly supportive of me as an employee but more importantly than that they've been supportive of me as a mother. To me, Mycogen is not an evil biotech company, it's a group of my friends, family members, neighbors, and community members, people I go to church with and the parents of my kids' friends, people that like their jobs, people that need their jobs, and people who are working to do good things. Modifying plants is nothing new, we've all been eating GMOs for the last 20 years.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. COOMBS: Thousands of years before that farmers were selecting plants. My work specifically includes breeding new lines of corn that use water and nitrogen more efficiently and have natural resistance to insects so that farmers will not have to apply insecticides or fertilizers or use excess groundwater, and will soon be able to achieve yields high enough to field the world, feed the world. I know firsthand what I do is safe, responsible, and helpful to the world as a whole. Under the guise of educating people the --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. COOMBS: --_____ is calling for a study to prove this. USDA and EPA already have very strict regulations that we follow. I can only speak from my own personal experience but as a biologist I walk through fields of GMOs for several hours every day even while pregnant.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, great. Thank...

MS. COOMBS: Actually especially while pregnant because it was good exercise.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. COOMBS: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: One more please, Ms. Alcon, and then we'll come to the Chambers for a Chamber opportunity.

MS. ALCON: Okay. Our next testifier is Grace Floresca.

MS. FLORESCA: Honorable Chairman, Council members, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. My name is Grace Floresca. I am here today not just an employee of a seed company but also as a concerned citizen of Molokai. I will be directly affected by this moratorium. I am therefore appealing to this Council to please do right for Maui County and its people. Let us put this initiative to rest and focus on what we can do to make Maui County a better place for everybody and not dividing its people. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. We'll do testimony in the Chambers before we return to our regional offices. The first person in the Chamber will be Sunny Savage-Luskin to be followed by Kira [*sic*] Herman.

MS. SAVAGE-LUSKIN: You ready?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Start when you're ready.

MS. SAVAGE-LUSKIN: All right. Good afternoon. My name is Sunny Savage-Luskin. And we all want to live in a world that is beautiful and abundant, a place where healthy food is available to us all. The biotech companies operating in Maui County have not demonstrated to me the capacity to fulfill that shared vision, so I am urging the Council Committee to support the GMO moratorium and Communication 14-166. I did...I don't know if you folks received this, I did give that ahead of time. The graph here highlights the ever-increasing number of herbicide-resistant plants. In particular the graph looks at glyphosate resistance. Now as a forager I look at this list and see that the majority are edible, some of them even on my list of favorite wild crops. Now these plants are evolving, they're putting on their super weed capes, and it doesn't matter how many chemicals we put on them, they will find a way to live. The companies creating GMOs know this. What we don't know is the potentially long-lasting effects of manipulating DNA. These companies have been operating behind closed doors. We have limited independent research into their safety. The Hawaii 2050 report says that we should expect increased flooding and extreme weather events here in Hawaii due to climate change, so what happens when those crops are mixed in unexpected ways into our delicate ecosystems?

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SAVAGE-LUSKIN: We don't know. And instead of receiving carte blanche the citizens of Maui are letting you know that we need to take the time to do a thorough Environmental Impact Study to determine how this technology will affect our future food security. That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Luskin. Next will be Kira or Kiva Herman and that's, she's number two to be followed by Sandia Siegel at number three.

MS. HERMAN: Kiva. Chair Hokama, County Council members...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Put the mic to your mouth.

MS. HERMAN: I find it ludicrous to stand here as if the subject at hand is a controversy in the first place when the actual facts, science, and motives transparently reveal the urgent necessity for the complete shutdown of development and cultivation and thorough removal from the environment of genetically modified organisms. When accurately viewed as a form of biological warfare, the global dissemination of genetically modified organisms through food, pharmaceuticals, et cetera,

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clearly violates sections of the Geneva Convention which prohibits the development and production of biological agents or toxins dispersed for hostile purposes. Such purposes brought to light by Peter Koenig, a former World Bank economist with 30 years of experience who used genetically modified organisms and GMO food as one of several global tentacles that “would help limit or reduce the world population so that the elite could enjoy the Earth’s finite --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. HERMAN: --and non-renewable resources with a comfortable life much longer than if those resources would have to be shared with 7 or 8 billion people.” It is an assault on the web of life itself of irretrievable, irreversible, and cataclysmic consequences. I speak from my heart to the soul of those who can hear, I invite you to refresh us by tracking to evocation over coercion in the interest of a sane outcome for a sane biosphere --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. HERMAN: --if only for the love of your grandchildren and great grandchildren. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

MS. HERMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Next is Sandia Siegel, and to be followed at number four, Ilse Menger.

MS. SIEGEL: Aloha. My name is Sandia Siegel. The rapid development and introduction of GE organisms combined with inadequate regulatory oversight at the State and Federal levels means that the citizens of Maui County with reasonable and significant concerns regarding the immediate safety and long-term safety of the effects GE, genetically engineered operations and practices in our County. Now more than 19,000 citizens have stated that they have very good reason to believe that all these things associated with GMOs are threatening the integrity of Maui County’s citizens’ health. We need a moratorium on the cultivation of GMO crops and the dangerous combination of chemicals that are applied to these crops. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture does not have an adequate regulatory structure in place to monitor GE operations and practices, or to aid in the understanding of the impacts of these operations and practices on Maui County’s environment or public health. There are no foolproof, guaranteed scientific methodologies or procedures to recall genetically engineered organisms. There are no emergency plans or containment procedures. There is no way to keep what is happening in those fields contained and no way to completely --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. HERMAN: --clean up the entire island and its waters and reefs from genetic pollution. The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on Maui County regarding the long-term, intensive GE operations and practices and associated pesticide uses have not been properly or independently

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evaluated. The people of Maui County find it important to protect the rights of farmers engaged...

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. HERMAN: Thank you for the opportunity for this testimony.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for taking the time to testify this afternoon. Next Ilse Menger, to be followed by Hank Kline at number five.

MS. MENGER: Aloha, Members of the Committee. I beg you to stand up for the people of Maui County. Nineteen thousand people have signed the petition to demand the temporary moratorium on the cultivation of GMO crops and the testing of dangerous combinations of chemicals that are applied to these crops. Numerous studies have now shown that consuming GMO foods and exposure to these chemicals have grave consequences on human health and the health of our aina. The definition of the word "to experiment" is something that is done as a test, something that you do to see how well or how badly it works. To experiment is a scientific test in which you perform a series of actions and carefully observe the effects in order to learn about something. So by definition experimenting with GMO crops in open-air fields in Maui County and applying a multitude of chemical cocktails to them already implies that we don't know yet what the effects exactly are of exposure to them, and that we the people of Maui are the guinea pigs. We don't want to be involuntary guinea pigs. Please protect us from large multinational corporations bullying our farmers, corrupting our politicians, and poisoning us and the land. We live here, we raise our families here, and we have the right to drink clean water, eat unaltered foods, and live in a safe environment. As a member of the Maui community we the people have the right and the responsibility to defend this land to make it a better place for future generations, and we ask of you to demand independent --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. MENGER: --scientific studies to be done and verified on the effects of exposure to GMO crops and the applied chemicals on the public health and the environment before allowing cultivation of GMO crops and the use of a multitude of combinations of chemicals in the open-air fields in Hawaii. Members of the Committee, please sign into law the temporary moratorium on the cultivation of GMO crops and the use of experimental --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. MENGER: --chemicals immediately. The world is watching. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Hank Kline, and following Mr. Kline will be Paul Singleton.

MR. KLINE: Aloha, Council members.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MR. KLINE: I'm Hank Kline. I've given each of you a copy of this book. Please read the forward and the introduction at least. There's a lot in the middle, it's pretty wordy. There is a chapter, three, that talks about how the industry studies are not competent to identify problems. This is the big thing. The American Medical Association has recently come out asking for honest peer-reviewed studies. There hasn't been any done. Okay. The main thing I want to talk to you about today is Anniston, Alabama. They have a lot in common with Maui and especially Molokai or at least they did have something in common, now they're completely contaminated and deserted. The people needed jobs, Monsanto provided jobs. The government officials were easily influenced by Monsanto's assurances that their chemicals were safe. More and more health problems arose. They didn't understand that chronic health problems take decades to manifest. Poisons slowly and insidiously bio-accumulate, they build up in our bodies. This is what's happening now here now. Everyone's okay now but wait 'til you wait a minute. Now here's what happened in this court case. They subpoenaed Monsanto Company documents and those documents showed that Monsanto manipulated studies. It showed that Monsanto scientists were instructed to play down the risks. It showed that Monsanto...here's the big one, it shows that Monsanto knew the health and environmental problems.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. KLINE: They hid them and they covered them up for decades. They lied to the people and they poisoned them for decades. Now please write this down, take a note and look up for it. Anniston versus Monsanto, read about it. Anniston -- A-N-N-I-S-T-O-N vs. -- versus Monsanto. Another thing, on, in Kauai one of the people talked about the kids were poisoned in the school and they called, and what he didn't say was they called in the University of Hawaii. Now I think you can trust the University of Hawaii. Took air samples starting in 2011. Every one of those air samples was positive --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. KLINE: --for illegal chemicals present. You can Google that, UH Waimea air samples. Please write it down.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Kline.

MR. KLINE: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Paul Singleton, and Paul will be followed by Kenneth Findeisen, number seven.

MR. SINGLETON: Thank you. My name is Paul Singleton. I'm a 30-year veteran with the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture, and I've been farming for 18 years up in Kula with

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Waipoli Hydroponic Greens. This initiative shows little understanding of agriculture, especially modern agricultural technology and its practices. And even though the initiative wants to ban GMOs it's using all of this ancillary accusations about farming techniques --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Please address the Chair.

MR. SINGLETON: Excuse me? I'm sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. SINGLETON: --to support its arguments to ban GMOs. Thank you. Let's go to Section 2, Number 4, environmental protection. This initiative claims genetic engineering is an imprecise process and therefore not predictable or controllable. It's exactly the opposite, it's a very precise procedure. There's a nice story here but a lot of people don't want to tell you this. For 80 years we've had a pesticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis*. This is a bacteria, common soil bacteria, it happens to be toxic to caterpillars. We've been producing this on a mass scale and spraying it to control caterpillars. Organic farmers use it, Monsanto uses it, we use it, it's not toxic, there's no environmental implications. They're spraying the whole bacterial cell. All Monsanto has done is take the gene that codes for a single protein that kills that bacteria and put it in the plant. Now the farmers growing corn or cotton with this Bt gene in it don't have to spray for the boll weevil or the corn borer anymore, so we're actually using less pesticides even . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. SINGLETON: So I'd like you to consider that. There's a lot of concern about pesticides in here and mixing pesticides, making pesticide cocktails. We use multiple pesticides in one mix because some pesticides kill the same organism but through two different pathways. When we mix them we don't generate resistance. It's like using penicillin and tetracycline to control an infection. Some pesticides are mandated that you use two of them. The government and nobody wants to develop resistance. So there's very faulty logic...

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. SINGLETON: That's two?

CHAIR HOKAMA: That's two.

MR. SINGLETON: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this afternoon. Kenneth Findeisen, and following will be John Gelert.

MR. FINDEISEN: Ken Findeisen with Hawaii Grower Products. I have a horticultural company, I'm a horticultural distributor. I want to testify against this moratorium 'cause this moratorium ignores

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the fact that genetic engineered crops and farm pesticides have already been studied, tested, and addressed by the FDA, the EPA, and the USDA and certified as safe. This moratorium is making a mountain out of a molehill. For example here's a pesticide label. The pesticide, before this product even comes to the market, this pesticide has been tested for years to be accepted by the EPA as a safe product. Here's some of the things in the label. Of course you have the ingredients. You have personal protection equipment for the applicator. Environmental hazards. Groundwater advisory. Worker protection standards for the worker in the field. A section on failure to follow these directions could amount in illegal residues. Section on avoiding spray drift. A section on properly cleaning your spray equipment to make sure that you do not harm the environment.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. FINDEISEN: The rates. Also, tank mixes, the toxic chemicals. What I'm trying to say here is that this label whether it's a restricted use or not, it's not...it's illegal to go off the label. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture have inspectors on each island, they inspect the farms, nurseries, they inspect us the distributors and penalties if you do not follow the label. It's as simple as that. So I don't see how it's legal for some with a different opinion of the EPA --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. FINDEISEN: --FDA and USDA's research testing...and testing can come across and shut down the farms, it's irresponsible. Farmers are law-abiding community members and this will un-employ hundreds of people in our community. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Findeisen. Next is John Gelert, G-E-L-E-R-T, and following him at number nine will be Robert Martin.

MR. GELERT: Good afternoon, Council and Chair. I'm going to talk primarily about glyphosate or Roundup. Glyphosate bound to sediment is persistent in marine water. Only half of it breaks down in 315 days. Its harms extends 50 kilometers from shore. Australians are worried about it destroying the Great Barrier Reef and the same thing is happening to the Hawaiian Islands. The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council shows that 80 percent of the coral reef at Maalaea has died in just the last 20 years. In 2012 the French scientist Seralini studied feeding Roundup-ready corn and/or water-diluted at only .1 parts per billion of Roundup. After 24 months 70 percent of the rats developed cancers, and that's about 3 times more than the control group. In his latest 2014 study, he tested various pesticides on human tissue and the results are that Roundup was found in this experiment to be 125 times more toxic than glyphosate which is the principal ingredient. Just skipping along here, I have a short time. GMO corn has been found to contain 13 parts per million, that's of course 1,000 times in parts per billion of glyphosate which is 18 times the "safe level" of glyphosate set by the FDA...or EPA, excuse me. Better move along here.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. GELERT: Okay. Glyphosate has a number of devastating biological effects. Nutritional deficiencies, disruption of biosynthesis of amino acids, increased toxic exposure, impairment to sulfate transport, system toxicity, disruption of micro...well whatever, you can read all the stuff, I sent it to you this morning. But anyway --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. GELERT: --I support this moratorium, I hope you do. It's time to do the right thing to protect our health and to protect everyone around the world. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Robert Martin, and following Mr. Martin will be Laura VanWagner.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MR. MARTIN: --Members of the Council. In part my name is Robert T. Martin, born and raised in Hawaii. I'm drawing on experience from two individuals through some 114 years of experience from and service to Hawaii's agriculture. My father, Joseph P. Martin with a degree in plant pathology from the University of California, Berkeley spent 50 years working as a research scientist then coordinator for the Experiment Station Hawaii Sugar Planters Association. He did much to stimulate and influence my career in agriculture. He helped me recognize technology that could enable sugar on Maui to eliminate burning, produce biofuels, and double or triple profits per acre. My 64 years of experience and service are based on education in Hawaii public schools, Punahou, and a degree in plant pathology from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1950 I joined Pacific Chemical and Fertilizer Company as their agricultural technologist where I helped introduce new fertilizers and chemical technology to the Experiment Station HSPA, the Pineapple Research Institute, the University of Hawaii, farmers, ranchers, plantations, utility companies, and the military. In 1961 I returned to Maui to open a branch office for Best Chemicals & Fertilizers Company where I sold atrazine and helped introduce the herbicide ametryn to sugar and pineapple.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MARTIN: The State's cover-up of crop damage arising from misuse of these two chemicals eventually led to my resignation in 1967, the formation of Biological Applications, Inc., and continued my 50-year battle to try help diversified agriculture in Hawaii. The now 50-year failure of the State to recognize the continued involvement of these chemicals in the destruction of Hawaii's diversified agriculture is a compelling reason why a temporary moratorium on GMOs is needed at this time. Thank you.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Martin, for your testimony. Okay, the Chair's going to give one warning on decorum. Ms. VanWagner, welcome.

MS. VANWAGNER: Aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MS. VANWAGNER: Okay. So I'm here to speak to you about *Bacillus thuringiensis*, someone just spoke about it. It is an organic fertilizer, I mean pesticide. I went to use it yesterday in my garden and I was reading the warning label, it says, the label said that it's toxic to get it on your skin. That if you get it on your skin you have to rinse it off immediately.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. VanWagner, before you continue, please identify yourself for the record.

MS. VANWAGNER: Oh.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. VANWAGNER: I'm sorry. It's Laura VanWagner. Sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. VANWAGNER: Okay. So when you use it as an organic pesticide you spray it on the plant, and so it rinses off or it biodegrades off so you get very little on the plant that stays on the plant. With GMO corn the *Bacillus thuringiensis* is right inside the corn kernel. It's in there in high concentration. If it's harmful for your skin what is it doing when we ingest it? Eighty five percent of the GMO corn grown here, almost...is grown here. Almost all processed food contains some form of GMO Bt corn syrup, corn something. So imagine your children, your grandchildren eating Bt --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. VANWAGNER: --Bt that has been found by scientific research to be unsafe even for rats, that if it gets on your skin can be harmful. What are we going to say to our children? Just imagine that everyone across the United States, the baby formulas, the baby food, everything, everyone ingesting high concentrations of this Bt. If it's not safe for rats how can we say that it's safe for people? China refused to use it. Even when they were offered free corn seed --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. VANWAGNER: --they would not even accept it. Russia refused it. It's a terrorist, considered a terrorist threat to bring GMO seeds into the country.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony, Ms. VanWagner. Next will be number 11, Ray VanWagner, and after Mr. VanWagner we'll go back to Molokai.

MR. VANWAGNER: Hello.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hello.

MR. VANWAGNER: My name's Ray VanWagner. I went paddling this morning from Keawekapu Beach. It's beautiful if you don't look down. Look down and it's all brown, brown rocks, brown coral covered with brown moss. No colorful coral and very few fish. When I moved here in 1979 the water near shore was beautiful, full of coral, schools of colorful fish, now it's sick. Without a moratorium on GMO crops we will end up with more destruction. Monsanto is a very generous company in donating to all our schools, businesses, and individuals with influence, but the cost to us will be our health, our wealth, and this beautiful land. There will be no good end to this. Letting Monsanto and other GMO companies come here will ruin us all. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. VanWagner. We'll go to the Molokai District Office and ask Ms. Alcon for the next Molokai testifier.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Minda Guerrero.

MS. GUERRERO: Good afternoon, honorable members of the County Council. My name is Minda Guerrero. I work in the corn industry for the last 39 years and passing this bill will affect hundreds of families including my family. Three of my children have worked for corn companies when they were in high school, and my grandson along with myself and my husband currently employed at Mycogen Seeds. I know that GMOs are safe. I know that we are already being regulated by the USDA and EPA. A moratorium will not be economically logical for Molokai and the Maui County, so please consider my voice in opposing this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Olivia Lor.

MS. LOR: Good afternoon, honorable Chairman and the members of the County Council. My name is Olivia Lor, a resident of Molokai, and I am here to oppose the initiative on the moratorium on banning the GMO operation in the Maui County. I've been working for Mycogen Seeds, one of the two biggest employer here in Molokai for five years now. I know that passing this bill would make a big impact on the economics here in Molokai. Not only will it affect the seed companies but also the other businesses in the community. It will also affect the many workers and their families who depend on the seed companies as their means of livelihood. Again, I oppose the moratorium. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next, please.

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MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Ray Foster.

MR. FOSTER: Aloha, respected Council members. Thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Ray Foster and I've been working on farms for more than 40 years. I'm testifying in opposition to the moratorium on genetically engineered crops. This proposed legislation is founded on fear and misinformation. I am truly sad and angry that you are required to hear it. The biotech seed industry is proven to be safe and beneficial on every front. Years of experience and scientific work have proven it safe in production practices and safe for public consumption. The biotech agricultural industry is a significant benefit to the Maui County economy, and agricultural employees throughout the State take benefit from excellent compensation for their work in a safe environment. The moratorium bill has been proposed by philosophical zealots. It is prejudicial to a single, safe, and legitimate industry. It is discriminatory and illegal. The hard-working taxpayers of our County should not be subjected to this kind of damaging legislation. Please do whatever you can to block this moratorium on productive and beneficial business. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Dawn Bicoy.

MS. BICOY: Aloha, Council. A sincere mahalo for hearing my testimony. My name is Dawn Bicoy and I've been employed with Monsanto Molokai for over 13 years. My family has five generations on the island with its roots beginning in agriculture over 110 years ago and I'm proud to carry on that tradition. I'd like to start by pointing out some current statistics for Molokai which are extremely sobering. Thirty-five percent of our island is on government assistance, that's over one-third of our island which costs almost 7 million for the State annually. Our current unemployment rate is 8.5 percent, almost double other islands in the State. Twenty-eight percent of our residents or 2,200 people currently have jobs, of that 11 percent are employed by the Molokai seed industry. These are the stark realities we have Molokai and what needs to be seriously considered before we pass a bill that will tip our island's economic scale to a point where it's legitimate to ask if a recovery is even possible and not just for those affected but for our entire community. We don't have the luxury of available jobs or other industries like tourism or construction that can absorb the loss of 11 percent of our island's workforce. Now we're faced with the proposed bill to place a moratorium on GMOs where time and again our industry has produced credible scientific evidence from respected bodies who confirm the safety like the National Academy of Science, a membership of over 6,300 scientists and health professionals who are elected on their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. BICOY: The American Medical Association, the largest association of physicians in the US with a membership of over 215,000 who publish the journal of the AMA. The World Health

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Organization, an agency of United Nations that concerns itself with international public health signed by all 61 countries of the UN, all who attest the safety of GMOs. All these credentialed statements and scientific findings while we watch the opposition continuously move the goalpost. My grandfather always told us --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. BICOY: --. . . *(inaudible)*. . . banana tree you plant two in its place. This simple wisdom reflects what good leadership considers when faced with important decisions. Molokai Ranch, now the seed industry, who's next?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Bicoy.

MS. BICOY: We on Molokai are simply a microcosm of what will be if we allow unsubstantiated claims to disproportionately affect how our County is run.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Bicoy.

MS. BICOY: Please know that today the employees of Monsanto Molokai stand in heartfelt opposition. Passing a bill like this would do nothing for --

MS. NAKATA: Two and a half minutes.

MS. BICOY: --our island's economy and the people you so faithfully serve. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Alcon, you're going to need to help remind them at two minutes their testimony is over.

MS. ALCON: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Chiemi Talon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. TALON: Aloha, my name is Andrea Talon and I'm a proud employee of Monsanto Molokai. I strongly oppose the moratorium of GMO crops. We all know that this bill does not stem from sincere concern for the safety of GMO products, 'cause if it was those who oppose our operations would live a totally GMO-free life and that's not happening. We all know that this bill does not stem from sincere concern for the safety of pesticide, 'cause if it was their target would be companies that make and sell these pesticides, not the mere users. We all know that this bill is targeted directly towards companies like us. This bill is targeted to remove us from our communities, to remove 1,400 jobs in Maui County, to remove \$550 million from our

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economy, and to remove another \$1,000 additional jobs from vendors that we do business with. So I ask you why would Maui County ban something with such a devastating impact when the USDA, the FDA, and the EPA have already approved GE crops as being safe? We are all children, siblings, parents, and grandparents, and have families in the communities that we operate. Do you honestly believe that we would do anything that would harm our own families? I go to work every day knowing that what we do is safe, knowing that what we do actually --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. TALON: --benefits our environment, and knowing that what we do here in Maui County feeds the world. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Coco Augustiro.

MS. AUGUSTIRO: Aloha. My name is Colette Augustiro. I work here, the same site for 21 years. The same place doing the same thing, nothing changed but the name of the company. Around 1,400 local jobs are at stake. Does it matter to anyone? You know what that will do to our unemployment rate? My job matters to me. Who will pay my bills, put food on my table, and put a roof over my family's head? I'm a fact. I live here all my life and work here half of my life. You see anything wrong with me? When I go to the doctor my doctors say I'm healthy as can be. Who said we're killers and unsafe? If so, I would be dead already. Rethink this bill because it's going to have a devastating impact to our local economy. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Patti Guay.

MS. GUAY: Aloha, Council members. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this initiative against GMO. My name is Patti Guay and I'm a proud employee of Monsanto. We are farmers and we have the right to farm. Monsanto is not only a seed producer but we are a family and we stand together to promote safety on and off the job. People today support solar energy to give us cheaper power bills and they support GMOs when it creates a medicine such as insulin, but don't be a hypocrite and only support technology when it affects you personally. People are starving all over the world and most can't run down to their local State office and get food stamps. I support Monsanto's mission to save the world and I oppose this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Next. Next.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Clayton Withers.

MR. WITHERS: Aloha. My name is Clayton Withers. I've been an employee for Mycogen Seeds for the past two years. I greatly oppose this referendum for many reasons, here's a few of 'em.

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First, I'm the only person working in my family and to take that away would have one big impact on my kids, mainly my two-year-old son who is one cardiac baby and has, needs some special needs at times. Second, and being from Molokai I care about the land as much as anyone else and to take this away would only hurt the land in other ways. No jobs, no income to provide for the families. That's all I have to say. Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Andrew Arce.

MR. ARCE: County Council members, aloha mai kakou. I thank you for this opportunity again to speak before you my concern. My name is Andrew Kaleiola Arce, a fourth generation Hawaiian homesteader. I'm currently employed by Dow AgroSciences here on Molokai as the farm manager. I currently own and operate Arce Farm, a family farm that my dad started back in the 1960s and continue to farm with my children and grandchildren today. We grow all types of vegetables and fruits for local sales. I stand before you this day in opposition to the proposed initiative. I have worked in the seed industry since 1999, worked with GE crop . . . *(inaudible)* . . . development of Roundup and Bt corn was in its infancy. I work personally with USDA and HDOA, organizations that govern the work that we do. I know that all of the stringent guidelines and requirements for this testing. I know this technology is safe. I know that if anyone should be affected in a negative way would be the people who work with it on a daily basis and that's us guys right here. I also know that this technology works and seen it firsthand. Dow and Monsanto are the largest island employers. If this initiative becomes law what will happen to our island? Molokai has already the highest unemployment rates in the State. We pay some of the highest electricity rates in the nation, the list goes on and on, gas, milk, transportation costs, et cetera. How would this affect our fragile economy we have on Molokai? Our businesses would suffer, increased cost would be passed on to the consumers making it more expensive to raise our families on this island that we love. We do tillage work for homestead farmers. We purchase computers for the middle schools. We helped revive the Molokai High School ag program. Donated a greenhouse so they can raise native plants.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ARCE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Punana Leo in their Hoomau. These are just some things that we do to give back to our community. At our site we have both husbands and wives from the same family employed, so can you imagine what these families are feeling? Antonio, Perez, Mawai, Gamit, Victorino, Starkey, _____, these are some of the names of the 300 families that will be affected. These families' livelihood are in jeopardy. How would they pay for their mortgages, car loans, pay for their kids to go to college?

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ARCE: True they can get government assistance. Especially with a lot of my coworkers, they were once on welfare and now they're proud contributing citizens to our island.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MR. ARCE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . my own income on my own farm. But I scared now 'cause now that we have all of the...okay. A hui ho. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon. One more please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Okay. Our next testifier is Willy Kauwenaole.

MR. KAUWENAOLE: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is William Kauwenaole and I am here on my behalf as an individual to give you my testimony. I am a resident here on Molokai, born and raised on the East Side of Molokai. My family has land up there at Mapulehu where we were brought up by our grandparents. Molokai means everything to me. Having this bill would cause terrible effects meaning higher expenses. Small businesses here that Mycogen and Monsanto buy products from will lose money, and other people will lose their jobs, not only the seed corporations. Mycogen and Monsanto are the biggest employers on Molokai with about 500 people combined. If you're going to shut us down then what are we going to do for money? We can't pay bills with fish or deer meat. Or what about our kids? How are we going to provide for them if we don't have a job? I'm having a baby girl coming into this world and I need this job to support her with everything. This is where I grew up and I want to, want her to experience the lifestyle only people on Molokai can provide. No other island I want to be to find a job. I'm currently employed at Mycogen Seeds. I've been working there since I was 15 years of age and now I'm 23. Since working there I haven't experienced or seen anything harmful to me or coworkers. Our main focus at our site is safety. Every morning before starting our daily tasks we have safety meetings and programs to better protect others and ourselves.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. KAUWENAOLE: So all in all we are doing everything legally and safe. So with that said, I am William Kauwenaole and I oppose this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon. I will come back to the Chambers. We'll go to number 12, Rebecca Sydney, and following her will be at 13 Tara Grace.

MS. SYDNEY: Good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MS. SYDNEY: Thank you, Council members. My name's Rebecca Sydney. We all know that GMOs are harmful to the environment, killing the soil, the toxic chemicals, contamination of non-GMO crops. In the last testimony session last week, a woman reported living near a Monsanto field, was diagnosed with growing corn silk in her throat. Another woman testified her glyphosate

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levels in her urine were higher than a farmer's levels. We also eat GMOs every day and they are harmful to our health. Once you identify ingredients in food that are GMO you will see the health correlations. And there're labeled warnings because they are not safe for everyone. It is a fact that food is a direct link to health, so are GMO foods safe? Monsanto would tell you a resounding yes. They even brag that 75 percent of all processed foods and fast food and junk food and soda drinks and food colorings and additives containing GMOs, they all do. Is this something to be proud of? These foods make people sick, 'causes obesity, depression, headaches, diabetes, high blood pressure, foggy brain, bad teeth, acne, cancer. They say they're safe but GMO foods and additives have warning labels because they are not safe for everyone. This is really confusing to consumers. It reminds me of that Harry Truman quote, if you can't convince them, confuse them.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SYDNEY: There are dozens of GMO ingredients linked to illnesses, one is aspartame, it's genetically modified E. coli bacteria. People who can't metabolize the phenylalanine which this is, they develop mental retardation, high blood pressure, stroke, cancer, Graves' disease. There's a company called Merisant Corporation who was a maker of aspartame, in 2009 had to file bankruptcy because their sales plummeted. They...

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. SYDNEY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony, Ms. Sydney. Tara Grace, and following her we'll be at number 14 Bruce Douglas.

MS. GRACE: Aloha. My name is Tara Grace and I am 100 percent in support of the initiative, temporary moratorium on GMO crop. When I sit here in the Chambers and I listen to the people of Molokai very deeply concerned about their jobs, my heart breaks, it really does in empathy. And I think about the Chinese and they say the symbol for crisis equals opportunity. In a day where the vocabulary includes the words like sustainability, organic, et cetera, there are so many brilliant farmers out there showing soil remediation, environmental scientists coming and talking about the benefits of organic. It, there's no argument really. How can one justify chemicals versus organic? So on that note, the other is it's an election year and I am personally paying very close attention to candidates that include the word sustainability in their vocabulary in meet the candidates evenings, and so sad and depressing to not hear that word very often. There are a few courageous standup people who are using those words and they are running and I am supporting them. I won't mention those names but keep an eye out, they know that language. I know for a fact that all the County Council members on Friday were delivered as a gift from the creator of the film the *Genetic Roulette* as a means to educate the Council because I have personally asked

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MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MS. GRACE: --a number of you, you know, what's your position on this moratorium? I don't know enough facts, I'm not sure. Well I'll tell you one thing, I am one of your constituents who are paying attention to how much you are paying attention or not paying attention. And so you all have that video. I hope you took the weekend to pay attention for an hour and a half and watch it to see how the whole wide world has something to say. Fifty-two countries have banned GMO products --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. GRACE: --and we are the seed bank for the world, and that is why I oppose GMO food in my home. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Bruce Douglas, and following Mr. Douglas at number 15 is Leo Agcolicol.

MR. DOUGLAS: Name's Bruce Douglas. SHAKA movement is very concerned about the biotech workers of Maui County, about their physical health and their economic health. SHAKA is creating a community-based effort to assist displaced workers to find sustainable jobs. To accomplish this SHAKA has a threefold plan. First, SHAKA has created an employment co-op for displaced biotech workers, for businesses and organizations who are willing to offer jobs to displaced biotech workers, who will accept resumes, and who are willing to find these workers safe jobs. We are contacting businesses and organizations across Maui and Molokai to sign up for this employment co-op. Second, for the displaced workers who want to become real farmers we have secured farmable land where they can lease for low cost to grow the food that we need on Maui to become sustainable. In addition, there's farm mentoring programs that are being created now by the Farmers Union United, the Maui Farmers Union where wannabe farmers can learn organic and regenerative farming practices. Third, we have begun crowd funding and grant writing and are in communication with multiple universities searching for grant money to start soil remediation programs on land on Molokai and Maui that have been degraded by years of chemical farming where biomass is added back to the soil, fungi are used to regenerate soil, and indigenous microbes are returned to the soil. We are looking to return the life back to our soil. This program can employ displaced workers.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. DOUGLAS: And I want to make an apology to the Council, in my last testimony I insinuated that some of the Council members had accepted campaign money from biotech companies, their allies, and their lobbyists, I've since found this is not true. Oahu and Kauai council members have accepted biotech money. All four of Hawaii's mayors have accepted money, and the State Legislature Senators and Representatives have accepted significant money to the tune of nearly half million dollars, but Maui is the only County in Hawaii where none of its Council members have accepted any biotech money --

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. DOUGLAS: --2010 to 2013 that we can trace. Congratulations. Thank you. And I apologize, I was wrong.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your...

MR. DOUGLAS: We're all looking forward...also SHAKA is looking forward to being invited to make its presentation to the County just as any developer or Council member who presents their thing, we're looking forward to that opportunity to make our presentation to the County. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Douglas. Next we'll have at number 15 Leo Agcolicol followed at 16, Pat Simmons, Jr.

MR. AGCOLICOL: Honorable Members of the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. My name is Leo Agcolicol and I am a community leader who has deep and abiding ties with our beloved Maui. I came to Hawaii a second generation immigrant who prospered because of the sacrifices of parents who worked in the sugar cane plantations. Like many tatas and nanas came to Hawaii in search for a better life for their children. Farming and agriculture are in our blood and our ancestors were farmers, even in the Philippines. I am upset at what I see happening here on Maui under attack. A decent future, this is what our people are asking for today even as their livelihood is being threatened by petitions. My heart goes to them and to their families as they face the battle of misinformation. We know that the initiative is supported by people who do not understand --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. AGCOLICOL: --practices with grow healthy first and free insects, diseases...*(inaudible)*... Our Maui economy is dependent on agriculture and we are worried that the devastating effect this moratorium, if this moratorium passes. I'm a leader in a community organization within the Filipino community, and that our member organizations whether directly or indirectly --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. AGCOLICOL: --the pain because no one will be immune from economic, the effects of the moratorium is being passed. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Agcolicol, for your testimony this afternoon. Pat Simmons, Jr. at 16, and following him at number 17 is Christine Somner Simmons.

MR. SIMMONS: Aloha ka kou. My name is Pat Simmons, Jr. I was raised in Peahi and I went to Haiku School where there was Roundup being sprayed on my playground and my parents tried to get them to stop spraying Roundup a long time ago. And I'm a cancer survivor. Almost five

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months to the day I was bald and my last chemo treatment was on January 28th and I have survived. And I think the real issue that we're talking about here is pesticides and poison, 'cause that's really what GMOs are doing and that's really what these companies are trying to do with their businesses is create a product that they can spray and the plant won't die, you know. And, you know, I surf Hookipa every morning at dawn. You'll find me there paddling out at 5:00 a.m., and I'm concerned for the ocean health, I'm concerned for swimming and pesticides. And I don't know how I got cancer but I know that a lot of these carcinogens lead to cancer and, you know, the pesticides. And I have a lot of friends who are from the mainland who want to come visit, you know, as tourists and they're telling me they don't want to come to Maui anymore because of the issues with the pesticides and all the industries that are destroying the aina. And so I think the tourism industry is at fault here as well. And I think there are a huge amount, there are probably more jobs in tourism industry than there are in the biotech industry on Maui, and if you include all the hotels and everything. So I think you have to take account that the tourism industry could take a hit as well if nobody wants to come here 'cause its poisoned aina, yeah. And I also want to say that --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. SIMMONS: --there are ways to grow food organically and make a lot of money doing it. I have friends who are, who grow only organic and that's their job, and so if you want to make money growing food you can do it organically, you don't need to spray poison and risk yourself getting cancer and, you know, poisoning all the other keiki around the world. So please I hope you support this initiative to temporarily ban GMO crops on Maui. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Appreciate it. Christine Somner Simmons, please, followed at number 18, Dario Bernacchi.

MS. SIMMONS: Hi, my name is Christine Somner Simmons. I'm very proud of my son, I'd like to say first of all. We moved to Peahi 20 years ago to raise our kids and to have a small family farm which we've done. We did see them spraying Roundup at our son's school when he was in second grade and we went to the school and we said please, what are you spraying, why are you spraying poison on the playground, and they said oh, it's no big deal, it'll go away when it rains and it's just on the weekend. And I didn't think that was a right thing and I knew it was wrong. My heart goes out to the people who are here who work for the, for Monsanto and the other companies and people on Molokai. I know you have, your heart is in the right place, you want to support your families with jobs, but really there are jobs in organic farming. Organic farming is huge. I just got back from the mainland, I went to Costco, there was a whole giant room bigger than this just with organic foods and items that are organic. I think people want them, people demand them. We don't want to feed poison to our children. You know the lady in Molokai who's farming with her babies, you know, I worry about those kids breathing that stuff, getting it on their skin, it's not right. That, you know, if you want to do that, fine, but then it gets in our streams and my son swims in the stream. He swims at Twin Falls, he swims in the ocean every day. We don't know how he got cancer, and I hope no one else has to go through what we did the last year of his life that he's gone through. And I just want to say there's got to be a way we

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can work together with Monsanto, with Syngenta, with other companies to provide jobs that are safe for all the workers who are out there --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SIMMONS: --every day, too. So I just want to say thank you for listening and letting us voice our opinions. And let's be safe, let's be happy together. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Okay. Dario Bernacchi, and following Dario at number 19 is Carol Reimann.

MR. BERNACCHI: Mr. Chair, my name is Dario Bernacchi. I work for Monsanto. I have a PhD in plant breeding and genetics from Cornell University. I'm a technologist. I'm here because I want to be, not on behalf of the company but rather on behalf of a person who knows about biology. It seems to me this issue has been taken far out of the level of reasoning and following fact. There's already a very well established structures to determine the safety of these products, and the ones that are grown here are amongst those. There's no problem whatsoever. In fact they're grown over, you know, half of the central plains of the US with no problems. One of the things that seems to me is that this issue is taken a little bit to the extreme side of just going by emotions and not following fact, and I would just ask this Council to, you know, look at the data, look at the peer-reviewed reports, look at the processes in place by the FDA and HDOA and USDA and act on that. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. One second --

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Sir.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Mr. Bernacchi. Yes, Ms. Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Mr. Bernacchi, if you could please state your, what you do. I'm sorry, I missed it.

MR. BERNACCHI: I am, I'm currently doing process improvement, I work with machinery that improves the seed process on how we handle things in our operation.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Number 19, Carol Reimann, to be followed at number 20, Albert Arcinas.

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MS. REIMANN: Aloha, Chair Hokama and Members of the Policy Committee. My name is Carol Reimann. I work for Monsanto but here today I'm testifying as a local girl who grew up on Maui. When I was a kid at Kahului School ashes from the sugar cane fields sometimes blew into the playground, we called it black snow but continued to play and we would go home and sweep out our garages. No one got sick from it and no one complained. It may have been an inconvenience for some but it was really not a big deal. Agriculture was an important part of our daily lives. Our agriculture industry helped to build hospitals, schools, parks, and homes. They contributed in a huge way to our community. They made way for our rainbow melting pot, and despite the fact that we came from different ethnic backgrounds with different accents and different cultures we made it work. While we may not have always gotten along, the strict upbringing by our parents demanded that we always treat one another with respect and compassion. Our core values mandated that we never be disrespectful to one another, even when things were not easy, or we would get lickings from our parents. Growing up, we were taught to do the right thing, respect others, no talk stink, and no talk if you don't understand. Today I am saddened to see a different culture emerging here in Hawaii. I don't recognize the faces and I definitely don't recognize the values. I don't see much respect nor do I see much compassion in this issue before the Council today. Quite frankly I am shocked with some of the things that I have seen in association with this movement, awful acts --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. REIMANN: --like creating threatening posters full of hate language and using pictures of innocent people without their permission, anonymously plastered on utility poles throughout the island. I see pictures of agricultural employees used without their permission posted all over social media with derogatory and demeaning comments simply because they have a difference of opinion. I see lies being spread as if they are the truth by people who really don't understand the harm that they are causing. And I see costly damage --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. REIMANN: --to public and private property. It is distressing. Never in my life on Maui have I seen such hateful and disrespectful acts. We were raised to behave with respect. I ask that we remember those values today. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*clapping*). . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Okay, let's keep the decorum here. Next is Albert Arcinas, and Mr. Arcinas will be followed at 21 at, with Darren Strand.

MR. ARCINAS: Good afternoon, Chairperson Hokama --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

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MR. ARCINAS: --and Committee members. My name is Albert Arcinas and I'm here to testify against this proposed moratorium on GMO. I've been working in the Hawaii agriculture industry since 1996. I have a Master's of Science from the University of Hawaii, CTAHR in plant pathology, and I'm gainfully employed by Monsanto for the last five years. I'm proud of my profession and I've worked for small producers in the Big Island, I've worked for the university, I've worked for the sugar cane industry formerly known as Hawaii Sugar Planters Association, and now the global seed company Monsanto. I still think and feel that producing and developing products that help feed the world is a rewarding and honorable profession. The accusation that farmers would ever make products or willingly engage in practices that would harm humans or the environment goes against every principle farmers and producers need to stay in business and succeed. The agricultural industry and farmers by necessity need to follow the guidelines already established by the USDA, FDA, and EPA. Farmers are already required to take food production and environmental safety seriously or they will be out of business. In addition, farmers in Hawaii are already facing insurmountable obstacles to success. Lack of available land, distance to markets, cost and availability of labor and supplies. It is no wonder why so many acres of productive land are laying fallow and returning to weeds and invasive species. This contributes to high rural unemployment and rural infrastructure decay. This is the reality we face today.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ARCINAS: City Council members do not need to be reminded of these problems yet we are here debating an outright ban on a proven technology that is allowing farmers to increase production with far less inputs. Hawaii-based seed production helps farmers throughout the world increase production safely. One day biotechnology may be necessary to save Hawaii producers of sugar cane, pineapple, coffee, and taro, as it did for papaya on the Big Island. There is no denying this technology works, and these seed companies would not --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ARCINAS: --exist and they would not be global corporations in over 80 countries worldwide. Farms and farmers are good for Hawaii. We need agriculture, all agriculture, biotech and conventional, small organic farms and large producers. We can exist together I believe. Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Arcinas. Next Mr. Darren Strand, after Mr. Strand we'll go back to the regional offices.

MR. STRAND: All right. Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Couch, Members of the Committee, thanks for the opportunity to be here today. I'm Darren Strand and I'm here today as the president of Maui Gold Pineapple Company. We're farming pineapple on just over 1,000 acres below Makawao Town. Currently we have 74 full-time employees who are well paid and have access to subsidized health and welfare for their families along with many other benefits. I'm testifying in

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opposition to this bill, it is simply anti-agriculture and shifts our industry's focus from more important issues. The Maui Gold variety that we grow and market was bred through traditional plant breeding by scientists here on Maui in the early '70s. We were really lucky that a healthy, vibrant plantation system at one time generated the extra capital and the industry leaders of the time had the foresight to invest in creating the next varieties of pineapple for the entire world. Since the closure of the Hawaii Pineapple Research Institute in 1986, there hasn't been any significant efforts for breeding in the US; it's simply too expensive and resource consuming for a dwindling industry. What I want to address today is actually my opinions on a broader topic, regulations impact on innovation. Agriculture, including chemical usage, cropping systems, soil conservation, and genetics are already heavily regulated by the EPA, USDA, Department of Health, and so on. I am not suggesting that we need less regulation; however, we could be driving innovation and creating an environment that favors new solutions, new ideas, new approaches, because like with many industries we are continually facing new problems. Innovators don't steer their efforts by first considering regulatory burdens, generally efforts are oriented towards solving specific problems and directing creativity and resources towards solutions. Allowing unnecessary regulations in this situation could have a stifling impact on agricultural innovation --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. STRAND: --in our County. We are in an exciting time for local farmers and ranchers. Local demand for high quality ag products is being driven by programs like the County of Maui's Grown on Maui, Localicious which is a partnership between local farmers and chefs on Maui, and increasing access to small farmers' products at farmers markets and distributors that have specialized in this type of thing.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. STRAND: Simply put, innovation and regulation don't play well together. Balanced regulation with common sense, and within that framework allow the marketplace and economics to drive innovation. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Strand. We're going to go to the Hana Office. Ms. Lono, do you have a testifier waiting?

MS. LONO: Yes, Chair, I have Ms. Justine Gabrielle Till.

MS. TILL: Hello.

MS. LONO: Say your name.

MS. TILL: My name is Justine Gabrielle Till and I'm here to testify on behalf of the aina, the keiki, and all the people that love and live on this planet and on this island. I am a scientist. I was trained, I have my bachelor's degree, cum laude, no less, from ...*(inaudible)*... in biology and

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psychology. And I did reports on genetics and hybrids, and what happens when you hybridize things like, you know, putting fish genes into tomatoes like Monsanto and Syngenta have done is that there's an _____ breakdown which is why they have to produce it every generation. So what they have found is actually there's a third generation of sterility that happens when farm animals are fed this, replacing corn and grain. Ninety percent of the Bt corn that is destroying the world in my opinion because it causes leaky gut along with the hybridized wheat, and what that does is it causes you to have holes in you intestines and it allows you...it doesn't allow you to absorb your nutrients anymore. The result is that...see I've worked for over ten years with people with disabilities, particularly autism, and Maui has a lot of people with autism. I worked one time with a child who was 10 years old and 160 pounds. A little Filipino kid, the son of a nana that worked in the fields for Monsanto, had no idea how poisonous it was. You walk in her house and the kitchen table is an altar to GMO food and pesticides and plastic things that shouldn't actually ever be eaten but they got snuck in anyway. And we were never given a chance to ask our permission, and you know what, I've seen the studies that happen now by independent studies . . .(inaudible) . . .

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. TILL: Monsanto doesn't run their studies for more than three months at a time which is not enough time to see the cancer and the sterility that's going to form in their children's children's children. But the third generation you see it, it happens really quickly. So this is a revolving door of the politics and the FDA and the USDA and Monsanto and if you track it you can find it very easily. And the point is that their politics and the regulations that are supposed to be in place are not real and they're obviously falsely manipulated --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. TILL: --to make it seem that there's not real controls, you can't run studies on the long-term effects of something and only run it for three months because that's not long term, that's three months, it's a quarter. So SHAKA movement I should also make a note does not put hate posts out --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. TILL: --those are different companies and entities that did that. That's why SHAKA movement likes to stay in integrity. And Maui Pineapple, when you, when that company, when DDT was becoming illegal Maui Pineapple --

MS. NAKATA: Two and a half minutes.

MS. TILL: --. . .(inaudible). . . even though it was shown to cause sterility and tumors and deformities, and it still stayed on the Maui Gold pineapples today --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

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MS. TILL: --and that is wrong. Real pineapples have seeds.

MS. LONO: I think your two minutes is up.

MS. TILL: Okay. So that's what I have to say. I choose to refute that which is untrue in the statements that have been stated by the supposed...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Your time is up. Thank you very much.

MS. TILL: Because they are lies.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Next. Do you have anyone else, Hana District?

MS. TILL: Thank you.

MS. LONO: I have no one else at the Hana Office waiting to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Lono. Lanai, Ms. Fernandez, do you have anyone wishing to provide testimony?

MS. FERNANDEZ: The Lanai Office has no one waiting to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Molokai, next, please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jae Won Perez.

MS. PEREZ: Hello, everyone. I would like to Chairman Hokama, Vice-Chair Couch, and Committee members in taking the time to listen to my testimony. My name is Jae Won Perez, a resident of Molokai. I earned my bachelors in biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I work for Mycogen Seeds. I strongly oppose in placing a moratorium of the cultivation on genetically engineered organisms because I truly believe that GE operations and practices and crops cause no harm to the people and the environment. GE operations and crops are highly regulated by the FDA, USDA, EPA, and APHIS. There are no scientific data indicating proper usage of pesticides and consuming GMO products causes any health risks and/or concerns. I believe that my company as well as any other seed companies follow strictly imposed regulations and guidelines. Our company puts a high emphasis on creating a safe work environment. Everywhere around the world people strive to extend the lifespan of humans. We have expanded the world's population to 7 billion people with the help of new technologies, research, and medical breakthroughs. But what is the purpose in trying so hard to extend the lifespan of humans if we will never be able to produce enough food sources for the people? Without the help of biotechnology and GE crops we will never be able to feed this rapidly expanding world. Our island has the highest unemployment rate of 8.6 percent as of May 2014. If this bill was to pass --

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MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. PEREZ: --it would take away so many jobs and opportunities for our Molokai residents. It will not only impact our workers, it will directly impact our economy and local businesses. I urge the Committee to think about this question, is it worth to place a moratorium which will negatively impact people's lives, community, economy, and the future of our island solely based on speculations and no proven scientific data? Thank you very much for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next person, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Albert Antonio.

MR. ANTONIO: Good afternoon and aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Albert Antonio and I am testifying on my behalf of myself as an individual. I start working in agricultural land here in Molokai in 1984 until now. It's about 30 years. I have been employed with Mycogen Seeds in 1997. Since I've been working at Mycogen I haven't had any health issue. I currently have two daughters that are in college whose tuitions need to be paid. If this initiative is passed my family will lose their healthcare benefits. I won't be able to pay for my daughter tuition, my mortgages, and even my food for us every day. Not only me but thousands and thousands of workers going be affected. I love my job and I love the people here in Molokai. I think if this initiative if it passes --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ANTONIO: --could impact my family income very significantly. That's why I strongly oppose this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jason Matayoshi.

MR. MATAYOSHI: Aloha, Maui County Council members. My name is Jason Matayoshi and thank you for allowing me the time to express my deepest opposition to this initiative. This Maui farming ban initiative would be devastating to Maui County's economy, especially to Molokai. Agriculture is the largest private industry on Molokai with the seed industry that grow GM crops employing the majority of the total agricultural workforce. Biotech companies expanded their operations on Molokai at a time when many people lost their jobs from the closing of Kaluakoi Resort and Molokai Ranch. Many of those employees found employment at Monsanto and Mycogen. If this ban initiative passes what other source of employment would be left for us? Every week our business touches every other business on this island directly and indirectly. The demand for crops is extremely high; however, there are fewer farmers and farms growing crops we need to survive. We need biotechnology to ensure we have adequate food supply for our present and the future. It is very important that we allow these companies to continue to do their work here. Hawaii has the climate to grow crops year round and that is very important in the

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production of biotech crops. My grandparents were farmers in the 1940s and they struggled fighting off pests to deliver a crop for others to enjoy. Our crops are shown to provide large amounts of benefits over conventional crops. Monsanto --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MATAYOSHI: --cares deeply for the community providing countless number of donations each year. They follow all Federal and State guidelines to ensure the highest level of safety to our workers and the community. Many of us live around our farms and our workers wouldn't want anything more and to ensure that it is safe for our friends and family. This moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered crops would put hundreds of people out of a job leading to mass unemployment number. This ban would adversely affect dozens of businesses and their employees who rely on our companies like Monsanto and Mycogen. The problem would snowball into the entire community --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MATAYOSHI: --compounding problems for each affected family member. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon. Next, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Norma Agcaoili.

MS. AGCAOILI: Hello. Good afternoon, Committee Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Couch, Molokai Councilwoman Stacy Crivello, and respected Council members. My name is Norma Agcaoili and I'm employed by Monsanto Molokai along with my husband Alberto Agcaoili. We have four children, I have one boy, three girls. This job provides all of our living expenses. It also provided me to offer my children a college education which now today I have my son who's a dentist, two daughters who's registered nurses, and my last daughter who just finished a nursing school and awaiting her registration. If we both lost our job with Monsanto I will be very devastated, I will have no income, no medical, and I'm not old enough to qualify for Medicare. And I will not be able to survive unemployment. One hundred twenty-nine employees will be affected by this bill. I oppose this moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Next.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Susan Poaha.

MS. POAHA: Aloha. My name is Susan Poaha, born and raised on the island of Molokai on a homestead where my parents, grandparents, great grandparents lived. I oppose the moratorium bill, and I'm for agriculture. Fuel, we need fuel, that's GM, GMO, paint cars, you name it. Clothes that we wear is GMO. Prescription drugs, especially insulin for our diabetes people that's GMO. Put food on the table for my family. Everyone should backtrack on their hereditary family disease. This will affect a lot of people and business, is that what you want? Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Alcon, last one and then we're going to take a break. One more from Molokai, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Cynthia McCutcheon.

MS. McCUTCHEON: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Cynthia McCutcheon. I am a full-time employee at Mycogen Seeds. I come before you to voice my concerns on the moratorium of the cultivation of GE organisms. If this initiative passes the economic impact on our community will be huge. Monsanto and Mycogen are the largest employers on the island and directly support many local businesses. In 2008 over 100 employees lost their jobs including myself and my mom when Molokai Ranch which was then the island's largest employer shut down operations including hotels, restaurants, a movie theatre, and a golf course. This was the major factor in the island's high unemployment rate. I don't want to even imagine what will happen to our economy if the seed companies are forced to shut down leaving four times as many Molokai residents unemployed. It would be devastating. Jobs are hard to come by here. There aren't many opportunities for employment. When you have a job you hold on to it. The SHAKA movement has said that our jobs at stake don't matter. It matters. It matters a great deal to the employees and their families who depend on them to put food on the table, to raise their keiki, to put a roof over their head, and secure their future. Buying a home is beyond the reach of many people and oftentimes so is renting here on the island, that is why many local families share housing with --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. McCUTCHEON: --extended family. This job has given me the opportunity of becoming a home owner. We just purchased our lot in Maunaloa where we plan to build our home. What if, what's going to happen if I lose my job? This initiative puts forth many scary allegations which are creating confusion and fear at the expense of biotech farmers and their families. Molokai is my home, it's my life, this is where I want to raise my son --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. McCUTCHEON: --nowhere else. I want him to grow up here and be surrounded by family and friends. This is where our roots are. Please consider the impact that this initiative will have on not just my life but many lives in our community. Mahalo for taking the time to hear my testimony today. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Members, we shall take a recess for personal and Staff requirements. We shall return at 3:45. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:35 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:49 p.m.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(*gavel*). . . We shall return to order. We will get back to the testimony in the Chambers. At number 22 Chris Strickland, and following him at 23 will be Adam Lottig, L-O-T-T-I-G. Please come forward.

MR. STRICKLAND: Aloha, Council. Thanks for hearing things. My name is Chris. Been on Maui for about a year and a month now, and came, tried to find a good place to live, you know, try to grow food and take care of things. Come from a place that's fracking right now and it's destroying everything. Texas, the water is just completely messed up with natural gas and people are getting sick everywhere and so I had to get out and try to find something that I could believe in. And not that I know much about genetically modified food but I know it's a huge risk. I know there's things that people don't understand even with a master's degree. They're finding out that years down the line they just don't know what they're doing. It's always changing, always changing. And with the pesticides, I mean that's never a good idea, that's just for, you know, everybody knows that. But to...and the fact that you can create a strain of something that can actually like go into another organism like you can cross-pollinate and then that thing comes, it becomes genetically modified. So you can't even differentiate the two after it's cross-pollinated. I mean a lot of the things are, you know, killing things, there's no birds flying over Monsanto, there's no bees flying over, there's no...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. STRICKLAND: I mean it's...I haven't seen too much and I'm talking more from a perspective that doesn't know everything but I do know some things and I have done research. And I have eaten corn for a long time and I don't eat corn anymore. And I know Monsanto is trying to feed the world but do they ever feed Hawaii? Do they ever produce seed for Maui?

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. STRICKLAND: Completely in support of the moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much for your testimony. Twenty three, Adam Lottig, and he will be followed by May Fujiwara.

MR. LOTTIG: Good afternoon, Council. Thank you for being here today. I have had the privilege in the short time that I've lived here...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair, what is the...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .(*inaudible*). . . your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And I couldn't hear his name.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Name.

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MR. LOTTIG: My name is Adam Lottig and I've had the privilege during the short time that I've worked here on Maui to be working with some really revolutionary people in the areas of agroforestry and native and traditional farming, and in recreational development and recreational management for land practices. And I have seen the potentiality to restore some of the native ways of thought that the trees clean the soil and the trees produce more habitat and more filtration for the soil and more resources for us. And by developing land in a way that you build trails and you create it in a way that opens it up to the people and opens it back up to people getting out in nature and seeing the beauty that is out and about then we can all work together and come up with new ways --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. LOTTIG: --of creating this future that we all want to see together. Because we're all here for the same reason, we're all here because we love this place and we want to work together. And by supporting the moratorium we can look to new things and look to new ways of being and look to ways of working together. I just heard Uncle Alika --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. LOTTIG: --speaking with honorable Council member over here and they were just saying that we can't do this like this, we can't have this separation, this split is not the Maui, it's not the Hawaiian way. We need to all come together and work together. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next is May Fujiwara, and following Ms. Fujiwara at 25 will be Anita Yamafuji.

MS. FUJIWARA: Good afternoon, Chair Hokama and members of the Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is May Fujiwara, a long-time resident of West Maui. I'm here to urge you not to support the initiative to place a moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered organisms. My main reason for this is because so many jobs will be lost, especially for workers on Molokai. If these workers lose their jobs they will have to rely on their relatives or on our government, local, State, and Federal. They will have to rely on the welfare system and our nonprofit social services which in the long run will burden our taxpayers. This will have a trickledown effect. Other jobs and companies that service our agricultural industry will be impacted. As will the retail stores as less money will be spent on clothing, et cetera. Our hardworking local farmers who put in many hours toiling in all sorts of weather will be affected by this moratorium. They're already burdened with all sorts of regulations. Please don't make it harder for them to make a living by putting more restrictions on their farming practices. If this initiative is not stopped the price of food will escalate. GMO crops use less land and water which results in higher crop yields --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MS. FUJIWARA: --which in turn make groceries affordable. We see a continuous rise in cost of gasoline, electricity, water, taxes, medication. Our senior citizens are on a fixed income with little or no raises. Some of our seniors already have to choose between missing a meal or two or taking their medication. Again, I urge you not to put a moratorium on GMO crops. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Fujiwara. Next we'll have Anita Yamafuji, and following her at 26 is Don Gerbig.

MS. YAMAFUJI: Aloha, Chairman, Chair Hokama and members of the Committee. My name is Anita Yamafuji. I'm asking you not to put moratorium on GMOs. I live, I have lived in West Maui all my life. I remember growing up in Lahaina and working in the cane fields as a youngster and how hard the work was. I can imagine how hard our local farmers have to work and long hours they put into provide food for us. Please don't burden them with more regulations. This is what we'll have, going to if you pass this bill to put the moratorium on cultivation of GM crops. Also, approximately 600 people will lose their jobs, most of them live on Molokai if you place a moratorium on GM crops. These people like most of the young people everywhere need to work to support their parents. GMOs have higher crop yields which make grocery affordable because they don't need huge farms to grow on and use less water. GMO not only help us but also help feed the hungry and malnutrition in developing countries like Africa and South America.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. YAMAFUJI: Thank you for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Next we have Mr. Don Gerbig, and following Mr. Gerbig is at 27 Lloyd Fischel.

MR. GERBIG: Good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MR. GERBIG: My name is Don Gerbig. I have over 40 years in agriculture, Hawaii agricultural production including growing GMO crops for Gay & Robinson on Kauai. I'm testifying in opposition of this bill. I have several comments. After reading the initiative I find that the rhetoric supporting the proposal is so misleading and inaccurate that it would take days to respond to it, and it lacks a lot of scientific credibility so I'm not going to respond. This initiative singles out the two GMO seed companies doing business, producing revenues, paying taxes, providing 600 jobs on Maui County . . .(inaudible) . . . This initiative also stigmatizes these two companies and their products without scientific proof, provides the means to shut them down, and put all their 600 employees on Maui and Molokai on unemployment. Their justification for such a study fails to acknowledge, ignores any of the currently known scientific evidence showing the safety of these products, and at the Federal and State registered pesticides that other farmers in Hawaii are losing, might be using on their crops also. This to me indicates a complete ignorance of agricultural practices. Is this just one of the many justifications for not

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accepting the ordinance? Since a study would mandate it, this would as I said before put people out of business and out of work. If this ordinance should go into effect and a moratorium be put into place the study period where the current company...where are these employees going to do? Will SHAKA pay their wages? I understand that they have a program.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. GERBIG: One of these programs is...one of these employers is the largest employer on Molokai. In reviewing this initiative we should remind ourselves that we will not be able to understand the basic scientific facts if we ignore them as this initiative does. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and I offer on Page 2 of my written testimony a series of companies...not companies, research organizations --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. GERBIG: --that approve GMOs. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Gerbig. Lloyd Fischel, and he will be followed at number 28, Don...Dan Clegg.

MR. FISCHEL: Good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MR. FISCHEL: We're really all in the same boat and no one here wants to eat poisons, nobody here wants to eat dangerous food, so we have a problem. We all know that poisons are dangerous, that's why the word poison is poison, it means danger. The first page of the Roundup claims that were shown here earlier says right on the front page of the Roundup label, poison, skull and crossbones for a reason. Alan Arakawa entered into an agreement with Monsanto, the largest producer of poisons in the world without Council approval. No one could have anticipated this political move nor participated as citizens in his thinking. This act broke the trust in the separation of powers principle. This appearance of indifference to our political structure has now created havoc. Member Cochran transmitted to the Council an ordinance provided by concerned citizens and did so in accordance with a Council person's responsibility in our form of government, and knowing that due diligence, debate, deliberation would occur in Committee. That ordinance is identified in this Committee's agenda as PIA-58. The proposed ordinance PIA-78 does not have to be acted upon and should be deliberated --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. FISCHEL: --to be incorporated with PIA-58. This is common sense leadership and will begin bringing us back together as a body politic, something the voters are certain to acknowledge. And any other action continues to break the bonds initiated by the Mayor. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Fischel. Mr. Dan Clegg at number 28, to be followed at number 29 Deborah Mader, M-A-D-E-R. Please proceed.

MR. CLEGG: Okay. Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee members. Thank you very much for the time to speak. I'm a third generation farmer. I have over 25 years of experience farming. I've been involved in production agriculture, home gardening, sort of the whole wide range of agriculture practices. I oppose the moratorium. Now I do have a degree in agriculture. I hunt, I fish, I garden, I raise chickens, I process them, my own food, I do all the things that actually bring me very close to our land, water, and our air. So, you know, it's important to me to be very connected to the ground. That's the way I was raised and that's who I am. I'm also a land manager for Monsanto company. I spend much of my time trying to figure out a better way we can work with our neighbors, support local food sustainability practice, support soil and water conservation efforts, and to help others in general. Some people in our community have concerns about farmers like Monsanto and the work that we do. The concerns you will hear today are concerns likely based on false information. In some cases willful slander, lies, and other tactics have been used to hurt farmers and ranchers in our County. In other cases we have some people that are genuinely confused and they need help, they need the right information about what is fact and what is fiction, and so hopefully we can set the record straight. This ordinance is a bought and paid for problem for our entire community, nothing good will come from it. This ordinance will have a direct negative impact on all of us, and it will negatively impact Hawaii agriculture. Now I'm against farming that is detrimental to the environment and I'm against farming --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. CLEGG: --that's detrimental to our health, but if any of the anti-ag, anti-GM statements that were made here today were even remotely true I wouldn't be standing here. I can find other work but I do this today because I'm going to stand here and I'm going to take the slings and arrows from a primarily non-farmer-based anti-movement primarily for the 540 employees that come to work every day to feed their families and feed a nation and feed a global community.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. CLEGG: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony Mr. Clegg. Deborah Mader...

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Sorry, Chair. Can I get a clarification question for Mr. Clegg?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. Mr. Clegg, if you would please. Ms. Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay. Just...thank you, Chair. And thank you, Mr. Clegg. Just real quick, you mentioned 540 employees. I've been jotting down all the numbers that people are putting out there as employees. So it runs from 1,400 on down to 249. What is the number?

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MR. CLEGG: So I think the 1,400 and I probably, I need to be careful how I answer this because I think the 1,400 is a broader scope number that says here's 540 employees across the County and if you take a look at their wages, their contributions and how they touch other family members it's going to affect 1,400 families directly. Now that doesn't include the trickledown effect and all the economic pieces that you'll probably hear about later.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay, thank you. So the 1,400 isn't specifically employees of...

MR. CLEGG: Not in Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay, got it.

MR. CLEGG: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Ms. Mader, if you would come forward and share your comments please, and following her at number 30 is Glenda Frederick.

MS. MADER: Thank you so much, Council, for sending this to Committee to give us the chance to discuss this. Thank you so much. I'm going to share with you some facts and I'm going, I'm delighted to share truth. I grew up in West Virginia and I'd like to share with you a story about 50 years of pollution by Monsanto in West Virginia.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Can we get her name, Mr. Chair?

MS. MADER: Deborah Mader. And this is coming from, I'm reading from the newspaper because I don't want to misquote. But the Supreme Court in West Virginia upheld approval of the settlement, a landmark lawsuit over pollution in the community of Nitro with dioxin from the former Monsanto chemical plant. Under the settlement thousands of Nitro area residents will be eligible for medical monitoring and property cleanups as part of the \$93 million deal. Ninety-three million dollars that this is going to have to come out of Monsanto's pocket. Now the stuff they were releasing for 50 years, dioxin. Dioxin has been linked to cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities, endometriosis, infertility, and suppressed immune functions. The chemical dioxin builds up in tissues over time, meaning that even a small exposure can accumulate to dangerous levels. Monsanto agreed to a 30-year, 30 years of medical monitoring of my people in West Virginia. They set aside \$21 million for initial testing and 63 million in additional money dependent on what levels of dioxin are found in the residents. They agreed to spend 9 million cleaning 4,500 --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MS. MADER: --homes in areas to rid themselves of dioxin contaminated dust. This goes on and on. I wish I had more time. I'm a Maui County resident, and there's a farmer on Molokai, organic farmer and she's had to move her crops three times because of Monsanto. And she's going to go out of business because she's going to lose her organic certification. She's a family farmer and she's too afraid to speak up because she's being bullied. So I just wanted to get her story in. And please put this moratorium on GMOs into the law. Thank you.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Glenda Frederick, please, and following her at number 31 is Tom Creagh.

MS. FREDERICK: My name is Glenda Frederick and I'm a nursing assistant, a grandmother, and a long-term resident of Maui. I'm in support of the moratorium. The intended or unintended chemical cocktail mixture from pesticides, herbicides, fungicides that are occurring in these open-field tests and seed crops being grown here in Maui County are potentially dangerous to our islands and everything that is Hawaii. And what's worse is that none of these combinations are known nor have any of them ever been tested yet they are occurring. There's no possible way they could not be occurring. They would have to defy the laws of physics and chemistry for them to not occur. So do you know what is happening here? Really, do you know? Are you aware of information that the public is not? If you are aware of such information or if you do have such information will you please show us the tests and the test results? Show us the comprehensive tests that determine every variable has been considered and proven to be safe, and please show us that the findings can be and have been verified by independent third parties or third party scientists. I ask will you please show us.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. FREDERICK: How could you even consider not making this a law immediately without having that information? Please justify how you could claim to be making an informed decision unless you have at least the very least...you have very least have that data and information. Cause people all over the country...'cause people all over the country who are tested, testing their urine are find glyphosate in their bodies. People living all around --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. FREDERICK: --these GAO [*sic*] operations are testing at levels of contamination that would be equal to or higher than that of workers who are applying this chemicals without any protective gear or equipment. This is what is happening. That's what's being found.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. FREDERICK: Okay, thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Next we have Mr. Tom Creagh, C-R-E-A-G-H, followed at number 32, Annie Quigley.

MR. CREAGH: Aloha. My name is Thomas Creagh. I'm a Maui County resident. I'm a dad of three. I have a five-year-old, three-year-old, and a new born. I just live down the street from the Monsanto fields and I'm very concerned for my kids' health. At the end of the day I understand what people are saying, it's either jobs or people's health, and to me people's health is more important than jobs. And, you know, I don't want anything to happen to my kids. They're going to go to school at Kamalii School in Kihei. We're not sure what they're spraying on their, on the plants every day. We don't know, they don't want to tell us. And, you know, we can talk about jobs here but why don't we just have a nuclear plant and then can't we create jobs then? That's the same thing. Or a chemical plant. It's the same thing, it's jobs at the end of the day, and we can have lots of organic farms here, we can create jobs for the people. But at the end of the day it's our kids health is more important than jobs. And everyone, Council, your grandkids, we don't know what they're spraying in the air. You've no idea. They're not going to tell us. And the people who work for Monsanto, they all have, got like masks and everything like that. People in Kihei, they don't have masks, we don't know what they're spraying in the air. Okay. And when I drive to Kahului every day I pass by the Monsanto field and I don't see a big sign saying Monsanto in the front and everything is all hidden. They got like all trees. Nobody wants to know what's going on, everything is kept secret.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. CREAGH: And it's no coincidence, it's black and white, 19,000 people voted or put it on a petition for this. It's black or white, 19,000 people who live in Maui don't want GMO, they don't want Monsanto, and we don't want it in our body. And enough is enough. GMO is banned in my country where I came from in Ireland, it's banned all over Europe. It's important that you guys have an opportunity to stop Monsanto and stop the GMO --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. CREAGH: --in America. Thank you very much. Bye.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Annie Quigley to be followed by Jen Azuma Chrupalyk. Annie Quigley. Are you Ms. Quigley? Okay, one last call. Annie Quigley. Okay, we'll move forward. Jen Azuma...I'm sorry, if you can pronounce your last name for us. Thank you.

MS. CHRUPALYK: Hi, my name is Jen Azuma Chrupalyk and I am here to support the moratorium. Okay, my first opening statement is that Monsanto is a company that opened in 1901 as an insecticide company which leads me to my question, how did an insecticide company become a leading farming industry? Where were we going with that? How do the two industries relate to each other? At which point did a company who spreads death become so worried about life? Does Monsanto employees know that all these good deeds that the company are doing are only

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tax write-offs that are reimbursed? Why do the employees stand up here and sound as though they are fear motivated? Where can we find factual evidence of the safety of these genetically modified organisms? And why does it sound like they are so fearful of their job loss and they're not concerned about the health or the general welfare of their families? If we continue to let GMOs go on as they are is Monsanto willing to pay for everyone's health bills? Are they going to take care of all the people whose lives are affected, whose families are affected by the poison that they're putting into our foods? I'd like to thank Maui Gold for verifying that we should also boycott their company if we want to keep our kids healthy. Whereas it is my understanding that members representing any government organization must uphold the integrity of the Constitution and the commonwealth that our Constitution is supposed to protect. It is also my understanding that allowing the GMO industry to terrorize the perpetuation of life in general is a breach --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. CHRUPALYK: --of our constitutional rights. These harsh chemicals have a negative impact on our families, children, animal, water supply, land, air, sea, and life in general where the crop dust affects miles beyond the GMO fields, up to ten miles to be exact. And in conclusion, I suggest that a viable solution to be that if Monsanto employees are so supportive of their company and keeping their jobs then maybe they should be in like plastic cages or something --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. CHRUPALYK: --so the rest of us aren't poisoned. Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. We'll go to the Molokai Office and ask Ms. Alcon for the next Molokai testifier.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Nicholei Galam-Dudoit.

MS. GALAM-DUDOIT: Aloha. My name is Nicholei Galam-Dudoit and I'm the youngest working employee of Monsanto Molokai. Being only 19 many have assumed that my age and lack of knowledge in the real world has caused me to be naïve to the issues faced in agriculture and the corn industry here in Hawaii. Now this is my testimony to you. Before even taking into consideration the possibility of working at a corporation based on genetic engineering operations and practices, I needed to be sure that what I was doing would in no way alter my standards of a healthy lifestyle or affect the wellbeing of my family and loved ones. Recently I was given the opportunity to explore new career choices; however, I chose to stay on Molokai and continue working at Monsanto. Had I believed that being employed by Monsanto would affect my health and wellbeing along with the ones I love I would have chose to leave. Here in Monsanto we receive safety briefings and training daily to ensure us that our practices are in no way harmful to anyone. There are over 120 employees here at Monsanto including myself. Over 120 employees have families who depend on the company for their livelihood. With the staggering amount of people who are on unemployment already this would be detrimental to our island's economy. The lack of employment here on Molokai has caused me to lose my parents and six siblings.

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Because the cost of living is so high on this island it has been very hard to raise a big family and so they chose to move away. Luckily Monsanto had not only provided one but two of us with income and employment, nevertheless it was not enough. As a little girl I witnessed the shutdown of Molokai Ranch, and even at such a young age I saw the and felt the impact it had on over 100 families as they lost their source of income. I witnessed friends and families going through great hardship, and I know that passing this bill to shut down our seed industry would have an even greater impact. I'm here on my own free will speaking from the heart and asking you to please take this into consideration. I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Next, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Pierre Perez.

MR. PEREZ: Aloha, honorable Chair Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair Don Couch, and members of the Committee. My name is Pierre Perez and as a resident of Molokai, here as an individual to express my opposition to the GMO and pesticide moratorium initiative being put forth. I've been working closely with farming and agriculture from when I was a child growing up in the Philippines to my stay at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UH Manoa as a PhD student and subsequently earning that degree in the plant biosciences field, up to the present working for Mycogen Seeds as a field biologist. All types of farming use pesticides. Organic farming uses natural pesticides, conventional and biotech farming both use natural and synthetic pesticides. The bottom line is a pesticide is a pesticide. A person will not be any healthier eating food with natural pesticide residue versus eating food with synthetic pesticide residue. Natural does not always mean it's safe, much the same way as organic does not always mean it's pesticide free. Now I would like to focus on the issue of pesticide use and its threat on culture heritage of Hawaii and the environment as stated in the initiative. I believe this is inaccurate and misleading. Responsible use of technology, this is what's important. I'm not going to go into detail of how Hokulea uses pesticide --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. PEREZ: --in order to make it termite-free, nor how pesticide preserves the Iolani Palace. I would like to mention something closer to home. Here on Molokai I personally had the opportunity to visit a trial plot within the Mokio Preserve which is owned and managed by the Molokai Land Trust, wherein an area sprayed with the herbicide Roundup killed invasive grasses that were introduced for pasture, which after it promoted growth of native endemic species. Now this study could lead to an effective strategy for native and endemic --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. PEREZ: --. . .(inaudible). . . Hawaiian plant species repopulation program for the island --

MS. ALCON: Two minutes.

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MR. PEREZ: --and throughout other areas in the State of Hawaii in need of rehabilitation.

MS. ALCON: Gotta conclude.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MR. PEREZ: The key I want to stress is responsible use of technology. There are agencies in place --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MR. PEREZ: --both at the State and Federal levels that ensure . . .(*inaudible*). . . of pesticides.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MR. PEREZ: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Next testifier is Eddielyn Maniago.

MS. MANIAGO: Good afternoon, Maui County Council and Members. Hi, my name is Eddielyn Maniago. I am resident of Molokai and I work at Mycogen Seeds. I came here to stand and testify. I oppose this moratorium to the cultivation of GMO. If Monsanto and Mycogen stop their operations here in Molokai more than 300 families affect their lives and I am one of them. GMO is everything and I believe GMO is safe for environment and for humans. If I have no job I cannot able to send my siblings in the schools, to college. People care about their health, how about the education and their future. This job is the future. Yes, still get job there but not here in Molokai. So please GMO free in Hawaii. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Girly Starkey.

MS. STARKEY: Hi, my name is Girly Starkey, I'm a resident of Molokai. I work for Mycogen for nine years, and if I lose this job I cannot afford to help my dad and my daughter because they're on dialysis so I need this job. So I leave it up to you folks to decide is the right thing to do. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Shirley Ballocanag.

MS. BALLOCANAG: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Shirley Ballocanag and I am testifying this afternoon on behalf of myself as an individual. In 1994 my family and I moved to

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Hawaii to work. My son who also employed by Mycogen was only four years old when we made the move. I was blessed with a job as a field technician and continued to be employed for almost 18 years. I became a full-time employee and was positioned as a crew leader. And if this initiative passes our company is forced to shut down, not only will I lose my job but I will lose my healthcare benefits. I am worried about how I'm going to pay my bills. This job pays for the roof over my head and food on my table and the car that I drive. I love my job. It's an awesome place to work with a friendly environment. Over the years I've grown relationship with such friendly staff who have become family to me. I kindly ask that you consider the impact that this initiative will have if it's passed. I strongly oppose this initiative. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to listen to my testimony. Mabuhay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Tina Schonely.

MS. SCHONELY: Aloha. My name is Christina Schonely. I am here today to testify as an individual, a native Hawaiian resident of Molokai, and a concerned citizen that strongly opposes this initiative. In all my years of working here on Molokai, no employer has been more concerned about my safety than Mycogen. Significant training programs and standard operating procedures help ensure the safety of over 100 workers like myself. Insulin, a genetically engineered product is beneficial for many. My uncle who lives far away from any cornfield depends on his daily dose. What will happen if a moratorium is put on GE crops? This is just one example of the huge impact this moratorium will have on many families, but it doesn't stop there. This will be the start of a ripple effect that many local vendors will feel. Obtaining this job has enabled me to provide for my family, not only the basic needs like shelter, food, and water, but for the first time not to live paycheck to paycheck. I have two children that I choose to raise here on Molokai, along with my family that includes three generations. As a mother, a daughter, a sister, a spouse, a granddaughter, and a friend I would never put any of their health at risk. Why do I have to change my lifestyle? Why does my family need to face the risk of me being unemployed? I don't see any alternative on Molokai that could even compare to the pay and benefits I am currently receiving. Please consider the huge impact this initiative will have on the entire population of Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Florenda Barrett.

MS. BARRETT: Good afternoon, Council members. My name is Florenda Barrett. I'm originally born and raised in . . . *(inaudible)* . . . I'm married to a Molokai guy who was born and raised on this island. We both have a daughter together. And I have a job. I need this job I have. Now it's supporting me and my family. . . . *(inaudible)* . . . and I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you very much for your time.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. One more, please, Ms. Alcon, then we'll return to the Maui Chamber.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Melissa Poepoe.

MS. POEPOE: Good afternoon. Before I go any further I would to thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. My name is Melissa Poepoe, I'm a resident of Molokai, and I strongly oppose the moratorium GE bill. Because although it would have a negative impact on my job, if this bill is voted into law it would have an even greater impact on the entire island of Molokai. But most of all it will affect the future of my daughters and their peers, because they are the ones who are going to have to live in this already struggling economy. So please take our concerns to heart and abolish this moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. We shall return to Molokai. Hana Office, Ms. Lono, do you have anyone wishing to testify?

MS. LONO: Yes, Chair. The next testifier in the Hana Office is Zachary Zeoc Mosheyev.

MR. MOSHEYEV: Aloha.

MS. LONO: Say your name.

MR. MOSHEYEV: Aloha. My name is Zachary Zeoc Mosheyev. I am a family farmer on East Maui. I keep animals, I have gardens, I have orchards. I would like to support the moratorium on genetically engineered crops. I don't believe that the research is sufficient. I don't believe that they've been watching them for long enough. I fear for what can happen with food security if this goes through. I would like to support the moratorium. I would like there to be no GMOs on Maui period. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. We'll return to the Chamber. Number 34, Shawn Perry, and following Shawn Perry at 35 will be Kurt Adams.

MR. PERRY: Aloha. My name is Shawn Perry. I'm 15 years of age. I am a product of GMO. I am totally against it. My whole life I've been eating this unaware of the poisons that have been in the foods that I have been eating. My family has problems starting with the foods that we've been eating. My sister never had an allergic reaction to chicken before. One day she ate it and had a random allergic reaction, we had to take her to the hospital to see what it was. We found out that she was allergic to it just randomly. She's been eating chicken for half of her life, never had these problems. So our family has been getting health problems more on and so our doctor just finally got fed up and told us to eat all organic food. We've been going to local farmers markets that has been way out of our distance. We've spent a lot of money to try to get the organic foods, and we've been healing a lot with the non-GMO foods. But we went broke because of how expensive these organic foods are, and we are now back on these GMO foods and we're having more problems, more health issues. I would like to say please stop these GMO

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foods, you're infecting us. I don't see many kids coming up here and talk, taking their time and to take their testimony because most people are afraid because they don't know what's in this. How come we're being lied to saying that this food is safe?

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. PERRY: I don't care if your job's in risk. We can take these GMO foods and put them into all organic crops. Our ancestors did it for thousands of years before our lives, how come they didn't get infected? Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Kurt Adams, followed by Clarence Fune.

MR. ADAMS: Chairman Couch, Committee members. My name is Kurt Adams. I've been an employee for Monsanto since 2006. I am one of five technicians that work in the maintenance department. When I first started working for Monsanto, few things I knew what they did was they produced hybrid corn seeds and it was a great company to work for. Since then I've learned so much about what we do, why we do it, and how we go about doing it in a way we will not hurt the environment. In 2009 I obtained my Certification for Private Applicators of Restricted Pesticides from the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture. Part of keeping my license includes taking refresher classes every four months to ensure that we are following guidelines set forth by the Department of Ag and to keep up with new products. Every six months I get a Cholinesterase test, Cholinesterase blood draw. The purpose of this blood test requirement is to establish the elements necessary for conducting medical surveillance for workers with potential work-related exposure to organophosphate and carbamate insecticides, and I'm happy to say that my test has always been clear. This is because of safety procedures we strictly abide by, and I know what I'm dealing with, I'm using the proper protective equipment and abide by all of Monsanto's safety programs.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ADAMS: Most of my work at Monsanto entails working on equipment for pesticide applications. I can assure you that they are being properly applied and used in a safe manner that the label recommends. I can also assure you that we do not mix 80 different chemicals in 1 application like a gentleman mentioned in the last Council meeting.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ADAMS: If that was so the field behind the sprayer would be on fire. This would not...there are no mystery chemical cocktails used in any farming operations. It would be --

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank...

MR. ADAMS: --dangerous and not practical.

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VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you, Mr. Adams.

MR. ADAMS: You're welcome.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): All right. Clarence Fune or Fune, followed by Zandra Amaral Crouse. I'm sorry if I mispronounced your name.

MR. FUNE: It's Fune.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Fune, okay.

MR. FUNE: Aloha, Chair and Vice-Chair and Maui County Council members. My name is Clarence Andrew Fune. I was born and raised on this island and live here my whole life. I'm in support of the moratorium. Most of you don't know this but I've been having health issues most of my life. I believe GMOs and chemicals played a big part of the reason for most of my health issues. I am concerned about these health issues. It seems more and more people are getting sick, dying younger, and having these serious health risks like allergy and immune function, reproductive health, and metabolic, psychologic [*sic*], and genetic health. Other islands, babies of my generation are being born deformed. To me this is outrageous and out of control. This needs to change in order for the people in the present and the future to be safe. I am also concerned about the farmers who choose to grow the Hawaiian way. They have no control of these innocent bees when they cross pollinate or the wind when a Monsanto seed lands in their field. In return they have to buy the seed and get sued by Monsanto.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. FUNE: In some rare cases farmers are committing suicide 'cause they are, were driven to debt. This is wrong and not the way I want to live. People want to be heard and people need a choice. I care about the workers too. I have family, friends, and neighbors --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. FUNE: --so I do understand how hard they work and sacrifice for their loved ones. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Can you...yeah, thank you. Thank you. Zandra Amaral Crouse, followed by Vance Del Castillo.

MS. AMARAL CROUSE: Aloha. My name is Zandra Amaral Crouse. I am testifying regarding the GMO moratorium. I would like the opportunity to vote along with my fellow citizens, your constituents on this issue. I believe that allowing it to go on the ballot will truly show you what the majority of your constituents want, not the minority. This issue involves most everyone in our community, the employees of GMO, the activists of GMO, and the GMO companies itself. The views and concerns of these three groups are all admirably, admirable intentions and

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legitimate concerns. Let's start with the employees of GMO. These are citizens, your constituents who are concerned with the jobs, with their jobs which is provided by GMOs. These are citizens who work hard paycheck to paycheck simply trying to keep a roof over their families' heads and food on their tables. Second, the activists of GMOs. The activists also your constituents. These are citizens who whether we agree with them or not are looking at the bigger picture beyond this generation. They simply want to be assured of disclosure and safety. Then we have the GMO companies themselves. There are GMO company engineers and staff members on Maui nui. These individuals also your constituents whose concerns rally around making food easier and less expensive to grow. These individuals are also sharing their talents --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. AMARAL CROUSE: --spending their money, and generating revenue for our community. I humbly ask to you the Council let the people decide. Let this go to your constituents, all of us, the GMO workers, activists, employees, and the people of Maui nui at large by allowing it to go on the ballot so that all your constituents may let you know through their votes what they the majority truly want. Trust in us to be able to do what is right, not for some --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. AMARAL CROUSE: --but for all. Let us preserve agriculture through intelligent decision making. Mahalo. A hui hou. Malama. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Vance Del Castillo, number 38, followed by Jerome Metcalfe, number 39.

MR. DEL CASTILLO: Aloha, Chair and Council. My name is Vance del Castillo and I'm here to testify about how I came to work for Monsanto. It all started one night enjoying the company of some friends and acquaintances when the topic of GMOs came up. The conversation was rather negative about GMOs. Some of the myths that were discussed was Monsanto was destroying our island, people developing cancer and dying, and children being more prone to birth defects. The accusations about GMO and Monsanto really concern me. So I thought to myself is this really true and why have I never heard about this before? Having served in the military I thought why aren't GMOs being monitored and why is our government allowing these things to go on? With so many questions running through my head I decided I needed to do some research. When investigating GMOs I came across a lot of negative information; however, I realized that the information was not backed by any research or facts. The negative information that I came across was really more opinions that people were calling facts. As I dug deeper into my research I found that GMOs have been around for quite some time, and there is no real scientific-based evidence that supports the negative rumors. I found that GMOs are regulated by the FDA and the EPA. I found that there is no evidence that supports that people are developing cancer and dying from GMOs, as well as children being born with birth defects from GMOs. Satisfied with my research I decided to look up Monsanto specifically to see what they had to say, and to no surprise the website answered a lot more of my questions.

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MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. DEL CASTILLO: I concluded that the rumors I heard were just scare tactics trying to turn people against GMOs. Through my research I believe biotech companies are trying to improve farming and feed the world. I continued to look around Monsanto's website and oddly enough I came across an opening for a mechanic position which I applied for. I've been proudly working for Monsanto since October 23, 2013 and it's been a great and rewarding experience --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. DEL CASTILLO: --so far and I look forward to what is in store in the future. Thank you for letting me testify.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Jerome Metcalfe, number 39, followed by Dr. Maureen Traub, number 40.

MR. METCALFE: Hello, Council, citizens. Jerome Metcalfe, Kihei, Maui, State of Hawaii. I bring you right now that I think of one thing it's we the people. This whole thing comes down to majority. From what I've been reading from the facts here and what's been asserted we've got 1,400 people, 600 people in the industry, we got 157 people on Maui, we've got 31,000 families. What's this all about? We have to look at majority of it and what's good for us. I'm in support of the initiative. So as to one of the first generations in the populations that gets to just the corporation's pattern of thought. We're going to be the first ones here probably. A lot of 'em have tried, we're not going to die doing this. You have to remember here we're up against a large corporation, and when it comes to that you've got a hare and a turtle. The turtle won the race, okay. We're just starting off and we're going to get this thing going but we have to do it quickly. Okay. As business I'm pool labor that produces and sustains small and large businesses. All of it revolves around labor. We may have to retool. Unfortunately the rest of the United States, I look at Wisconsin, et cetera, Racine Valley, Detroit which is a shell, been bombed out, gutted because of the car industry. Either we fess up and get with it, produce a better car or we can go over to Japan and buy one. It's real simple on this. We don't want stuff doing as we see it that's bad to us and our kids here.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes here.

MR. METCALFE: In Maui we have to take a stand on this. There is statistics in debate, always saying is what's this about, this is an initiative to take a memorandum...we take a memorandum...a moratorium on this basis to just look at this, step back, look at it, get some stats. It only takes a couple of minutes. I'm going to close with I come from Wisconsin, a Green Bay Packer fan. Normally you almost couldn't go to the stadium there because of the toxic PCBs.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

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MR. METCALFE: We had to dig out the entire Fox River, the entire Fox River Basin because our little birds and eagles couldn't sit on their eggs, they would crack 'em because of the PCBs and DDT. I'm watching, I'm telling you, look out, be aware of what's up here.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you, Mr. Metcalfe.

MR. METCALFE: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Dr. Maureen Traub at number 40, followed by Jim Porowski, number 41.

MS. TRAUB: Thank you. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Please use the microphone. Get close to the microphone. Thank you.

MS. TRAUB: Thank you. Aloha. My name is Dr. Maureen Traub. Aloha, everybody. I'm a medical doctor, for 30 years licensed medical doctor, board certified in family practice where I did my residency at UC Davis, I was chief resident. I was the very first doctor at Community Clinic of Maui. I'm a mother and a doctor and I care about the aina, the keiki --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Please speak to the Chair when you're talking.

MS. TRAUB: --the aina, the keiki, and the entire global population. I'm very blessed that this Friday I met with Alan Arakawa, I met with all the Council, all of these people here, Amanda, Ms. Baisa's secretary because she was not available, and the other people I communicated by urgent, urgent via their secretary text to take out my testimony. I testified before, this is my second testimony today. I believe we are already facing a public health crisis in Maui, and we in Maui allowing this genetic soup untested cocktails are going to be responsible for a global public health crisis. So I plea, I beg the Council members, it is in your power to protect this County and the whole world with a five-people majority. I ask for a unanimous majority. I ask, I beg the City Council and the Mayor for an immediate moratorium. Please do not put this to ballot, you decide. Now I'm going to end with a serenity prayer. Thank you. Dear, God.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. TRAUB: God . . .(*spoke in unknown language*) . . . Please give us the wisdom to distinguish between those things that we cannot change, give us courage to change the things that must be changed now. Mahalo nui loa. Malama. A hui hou. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Jim Porowski, number 41, followed by Frances Pearre, number 42.

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MR. POROWSKI: Hello. My name is Jim Porowski and I'm coming to you as a private citizen on Maui here. And I am here standing here in front of you because I favor the moratorium. And I spoke before and I'm going to speak on this in the same vein this time also. I'm not going to give you -- and we've heard lots from both sides -- numbers and statistics and other kinds of discreet information that is just that. The big picture is over our head, it's the sun coming up over Haleakala. It could be last year or it could have been 10,000 years ago. It has to do with protecting the keiki and the aina. It has to do with putting in place the kind of thing that says discretion is the better part of valor. Let's take a look at this and see if it really is safe. Coming from my heart as...and with my love to you all, my self love and also brotherly love, please connect with this issue on that level that it has to do with like not discreet individual numbers as much as if you vote from your heart with love for everybody it has to do with taking care of those that we can take care of --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. POROWSKI: --the keiki and the aina and speaking in that way coming to a place that allows for a just decision. A decision that is going to help humanity. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Frances Pearre--I hope I pronounced that, Pearre--number 42, followed by Frank Rich, number 43.

MS. PEARRE: Good afternoon, and thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Frances Pearre. I know it's hard to find that in the --

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Okay.

MS. PEARRE: --spelling but that's the way we pronounce it. I did submit a one-page sheet to the Members, very simple. There is, there are books and books. There are studies on both sides, but if you take a look at the three books that I mentioned and I did donate those to the Council if you have time to take a look at them. There's plenty of testimony supporting a moratorium on GMOs in Maui County. And if you will...I'm sure some of you have read the bill that's been presented by SHAKA movement. It is limited, it does not stop everything all at once. It allows crops already planted to go forward. It allows products already on the shelf to continue, and it allows research to continue. It seems to me from the testimony today, listening to particularly the Molokai residents, they're going to need some real help and some real change with the transition. And I'm honored that SHAKA is already thinking about this, and I'm sure that something can be devised. I also believe...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. PEARRE: I also believe that really the scientists on both sides need to start talking together, and there needs to come together an agreement on how to go forward with this. So thank you for listening and mahalo.

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VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Frank Rich, number 43, followed by Charles Mort, number 44. And then after that we'll go to Molokai again.

MR. RICH: Chair, my name is Frank Rich and I've been a resident of Maui off and on since 1974. I am not an authority on genetic engineering nor am I an enemy of humane science and technology, but as a human being I am concerned. Only in recent years have I become more aware of Monsanto corporation's genetic engineering practices here on Maui. I began to wonder why so many nations had banned genetic engineering in their countries, and these were big nations and these are nations friendly to the United Nations, to the United States. And why Monsanto has so, been so reluctant to label GMOs when most people polled do not want GMO if it's labeled, that's why. And I read article after article questioning and documentaries questioning the health benefits or the health risks of these practices and the possible contamination of our precious land, water, and air. As a former employee of large corporations, these answers are simple, profits first, humanity second, if there's time. My conclusion is that Monsanto has been experimenting for years without sufficient long-term studies to prove that these experiments are safe for humans, other beings, and the earth.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. RICH: I now believe Monsanto practices are as extremely unnatural as my purple hair. Only there is a huge difference, I choose to be my own guinea pig for my own experiments which bring no possible harm to others. Monsanto does not have a right to use me as a guinea pig for their unproven experiments. They violate your right, my right, and the rights of future generations to choose what we eat. Let's get behind the people of --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. RICH: --employees of Monsanto and find them decent jobs. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Charles Mort, followed by the Molokai Office.

MR. MORT: Distinguished Council members and Chairman Couch, I believe it is your duty mandated by the Constitution to approve this precautionary measure, this temporary moratorium against GMOs in Maui County. It's not even really your choice. It involves the function of your office and position. You're mandated to protect the public trust resources...

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Excuse me, can we get your name, please.

MR. MORT: Charles Mort.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you.

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MR. MORT: You're mandated to protect the public trust resources for current and future generations. In the Hawaii State Constitution, Article 11, Section 1, Conservation, Control, and Development of Resources, it says, for the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions -- the counties -- shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in the furtherance of the self sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefits of the people. For the benefit of the people. I believe that means all the people, not just the corporations or their employees. And can any of you tell me exactly how the possible irreversible --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MORT: --damage to the public trust resources is benefiting us? How many years and years of chemical treatments, runoffs on the fields and into unintended areas such as the water table, the oceans, the reefs, the beaches is benefiting us? Have we done any testing? Do we have the tests? No. How could you possibly pretend you are making decisions based on what is best for everyone if you don't have the information to base that decision on facts? If you are basing your decision --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MORT: --on people or agencies telling you it is supposed to be safe without actually checking on it then I would submit you are being irresponsible. If there is any doubt let's check it out. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. All right. To the Molokai Office.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Dartagnon Bicoy.

MR. BICOY: Aloha, Chairman and Council members. Thank you for your time. My name is Dartagnon Bicoy. I'm here to testify in opposition of the Maui farming ban initiative. As an employee of an agriculture company I can personally attest that we operate at the highest safety standards and abide by the rules and regulations required by Federal and State law, and that we also apply additional practices and protocols set forth by our own company in order to be better stewards of the land and a more respectable entity in our community. If the initiative becomes law it will have a devastating impact on hundreds of Maui County residents and our local economy. Nearly 650 people will be out of work and their families will lose their livelihood. There will be a sudden and dramatic increase in unemployment and the amount of families needing government assistance will skyrocket. The negative effect of this initiative will be exponentially harmful on Molokai. Here the seed and agricultural companies are the largest employers on the island. If those companies shut down over 250 people will be out of work. Jobs are scarce now and there is no other employers on the island that will be able to absorb the blow. The seed and agriculture companies are also regular patrons at many local businesses who

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will also lose substantial revenue should those companies close. The seed and agricultural companies also play a huge role in the community donating time, money, resources, and manpower to the many local groups and organizations for their projects and events. How would it be beneficial to close companies that contribute so much to the local community? Personally I think this initiative is biased and unfair. It punishes hardworking people over ideas that have no grounding in scientific fact. Enforcing these new regulations will have an unnecessary strain --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. BICOY: --on Maui County's limited resources for something that the State and Federal governments have already invested many of their own resources into proving products safe for commercial use. Putting a ban on GE production and halting operations would hurt thousands in and out of the seed and agriculture companies. It would only breed more unemployment and hardships in our already fragile economy and force many families to uproot and search for opportunities elsewhere. I was born and raised on Molokai and I would love nothing more than to be able to raise my own kids here, too.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. BICOY: I cannot do that without a job. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Can we have the next Molokai testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is JoAnn Bumatay.

MS. J. BUMATAY: Aloha, Council members. My name is JoAnn Bumatay. I'm a current resident of Molokai, an employee of Monsanto of Hawaii for 15 years, and I would like to ask the respected Council to reject the bill placing a moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered organisms. I have no health issues linked to GMO. I truly believe in Monsanto and I believe they are helping the world with their advancement in GMO. I also truly believe the County should let the workers decide. Most of all I'm proud to say I work for Monsanto. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Can we have the next Molokai testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Lydia Lalim.

MS. LALIM: Good afternoon, Council members. I am...I'm sorry, I'm so nervous. I'm born and raised here on Molokai and I'm one of the few that's been working over 30 years and I love my job. And I don't know if this has anything to do with it but as of April 1st my husband lost his job and I know how it is. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you.

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MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Marycris Ballesteros.

MS. BALLESTEROS: Good afternoon. My name is Marycris Ballesteros. I live on Molokai for the last 12 years. We are a five-member family and all work for the corn fields. I oppose this bill because there are big negative impacts to the seed industry, my job, and my family. I could potentially lose my job and not be able to support my household. Working in the corn field is the only way I am able to do that, so please do not allow this moratorium to pass. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Okay, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Paz Antonio.

MS. ANTONIO: Aloha, Maui County Council and members. My name is Paz Antonio and I am testifying on behalf of myself as an individual. I came to Hawaii from the Philippines in November 1987 to live with my family and to seek employment. I have been employed with Mycogen Seeds as a field technician. I haven't had any health problems working in this company. So please help us. How are we going to provide if we lose our job? I have two daughters to support that are in college and to pay their tuitions and their needs, my mortgage, and also everything that we need. The effect of this initiative if it pass could affect my family income. I strongly oppose this initiative. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. Mahalo and God bless everyone.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jorge Camacho.

MR. CAMACHO: Hello, everybody. My name is Jorge Camacho. I am coming here to testify by my own. I currently work for Mycogen Seeds here in Molokai. And I . . . *(inaudible)* . . . initiative because it can generate a very negative impact on the entire local economy of our island. Affecting with this initiative our families, friends, local farmers, and businesses, and the Molokai economy in general, forcing many families to immigrate to another island and leave the land that we love and stop doing that we love to do that is agriculture. All have been benefitted using the GMOs' own research, manufacturer of terrific products, gene therapy beds, industrial production for assistance to pests and herbicides, improved or more efficient food, pest control, fight hunger and malnutrition. Again, I object this initiative. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Lionel Adachi.

MR. ADACHI: Aloha, City Council. My name is Lionel Adachi. I'm a native Hawaiian born and raised here on Molokai. My first job working in the pineapple field when I was 15 years old Hoolehua for Dole Plantation during the early '70s. Then when pineapple was phased out I

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worked for Sheraton Hotel as a busboy and waiter. It was a career change but we all had to do this because, to stay employed. I later took a job as a mechanic working in Molokai for, from 1980 to '96. Later I moved to Las Vegas and I worked there for about a year. I didn't like it. During this time I missed my home here, Molokai. I moved back and found a job working on Kahoolawe during the cleanup from 1998 to 2004. It was a few islands away but I still got to fly home every week to be with my family. In 2004 the project there ended so I ended up moving back home for a short period of time. During that time jobs were still scarce so I had no choice but to find a job elsewhere. I decided to take a job that was farther away in a war-torn region to keep up with the bills that were starting to pile up because of no work here on Molokai. For six and a half years I worked away from home in Iraq dodging bullets, bombs to keep myself employed in order to feed my family back home. In 2012 while I was home on my R&R I scheduled to return back to the Middle East with my team that was transferred on their way back to Afghanistan --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ADACHI: --to support our troops in that part of the world. I was offered a job with Mycogen Seeds on that month that I was to return. It was a much lower salary than I'm used to but I would be home with my family, so I accepted their offer. The job here is my, in my home, Molokai, a place where my family, friends, and neighbors all live. I am glad that Mycogen Seeds has provided jobs for us to stay home --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ADACHI: --and live on an island that we belong. Lots of our friends, relatives, and children have moved off the island because of the lack of job opportunity for them here at home. I ask every one of you today, do you have a plan for us if both of our seed companies decide to shut down? . . .(inaudible) . . . --

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Okay, your two minutes are up.

MR. ADACHI: --become of our island if majority of the main family members cannot find . . .(inaudible) . . . --

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Ms. Alcon.

MR. ADACHI: --their future. Not everyone is capable of a career change.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Gotta finish.

MR. ADACHI: Okay. Not everyone will be able to...

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VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): No, no. He's done. Thank you.

MR. ADACHI: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . oppose the GMO . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Ms. Alcon, he's finished. He's well over two minutes.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Susan Ragasa.

MS. RAGASA: Good afternoon to all the honorable members of the Maui County Council. My name is Susan Ragasa, a resident of Molokai and currently working at Mycogen Seeds. I came here to oppose the bill because there's a big negative impact to my work. It will affect my ability to support my family and to pay our bills, mortgage, and other expenses. It will also affect my ability to support my extended family as well. So please consider the impact of this initiative to our lives. Thank you and God bless.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is William Casino.

MR. CASINO: Good afternoon, honorable Chairman. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to talk. My name is William Casino. I work at Monsanto for nine years, and I'm happy and I'm thankful that I got employed at Monsanto. Working Monsanto is a privilege for me because I had learned about safety environment and also safe employment. Ever since I'm employed at Monsanto I have gain lots of experience and knowledge as a crew leader. I feel confidence in my job because we have rules and regulations to follow, not only for us employees but for the safety of others of our environment. Monsanto is the biggest employment on Molokai and we depend on our jobs so we can support our family and provide needs. Molokai has an economic problem situation, it has high unemployment. What will happen if this bill passes? We'll lose our job. There's nothing left for us here to do the job. It will affect all of us in the community and the businesses. This job means a lot to me and my family. I cannot afford to lose it. Please, honorable Chairman, I humbly ask you not to pass this bill. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. And, Ms. Alcon, this will be your last one coming up.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Bronson Manaba.

MR. MANABA: Greetings, honorable Chair Hokama and Council. My name is Bronson Manaba. Pesticides don't hurt me, GMOs don't hurt me, but did you know that negative feelings negatively affect your health? First generation pesticides began in 1940 and were abandoned for being too toxic or ineffective. DDT was discovered in 1939, considered a miracle and spread across the world increasing crop yields and was toxic to a wide range of pests. It appeared to

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have a low toxicity to humans and was mostly insoluble. It was applied to World War II soldiers to kill mosquitoes, even used in residential areas. 1962, Rachel Carson's book started the first environmentalist movement. She linked deaths of non-target creatures such as birds and juvenile fish and crabs were also affected. She was right, DDT was banned in the United States and bird populations recovered remarkably. DDT was applied at two kilograms per hectare which is about 107,000 square feet. The chemical industry responded to the concern with new classes of pesticides. These pesticides are less persistent, meaning they're effective to fewer bugs and more water soluble which prevents potential contamination. Now only .052.1 kilogram of effective agents are used per hectare. At Monsanto we are kept out of the field for 15 minutes. When we go back in we don't wear jumpsuits, at the most I have a straw hat and a handkerchief. Current pesticides wear out in about two weeks at the most. Modern pesticides are even less dangerous to humans than DDT, water soluble, and even more focused on their target. GMO doesn't grow pesticides in the corn or silk in your throat, it mimics the chemicals dangerous to pests in the form of a protein. To us it's more nutrients unless you're a green leaf bug. There are bees, pheasants, grasshoppers, spiders, myna birds --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MANABA: --and beetles and deer running in our fields. Some say Monsanto does tests, the only tests they do is to see if the corn has been contaminated by an unfavorable gene. It's also called double checking. The best bandwagon for our protestors came and went in the 1960s. The arguments after have been defeated, recycled, and reused again and again. Did you know that the sun causes cancer?

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MANABA: GMO was never dangerous and pesticides are safer than ever. Just don't think about getting sick. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Alcon. We'll get back to you. I think we're probably going to go on a break, the dinner break before we get back to you but just hang on. Let's go to the Lanai Office. Ms. Fernandez?

MS. BALALA: There is no one waiting to testify in the Lanai Office.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. Hana Office, Ms. Lono?

MS. LONO: There is no one waiting to testify in the Hana Office, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH (TEMPORARY CHAIR): Thank you. All right. Next up is number 45, Chandrika--I think I pronounced that correctly--McLaughlin, followed by Keith Ranney.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Aloha, Chairman Hokama and members of the Council. I am Chandrika McLaughlin. You have an ethical dilemma before you. Early in the debate about GMOs,

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Dr. George Wall, Professor Emeritus of Biology from Harvard and Nobel Laureate in medicine warned it presents probably the largest ethical problem that science has ever had to face. For going ahead in this direction may be not only unwise but dangerous. Potentially it could breed new animal and plant diseases, new sources of cancer, novel epidemics. More recently Dr. Joseph Cummins, Professor Emeritus in Genetics from the University of West Ontario has studied GMOs and states "Probably the greatest threat from genetically altered crops is the insertion of modified virus and insect virus genes into crops. Certainly the widely used cauliflower mosaic virus is a potentially dangerous gene. It is a pararetrovirus, it is very similar to the hepatitis B virus and related to HIV." Dr. Mae-Won Ho has over 200 publications and won the fellowship of the US National Genetics Foundation. She states GMO "Gene technology is driven by bad science. It may well ruin our food supply, destroy biodiversity, and unleash pandemics of antibiotic resistant infectious diseases." Professor Dennis Parke, British Advisor to the US FDA on safety aspects of GMOs warns that current testing procedures --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: --for GMO foods are not proving safety for humans. He recommends a moratorium on their release. And you have the opportunity to provide a moratorium on their release here on Maui. And I would say that your role is similar to a, in a court room where if there is any doubt as to the safety it is your sacred duty to vote in favor of a moratorium. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Keith Ranney, number 46, followed by Aubrey Bumatay, number 47. Keith Ranney, R-A-N-N-E-Y. Okay. Last call for Keith Ranney, R-A-N-N-E-Y. Okay, next we'll go to Aubrey Bumatay, number 47, followed by Alex Franco.

MS. A. BUMATAY: Aloha, Committee Chair and Policy Committee. My name is Aubrey Bumatay. I have been with Monsanto for about five years now and they're a company who cares about their community, the environment, and the wellbeing of their employees. I knew very little about GMOs when I started working at Monsanto. I was made aware about Monsanto through a hitchhiker's story about Monsanto employees at Molokai getting cancer from the farm. After expressing my concern about Molokai to roommates who worked for Monsanto they said I had nothing to worry about and that I should probably apply and get a job to pay rent, so I did. After working at Monsanto for a few months my anti-GMO boyfriend made me watch Food Inc. My reaction was not in favor of my employer. I started asking questions at work about what we were doing. To my surprise people at work were more than willing to share their knowledge with me. In conclusion, Food Inc. was a really good documentary that convinced me who knew very little about GMOs everything that they said was true. I have watched countless more anti-GMO documentaries and asked even more questions. Working for Monsanto has not only been financially, culturally, and educationally rewarding but has also been socially frustrating. The majority of my friends are anti-GMO and we all try our hardest not to bring this subject up at social gatherings. Some people get hostile with me when they find out I work at Monsanto and

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bombard me with questions. Questions that have nothing to do with what I actually do at work. Questions like farmers getting sued, leaky gut syndrome, autism, and so on.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. A. BUMATAY: So after getting those questions I did what anyone else would do, look at the topics. I've spent quite a few nights not sleeping, scouring the Internet for peer-reviewed studies, court documents, medical studies or any facts really just so I can post a short essay on someone's comment box on Facebook to say this is what I found. And so here I am doing homework, the thing I hate most just so I can say ha. Who knew that debunking malarkey could be so motivating.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. A. BUMATAY: In conclusion, there is a lot of misinformation floating around. If someone who didn't know about GMOs had heard it from the anti-GMO movement it's pretty compelling and they're pretty passionate people and you'd easily believe it. I oppose the moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Alex Franco, followed at number 49, Harry Hashimoto.

MR. FRANCO: Chair Hokama, members of the Committee. My name is Alex Franco. I'm president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, HCC. HCC is a Statewide umbrella organization made up of four county level Cattlemen's Associations and represents 130 members involved in the cattle industry. HCC is opposed to PIA-78. Like local farmers the Hawaii Cattle Industry is faced with increasing regulations on both the State and Federal levels, increased operating cost, not to mention drought conditions that stretched from 2008 to 2013. To make any of this work it takes years of planning, re-planning, sleepless nights, perseverance, and passion for the business. Now with an added tier of government regulations at the County level which overrides regulations that has been years in the making at the State and Federal levels, an override such as this can take effect only in a six month period totally overhauling any type of business planning that a farmer may be engaged in. This will only discourage farming and make it an even higher risk business here in Hawaii. Thank you for letting me testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Harry Hashimoto, following him will be at number 50 Mike Barlow.

MR. HASHIMOTO: Chairman Hokama, members of the Policy Committee, my name is Harry Hashimoto. And I farmed both in Kula and Kihei for about 23-plus years. I quit farming full time after a long downhill battle with bugs and virus which made it hard to make a living to support my family. My crop at the time was devastated by a virus that was suspected to have come in on a plant cutting from a foreign country. It took many years before the seed companies developed semi-resistant varieties which until today are still unable to resist the strain of virus

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that we have here. At that time, Maui lost part of its ability to feed itself as local farmers had produced 60 to 80 percent of the tomatoes that were used on the islands. A similar virus is responsible for the papaya ring spot. And through the use of GMO techniques, the University of Hawaii developed a resistant variety that has for the most part saved the papaya industry here in Hawaii. The papayas which are sold locally and abroad generate revenue in the State and brings outside money into our economy. The use of GMO techniques have provided to be able to solve problems in crop production around the world due to viral, insect, and environmental stress. Solutions that can be found in much less time and with much better precision than conventional methods. As more GMO work is done the knowledge of how to overcome problems gets better and faster.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. HASHIMOTO: This is something that we must have and must be able to feed the ever growing population of the world. I now work for Monsanto, and contrary to some statements that I have heard outside, they did not force me or pay me to be here. I volunteered, for I see that the need to be able to quickly overcome the problems that can face all farmers, not only locally, but across the world, because of, because that's where our food comes from. This bill asks for more research to be done to provide a safe in growing the crops here.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. HASHIMOTO: I ask that you push it out to the voters to decide.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you --

MR. HASHIMOTO: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Mr. Hashimoto, for your testimony. Mike Barlow, number 50, followed by number 51, Brian Ferreira.

MR. BARLOW: Aloha. Chairman, Committee. I'm a Kihei resident, I've been for about 12 years. My name is Mike Barlow. I've lived in Kihei downwind from Monsanto. I'm here on this important issue of pesticides and GMO. I come from a small farming town in Oregon, lived there 40 years. During that time we had farmland on three sides of our family home, three sides of our junior high school which was right across the street from our high school so we had also had farmland on three different sides. So I'm very familiar with pesticides and fertilizers and all of which were used responsibly. I understand Federal and State regulations monitor the usage of any and all of these pesticides including restricted use products. I urge you to please leave this in the hands of the well qualified persons. To create another layer would be costly to the farming community, consumers, and taxpayers here in Maui County. I feel that it could be, it could put many of our farmers out of business with these types of restrictions, thus putting a huge loss in

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our island's sustainability. Next I would like to express my feelings about GMO. I have been consuming these products all my life without any ill effects. I think it's a wonderful part of science that is and will be a long-term factor in feeding our ever growing population --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. BARLOW: --world...our ever growing population worldwide. Let's not allow fear to misdirect true science. I truly believe in what Monsanto and other seed companies are doing and I encourage all of you to show your support. We do not want to lose hundreds of jobs and revenues this industry provides for our wonderful County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Brian Ferreira, followed by number 52, Maryanne Texeira.

MR. FERREIRA: Aloha, Chair and Committee members. My name is Brian Ferreira and I am a native Hawaiian. I am very concerned about the negative, negativity and hatred that surrounds the GMO initiative here on Maui. One product that is mentioned is pesticides and how these supposed cocktails are destroying the aina and our keiki. I have a pesticide license and I have sprayed and worked with pesticides for many years. I don't know who made up the term "chemical cocktail" but it doesn't exist in reality. It's a made up scare tactic. I have always followed the manufacturers labels while applying pesticides, including the organic pesticides we use. During the year we are tested to ensure our procedures and PPE that we use are working by them having a blood test done on us. I have never had any results that indicate any exposure. I have been inspected and others that work with me dozens of times by the HDOA to ensure we are following the rules, regulations, and documenting what is being applied. I have never had an issue and will always abide by what the label states can be applied in the State of Hawaii. The label is the law. Pesticides when used with an integrated pest management system are effective and safe. If you use a flea collar for your pet or ant bait or anything like that to control pests in your home or garden, you use pesticides also. It is the...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. FERREIRA: It is the responsibility of the USDA, the EPA, and the FDA to develop and execute Federal government policy on farming, agriculture, forestry, and our food. They work to assure food safety and protect our natural resources. I am pro-agriculture, all types of agriculture. I do not discriminate against the choices any farmer or rancher makes, I ask that you do the same. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Maryanne Texeira, and following Maryanne Texeira at number 53 is Artemio Magaoay. Yeah, bring it to the mic. Yeah, thank you.

MS. TEXEIRA: I forget I'm short.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: That's okay.

MS. TEXEIRA: Good afternoon, Chair --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MS. TEXEIRA: --members of the Policy Committee. My name is Maryanne Texeira. When I was a child I did not think about making an impact on the world, I only thought about, you know, just having a good time. As I got older going through high school and everything...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair? Can you get her closer to the mic, please? Yeah, we're having a hard time hearing you. Thank you.

MS. TEXEIRA: There. How's that?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Better.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. TEXEIRA: Okay. But as I got closer graduating high school, I had to think hard about what I wanted to do in my life. As a child I did like gardening, I did like farming, so I figured I'd go to college and get an agricultural degree. As I was going to school getting my degree, Monsanto hired me. I've been working for them for 15 years now. I started as a field laborer and now I am a research assistant. Every morning when I put on my shirt, I am happy and I am proud to go to work. I drive all the way from Makawao all the way to Kihei. I am proud of what I do and nobody forces me to come down here to work. What I do I love.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. TEXEIRA: You know and I don't appreciate somebody taking that right away from me. I have, I should have the right to work where I want to work. If people are ignorant on the fact it is everybody's job to be educated and open minded, not closed and narrow minded.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. TEXEIRA: I thank you for listening to me. I wish I had more time. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Texeira. Artemio Magaoay, followed at number 54 Tyler Meier.

MR. MAGAOAY: Good afternoon, Committee Chair Riki Hokama --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

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MR. MAGAOAY: --and members of the Policy Committee. My name is Artemio Magaoay. I just turned 73 years old last June 6th. I first worked for Grand Wailea Hotel but because of my farming experience back home in the Philippines I applied at Monsanto as a field worker. My job at Monsanto consists of working in the field. I enjoy my job at Monsanto and I get paid for something that I enjoy doing. The benefits package for me and the family is also outstanding. The safety culture at work is also wonderful. I am provided with proper personal equipment like safety glasses, steel toed boots, and high visibility clothing. My day at work begins with a safety topic that can be about seatbelt use, emergency preparedness, hazard communication, and so on. We even have pre-stretching exercises that I look forward to when I am at work. I am a farmer, a very proud Monsanto farmer and there is nothing wrong with what we are doing. But I am worried about the SHAKA movement's efforts to shut down a farming operation in Kihei for no good reason.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MAGAOAY: I am very proud to say that I work for Monsanto because it has helped my family. If Monsanto should shut down there will be families on Maui like my family that will be affected. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon. Tyler Meier, and that would be followed by number 55 Nate Dorsey.

MR. MEIER: Good afternoon, Chair --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MR. MEIER: --Committee. My name is Tyler Meier. I would like to share a few comments from my perspective on the temporary moratorium on GMO production in Maui County. Like many people in Hawaii I too have moved here from the outside, just two and a half years ago it was, in search of a once-in-a-lifetime experience that it would help me develop personally, culturally, and also from a business perspective. Before moving to Oahu and now here on Maui, I had grown up on a farm in Central Midwest raising crops and livestock. Work and farming were part of my family's and my everyday life experiences. When I think back now knowing what I know now about the rich history of agriculture here in Hawaii and the start of the seed corn and biotech production in the islands, I think back to where my family and the agriculture would be without the products and availability of new technologies that Hawaii has contributed throughout the world. This knowledge is what makes it hard for me to not speak up and tell stories about how biotechnology has made mine and a whole host of people's lives better, more prosperous, and yes, safer. Over the past years I have had friends, acquaintances that are in the crop production industry come out and visit and want to learn more about Hawaii's impact on their livelihood. One of the first things we go and see are the crops and farms that help produce parent seed that later will fill the seeds of their planters in hopes of yielding a profit and keeping the family farm going so they can pass their farms on to the next generation. The disbelief and amazement of the landscapes and production efficiencies of the island are evident in their faces yet they understand

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the importance and opportunity that these crops represent. Other times on a monthly basis I will talk to my grandfather and get the crop update to see what the growing season has done to or for his crops back on the mainland.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MEIER: Many times like any other farmer he says they could always be better, needing more rain and that he's discouraged by the yields that were affected by a disease that moved in when the crop was in early development. Nevertheless, he is always interested in what's going in Hawaii, whether it's the movement against progressive agriculture or operational challenges, he understands the impact. So why is it I think the County Council of Maui needs to hear these comments? It's because real people are affected by the work that we do here. It's the next crop, the new hybrids that will keep the family farm passed on to the next generation --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MEIER: --here in Hawaii and all over the world. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Nate Dorsey, following Mr. Dorsey will be Daniel Bolosan.

MR. DORSEY: My name is Nate Dorsey. I oppose the moratorium on genetically modified crops. I believe that the issue of genetically modified crops are much larger than just Hawaii. I grew up traveling the world and have seen the effects of poor access to modern technology and agriculture, agricultural technology. Living in Djibouti, Africa I saw people suffering from starvation on a daily basis, and there was very little that I felt that I could do personally to make a lasting difference, and that's one of the reasons why I work for Monsanto. I work for Monsanto because I believe that as a company we don't only care about jobs, we also care about providing food and providing access to safe and affordable food for the whole world. And I believe that Monsanto is truly trying to meet these needs of the world and has recently partnered with several nonprofit groups to develop drought-resistant varieties for Africa. And these varieties were recently planted in Kenya and producers there experienced yields increase from an average of 4½ tons per acre to 11 tons per acre which is a 150 percent increase in yield without changing their agricultural practices at all, just the seed that they planted. So I truly believe that these types of changes are only achievable with the use of modern science and technology that have been proven to be safe. I support Monsanto and the use of this type of technology to make food, to make safe food more accessible to the whole world.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. DORSEY: And from a local perspective I believe that it would be a mistake to remove this technology from the island. Maui is a critical place. These drought-resistant varieties that were recently delivered in Africa came through our locations here on Maui, and they have the potential

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to do a lot of good in Africa and also throughout the world. So I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much for your presence. Daniel Bolosan, and he'll be followed at number 57, Virgin Edmalin.

MR. BOLOSAN: Good afternoon, Chair --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MR. BOLOSAN: --Maui Council member, and all. My name is Daniel Bolosan. I am very proud to say that I am working for Monsanto. It's been almost nine years that I've been working at Monsanto and I still love to work there. I like to work there 'til I reach my retirement. All my coworkers have no health issue at all. I'd like to tell you that ages of my coworkers there is starting from 18 to 80 years old, they're still strong, working in between of the corn. That's why eating GMO seeds, product I mean, eating GMO products are safe and make us strong and healthy. We are the living witnesses of the product of Monsanto. It is safe, it is safe to consume for all human beings like you and me. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Virgin Edmalin, to be followed by Florence Cuaresma.

MS. EDMALIN: Good afternoon --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MS. EDMALIN: --Committee Chair Riki Hokama and members of the Policy Committee. My name is Virgin Edmalin. For 16 years I have worked at Monsanto. Monsanto is the only company that I have worked for since I moved to Hawaii from the Philippines. My job at Monsanto consists of working in the field. As a fieldworker I plant the corn seed. When the plant is about a foot tall I take a small leaf sample to test for protein. When the corn starts to flower then I hand pollinate. Finally the corn plant is ready to be hand harvested. I have performed the same tasks over and over for 16 years. And I am here to let you know that I have not experienced medical conditions due to working on the soil, with GMO corn, or pesticides. At Monsanto we are just farming, there is nothing wrong with what we are doing. I'm very worried about the SHAKA movement's efforts to shut us down for no good reason. I am very proud to say that I work for Monsanto because it has helped my family on Maui as well as my family in the Philippines. My son also works for Monsanto. If Monsanto should shut down not only our families on Maui will be affected but also our families back in the Philippines. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify and God bless.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for being here. Florence Cuaresma, to be followed by Hayde Sim, H-A-Y-D-E Sim.

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MS. CUARESMA: Okay. Good afternoon, Committee Chairman --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MS. CUARESMA: --and the Members. My name is Florence Cuaresma and I work at Monsanto together with my husband and six family members. I work at the company for 15 years now. My husband works as a sprayer operator for almost five years and we thank God and our company that he has a good job and he is healthy. Monsanto really cares for its employees and other people in general. We're happy to be involved in many outreach events. When I came I was quite hesitant to work in the corn field because I was still young and I knew it's very hot in the field. I applied and they hired me. After working for six months I understand how hard to work as a farmer. I also realized how important and helpful what we're doing to the farmers in improving their crops, especially the insects, pests, and drought resistant varieties that our company is producing. These are the ones that are really good to be planted in the Philippines, Africa, and other parts of the world. Our relatives in the Philippines are planting corn and --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. CUARESMA: --and it's really very hard using conventional method. They are happy now to use the GE varieties because they can produce more and can provide the needs of their families. I believe that GE product is one way to solve the needs of the farmers, and I believe and I understand what we are doing here in Maui is safe. Why would I work this long if this company is not good for people and the environment? I'm proud to be working in Monsanto. I hope --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. CUARESMA: --that you make the good decision on this matter.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. CUARESMA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hayde Sim, and the last person before our break will be Paul Solomon.

MS. SIM: Good afternoon, Committee Chair and Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon.

MS. SIM: I am Hayde Sim and I strongly oppose the bill. I worked as a faculty member at the agricultural engineering department at Manila Central University, Philippines for 11 years before coming here in Hawaii. My first child was born with congenital disease liver and have major surgery at three months old, series of minor surgeries making Kapiolani Hospital as our second home in his first year and eventually he had a liver transplant two years ago at the age of eight. He's now on medication for the rest of his life. My second child when I was pregnant with him I

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was only, when I started working at Monsanto I was two months pregnant, and we were renting just two blocks away from Mokulele Farm. And I was walking the field almost every workday and he was born healthy and even now that he is eight years old. If Monsanto has unsafe practices we the employees are the ones that will be affected most but we are not. It was even identified as possible liver donor for my first boy and the test at Stanford was very thorough. I'm with Monsanto for almost nine years now. Safety's our company's first priority. I at my job is to work closely with operations team. They would e-mail me the spray plan, whether it's okay for them to spray. I will e-mail everybody in our team, spray schedule is posted on the white board so that everybody can sit through every morning meeting which focuses on safety. They also post at a central notification area, and they make sure that they put a spray sign in the field. We do above and beyond. Our ...(*inaudible*)... time is always more than what is required. Our employees make sure that before entering the field the ...(*inaudible*)..., the sign is up, and they sign a black box, that's how strict we are. In any instance that it's windy --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SIM: --operation teams will cancel the spraying. And employees are never told to hurry up because they might take shortcut and get hurt. There is an ...(*inaudible*)... a safety committee, and there is an off the job safety committee that I'm leading with the support, with a very supportive team that focuses on safety outside of work. We have an amazing safety culture. If I know that what we are doing and producing are not safe I already resign, because I don't want to put myself, others people's lives at risk.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. SIM: Thank you so much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Can I ask her a clarifying question?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Sim --

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Hi. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --if you can return please for a question.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for being here and your testimony. You said...at what wind speeds do you cancel? You said that you cancel but I didn't quite get, is there a certain wind speed that you folks cancel spraying?

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MS. SIM: Yes. And no, so operations for example when it's windy we know that as soon as they know that there is, it might cause drift they will cancel, even how important the spraying is. People's lives is more important than our corn.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Right. But I wanted a number, wind speed.

MS. SIM: I don't...operations team is here we have really a wind anemometer, wind vane in there that records the speed. And so we have...

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay. Well if you don't know that's okay.

MS. SIM: Yes, operations team is the one cancelling it. They will just tell us, me as the one that's communicating with them, they will tell us it's windy, we will cancel spraying today.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you.

MS. SIM: And thank you for clarifying this.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you.

MS. SIM: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Paul Solomon, please, and after Mr. Solomon we will take our evening break.

MR. SOLOMON: Aloha. My name is Paul Solomon. I'm coming here as a resident of Maui, and I am in favor of this moratorium. And I want to thank the Chair and the Council for taking the time to discuss this important issue. And I know we're all tired so. You know there's a lot of talk about safety/not safety, and I know Monsanto they have a wonderful PR department and I know the people who work there really believe that what they're doing is good. But the research is not backing, the new research is not backing this up. Okay. What we keep hearing is a talking point, there's no credible research that this is not safe. Let me share two pieces of research with you. Okay. The first one says complete genes may pass from food to human blood. One of Monsanto's points is that the genes in these GMOs like the genes that create the neurotoxin in the Bt corn, when it gets in your digestive system it gets completely broken down so it doesn't get into your blood. Well this study shows that complete genes from plants that you eat get into your bloodstream and we don't know what that does. What does it mean when the genes that cause neurotoxin from Bt corn gets into your bloodstream? What is it doing in your body? New research, but nobody on Monsanto is discussing this. This one's been quoted before. *Major Pesticides Are More Toxic to Human Cells Than Their Declared --*

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. SOLOMON: --*Active Principles*. When the FDA had Monsanto and these other companies test their pesticides, they only test what's called the active ingredient, the glyphosates. But there are other ingredients in these compounds which make the active ingredient more potent and more toxic, and Roundup is actually 125 times more toxic than just the active ingredient alone. But they never tested the active, all of it --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. SOLOMON: -- together, and they never tested...when you take these different pesticides and herbicides together and put them in the field, no one has tested how toxic it is when you put them all together. So there's no information on the real toxicity.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony --

MR. SOLOMON: This is what we're dealing with.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Mr. Solomon.

MR. SOLOMON: Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your presence.

MR. SOLOMON: I appreciate your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Members, we're going to take a break. The Chair is going to order that the testimony table be closed. It shall be reopened 15 minutes to the reconvening of this meeting this evening. And we shall be in recess 'til 7:00 p.m. . . .(*gavel*). . .

RECESS: 5:48 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:03 p.m.

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(*gavel*). . . We shall return to session. This is the continuation of the Policy Committee. We are taking testimony on Policy Item 78. We'll start with the Chambers and then head over to Molokai. So at this time I'll call up Stephen Beidner, number 61, and following Mr. Beidner will be Dennis Gonsalves, number 62. Okay. Dennis Gonsalves. Following Mr. Gonsalves is Netra Halperin.

MR. GONSALVES: Okay?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, please.

MR. GONSALVES: Yeah. My name is Dennis Gonsalves and I am against the moratorium. I spent much of my career as a plant pathologist at Cornell University and returned back to Hawaii in

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2002 to direct the USDA Research Center in Hawaii. I recently retired at 2012. And I led the research team that developed the GMO rainbow papaya. This project was actually a public sector project by the University of Hawaii, Cornell University, and USDA. And the GMO rainbow papaya essentially saved the papaya industry from damage by the papaya ring spot virus. And today it makes up 80 percent of Hawaii's production. And the papaya is really one of nature's most nutritious fruits, and in Hawaii I would say it's probably the most affordable fruit that you have and much of that is because of the work on the GMO papaya. And the papaya is safe. And recently the nation of Japan which is very strict on GMOs, they approved the importation of the rainbow papaya. Now also I was involved some years ago in a case led by University of Hawaii actually to try to --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. GONSALVES: --control the tomato spotted wilt virus which was causing severe damage on tomatoes and lettuce on Maui island and Hawaii and Oahu. And I saw fields in Kula that were severely affected. Well my lab developed a GMO tomato that's resistant to tomato spotted wilt, it's been field tested on Oahu. A lab at UH Hilo has developed GMO-resistant lettuce.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. GONSALVES: If this moratorium is passed it'll stop all research that has been developed to try to control these problems.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Real quick question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Gonsalves --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Mr. Gonsalves.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --you have a question --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --from Mr. --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Just for clarification purposes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Victorino.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And I'm sorry. What is a plantologist [*sic*]? Just so that I understand what that means.

MR. GONSALVES: A plant virus?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No, your position. You said you were a...

MR. GONSALVES: Oh, a plant pathologist is a --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you.

MR. GONSALVES: --plant doctor. I work with plant diseases.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: A plant doctor for plant disease. Okay, just so that people understood. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Netra Halperin, and she will be followed by number 64, DeWolfe Miller.

MS. HALPERIN: Aloha. I'm Netra Halperin. Thank you all for patiently listening to everybody. I wanted to respond on, to Ms. Reimann, the community affairs director of Monsanto. She spoke earlier and she was really concerned about respect, and I want to let...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Address your comments to the Chair.

MS. HALPERIN: Sorry. I wanted to let her and Monsanto know that we are also very concerned about respect. She mentioned that there was some posters that were plastered. I saw nothing, nobody I know saw anything about that. But I did want to let her know that I do realize that there were some people at some point that were disrespectful for her, and, you know, we discussed that and, you know, that is not the policy at all of SHAKA or anybody involved in that to be disrespectful to anybody. You know we may disagree about issues but we absolutely 100 percent agree that respect for people and persons is of the utmost importance. The other thing I want to talk about is transparency. Ms. Reimann and also Mr. Koehler, Paul Koehler, the previous community affairs director, I...had both said that they wanted to have discussion, I don't know, discussion/debate between, they would bring in an expert and the anti-GMO people would bring in an expert. And with Mr. Koehler, he was going to be on my show, *Netra's News*. We had discussed everything and at the very last week he, they cancelled it. And same thing, you know, I've said and over and over, let's do it, let's do it --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. HALPERIN: --and I keep hearing yes we want to do it but no date has been set. So I'm just saying that we are 100 percent for science. You know you bring your best scientist, we bring our best

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scientist and let the people decide, apples to apples, oranges to oranges, not one person this time and emotions and discussions. You know just let's get the facts out for all the community to see. So that's what I would like, I think that's what SHAKA would like --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. HALPERIN: --is discussion on all sides. So thank you so much for listening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your comments this evening. DeWolfe Miller, please. I'm not going to mention about decorum again. Please.

MR. MILLER: Thank you. Good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening, sir.

MR. MILLER: My name is DeWolfe Miller. I'm a professor of epidemiology at the School of Medicine, the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. I'm also a Fellow in the American College of Epidemiology. Epidemiology by the way is the study of epidemics or health and disease in human populations, so this issue is of interest to me, it's in my community. And I brought myself here today to make testimony against the motion. The amount of epidemiologic data that you would have to justify to make the decisions that you're considering here are just not sufficient to consider that you would have a moratorium which would result in the loss of jobs and eliminate jobs. As an epidemiologist I just want to tell you that if you really want to do something devastating to public health that affects the individual, the community, and well beyond, take a person's job away. I'm just really astonished and concerned that the Council or even the people of Maui might make a decision based on really anecdotal information at best, certainly not enough that would justify such a dramatic decision. This...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MILLER: Thank you. This is also invited with an investigation that you propose to do that you simply have not developed sufficiently to give answers that would make anybody happy. And so the idea of putting these two things together, an investigation and a health issue of eliminating jobs, that's a serious ethical issue. It becomes much beyond what anything that you all can imagine.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MILLER: This is what we work with all the time as epidemiology, studying human populations.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony --

MR. MILLER: Thank you very much.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: --doctor. We'll have Mae Nakahata and then we'll head over to Molokai.

MS. NAKAHATA: Good evening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MS. NAKAHATA: My name is Mae Nakahata, agronomist at Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company, and I am before you today to speak in opposition of this bill. Agricultural operations cultivating genetically modified crops are an important component to Maui's agricultural industry and are keeping large tracts of land in production. It hires over 600 jobs and on islands such as Molokai are one of the major employers. It also is associated with many support jobs associated with these farming operations, so it's not just about ag we're talking about but many other businesses in the community. Earlier today you heard Harry Hashimoto's personal story, and he talked about how difficult it was for our vegetable farmers to farm. You know come up to Omaopio one day and you will see large tracts of lands fallow, and then when you look at the areas where such as Pioneer Mill that went out of sugar production, the infrastructure has degraded and the State, the County's public resources have a difficult time maintaining them. So these are some of the things we have at risk. Replacing these jobs, these agricultural activities will be very difficult.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. NAKAHATA: Finally, I, Maui County should be on its way to designate IAL, in other words the County should be in the mapping process. Who's going to occupy these lands if the technologies that are needed to keep farming operations viable are not going to be available? Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Ms. Alcon, your next Molokai testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Melvin Spencer.

MR. SPENCER: Aloha, Maui County Council members. My name is Mel Spencer. I enjoy working for Monsanto and I'm against the bill. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Eliza Chang.

MS. CHANG: Aloha, Council members. My name is Eliza Chang, born and raised on Molokai. I'm here to represent Monsanto Molokai. I've been with this company for eight and a half years and I'm proud of what I do. Monsanto emphasizes safe practices and are OSHA approved. Today there's a lot of negative issues about our company, whether it's good or bad, true or not, it's up to the individual to believe it or not. If our company wasn't a safe place to work then I wouldn't be

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here today. If we were to fold up what's going to happen to us, our families, our children, and especially to the community, the schools, churches, and et cetera that we donate to? We all have a part to this one way or another. We all will lose out and that's a big impact. That means relocating to another island to seek work. This is Molokai, our hometown, our family. Why should we move? And I oppose the moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jose Escobar.

MR. ESCOBAR: Good evening, Council members and Staff. My name is Jose Escobar, born and raised on Molokai. I currently have seven children, five that I support and care for. I worked construction for 15 years, then in 2003 I took a break from the workforce industry. Then in 2007 I was employed by Mycogen Seeds as a temporary worker. In 2010 I became a full-time employee. Mycogen is the first company that I worked for that stressed heavily on safety. We use worker protection standards, safe work permits, standard operating procedures to ensure safety of our employees. And currently I am the lead spray operator and we follow EPA laws and Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules and regulations. Now getting back to GMO, why would you want to implement this moratorium bill? GMO feeds and supplies the world with commodities. I as an individual oppose the GMO moratorium initiative. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Chris Nartatez.

MR. NARTATEZ: Good evening, Council. My name is Chris Nartatez, born and raised on Molokai. I oppose the bill because if we lose our jobs we would need to move off island because we can't find jobs here. We don't want to but we need to. Anyway, I oppose the bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Loke Rawlins.

MS. RAWLINS: Aloha, respected Council members. My name is Loke Rawlins and I am an employee at Monsanto Molokai. I was born and raised here on Molokai and mind you, I grew up near Monsanto fields in Kaunakakai, and I now work for them and guess what, I'm fine. It seems like the target is only focused on Monsanto and not the bill itself. The company is safe and I stand and support them 100 percent, and I oppose the moratorium of the GMO initiative. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Sam Kaahanui.

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MR. KAAHANUI: Aloha, everybody. My name is Samson Kaahanui and I'm a Hawaiian, born and raised, and I live on Hawaiian homestead land. I work for Mycogen Seeds Molokai. I have six girls, two boys, and a grandson, and one more on the way. It's not easy raising a family of nine when you have car payments, electric, and water bills and pay for gas for my truck and car to go to work sometimes five days, sometimes six days a week. If it wasn't for Mycogen Seeds I would have a hard time to take care my family. I don't think it's fair for people who don't even live on Molokai get to decide what is good for us, so I don't support this morandum [*sic*] bill because a lot of people will be hurting if it was to be passed. I love my job at Mycogen Seeds and I love my island of Molokai for this place and people is special. On behalf of Mycogen Seeds and my family, thank you for listening. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Gene Albino.

MR. ALBINO: My name is Gene Albino, I'm a mechanic for Dow AgroSciences, Mycogen Seeds, and I oppose this initiative. And, you know, in a perfect world Molokai would be its own county but we are a small minority of the County and it's sad that foreigners on another island get to dictate how we should live our lives. Especially people from outside the box who don't know our lifestyle and how we live here on this island. The ripple effect if it happens falls upon you, we vote you into office, it's your responsibility to find the common ground that we can stand on. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Salina Kansana.

MS. KANSANA: Aloha. My name is Salina Kansana. I am born and raised on Molokai. Molokai is my home and I will fight for what is true. I work for Monsanto, a company that puts safety first above everything. Safety of our workers, community, and product. We have continuous training so we are able to do our job correctly and safely. To return home to our families at the end of the day better than how we came. I love my job and take pride in what I do. Being that Molokai has a high unemployment rate Monsanto has made it possible for me to stay here on Molokai, my island, to provide for my family. Lifestyle here is priceless and you won't find it anywhere else. GE foods has been feeding the world for years and has proven safe. I don't know what more I can say to defend what I know is right and true. Why not talk about what really needs to be addressed? The ongoing drug problems, unemployment, and suicides just to name a few. So I strongly oppose the bill and hope that you all do, too. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Aristotle Oamil.

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MR. OAMIL: Good morning, member of the board. I'm Aristotle Oamil, resident in Molokai, and we are a family of five. I'm working on Monsanto. I'm here today that I would like to oppose the bill. I believe with the safety of the new technology, I believe this. Nothing wrong with the GE crops, because any agricultural product is always partnership with the chemicals. This kind crop is our everyday living, and I don't understand these people provide this bill open their mouth for the negative way for the GE crops. How about the positive way? Nobody build food that for killing somebody, that's what I believe. Again, please oppose the bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. One more please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Cory Jones.

MR. JONES: Chairman Hokama, Council members, thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns about this initiative. My name is Cory Jones and I am testifying in opposition to this initiative. This deceptive initiative is being pushed as a temporary moratorium on growing of genetically modified crops in Maui County, but in reality it's a measure that would force the complete shutdown of longstanding farming operations in the County without any sort of scientific justification backing it up. The initiative is full of scary sounding allegations, absolute falsehoods, and fear mongering. I have been in ag business for 17 years and if I had any doubt about the safety of GMOs or conventional farming practices I would not be involved in it, feeding it to my family, or living around it. This initiative just denies Maui County farmers that want to use future advances in crop technology the right to plant crops that resist pests and certain diseases, crops that have enhanced nutrition and drought tolerance. There may come a time where genetic engineering is needed to save an industry or crop as with rainbow papaya and ring spot virus. This moratorium would prevent that. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. We'll come back to the Chambers and then return to Molokai shortly. Next at number 66, Warren Watanabe, and Mr. Watanabe will be followed by Mark Wood.

MR. WATANABE: Good evening, Chair Hokama, members of the Committee.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. WATANABE: My name is Warren Watanabe, executive director of the Maui County Farm Bureau representing our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in Maui County. I submitted written testimony and I have also submitted testimonies from farmers and ranchers who could not be here today. They are busy during the day, you know, tending to their farms and ranches. Their absence does not minimize how important today's hearing is to them however. Maui County Farm Bureau is opposed to this bill. It goes against our purpose to make the business of farming more profitable and the community a better place to live. USDA reports that the US spends the least amount of money for food among all of the countries in the world. This is because US food policy ensures that the people have affordable and reliable food supplies. Some may say people are willing to pay more for food, but are we willing to force a single

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mother of three to spend more money for food instead of saving for her children's education? As we talk about affordable food let's put this into perspective with the farmers and ranchers. Only 9.7 cents of every dollar is for actual farm production. Granted, this is an average over the entire food system versus locally grown products sold directly to the consumer, but this is important today as we not only eat local but shop at Safeways as much as, as much for our daily needs. Also half of the dollar is spent on labor. It is no different from a commercial farm on Maui, labor is a major cost.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. WATANABE: The title of this measure, of the measure speaks to a moratorium on GM; however, this measure doesn't just impact ag, it affects everyone in Maui County and the world since seed on Maui is the basis for commercial grain production. GM is not just about seed, I know farmers on the Big Island, they just want to grow papaya yet are caught in a legal web. We appreciate the Council's understanding and support of agriculture which a recent...such as your recent allocation for extending our ag...expanding our ag park system.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. WATANABE: If we do not ensure farmers have, that tools are available...I mean if we do not ensure tools that are important to a farmers viability, how can we expect them to populate these ag parks? We ask that you hold this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Mark Wood, followed by number 68, Eugenia Sitts.

MR. WOOD: Aloha, Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Mark Wood. I'm the Monsanto...I work for Monsanto company, I'm the regional lead that's responsible for corn breeding on both Oahu and Maui operations. I'm here tonight obviously to oppose this measure primarily because while it's listed as a moratorium it's ultimately going to be a ban. It would...as many people have talked about, we've talked about and heard about and science and farming and other things and we have many things that we can highlight, and over 1,700 research studies and lots of other folks that have come up and talked. The bottom line, we need to figure out a way to work together, to have a conversation, not a debate, not a dialogue that involves one side arguing about the other side. Ag is ag, whether you're producing conventional crops, organic crops, or biotech crops. We are farmers. We do produce food. You may not go to the store and buy it today but you do buy food from us, from other companies that produce for us, or farmers that grow. It would be great as a way to use this moratorium or this initiative to have a conversation to figure out a way to get more than 7,500 people interested in farming in Hawaii. That's what we really need to do, not focus on a way to get rid of technology that limits farmers. I appreciate the opportunity to have people say that we can provide jobs for your families, that's great. When a company like ours starts growing food for others, what about the farmers --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. WOOD: --that we just displaced? We need to focus on ag, not just attacking ag and attacking what it is we do. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this evening. Eugenia Sitts, to be followed by number 69 Ernesto Galinato.

MS. SITTS: Good evening. I'd like to thank Committee Chair, Mr. Hokama and members of the Policy Committee for their time and understanding during this pivotal time. My name is Eugenia Sitts and I oppose this bill. I have been an employee of Monsanto Kihei for 13 years. I have a husband, three sons, and two grandchildren. I joined Monsanto as a safety coordinator because Monsanto believes in the safety of all their employees. My job is to make sure that our Ilocano-speaking employees understand all of the OSHA-driven programs, EPA regulations, as well as our own internal programs. Safety is the spoken language of all Monsanto employees. We are very proud of our site's designation as a Voluntary Protection Program Star site status here on Maui and on Molokai. In 2006 we were designated a Star site and Maui Monsanto was the first company from a neighbor island and one of five Statewide to earn this top safety classification which is administered under the OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The voluntary protection program recognizes employers and employees who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards. During the process a team of professionals from other star sites and OSHA officials put us under a safety and health microscope. We are proud to say that each and every one of our employees continues to maintain this great honor from OSHA.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SITTS: Monsanto employees have developed many safety changes on their own through our Hazard Recognition and Safety Suggestion programs and with the assistance of our management are given the authority to enforce these measures. It is this constant reminder of safety at work that provides a framework for our employees to make safety a priority at home as well. Monsanto has been on Maui for almost 40 years now. Protecting the environment by operating in a safe manner is of utmost importance to our employees as evidenced by attaining VPP status. The soil is of --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. SITTS: --utmost value to all farmers including Monsanto and we would not have been able to operate for 40 years if we did not have good farming practices that protect our resources.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. SITTS: Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Ernesto Galinato, and he will be followed by number 70, 7-0, Steve Paselk.

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MR. GALINATO: Honorable Chairman of the Committee and its members, aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MR. GALINATO: I am Ernesto Galinato, employed with Monsanto for eight years from now. Monsanto helps me in the support of my family. I love to work in this company because of its safe environment and their commitment to safety. This has made Monsanto judged one of the best place to work for so many years. I really like being part of agriculture. It is a part of my heritage. I'm afraid of this moratorium because the seed industry will be lost. This will cause severe impact of our local economy because it will create more jobless people in Maui County. Our industry provides 600 jobs in Maui County. These jobs contribute to the recovery of our economy. This moratorium will also force members or farmers to stop growing genetically engineered crops even though GM crops have been already proven to be safe. We need to support agriculture industry. Monsanto cares so much for the safety of every employee. We are always given safety training lessons and reminders to work safely.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. GALINATO: We are always provided with the right gear equipment so that we can work safely and effectively, especially in regards to spraying. Monsanto has detailed procedures that we strictly follow whenever we spray to ensure that all employees are working in a safe environment. Our safety in Monsanto is so good that we are awarded the VPP designation from OSHA. Only a very few companies in the entire State have this --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. GALINATO: --elite status. Please help me keep my job in Monsanto, it is a good company. Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Galinato. Steve Paselk, please.

MR. PASELK: Good evening --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. PASELK: --Chairman Hokama and Members. My name is Steve Paselk. I support the GMO moratorium and adequate testing of herbicide combinations and GMO allergy and safety testing. For many years corporations such as Monsanto have spent hundreds of millions lobbying to reduce EPA regulation and oversight. Monsanto is now putting on a pedestal that EPA oversight as a justification that all the restricted herbicides they use in Hawaii are allowed and monitored and thus by implication safe. All herbicides such as glyphosate and atrazine are harmful to humans and are approved only by weighing a number of allowable projected deaths versus the amount of economic benefit. Application restrictions and drinking water part per million levels

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are established to dilute risk and minimize human deaths. Court required disclosure in recent Kauai lawsuits has now revealed the massive levels of 22 restricted use herbicides --

MS. NAKATA: One a and a half minutes.

MR. PASELK: --that are now being used in combination without toxicological studies or testing of soil, air, water, or human blood. This combination and concentration was never anticipated or tested when individual use levels were originally established. Maui County citizens and voters are now asking to review --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. PASELK: --and retest the safety of the present situation here to protect our citizens' health and the land, air, and water around us. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. We'll go to Molokai. Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier . . .*(feedback from mic)*. . . Sorry about that. Our next testifier is Kali Arce.

MS. ARCE: Aloha, Council Chair Hokama and respected Council members. I am employed by Monsanto. I have earned a bachelors of science in agriculture and have worked in Hawaii's agriculture industry for 30 years. In 1975 Dole Pineapple Company closed down on Molokai. Five hundred twenty full-time jobs and 1,200 seasonal jobs was lost. The next best thing was tourism. Is that even an option now? The activists seem to have won that battle by shutting down Molokai Ranch and stopping the Superferry. Our tourism industry is barely getting by. The SHAKA movement says the 1,400 jobs in Maui County don't matter. If this bill becomes law it will matter on Molokai. It will affect the 200-plus employees who are employed by Monsanto and Mycogen. It will affect our family members who rely on our paychecks. It will affect 24 of my family members as 3 of us are employed with Monsanto and Mycogen. We pay Federal and State taxes of which pay for unemployment and welfare. This County needs our jobs as much as we need our jobs. Also our companies support many of the local businesses, YB, MECO, Department of Motor Vehicles, and is one of the main customers of Hikiola the only agriculture cooperative on Molokai owned by homesteaders like me. We employees spend our paychecks at all of those places too.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. ARCE: What type of employment would be left on our island? Is the State prepared for this crisis? Just yesterday someone commented that big corporations are greedy and selfish and that the workers become like the corporations we work for. I think it's unfair to put labels on employees like us who are going to work for an honest paycheck. Our companies are responsible and in compliance of all pesticide laws and regulations. We practice safe science. I oppose this bill and asking your Committee to reject or not adopt this proposed ordinance.

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. ARCE: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Alcon, can we have the name of that last testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Kali Arce.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Next.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Kalai Maliu.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. MALIU: My name is Kalai Maliu, born and raised on the island of Molokai where my parents, grandparents, and great grandparents lived on Hawaiian homestead land. I worked for 40-plus years for Monsanto. I can't believe that this issue on GMO and pesticide is brought up. I'm breathing, I'm standing, maybe I cannot run but I can walk, and guess what, I still work for the most beautiful company on this island. I oppose the moratorium GE bill and thank you for your time. Aloha. A hui hou. Malama.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Ivan Kawamae.

MR. KAWAMAE: Aloha. My name is Ivan Kawamae, I'm a resident of Molokai. This moratorium will not only affect Hawaii but it will affect the nation. How are we going to live? How long will our resources hold out? When unemployment rates go up and there are no jobs, citizens will have to resort to natural resources and provide for their family. As years go on, our ecosystem and natural resources will start to deplete, then where will we go? I oppose this GMO moratorium. Aloha. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Leo Ramos.

MR. RAMOS: Aloha, Maui County Council. Hi, good evening. My name is Leo Ramos, a Molokai resident. I have two kids to support. I've been working in Mycogen Seeds for almost six years from now. I came here to oppose the bill because it will affect my job and my family. If I lose my job how can I support my family and pay my bills? That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

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MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Taylor Wright.

MS. WRIGHT: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Taylor Nicole Wright and I am testifying on behalf of myself as an individual. I am a native Hawaiian of Molokai born and raised. My mother is a single parent and she makes many sacrifices for my brother and I. I currently just graduated from Kamehameha School and I will soon be attending college in Washington. Mycogen Seeds has provided me with employment to help pay for my college fund. They gave me the opportunity to be able to help my mother with my future finances. I want to give my voice as the younger generation. The SHAKA movement people are saying future generations will be impacted when genetically engineered organisms have been around for years, even when I was a child. It's crazy how all of a sudden the SHAKA movement are trying to speak on behalf of the people when we have our own voices. Monsanto and Mycogen provide jobs for over 300 residents on the island, and if the moratorium is passed more than half of the Molokai residents will be unemployed. When the residents have no jobs they are forced to look elsewhere. Also if passed residents will have to look to our sustainable resources which could potentially wipe them out. What will happen then? They choose this island to raise their children and teach them the knowledge they've learned from previous generations. I love my island and I have many family members employed at both companies. I wouldn't want to see my family struggle to make ends meet. I may be young --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. WRIGHT: --and still learning but I know that the impact of the initiative will bring much controversy. I oppose this initiative. Mahalo for listening. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Sheryll Buse.

MS. BUSE: Good evening, Maui County Council. My name is Sheryll Buse and I'm a resident of Molokai. I graduated from college with bachelors of science degree in biology. Without this job I will not be able to continue living here on Molokai. I would be forced to relocate which will be very hard for me given I have no friends or family besides here on Molokai. I oppose this moratorium because I've been working in the corn field for over two years and I don't see any evidence that the procedure are harmful agricultural practices. I work five to six days a week in the corn fields. I held the corn and know that my safety is my company's number one priority. I am comfortable and confident that my job presents no risk to my health. Please consider impact this initiative will have on my life. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Likeke Schonely.

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MR. SCHONELY: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Likeke Schonely and I am a native Hawaiian on Molokai, and I'm testifying on behalf of myself as an individual. I currently just graduated from Molokai High School class of 2014. The base of my income came from my first job at Mycogen Seeds. In our current economy it's hard to find employment already as it is and I was lucky to have found a job here. If this initiative is passed it will not only hurt my future goals but my family's contribution to my college fund. I want to have the money to start a great life by myself. It's already bad enough that Molokai has the highest unemployment rate, and if the initiative is passed not only will the seed companies hurt but the businesses that provide services to them. We will then see a greater downfall in our economy. In the near future when I want to have a job in my hometown where will the jobs be? This is the place I want to raise my family and teach my children what I learned here. I strongly oppose this initiative. Mahalo for listening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Mapuana Kansana.

MS. KANSANA: Good evening. My name is Mapuana Kansana. I'm retired and I'm 71½ years old. I've never learned about GMO until I became employee of Monsanto seed company in 2007. My first three years the company every year up 'til today hold classes and meetings pertaining to the production, usage, and safety whether on the product, ourselves, and others. There are rules and regulation we follow on how to perform each task and each job. Monsanto and many other agriculture farmers is strictly regulated accordingly to its rule. I've been eating snacks, chips, drinking soda, food purchase at stores, markets all my life and I haven't known or been affected by any health illnesses or diseases. I believe and knowingly through genetic engineering has been proven safe by science, university, and health professionals. Molokai Monsanto seed company has provided help to businesses, families, organizations, schools, communities, and many nonprofit organizations through donation, financial help, programs, participating with communities, and even labor help --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. KANSANA: --using their manpower and equipment. They provide jobs and take good care of all employees. I love what I'm doing and I love my job. I'm concerned on our future generation living here on Molokai on how they will be affected and how our island Molokai be affected also. Our economy is not that great now. What will happen --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. KANSANA: --at the end if the bill is passed? I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. One more, please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Moana Keohulua.

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MS. KEOHULOA: Thank you. My name is Moana Keohuloa. I'm from the island of Molokai. I speak today different from everyone. I'm very concerned about our people on Molokai. My grandfather taught me a lot about being good to other people. In this world today we need to pay attention closely to what we say and what we do. We need to be honest in what we say and do, that way we all come together as one and we work together hand in hand, as Monsanto says. I believe in their pledge and I wholeheartedly say this that Monsanto says to me we are going to feed the world. I believe them. I work for them and another company. I've gone to the mainland, they have broadened my horizons. I've learned a lot in this industry, and I do oppose this moratorium. But I am for agriculture 100 percent. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. We shall return to Molokai after the Chambers. At 71, Eloise Engman. And following Eloise Engman at 72 will be Ann Pitcaithley.

MS. ENGMAN: Aloha. Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, let me just get this last name so she can prepare, Pitcaithley. Why don't you go, please, Ms. Engman.

MS. ENGMAN: Thank you, Chairman Hokama. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to be here. I know it's very tedious for you Council members, it's a long day, and I'd just like to say that I am born and raised in these islands and these islands are very dear to me. My parents came from the mainland and met each other shortly after World War II.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Name, please.

MS. ENGMAN: Oh, my name is Eloise Engman.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay, thank you.

MS. ENGMAN: And it was interesting because my parents were very involved in the Burns revolution and were...back then it was the big five and we're still dealing with the little guy versus the big corporations as time goes on. Speaking of that, I have a copy of this bill that was introduced in the 27th Legislature last year and it was introduced on behalf of the biotech industry, and the main thrust of the bill was to limit the specific powers that the counties have. So you folks might be familiar with this bill. It was in particular they are, wanted to limit the general powers and limitation of the counties in what they could and could not do. They particularly wanted to change the wording of Section 13 relating, they wanted to change the Hawaii Revised Statutes as amended. This one particular sentence which how it reads and continues to read because this bill fortunately did not go through, each County shall have the power to enact ordinances deemed necessary to protect health, life, and property. Biotech industry would have liked to take out the words "health" and "life". And this is who we're dealing with. Yeah. They just wanted it to say, deemed necessary to protect property. Our health and our life does not seem to be their

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particular concern, although I'm sure they do have to deal with a lot of safety issues constantly. I mean I would feel a little nervous going to work myself if I --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. ENGMAN: --had to have a safety meeting every single day. I mean there's obviously a reason for that. Could I have just a half a minute more?

CHAIR HOKAMA: No.

MS. ENGMAN: No. That's enough. Okay, thank you very much. Appreciate it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your presence, Ms. Engman. Number 72...if you guys want to be removed, my pleasure. We'll have Maui's finest escort you gentlemen out if you folks want. Number 72, Ann P-I-T-C-A-I-T-H-L-E-Y.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pitcaithley.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your help. And following her at 73 will be Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Aloha, Council Chair and Council members. I'm speaking in strong support of the temporary moratorium on Maui, and I wonder like how is it possible that as a population of intelligent concerned people we're not appalled that most of our food is now being produced by multibillion dollar, multinational chemical corporations with Monsanto being the greatest producer of all? Monsanto, the company that brought us DDT, Agent Orange, Paraquat, glyphosate, 2,4-D that all had chemical...all had toxic consequences and have a history of poisoning communities. Even aside from the genetic manipulation of food itself which is considered by many independent scientists an imprecise and uncertain scientist [*sic*], there's ample reason to be alarmed by the chronic overuse of toxic herbicides and pesticides that are increasing in use since the emergence of Roundup-resistant super weeds. It's a vicious cycle. Despite any assertions touted by Monsanto none of the GM traits currently on the market offer increased yield, drought tolerance, enhanced nutrition, or any other consumer benefit, but we keep hearing this propaganda. Although the most developed nations do not consider GMO foods to be safe many Americans whose regular diet contains GMO are kept in the dark about it. It's a travesty that the FDA allowed GM foods in the US food supply without --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: --requiring independent tests to determine their safety or risk. Monsanto has refused to provide independent scientists with seeds to disclose what chemicals they are using or the effect of interactions of combined chemicals or have set restrictive conditions that severely limit research options. Monsanto's business model is equally alarming. As outlined in their

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agenda it is proposed in the near future to have all, 100 percent of all commercial seeds be genetically modified. They envision --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: --a world where their monopoly will make all natural seeds extinct.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this evening.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez will be followed at number 74, Autumn Ness.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. My name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and I am speaking on behalf of Go Maui. For more information about Go Maui you can visit our website GoMauiInc.org. And in the time that I have I've thought a lot about this issue and prepared written remarks. I'd like to begin by saying that I thank the Chairman for his dinner break, a long day. I only wish the 548 million people who went to bed tonight without having a meal were able to listen to the debate in a country where we have the option of deciding which food we want to eat and we don't want to eat and what package we want it in. This is a issue that affects real people. Real people will lose their jobs. Real families will be destroyed. Agriculture is under attack. This initiative is well intentioned. I have no problem with the people who believe in it passionately, I do not oppose them. It is a wrong-headed idea at the wrong time in the wrong place, and it must be defeated or the attack on agriculture will continue until the way of life that has been built on Maui and which attracted so many of us who are immigrants, who are immigrants here --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: --that way of life that attracted us will be destroyed. And I would remind those of you who are perhaps as old as I am about a comment that was made during a war that I assume most of you were against and that is when the commander had to say we destroyed the village in order to save it. Be careful that you do not get what you wish for.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Blackburn-Rodriguez, for your testimony. Autumn Ness, number 74, followed by Christian Harting, number 75.

MS. NESS: Hello. My name's Autumn Ness. We have heard from opponents of this moratorium that the USDA regulates pesticides and GMOs so anything at a local level would be unnecessary. Yes, those Federal regulations do exist but all over the US, states and counties have been finding

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that the USDA is not doing its job and local intervention is required for the health of people and wildlife there. I want to give you one powerful example from Hawaii. In 2006 the USDA was found guilty by a Federal court of issuing illegal bio-farming permits here in Hawaii. Bio-farming if you're not familiar is the controversial practice of genetically engineering food crops to produce experimental drugs and industrial compounds. These illegal permits authorized Monsanto, ProdiGene, Garst Seed Company, and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to plant over 800 acres of drug-producing corn and sugar cane at various sites in Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, and Maui from 2001 to 2003. The court found that the USDA acted in "utter disregard of the Endangered Species Act and also violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to conduct even one preliminary investigation prior to its approval of these controversial plantings." In case you didn't get that I'm going to say it again, the USDA gave illegal permits to Monsanto, ProdiGene, and Garst Seed Company, and the Hawaii Ag Research Center to grow corn and sugar cane that are engineered to produce experimental drugs in our food and industrial compounds --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. NESS: --without doing even one preliminary test. This is just one thing they got busted for. What other experiments are going on that haven't been brought to court? And what do those experiments do to the people and the environment downwind and downstream? And when the USDA was found guilty, I didn't find a single news story about it picked up by any major media source in US or Hawaii. I had to dig for it. I can go on and on, examples like these abound, and they are the reason that a moratorium makes sense. These guys will threaten us with a loss of jobs but there are other options for these corporations --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. NESS: --that don't require them to lay them off. I don't know when the issue became about us bowing to corporations' models to keep jobs, it's a corporation's job is to follow laws that are put in place to protect the health and people of an island. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Ness. Christian Harting...

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Wait. Oh, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Sorry. Real quick. If I may, Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Please.

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COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you. Good evening, Ms. Ness. Thank you for being here. The example that you're, you've given, that dramatic example. As far as...to your knowledge was that a unique case with the USDA under regulating or was it, you know, found to be incompetent at some point or what?

MS. NESS: I have tons, I can e-mail the whole Committee a lot of examples. I'll just give you one more. For example in 2012 a chemical called methyl iodide was pulled from the US market after being aggressively marketed as a pesticide. It was used on strawberries and now we know that it undeniably causes all kind of liver, kidney damage, thyroid, tumors, miscarriage, organ damage, all these really intense...DNA damage, all these really intense health problems, and it's really widely used in California. And the local communities of California were finding these clusters of all these really severe health problems and it took them five years of legal battles against their own USDA, against their own state government to get this pulled off the shelves. The USDA sold it hook, line, and sinker to the public and it took five years of grassroots battles to get this thing off the market. Over and over and over again there are examples of the USDA, the FDA, the EPA not doing their job, and it's only through diligence of local communities that these people are held accountable. I can...

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you.

MS. NESS: I will mail the whole Committee lists of these examples if you'd like.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for that opportunity, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Mr. Harting.

MR. HARTING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My name is Christian Harting and I firmly support the moratorium on GMOs here in Maui County. With that I want to say that I feel deeply for the workers who are employed by Monsanto and the other GMO producer. I feel that assisting in getting them wholesome alternative employment is the important part of this movement, and also a return of Maui County policies to the indigenous wisdom that says decisions should be based on the health and wellbeing for at least seven generations, to protect the land and the keiki. I feel that Monsanto's long history is that of a wolf in sheep's clothing, to put it nicely. I feel it is important to see how Monsanto has been in the past to get a clearer picture of one of the reasons why there is so much concern by so many here on Maui and on the entire planet who are watching this right now regarding this corporation. One documented example is how in the Midwest they attacked independent local farmers who were not using their patented GMO seeds but whose crops through pollination blowing in the wind were contaminated by Monsanto's GMOs. What did Monsanto do? They sent teams of lawyers after

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them demanding their royalties and were strong, so strong in their threats and were boasting about this to their shareholders about the many lawsuits they were winning and how many farms were forced to buy their seeds or go under. These were --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. HARTING: --independent farmers. Also at the same time they attacked independent seed sellers who could not afford to fight expensive legal battles destabilizing an important element of American farming. And I have heard a handful of people today who are opposed the moratorium speaking about scientific proof about FDA and EPA and OSHA approval. I know from my own study of the aggressive policies of Monsanto is that key members of their top corporate officials are deeply embedded in the FDA and other important policymaking agencies in Washington, D.C. And that key members of the FDA and Monsanto share revolving doors as they play both sides to make sure that the testing that is done is weak and ineffective [*sic*].

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. HARTING: Through their policies one can see that they emphasize profits through monopolizing and domination of the world food markets no matter what the consequences to people's health and wellbeing. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Harting, for your testimony. We have number 76, Steve LaFleur, to be followed by Beth Savitt, number 77.

MR. LaFLEUR: Thank you. My name is Steve LaFleur and I've been eating organic food for 40 years. And I want to continue to be able to have that choice. And my son who died at 21 months from Los Angeles County spraying malathion out of helicopters that were telling us it was safe and, you know, just cover up your car because it will eat away the paint makes me feel a little bit passionate about the many things that are being fed to the Monsanto employees about how safe everything is. Aspartame has been proven not to be safe, it's a GMO. Agent Orange was never safe. DDT was never safe. India GMO cotton is causing an epidemic of 300,000 suicides a year because their cows are dying from eating the cotton of GMO. It goes on and on. The seeds that Monsanto says is going to save the world cannot be re-grown as for thousands of years, and the way of indigenous Hawaiian, you grew your seeds, you kept your seeds, you kept planting your seeds. You didn't...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Address your remarks to the Chair, please.

MR. LaFLEUR: You didn't pay a company, a corporation for your seeds, you had your seeds. They're going around the whole world making everyone --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. LaFLEUR: --dependent on buying their seeds. I just want to thank Alika Atay and and Walter Ritte and the Hawaiians that are really standing for what Hawaii really stands for and how they've stood for no GMO taro. And Monsanto's based on faulty science, it's been shoved down our throat.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. LaFLEUR: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. LaFleur. Beth Savitt, please, and following her shall be number 78, Gayle Groff.

MS. SAVITT: Aloha, City Council, and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Dr. Reverend Beth Savitt, I'm dean of the University of Health and Spiritual Sciences, a new paradigm medical school both in New York and will be here on Maui. Maui is my home. This is where . . . (*turns to Chair*). . . I'm sorry. This is where I plan to be for the rest of my life. This past week I came home from New York City, not my home, I had to go there to get medical attention for my son. He has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, he also has high glycothates [*sic*] in his system. He was raised near an airport where pesticide planes would land and dump their herbicides and Roundup and pesticides over the local homes below as they entered the airport helping their friends getting rid of their weeds and their bugs. At 17 my son has had the fight of his life and he is clear. Now how can I say this? My son has lymphoma, Roundup, because there are studies. And as I sat here today and heard the word no studies I shook inside as a mother. There are...this year in the journal, *International Journal of Educational Research and Public Health*, they reviewed 30 years of research in the biggest meta-analysis analyzing 44 --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. SAVITT: --studies. It's one of the most comprehensive reviews on the topic of occupational exposure to pesticides in the scientific literature, exposing a clear link between pesticides and the glycothates [*sic*] in use today with the adjuvants that are added to support. Because glycothate [*sic*] doesn't work on its own, it can't enter the cells, and this is what Monsanto tested when they said it was safe.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. SAVITT: There's 10 to the 23rd power of adjuvants. We cannot research that, there is no way. Not one more child with lymphoma. Not one more child.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Doctor. Gayle Groff, number 78, followed by Dr. Lorrin Pang, 79. Gayle Groff. One last call, Gayle Groff. Okay. Dr. Pang, if you would come forward, please. Thank you. And following Dr. Pang is Joe Ritter at number 80.

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MR. PANG: Good evening, Mr. Chair and Council members. I keep changing my testimony because I want to address some of the comments made previously. My name is Lorrin Pang, I speak as a private citizen. I consulted and taught for the World Health Organization for 20 years. I currently am a consultant to the US Congress. I review research, I judge whether it goes to market or whether it goes to clinical trials or whether it doesn't go. I'm a professor of medicine at the Federal University of Brasilia. I speak as a private citizen. I have given you my written testimony because I was afraid I might have to change it. My written testimony is my position backed by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine on the moratorium of GM crops. I added for them the pesticide. It has been approved by their president, it was being reviewed by their board now. So scientifically I feel I'm on solid ground when I say at worst these things are harmful, at best they're untested. I gave you ten references in my document. I want to change the subject a little bit now. It's called about enticement. Long ago I conducted a study on refugees. I was treating them with an experimental drug for malaria. I decided that they should get protein 'cause these kids get no protein per week. Halfway in the study after one year I was challenged by the regulatory agency the FDA, they said, Dr. Pang, this is enticement, I said this is a win-win situation. They get protein, I dole out the protein, they want it. They said that's exactly the point. The win-win situation, those who want jobs, those who give the jobs, it's a win-win situation, but it's clouding up the decision on an unknown product.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. PANG: I feel the same way about jobs. I feel bad about jobs. I've given up jobs myself. But this is a form of enticement to be judged by the regulatory agencies, not by those who have the job, not by those who dole out the jobs, and certainly not by the Council member's whose voting depends on being happy with jobs. It is the regulatory agencies, bring them here, bring in the FDA, bring in the EPA. I dealt with them on Kauai during the outbreaks and I'm underwhelmed. Bring them here. Thank you.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Dr. Pang. Thank you for your comments this evening. Joe Ritter, please, number 80.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He just went to his car, he'll be back in a minute.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Joe Ritter, second call. Joe Ritter, third call. Okay, we'll go to Molokai. Ms. Alcon, please bring your next testifier.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Delfin Rabara.

MR. RABARA: Good evening, Maui County Council members. My name is Delfin Rabara Sr. and I'm an employee of Monsanto Molokai. I appreciate what my company offer me. I trust their judgment and I oppose the bill. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is David Makaiwi.

MR. MAKAIWI: Aloha, County Council members. I'm David Makaiwi. I work for Monsanto. This is who we are, locals/Hawaiians. We are the company. This is our job, this is what we do. This is a...there is a lot of bad talking and name calling for about the seed companies. This moratorium against GE and GMOs is bad for the County, especially here on Molokai where we all need the jobs, not the high unemployment rates. I oppose this moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Miles Luuloa.

MR. LUULOA: Aloha, Chair Hokama and the County Council members. I want to take this opportunity to say mahalo for allowing me to speak my testimony. My name is Miles Luuloa, I was born and raised here on the island of Molokai and have four wonderful children. There is unlimited amount of effort by the agricultural companies to make it known that they follow the strict rules and regulations by the Federal and Hawaii governments. The FDA says that GMO is just as safe. There are many employees that have been working for 15 to 30 years that are ag farming, they have no health issues that are caused by anything that they have done in the past or present. The SHAKA people have said that they don't keep their money here in Hawaii economy because they're based on the mainland. Although Monsanto's main office is on the mainland the hard money of its employees are circulating throughout the State as well as Maui County. When talking about the economy, how will unemployment, welfare, and the total loss of jobs for many help the Hawaii economy in any way? It'll get worse and the taxpayers will end up paying for all of this. I also heard that the SHAKA guys have said that Monsanto doesn't care about the people. I say why would they even say that when they're getting as many signatures as they could by deceiving or misleading the community and asking them to sign their petitions which are then told it's for other reasons than what it was really for. They have said they got 20,000 signatures, that's 20,000 lies. Do you think they care? Monsanto cares about the community and gives back with monetary donations and community volunteer projects. Why doesn't the movement put their hard work and intelligence into something that is presently hurting the people? The islands are currently facing a crystal meth epidemic, especially Maui County, and it is known to ruin the lives of many infants across to teenagers and adults. Ice is proven to be a killer.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. LUULOA: How do I know? Because I experienced it firsthand. Why not fight the war against ice? I am. And guess what, I work for Monsanto. Remember the word epidemic means affecting many persons in a community or area. Isn't this the concern? Would it be logical to risk unemployment and for many families to be in any way struggling because they work hard for what they need for their families to be reprimanded --

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. LUULOA: --for something that is proven to be safe with no scientific evidence of anything connecting with GMO? For this I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Gina Buehner.

MS. BUEHNER: Thank you for hearing my testimony, Council members. I'm a biologist, a concerned citizen, but most importantly I'm a mother and I'm committed to feeding the world. I have worked in this industry for over 15 years, including in a regulatory capacity. I know what I speak of. I have come before you today to voice my opposition to the ballot initiative to place a moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered organisms. Molokai is a small community that relies heavily on the established working relationship between the businesses and our community and the seed companies that work together to enable livelihood for all those fortunate enough to live on Molokai. Molokai is a perfect example of coexistence and cooperation. We farm seed corn right down the road from an organic farm. By working in cooperation with one another we're allowed to prosper and grow our respective businesses. We are good stewards of the land we farm. The fragile economy on Molokai would be devastated if this ballot initiative becomes law. I challenge the Council to think about a few facts. In the late 1800s there were 74 percent of the public was involved in agriculture because they had to be, and they ate whatever they could grow. Fast forward to modern times and 1.5 percent of the population is involved in agriculture. The average age of the farmer in the US is 56. The seed industry is not doing some sort of wild Frankenstein, we are using sound scientific principles and tools to help the plants survive in a challenging environment.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. BUEHNER: This technology is just really giving mother nature a helping hand. Climate change and global warming and evolution are a fact, and if we don't modify our practices then we are dooming ourselves and our planet. The use of this technology and the new chemistry associated with modern agricultural practices is safe and more effective than in the past. We've learned our lessons from the toxic chemicals of the past.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. BUEHNER: And through environmental stewardship practices we have developed more effective, less invasive pest management practices. Fewer pesticides are needed which is less often applied and persists in the environment for a much shorter period of time translates into a smaller carbon footprint.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

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MS. BUEHNER: The 1.5 percent involved in agriculture today are knowledgeable and we are good stewards of the land that they farm. Without sound practices there would be nothing to farm.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. BUEHNER: Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Mr. Chair, we didn't get her name.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Elsie Senica.

MS. SENICA: Good evening, Chairman and members of the Maui County Council. I'm Elsie Senica and I'm speaking as an individual, and I'm currently an employee of Mycogen Seeds. I oppose this moratorium because working in the corn fields is my only way to earn a living in Hawaii. I don't have any relatives here to help me. I've been working the corn fields for five years, eight hours a day but I don't see any harmful effects to human. If I lose my job where should I get the money to pay my bills? I'm also supporting my extended family and I hope someday have my family come here in the US to live with me. That's all and thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. We'll return to the Chambers and get back to Molokai. Greg Godwin, 81. Greg Godwin. Last time, Greg Godwin. Meleana Higgins. Following Ms. Higgins at 83 will be Judy Levy.

MS. HIGGINS: Good evening --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MS. HIGGINS: --Chair Hokama, Council members.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Please use the microphone.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Ms. Higgins, yeah.

MS. HIGGINS: Sorry, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. HIGGINS: It's been a long day. And I just want to say to you all specifically it's a privilege to live in a country and a County where we can come here and not only be allowed to give our opinions but also to have you request it and ask for our opinions. My name is Meleana Higgins, I live a half mile from the Monsanto property entrance near the new Kihei Police Station. And I have to

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say that my heart feels very open and raw tonight listening to the testimony since early this afternoon. But my testimony is pro-agriculture, pro-responsibility, pro-sustainability, and pro-continued employment for the potentially affected ag workers. Jobs do matter, and most importantly I'm pro-life. I've watched the trends and I've been concerned about the rise in allergies, Alzheimer's, cancer, and respiratory illnesses in the last 14 to 15 years here on Maui. I'm beginning to connect the dots. Others, notably Dr. Pang, have already expressed many of my concerns regarding the safety of genetically engineered seed crops, pesticides, potential soil sterilization. So I simply want to go on record with my concerns for breathing clean air, drinking pure water, eating healthy, nurturing foods.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. HIGGINS: And I'll disclaim I eat organic and I buy local. So my concern is not just for us but for the future as others have said to preserve the land, and I think it's important that we the citizens of Maui County may know that GE operations are safe or at least the benefits outweigh the harm for persons. And I ask the Council to employ the precautionary principle and perform a benefits versus risk assessment hopefully without closing down operations.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. HIGGINS: And I offer myself to work for free with whatever entity commits to the continued employment of the potentially affected ag workers to make sure they have jobs. I commit to helping in that regard. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Judy Levy, please, and followed by 84, Paul Fenelon.

MS. LEVY: Aloha and good evening, Mr. Chair, Council members. Thank you all for working late tonight with us. I'm a businesswoman, I'm a grandmother, I'm an organic farmer, I'm a health enthusiast. My name is Judy Levy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. LEVY: And I too have deep compassion for the people on Molokai we've been listening to today. No one wants anyone to have to lose their jobs. Maybe Monsanto and the seed company might consider paying these dedicated people to help remediate the soil and let them become organic farmers. I also have great hope for the industrial hemp movement that I'm hoping will be starting soon here on Maui, and I think that will be one significant solution for all the islands and will attract lots of healthy new industries and positive business. It's interesting that the US has not welcomed long-term studies of GMO foods. Is the fact that people like Michael Taylor who was Monsanto's former VP of public policy is now the Deputy of Food Safety at the FDA, is that a possible conflict of interest? Why has diabetes and gluten allergies and as was said respiratory problems even in children become such an epidemic since GMO foods were unleashed on us? Even here on Maui our cancer rates have risen drastically. I had a lovely lady in my store this

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week who was buying gifts for three friends in the hospital after they had each had double mastectomies. It's no accident that our own cancer treatment center at our hospital now needs to be expanded.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. LEVY: The bees around places where GMOs are growing are dwindling. That's terrifying to us farmers. And European studies are showing how dangerous it is. Think about it, our human DNA doesn't recognize these foreign substances, and over 30 countries have thrown Monsanto out and refuse GMO foods. We need to take a look. We need to stop growing these things and really insist that the corporations prove that their pesticides and GMO corn are not actually destroying our --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. LEVY: --precious aina. Our organic farmers are growing and our markets are thriving, so this is what the people want I believe. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Paul Fenelon, followed by Coreena Neri, number 85.

MR. FENELON: My name is Paul Fenelon. Chair, Council. I'm here on behalf of myself. I'm a local on planet earth. Just like all of you we came from the same place, zygote, the moment the sperm meets the egg. And from then on even though there's this union we seem to fight with a duality. It's pretty interesting we spend our entire life being split, and that's what this is about, it's about splitting a community rather than bringing the community together on common issues. Now what's really important and I will address the Council and the Chair is that serving an elected office is a civic responsibility, an honor and a privilege not to be taken for granted. What we need is leadership who is willing to work to reverse the damage being perpetrated by biotech and those in positions of power in collusion of these said atrocities. We need to eliminate the high tolerance of political shenanigans who forget sometimes that they are part of the 99 percent. We have all a moral compass that we're born with and we know the instant when a decision is needed to be made by us whether we're making the decision that's positive or negative, and that affects us throughout the...however we maintain that, continuing to do it positive or continuing to do it negative. I'll use Hawaiian terms like pono and aina, and I'm chastised. Everywhere else I've traveled in the world it's shown a bit of respect to actually use words that are spoken in that country. Here it seems to be the opposite. And a lot of things are turned topsy-turvy. I really don't understand why this is even an issue to discuss it.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. FENELON: Across the country consumers are demanding the right to know what is in their food and the labeling of GE food. When the left and the right join together they can defeat big corporations and their subservient politicians. That's Ralph Nader who said that. That to be well

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adjusted to a profoundly sick society is no measure of health. Your decisions that you make here will affect everything, not just a few jobs but the entire planet is looking very carefully at what we do here and history will remember the decisions that are made. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Coreena Neri. Coreena Neri. Last call for Coreena Neri. Sean Loa. Sean Loa. Sheryl Roberts. Following Ms. Roberts at 87 is Bill Jones.

MS. ROBERTS: Good evening, Council members. Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening. Yeah, bring it down. Bring it down.

MS. ROBERTS: And Chairman Hokama. Thank you for bearing with us. I know this was long for everyone. I'm wondering if I can cede one of my minutes to a following citizen number 89?

CHAIR HOKAMA: No.

MS. ROBERTS: Okay. My name is Sheryl Roberts, I'm a mom, and I don't feel like I can really care too much about the safety or non-safety of GMOs because I don't have that luxury. I don't have the option, it's been taken away from me. I feel like the genie is out of the bottle and they're here. And so really I hope that the people with all of these wonderful things to say about GMOs are right and it's the panacea that they claim. But as a person who has an immune disorder in which GMOs may be implicated I'm not willing to bet my children's health or mine or yours. And I hope that you folks feel the same. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Bill Jones.

MS. ROBERTS: I forgot to say one more thing. I'm sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, ma'am.

MS. ROBERTS: I wanted to say to the folks that are vulnerable because of their employment over this issue my heart goes out to you, and I hope that you can have compassion for those of us whose health and organs are at risk also. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Bill Jones. Last call for Bill Jones. Alika Atay, and following Mr. Atay we'll go back to Molokai.

MR. ATAY: Council Chair, members. I sat here most of the day listening to a lot of talks. I'm born and raised here on Maui, resident of Hawaiian Homes. I'm also a farmer. I do natural farming. So many topics, so many bullet points to cover, but in this time I just kind of wanted to bring this out as leaders your kuleana to address a possible ordinance. And I had time to reflect about some previous hot topic issues. Remember the topic of tobacco? Getting cigarette smoking out of the restaurants and how it was going to affect people's jobs and all that kind of stuff, secondhand smoke. We adjusted. You make ordinances of involving alcohol, underage drinking for the

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youth, yeah, to protect the youth and their welfare. You make DUI laws to protect the people from harming themselves or harming others. So this comes down to kind of like an issue of public welfare, public concern, yeah. Is it safe? The moratorium doesn't say no more, it just says is it safe? I've heard testimony from the workers, they all say it's safe --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ATAY: --I have no problem. If it's safe, no worry. I have concerns about water table. Mokulele Farm, what's your elevation, 40 feet, 50 feet, how far away is the water. DDT, Hamakuapoko Well, 'til today is the water tainted? Over spraying of chemicals, 40-50 feet elevation, how many years of rain and spraying every day going get saturated to where our water table is affected?

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ATAY: I worried about the future, protect the water for the keiki. Grandchildren's grandchildren going turn to you guys and say we had a chance to do something and you guys give us polluted water, dead land, no microbes in our soil. That's the kuleana you all get, we get, the workers get, County Council get.

MS. NAKATA: Two and a half minutes.

MR. ATAY: Kuleana to the future.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Atay. Ms. Alcon, your next Molokai testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jose Avila.

MR. AVILA: Hello, Councilman Hokama. My name is Jose Avila. I've worked for Monsanto for six years now. With Monsanto I've been able to take care of my family, provide them with medical stability, and it gives me purpose here. Through Monsanto I've been able to send special needs children off island to the Special Olympics. Without that, without Monsanto I have nothing. Through Monsanto I've been able to have pride, Monsanto pride, Molokai pride. Without that I have nothing. If the people that want this bill to pass don't like GMO, tell them to take everything off, put on their lava-lava and their tapa because that's all you'd be left with. The shoes they wear, GMO leather. The pants they wear, GMO cotton. The shirts, the hat, everything. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Vilma Guillermo.

MS. GUILLERMO: Hi, good evening. I'm Wendy Vilma Guillermo and I'm speaking as an individual and is currently working for Mycogen Seeds. I came here today to oppose the bill banning GMO

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operations. If this bill becomes law companies that operate GMO like Mycogen Seeds and Monsanto will have to shut down, the two companies that provide jobs to many people in the island. If this become law a lot of people will suffer from losing their job and struggle for finding a job because Molokai lacks job opportunities. Personally I'm worried to lose my job because I have four kids that are dependent on me, and one of them . . . (*inaudible*) . . . needs my help badly with college expenses. Please think of the negative impact of passing this bill to many people. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Maria Balangatan.

MS. BALANGATAN: Good evening, Council Chair Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair Don Couch, Molokai Councilwoman Crivello, and respected Council members. I am Maria Balangatan. I live in Kaunakakai. I'm married, I have three children. I work Mycogen in one season. I work Monsanto more than ten years. This job provides all of my family living and my mortgage. We cannot survive without our Monsanto job and all the business here in Molokai. If we lose our job we cannot afford to get our medical. We have 200-plus employees here in Monsanto and Mycogen will be affected. Monsanto one of the large employer here in Molokai that provide jobs for our family and friends. Please preserve agriculture. I oppose this moratorium. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Next person, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Dana Dudoit.

MS. DUDOIT: Aloha. My name is Dana Dudoit. I am presently an employee of Monsanto and have been employed since December 17, 2008. I'm a mother of eight children ranging from ages 20 to 10 months. Within my five and a half years of working for Monsanto I've been happily blessed with two very handsome and very healthy baby boys, seven and eight pounds at full term. I am very honored and proud to be working for Monsanto. Before Monsanto it was always a constant worry about where and how I could be independent enough to take care of my children. Thank you, Monsanto, for giving me that second chance. I believe in this company and I support both Monsanto and Mycogen where my boyfriend the father of my three youngest children is a well dedicated full-time employee. As you can see this would bring devastation to my family as well as others. Bottom line is I love my job, I feel safe working here, and for that I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Maxcine Cabanting.

MS. CABANTING: Aloha. My name is Maxcine Cabanting, born and raised on Molokai, mother of three, grandmother of nine, and one great. My mom worked for the seed company for years. My

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two sisters and our kids followed in her footsteps. That's three generations. Yes, I work for Monsanto and I love my job. Take our job away from us will be a very big impact. And yes, we are part of the community. I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Philipo Ragonton.

MR. RAGONTON: Philippe.

MS. ALCON: Oh, sorry.

MR. RAGONTON: Philippe.

MS. ALCON: Philippe.

MR. RAGONTON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman. My name is Philippe Ragonton. I am 75 years old. I work in Monsanto Molokai and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I am here today to oppose the bill. I support the agricultural industry. I love my job. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Edgar Alvarez.

MR. ALVAREZ: Good evening, aloha, and mabuhay to Maui County Council. My name is Edgar Alvarez and I'm a plant pathologist in profession. I'm a corn breeder, and I'm a field biologist at Mycogen Seeds for 15 years, and 23 years working for seed corn industry. I strongly in opposition to the moratorium because I believe that GMO products are safe based on the knowledge I have on the science behind genetically engineered crops. For me genetic engineering is the most precise plant breeding technique available that increases yield of crops to feed the increasing world population. Please remember that our lands that we have for agriculture is decreasing and our population is increasing. How can we feed the world if we don't have the right and safe technology that increases the yield of our agriculture crop? I told you GMO is safe because I ate GMO Bt corn several times and I am still living in the Philippines. I should have cancer right now if GMO Bt corn can cause cancer. So if my family or me have cancer I will not blame it to GMO, because we know that there's a lot of factors in causing cancer so we should reveal that. Please remember that so far there is no scientific evidence that GMO are not safe.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ALVAREZ: From an economic point of view if the moratorium will succeed and two companies will shut down what will happen to Maui County, especially Molokai? Is there any job opportunities available for all employees working in these two companies? There is a domino

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negative effect on the stores, gas stations, and all businesses here in Molokai and in Maui, too. Please base your decision or judgment through science with proven scientific --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. ALVAREZ: --evidence in regards to GMO product, not based only on personal opinion of others. Thank you for your giving me this opportunity to voice my opinion. Once again, aloha and mabuhay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Next, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Salina Victorino.

MS. VICTORINO: Aloha, County Council members, Aunty Stacy. My name is Salina Victorino, I'm a keiki o ka aina of Molokai born and raised on homestead land. I've worked for the seed corn industry for almost 20 years. I'm the environmental health and safety delivery specialist for Mycogen Seeds. I take my job very seriously as we have stringent safety culture that ensures our employees have the proper training prior to performing any task. We have first-day orientation, training, worker protection standards, weekly safety training, standard operating procedure for every task, and safe work permits for life-critical tasks and non-routine tasks. You've heard we go over and beyond to ensure our employees go home safely to their families at the end of the day. Would not jeopardize any lives of my peers to do a task if it wasn't safe for me to do. GE/GMO crops are highly regulated by the USDA, APHIS, Food and Drug Administration, and EPA Environmental Protection Agency. With that said, another layer of regulation is wasted taxpayers' money and unnecessary. Mycogen Seeds not only provides me for a job, it allows me to be a homeowner, puts food on our table, pay my utility bills, basically allows me to support a family of four comfortably. Within my lifestyle I believe in the technology that GE crops provide as it will help sustain the human race and help feed the growing world. I oppose this moratorium on GE crops as it would not only affect me as an individual but also cripple the economic engine on Molokai --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. VICTORINO: --let alone the State. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. VICTORINO: We must learn how to coexist. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Next, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Danielle Bicoy.

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MS. BICOY: Aloha, County Chair Hokama, Council members, and all those listening. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is Danielle Bicoy, born on Oahu but raised on Molokai. I'm a proud employee of Monsanto and I strongly oppose this initiative. I have a few things to address. If the SHAKA movement claims that GMOs are harmful why do they state exceptions. The initiative Section 5, No. 2 states, "This section does not apply to GE organisms that have been incorporated into any food or medicine in any manner already prepared for sale for human or animal consumption." In order to make the GE food already prepared for human consumption don't we have to grow the GE crops? Like a lot of people stated before me Molokai has, will adversely be affected by this initiative. Our unemployment rate is already at 8.6 as of May this year. This initiative would jeopardize about 200 jobs on Molokai alone. Not only will this initiative affect us employees directly but it will have a negative effect on our community. The local vendors will lose business and our community organizations will lose out on thousands of dollars being donated. Economically would Molokai be able to recover from something like this? I love Molokai, this is the place I call home. I love the lifestyle that I'm fortunate to live, and there's no other place that I would want to raise my son. For no job opportunities would force me to leave this beautiful place I call home. My name is Danielle Bicoy and I strongly oppose this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Last one, Ms. Alcon, for now.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Helena Miguel.

MS. MIGUEL: Good evening, Council members. My name is Helena Miguel and I was born and raised here on Molokai. I am an employee for Monsanto Molokai and have been with this company for a little over 20 years. Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion on the bill placing a moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered organisms. When Molokai Ranch closed down in 2008, a little over 100 people lost their jobs. Only a handful of former employees remain on the island that was fortunate enough to find jobs somewhere else on Molokai. The rest had to leave the island to find a job and support their family. Should this bill pass, up to 300 employees on Molokai alone will be losing their jobs. Can you imagine the economic impact this will have on Molokai? Many of us will probably have to collect unemployment until we find a job. If not we have to move to another island or possibly even another state. Not only will this affect the employees but businesses as well. I know for a fact that our company is a regular customer at several businesses, Friendly Isle Auto Parts, Tri-Isle Construction, and Hikiola to name a few. Because our employees will be collecting unemployment we will most likely be doing less shopping at any or all of these businesses. The initiative states the citizens of Maui County have serious concerns as to whether GE operations and practices and associated use and testing of pesticides occurring in Maui County are causing irreparable harm to the people, environment, and public trust resources.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. MIGUEL: I ask you to consider this, doesn't this responsibility regarding pesticides fall under Federal and State regulations, not County? I know for a fact that all pesticides are regulated by

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USDA, EPA, and in Hawaii HDOA. I am a Maui County citizen and I do not have the concerns regarding GE operations and practices and testing of pesticides in Maui County. I do not believe this is causing irreparable harm to the people, environment, and public trust --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. MIGUEL: --resources. I am a Maui County citizen and I do not call for a suspension of all GE operations and practices within the County. My name is Helena and I ask that you oppose the bill.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you --

MS. MIGUEL: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --very much for your testimony. We shall return to the Chambers. Janet Ashman. Janet is number 90 and she will be followed by Nomi Carmona at 91.

MS. ASHMAN: Good evening, Chair Hokama and members of the Committee.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MS. ASHMAN: Thank you. I am Janet Ashman. I've worked with farmers and ranchers throughout Hawaii for over 25 years on all sorts of agricultural issues, including pesticides. I'm opposed to this measure. I'm very sad to be here today. It's obvious that this measure has taken such a toll on everyone, but everyone here agrees to at least one thing and that is that our health is of utmost importance. The health allegations being made are heartfelt and compelling. We would all like to know the reasons for illnesses, but theories and allegations can be dangerous and they don't make good policy or law. It's not black and white. We need to step back and work together to address concerns. A moratorium that puts people out of work is not the answer, in fact the precautionary principle mandates that you do not pass a bill that you know will cause immediate and irreparable harm to the workers, their families, and the County. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Nomi Carmona, and after Ms. Carmona it'll be Lauryn Rego at 92.

MS. CARMONA: Thank you. Aloha, Council members, honorable Chair. My name is Nomi Carmona, I'm the president and lobbyist for Babes Against Biotech. We do GMO and pesticide policy in the entire State. So on top of the genetic instability and the risk of contamination, GE crops are also pesticide promoting. So despite the industry rhetoric the pesticides have actually increased 404 million pounds since the introduction of GE crops from '96 to 2012. A friend of mine recently asked me is there any financial relationship between the pesticide companies and the GMO companies, and I said that's the thing, the GMO companies are the pesticide companies. So the initiative would apply basic regulatory standards that are already in place in most of the largest markets in the world. There's over \$520,000 of Statewide chemical, and GMO cash in

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our elected officials campaign coffers. Congratulations on having none, Maui Council. And so our State and Federal governments have failed to protect us in the ways that most other countries protect their citizens just as a minimum bare standard. So executives and lobbyists of Monsanto and Mycogen and their parent company Dow lobbied for SB 727 in the capital last year literally asking to the strike the counties' ability to protect citizens life and health. I don't know if maybe the employers are not telling their employees some things but Kirby Kester who's now a manager for Dow on Molokai admitted in testimony that there is no scientific consensus on the safety of GMOs. And to date there are no commercially approved drought-resistant or yield-increasing GE crops. So we import 94 percent of our food and we allow 60,000 acres of GE testing in Hawaii that doesn't --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. CARMONA: --really...if they can't feed Hawaii I'm not sure how they can feed the world. Most of GM crops are actually used for fuel and for feeding livestock, not for feeding humans. By the time I'm done with my testimony, 24 more people will have died of starvation in Africa, meanwhile Monsanto and Dow are spending millions of dollars to fight the disclosure of the GE foods in the United States. So something to think about. Fiji is doing really great with organic farming right now. They've gone completely organic and business is booming. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends decreasing exposure to pesticides for children. And, you know, I don't know how important that new house or that new car is going --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. CARMONA: --to be to these employees if one of their children turns out to be one in six children who will develop brain cancer by the age of six if their parent is a pesticide sprayer. So there's a lot more to think about. I've love to sit down with you anytime. We've started something called HI Clean Jobs to help displaced biotech workers and those who maybe don't want to have to wear a hazmat suit to work. That's HICleanJobs.com if any employees would like a different job. So...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. CARMONA: Thank you very much. And I hope you realize we have ten times the national average of birth defects and pesticides in areas near the fields in parts of Hawaii. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair? Real quick.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Ms. Carmona. Nomi. Just wanted to know if Nomi had any written submitted.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Carmona, we have a question for you, please.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Sorry. Hi, thanks for being here. Just wondering if you had any written stuff submitted to the...

MS. CARMONA: I'll submit something written to you tonight. We have so much going on. I just came from the Bio Convention, the largest bio convention in the world, and by the way I couldn't find a single scientist to speak on camera in support of GMO crops.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: All right, looking forward to your written. Thank you.

MS. CARMONA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for being here.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Lauryn Rego. Following Lauryn Rego will be 93, Darrel Henderson...Darcy Henderson, excuse me.

MS. REGO: Aloha, Council. Lauryn Rego with Babes Against Biotech in support of the moratorium. Last week a bigwig at Mycogen explicitly stated that if the moratorium passed that they would close up on Molokai. Today I hear fear in employees' voices as they worry about their mortgage, car payments, and health insurance. To be untouched by that kind of testimony would be heartless. The reality of another large company behaving like a spoiled child holding the livelihood and local economy of Molokai hostage to their selfish demands echoes the actions of the ranch. I thought hey, wait, there has to be another way and spent hours on the websites of Monsanto and Dow. Monsanto's own website proudly claims that over 98 percent of the \$181 million that they spend annually on research and development is focused on vegetable research, that less than 2 percent goes into developing GMO seeds. They say traditional breeding remains Monsanto's main focus. Turns out with their seed acquisitions they own the patents on over 2,000 varieties of vegetable seeds. Two thousand types to choose from should they wish to continue "farming" on their leased and owned plots. That's 2,000 not affected by the moratorium varieties of beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, et cetera. There is nothing in the moratorium preventing Monsanto from growing actual food. But should they continue to grow commodity corn they have at least six varieties of patented conventional corn from which they can choose.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. REGO: Mycogen produces and sells eight types of non-GMO corn. Dow's other companies offer at least six non-GMO corn varieties and four types of conventional soybeans. Dow also produces its own patented organic pesticide called Entrust. From Monsanto's own website, in countries where genetic modification of plants isn't adopted, Monsanto sells conventional seed to farmers. For example, France is a country where we sell non-GMO corn hybrids. There's a long

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list of countries that will only purchase non-GMO seeds in a growing demand for non-GMO animal feed --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. REGO: --around the world. Monsanto and Mycogen can survive this moratorium and their threats to the contrary are nothing more than bullying. If the moratorium passes and they do close they are the bad guys. There are literally thousands of lucrative options for them to keep you employed. Only time will tell if they truly care about the community as much as they claim.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this evening. Darcy Henderson, and following Darcy Henderson at 94 is Shelley Mack.

MS. HENDERSON: Hi. Thank you, Council and Chair, for hearing us. I know it's been a long day. I appreciate your patience. My name is Darcy Henderson and I'm speaking as a private citizen. I'm not a scientist, I'm not paid by anyone to be here, I'm actually losing pay from my job for two days of coming here and not having a chance to speak. And I undoubtedly believe that I'm speaking for hundreds of people, my family, my friends, my coworkers, partners in the community, acquaintances, activity partners. And I am strongly in favor of this moratorium. It wasn't 'til several years ago moving to Hawaii that I even learned what GMOs are, what these corporations were doing. And throughout the years of being here on Maui I've learned that there are concerns, there's environmental concerns. And so not only do I feel like I'm here to speak as a person but I'm speaking for the environment. Undoubtedly I believe that the human imprint or human footprint on our planet is being shown to be devastating, whether it's natural disasters that are triggering nuclear and radioactive spills or whether it's ocean gyres or gyres of rubbish, to simple molasses spills in our harbor. I think we're doing a lot of damage simply driving to earth, driving to work independently in our own cars --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. HENDERSON: --is damaging. And enough is enough. And I think if we can control these companies and the continued pollution on our environment we are acting responsibly. I think there's enough irresponsible damages already happening on this earth, and that there should be controlled, regulated, monitored systems intact for these corporations to, that are controlled by neutral parties that are --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. HENDERSON: --not financially invested. I'm concerned that the corporate dollar is driving a lot of people's beliefs of this system, of what's happening here.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you --

MS. HENDERSON: Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: --very much for your testimony. Before I call up Shelley Mack, the Chair's going to take a break for the Committee and Staff for personal needs. We'll be back at 9:10. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 8:58 p.m.

RECONVENE: 9:11 p.m.

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(gavel). . . This meeting shall return to order. I believe Ms. Mack is the next testifier, so if you would please come forward, introduce yourself, and share your thoughts with us, please.

MS. MACK: Good evening, Council members. My name is Shelley Mack and I'm just here as a concerned citizen. I believe we have a right to know what's in the food we buy, but even more than that I believe we have a responsibility to each other and to the land that we live upon. I believe many of our politicians have sold us out to big corporations and special interest groups, and I believe that in so doing --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: . . .(inaudible). . . the Chair . . .(inaudible). . . Thank you.

MS. MACK: --thank you, they have violated our trust along with our health and our quality of life. I believe in Maui doing what's right for Maui and the County. This means getting rid of agribusinesses that hurt the land. Monsanto is actively destroying our aina along with the health of our people. I strongly believe this needs to stop. I believe that any politician who cares about the people they are supposed to serve will join in this fight and support this moratorium. I believe that any politician who doesn't is in the pocket of big corporations and not working for the good of his or her constituents. Mahalo and aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Mack. Next person in the Chambers before we go back to Molokai is Megan Powers. Megan, are you here?

MS. POWERS: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, great. Come on down.

MS. POWERS: I'm going to speak like those people on TV. All right. Thank you, Council. Thank you, Hokama, for hearing our testimony. My name is Megan Powers. I'm a 44-year resident of Maui. I am made of this beautiful island and I am grateful every day to be. . . I just feel so much a part of this aina. I have been involved in organic agriculture for 24 years. I did post graduate studies in genetic ag research. I hear the fear in people's hearts about losing their jobs and means of financial support. I've been there. Six years ago I was laid off and lost my home. I know that hard-to-breathe feeling when you can't pay your bills. I'm still challenged by that. But I just want you to know that my support for the moratorium is not because I don't care about you or

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your job, and I am here in complete support of this moratorium. Part of this movement involves finding viable alternative employment. If Monsanto shifted to diversified organic ag they could employ tons of people. I am in full support of agriculture, agriculture whose practices do not poison the environment with pesticides, invasive genetically modified species, and untested toxic food. This job situation, it reminds me of when World War II ended and the people running the gas chambers lost their jobs. Their employer had them convinced they were doing the right thing, well they weren't and now we know. Speaking of a small contained gas chamber, let me demonstrate. This orange represents planet earth. This thin film of water represents our atmosphere --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. POWERS: --and all of life on earth. In the vast deep vacuum of space we have only one chance to keep this small gas chamber filled with clean air, clean water, and healthy soil to support the lives of future generations. Farming practices that rely on and promote pesticide use whether in or on the plant is just adding more poison to this small gas chamber we rely on. Earth is a complex living system and so are we. Living systems --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. POWERS: --can only handle so much toxic load until systems begin to fail as represented in disease. GE foods came into the American food stream 15 years ago without our consent, without a control group, so they say that GE food is safe but we don't actually know. What we do know is that in the last 15 years there's been a correlational rise in numerous diseases that stem from foods we eat and that they reduce and go away when people are taken off GE foods. Our regulatory agencies do not require...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. I gave you more than enough to conclude. Thank you.

MS. POWERS: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Molokai, next, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Leanda Rawlins. Duvauchelle.

MS. RAWLINS: Aloha. My name is Leanda Duvauchelle Rawlins. I have been an employee with Monsanto for the past five years. I have never questioned the safety nor the wellbeing of myself or my family while being employed there. If I was ever in any doubt I would never have worked there. I have asthma since I was a year old, and with this...with working there it was never a problem and I was never affected by anything going on there. I was also a part of Molokai Ranch's shutdown. It's always a struggle on Molokai but the shutdown made it worse. Monsanto gave me another chance to survive here, and I cannot go through another struggle. With that, I oppose the bill.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Liane Kalima.

MS. KALIMA: Thank you, Councilman, for giving me this opportunity to speak. My name is Liane Kalima. I'm an employee of Monsanto and I've been working there for five years. I oppose the bill. I don't know what this whole trip about Monsanto's, their pesticides and stuff because I remember when I was a small kid the plane used to fly over the corn field and let out sprays. I mean wouldn't that be more dangerous? I mean that was like next to houses. I remember the pineapple fields. I mean, you know, Monsanto goes out of its way to make sure that their employees are provided with all the safety equipment that they need for any job that they do in Monsanto. And they've given me an opportunity to take responsibility for my life considering I was an addict you know. Well I still am an addict but thanks to Monsanto I got a chance to take responsibility for my life, you know, and I appreciate that very, very much. You know it's...Molokai is a hard place to find a job, you know, and there's not very much opportunities. When your name is in the paper let me tell you, there's not much opportunity. You know but Monsanto took that initiative to give me, give me a chance and for that I am very, very grateful. And I do oppose the bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Josie Esteban.

MS. ESTEBAN: Respected Maui Council, good evening. My name is Josephine Esteban. I've been working in the corn fields since 1994. I really believe that the seed industry is a good help to farmers to produce more . . .*(inaudible)*. . . food especially nowadays population is growing fast. I'm here to oppose the GE moratorium because it will give a negative impact to my long-time job, to my family, and the whole agriculture industry. So I humbly ask for your help to oppose this moratorium. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Maryrose Maniago.

MS. MANIAGO: Good evening, Maui County. My name is Maryrose Maniago. I've been working in the corn field for almost seven years. I present working Mycogen Seeds four years. My husband is working in Monsanto for ten years. Both of us working in the corn field. I'm here to oppose the bill because this affects my job and my family. If this bill passes might me lose my job. I ask your help not to support the bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Liberty Rhyne.

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MS. RHYNE: Good evening. My name is Liberty Rhyne. I'm here today to oppose the GMO moratorium. I have been an employee in Mycogen Seeds for the last four years. I feel that the work practices are all done with safe as the number one priority. Without my job I would not be able to stay in my household and pay my bills. I love my job and the relationship I have created while working here. This is my voice. Please consider the impact it will have on my life. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Moke Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Hi, my name is Moses Phillips. My grandmother, grandfather is from this island, my mom, my dad. I work for Dow Agro Mycogen...I mean AgroSciences Mycogen, I love it here on Molokai. I have roots here . . .*(inaudible)*. . . where I stay now? And I...where I stay now? There's no place like home. I oppose this bill because if you shut our company down it will be a big impact on Molokai. There would be a standstill, already the economy is down on Molokai and there is no, there are limited jobs. I would hate to commute back to Maui for work. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Marivic Agcaoili.

MS. AGCAOILI: Good evening, Chairman and member of Maui County Council. I am Marivic Agcaoili and resident of Molokai, and I came here today to oppose the moratorium because this will have a negative impact on my life. I have six young kids and my husband is disabled. It is only me who is working to support my family. This will affect my ability to pay for our bills, food, shelter, and other expenses. It will be very critical for us to move to other island because we don't have enough support. We choose to stay here on Molokai. Please consider the impact on, of this initiative in our life. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Carl Adolpho

MR. ADOLPHO: Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Carl Adolpho and I'm here to testify against this bill that puts a moratorium on the cultivation of GE crops. Sitting here I've heard countless cries to ban this poisonous, unholy, detrimental, disastrous monster known as GMOs. The people in favor of this bill say that it is what the people want. They say we have collected over 12,000 signatures. They say that it is your duty to pass this bill. But who are these people really? Real estate agents, small-scale organic farmers, avid gardeners, dedicated Google surfers, people who have hoodwinked the general public into signing a petition through propaganda, fear, and misconception. Today you have also heard from people with degrees in

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plant science, professors from universities, horticultural ambassadors, plant pathologists, and a group with more combined ag experience than any of us would care to calculate. I am one of those farmers. I fell in love with ag on a small sweet potato farm in Hoolehua. Since then it has been my dream to become an independent large-scale ag entrepreneur. I need every tool at my disposal to accomplish my dream. This includes the choice to cultivate GE crops. I know that this tool is safe not because of my personal knowledge but due to the knowledge of individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving how we farm. This tool has been scientifically proven and has . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. ADOLPHO: --of countless attempts to slander and negate its effectiveness. Those who want to see this bill pass swear that it is what the people want. If that is the case then reject this moratorium, send it to the ballot, and allow the personal choice by the people to be the outcome. But this time I promise there will be no room for fear or propaganda as the people learn the truth about GMOs. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Siegfried Maniago.

MR. MANIAGO: Hi, fellow Councilmen. Hi, my name is Siegfried Maniago. I'm against the ban of GMO. I grew up with a family of six all my life on Molokai. If you ban GMO you will know how much families will affect with this, whatever happen. Like me I work for Monsanto for about 14 years and I never heard about anyone getting sick or, from GMO, and for me I love GMO products 'cause when you plant GMO products you use least pesticides and farmers save a lot of money, and these pesticides aren't on the ground. So, fellow Council, I hope you make the right decision because it will be on your conscious. Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Blake Rabe.

MR. RABE: Good evening, Maui County Council. My name is Blake Rabe and I work at Monsanto Molokai. I strongly oppose this GMO moratorium bill and everything that it stands for. Agriculture is advancing at a rapid pace. In 1950 a farmer could feed 25 people, today a farmer can feed well over 150 people. The life expectancy of humans is increasing. Using minimum no tillage which GMOs promote increases organic matter content on cropland. The world population is expected to double in the next century, and the amount of land we have now will be the amount we have then to produce twice as much food as we do today. There are hundreds of scientific studies done by reputable organizations not funded by any of the ag sector that proves GMOs are safe. There is no evidence that supports this bill. Monsanto takes very good care of the land that we farm. We have installed terraces to control erosion. We practice minimum tillage to reduce soil disturbance. We plant native plants and apply pesticides according to

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Federal and State regulations. Just like with any farmer, the land we use produces the crops we grow; therefore, we protect the land so it can produce many more future crops. We do not pollute any lands or waters. We are good neighbors. We volunteer within the community, at homeless shelters, donate blood, and help local schools and organizations such as the FFA. We do this because we are part of the community and we care about it and the people who live there. I work with some of the hardest working people around --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. RABE: --and we take pride in the work that we do. This bill has been created with a lack of understanding of agriculture. This bill would put hundreds of people out of work for no reason at all. There is no evidence that supports this bill. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opposition to this bill.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. One more, please, Ms. Alcon.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Flordelina Ventura.

MS. VENTURA: Good evening. I'm Flordelina Ventura. I'm speaking as individual and I'm currently working at Mycogen Seeds. I'm here today to oppose the bill stopping GMO operations. Stopping GMO operations will shut down Mycogen Seeds. I strongly oppose this bill because many people will ___ from losing their jobs, especially ___ a family like me. My family source of income is from Mycogen Seeds and I don't know where else to work because on Molokai lack of job opportunities. Again, I oppose this bill. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. We'll come back to the Chambers. At 96 Shay Sunderland. Shay Sunderland.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. Following Mr. Sunderland at 97 Sam Small.

MS. SUNDERLAND: Good evening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. SUNDERLAND: Aloha, Chair and Committee. So my name is Shay Sunderland. I work for Monsanto. I'm the technical outreach lead for Monsanto Hawaii. I have a PhD in crop science and I've been involved in agriculture my whole life. So I've worked in production agriculture for 30 years in the areas of soil conservation, integrated pest management, and genetic improvement all using the most recent, latest technologies available. And why? Because that's what it takes to produce large acres of crops. I not only say that as a scientist which I am but also as a farm owner which I am. So I'm here to tell you these things and to say that, you know, I oppose this bill. Right. I oppose it because it's an attack on agriculture. You know I have a

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caring wife, I have two wonderful children that were fortunate to grow up in this country with the safest, most nutritional, most affordable food supply in the world, and banning these technologies from agriculture and attacking agriculture in this way is an attack on our food production system that we all take great advantage of in this country. So beyond the discussion around the safety of biotechnology there's also another topic on the table which is pesticides and specifically glyphosate. So glyphosate was introduced in 1974 as a Roundup herbicide. It's the most widely used herbicide in the world --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. SUNDERLAND: --and the most widely studied. It's also the most benign herbicide in the world. You can buy it at your local Walmart and many other stores even for home use, because it's target for the plants is only found in plants. That's why it's used around the world, and so the science behind these things as well as the decades of use around the world to produce safe, affordable food is evidence that this bill should not be carried forward --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. SUNDERLAND: --and it's wrong because it's not based on science. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Next is Sam Small, and following Mr. Small at 98 is Chris Mentzel.

MR. SMALL: Hi, my name is Sam Small. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. Proof of safety, that's what this is all about. We know about pesticide spray drift, fugitive dust, runoff from heavy rains. So we know that some people outside the farm are getting exposed to what goes on inside the farm. It's obvious. Is it a problem? The company says no. Is it reasonable to trust companies that have been proven to lie about such things? Usually their lies come from withholding knowledge of harm, and they could be doing that here. So we have to hear everything they say with skepticism. Who does know about this stuff? Supposedly the regulators, so where are they? They're not here. And until you hear from them you really don't have any context with which to view anything that the employees of Monsanto and the other ag companies have said. More doubt, no real proof. The regulators are not here because they know that there's no real studies that show safety. I challenge anyone to provide a peer-reviewed, long-term clinical human trial on GMO or the pesticides they use so much. No such study exists. Never been done. The regulators know that the entire regulatory system is skewed to the benefit of the companies. Their mandate is to do whatever they can to keep a particular pesticide on the market. The people's health actually comes second. Who would set up a system like this? Monsanto did. Under Ronald Reagan --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. SMALL: --same as the oil and gas and banking deregulation, let the regulators write the new rules for the ag and chemical companies. Today same issues are now arising from regulatory abuse.

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Banking scandals, oil and Gulf...oil spills in the Gulf, auto recalls, faulty pharmaceuticals, lawsuits galore. Why would GMOs and pesticides abuse not be on that list? A regulator would not deny that a certain amount of public health and medical issues are to be considered acceptable collateral damage. So we want to know here in Maui County what's the acceptable collateral damage?

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. SMALL: That's what the public health environmental study would show. And if we don't act quickly you have the opportunity to ratify this and not let it go to the ballot, because they're going to be talking about GMOs and pesticides and Maui until now and November and it's going to kill the tourist industry. Protect everybody's job. Protect Maui. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Small. Chris Mentzel. Chris...he's not here. Ninety-nine, Linda Green. Linda Green, are you here? Deborah Eudene, E-U-D-E-N-E. Okay, we'll go to Molokai. Ms. Alcon, bring up the next Molokai testifier, please.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Rugene Arista.

MR. ARISTA: Good evening to all the distinguished members of the Maui County Council. It's an honor and privilege to be given the chance to voice my opinion on the moratorium on the cultivation of genetically engineered organisms. My name is Rugene Arista, a resident of Molokai, and I came here to oppose the initiative. I have been working with Mycogen and working in the corn field for more than five years now, and I don't see any danger on our health and the environment. We are following strict guidelines in order for our crew to be safe, and our company's priority is always our safety. Other prominent scientific organization also supports GMO like World Health Organization, Food Agriculture Organization, National Academy of Scientists, Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency to name a few. These scientists conducts hundreds if not thousands of experiments about its safety and the environmental impacts. This is the main reason why I came here to oppose this initiative. Thank you for giving me the chance to express my opinion.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Neil Poepoe.

MR. POEPOE: Aloha. My name is Neil Poepoe. I was born and raised on Molokai. I am the fourth generation in my family. Before I came to this company Mycogen, I was doing construction work, then I joined Labor's Union Local No. 368 for 10 years. Then the union they didn't have job for me so now I was unemployed for a while. Now I'm working for Mycogen. I just started with this company almost going on two months. My job title is field monitor. The most important thing with this company is safety. Before we start work in the morning we talk about safety. Now I working for this company Mycogen, now I can put food on the table for my family, can pay my bills, and put gas in my truck to go work every day. Now gas and electricity

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is the highest that we pay in Molokai, and if we don't have...if the job ever close down we all not going to have a job. How we supposed to live without a job? . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. POEPOE: --my family. And I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Josh Hunziker.

MR. HUNZIKER: Hello, Council Chair, other respected Council members. I've heard a lot of really great testimony today and it's really been an eye-opening day for me. Personally I work at Monsanto on Molokai. I've been a part of the Monsanto organization for almost half my life. I can tell you out of the testimony that I've heard today, the one thing that keeps coming up, the only alternative that the SHAKA movement seems to have is for everybody to grow organic. That doesn't seem like much of a compromise to me. Why does the SHAKA movement get to decide that everybody should grow organic? Another thing is the safety of GMO food. My company presented over a thousand studies to Mayor Arakawa that prove the safety of GMO crops. If you decide to only look at 1 percent of those studies there's still 10 studies that prove GMO crops are safe. They want as part of this bill to have one more study. How many studies is it going to take? I can tell you it's never going to be enough for the SHAKA movement, it's never going to be enough. They're going to find some reason after this study to just have another study and another study. The simple fact is they just want everybody to grow organic, there is no compromise there.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. HUNZIKER: If we can find a way to work together there won't be a compromise. That's pretty much all I have to say. I really want to end with thanking the crew here on Molokai for doing such an awesome job. It's the AC's off right now, it's pretty hot in here. The people that came out from the companies did a great job today as well. They stood outside all day in the sun, in the heat to come and tell you what they thought about this bill.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. HUNZIKER: I really and truly hope that you value their opinion. And thank you for the time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Kai Thielk.

MR. THIELK: Aloha, Maui County Council members. My name is Derek Thielk, Derek Kai Thielk, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to this bill. I am born and raised in

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Hawaii and I've always had the desire to pursue a career in agriculture here in Hawaii. My first job was working at a natural food store on Maui during summers and holidays while earning a degree in agriculture at the University of Hawaii Manoa. For the last 15 years I have been working for Monsanto both on Maui and Molokai. Monsanto has allowed me to fulfill my goal of working in agriculture and providing food and other products that are the direct result of working in the seed industry here in Maui County. With the advent of modern transportation, the world has opened up the doors for many pests to invade many previously isolated places, including Hawaii. The use of biotechnology and GMOs can allow us to protect our defenseless unique species that may only exist here in Hawaii, species that have previously never been exposed to these pests. Just take a look at what happened to the wiliwilis. This bill unfairly targets this technology with no scientific backing. It will take away a valuable technology that could be used for the potential benefit of saving our unique plants. Is this a tool we want to throw away? What's next, are we going to ban the use of insulin for diabetics because it is produced using GMOs just because someone says that it's harmful yet have no science to back it up? I ask that you take a look at this bill and seriously look at the consequences it may have both economically and at the risk of not realizing --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. THIELK: --the potential benefits GMOs can have for preserving our delicate ecosystems. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Kyley Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: Hi, good evening. My name is Kyley Phillips. I work for Dow AgroSciences, Mycogen, and I love it on Molokai. My grandparents from Molokai and I have roots here. I love it here and there's no place like home. I oppose the bill because if you shut our company down it'll be a big negative impact on Molokai. There will be a standstill. Already our economy is down on Molokai and there are limited jobs. I would hate to commute to Maui for work. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Josephine Tancayo.

MS. TANCAYO: Hi. My name is Josephine Tancayo. I just start at Mycogen three weeks today, and I'm opposing this bill because I have one daughter that she going to University of Northern Colorado and it's really affecting my financial. Because I used to work at the place that they only pay minimum wages, and if they cut off this how am I supposed to pay for my girl that her dream is she wants to be a producer and director for a movie. That would be an awesome thing for Molokai, too. And I'm here to oppose this bill. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Enrique Campos-White.

MR. CAMPOS-WHITE: Good evening. My name is Enrique Campos-White and I'm the field operations site manager of Mycogen Seeds. I've been working with GMO crops since 1996 and I'm a father of three children, so I oppose this bill. Born Mexican-American, I'm very proud of my roots and I deeply love America. Most of my grown up life I lived in a third-world country, and by the way, the definition of a third-world country is a poor country that have struggled to sustain economic development. But in my experience I will add that I think that the biggest difference is when the society makes the people who rule accountable for their actions or lack of actions. This is what has made America so great. However, in the last months I've been very disappointed. I have witnessed how a handful of people calling themselves savers of Hawaiian culture working for powerful persons or companies have come to create such a situation jeopardizing the economy and future of the entire community with the compliancy of the authorities. Reminds me by the way one of the reasons that I left one of my countries. I never thought I would see this in America . . . *(inaudible)* . . . scientific information available for GMO crops. . . *(inaudible)* . . . once said ignorance is the mother all of crimes. The Council of County of Maui has in their hands the responsibility and the opportunity not to commit a crime, and not -

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. CAMPOS-WHITE: --to . . . *(inaudible)* . . . biggest mistake that happened to this beautiful island of Molokai 17 years ago when Molokai Ranch had to leave the island when a small group of activists were able to shut them down with the compliancy of the authorities. With a huge economic impact when a lot of good people of Molokai lost their jobs and the quality of life. I challenge the Council, you're accountable, this is America.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is John Lee Basubas.

MR. BASUBAS: Aloha, Council Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Couch, Molokai Councilmember Crivello, and respected Council members. My name is John Lee Basubas. I am an employee of Monsanto. I oppose this bill, and I am asking you to consider, too, there is about hundred hired of us that works here. I am grateful for my job. I enjoy what I do. And I am serious about 140 of us that works here. I am grateful for my job. I enjoy what I do. And I'm proud as I am able to contribute to this community because I am employed. This bill will cause much economic harm to our community, to our island, and to the many families that will be affected by it. GMOs are safe and have not been proven to be harmful at all. I have family member who would be working in this industries for years, some of them are still working . . . *(inaudible)* . . . If this passes what will happen to us? We'll be forced to move to another island, commute back and forth to Maui on the Maui Princess, but it will also affect many people on Maui as well. And jobs will be hard to come by. Please take my testimony into consideration. I thank you for your time.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is TJ Harper.

MR. HARPER: Aloha, Councilmen and Members. My name is TJ Harper. I'm a resident ten years on Molokai and work at Monsanto within six years. I no more too many testify but I want you guys to listen carefully and take it as common sense people. Why I had to come over here and testify something that I do legally and I going work for my own family and work for those people no more job, support their tax and support their welfare. Can you guys just think about it and take care of the workers. Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jesse Ah Yee.

MR. AH YEE: Aloha, Council members. My name is Jesse Ah Yee. I live in Molokai. I've been born and raised here, and I've worked at Monsanto for ten years. And I've been in the seed industry for 12 years. I oppose this bill for a number of reasons that listening to everything that's been said I haven't been convinced that GMO is harmful. But from what I've been doing for the past ten years with the knowledge of the safety that Monsanto has impressed on us with all the job situations that we do, I feel that some of these people don't know exactly how deep the job that we do and how carefully that we do our tasks. Also that if we lose our job over here being that you have already heard how devastated the team would be from Molokai, we are also supporting the gas industry over here, schools, there's a whole lot of good things that Monsanto has done in the past years. And I believe if you guys don't pass this bill that Monsanto would carry on the things that they have been doing already. And if anybody wanted to check what Monsanto has to do, has been doing, I'm pretty sure Monsanto would be more than . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. NAKATA: One a half minutes.

MR. AH YEE: --. . . *(inaudible)*. . . And I thank you for giving me this time to speak. And I thank all the people that had come before me and spoke ahead of us. It's hard, you know, we need our jobs, and to come out over here and fight for our jobs in a situation where it makes me uncomfortable but I know I'm right what I'm doing. So I just say I oppose this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Jing Kepa.

MS. KEPA: Aloha. My name is Jing Kepa. I'm 24 years old and I come from a line of hardworking farmers. My grandmother retired from a company here on Molokai and over 20-plus of my family work there as well whether it be part time, full time or seasonal. Although I've never worked there myself I am here today because of these companies. All my life I've depended on

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my hardworking mom and she knows nothing but what the company has taught her. This bill will affect many families, many kids' future, and raise the unemployment and welfare numbers. So what happens if this bill does pass? You who support it will come back and grumble about something else. I understand your concern about health and knowing what you're eating but it's your choice, buy something else to eat. Studies show that living near a telephone pole is cancerous and hazardous so what, should all the telephones be taken down? So it comes down to choice, the choice is yours and opposing this bill is my choice. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is Liza Weiland.

MS. WEILAND: Aloha, Council Chair Hokama and respected Committee members. I understand the concern for public health, particularly for children. I've been an educator my whole life and I've always taken an active role in children's lives. It is through diligence, discipline, and common sense that I have become a well-informed adult. With that said what really bothers me with this whole anti-GMO movement is the constant unfounded accusations that GMOs cause just about every ailment known to man and child. I tried to understand their claims with a level of objectivity but there's such exaggeration and obvious inconsistencies with their claims that well, frankly, I'm bothered that no one is pointing them out. I know the difference between scientifically factual cause and simple association. Why are only the supporters of the moratorium experiencing illnesses or claiming long-term health effects? Would it be logical to think that the GMO employees would be the most exposed at ground zero for GMOs? Shouldn't they be the sick ones? All of the GMO employees seem to be happy and healthy. They are passionate about their business and are working for a better future, not for just themselves but for the whole world. I personally support them and their companies. And keep in mind, different is not wrong. Agriculture must be supported. This legislation is seriously flawed and unfair. Please do not pass it.

MS. ALCON: Our next testifier is David Aquino.

MR. AQUINO: My name is David Aquino and I don't work for Monsanto but I am in support of Monsanto. I also work with chemicals as part of my job but like Monsanto and also my job we protect ourselves. We go through the laws and all safety measures to protect ourselves and also to protect the community. Chemicals is part of our lives whether we like it or not. We live with chemicals. We drink chemicals. We wear chemicals. We use just about everything which is chemicals upon our body whether we like it or not and it's killing us softly. Jobs, some people say they feel sorry for us here on the island when we talk about jobs. Some people say that they understand, but like here we're limited, we don't have the good paying jobs like Monsanto gives to its employees. We don't have the good benefits like Monsanto gives to its employees. We're rare out here. We're not like Maui where we can jump from east to west, north/south and just get a job just like that. Here we gotta take it day by day.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

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MR. AQUINO: Here we just gotta hope we can get one job. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. ALCON: Our last testifier here on Molokai is Rob Stephenson.

MR. STEPHENSON: Aloha, Committee Chair. My name is Robert Stephenson, I'm the president of the Molokai Chamber of Commerce and I'll be speaking from the Molokai Chamber this evening. And as a representative of an organization of the neighbor island of Molokai, the Molokai Chamber which represents dozens of businesses that employ hundreds of people respectfully stand in strong opposition to this measure. Agriculture is the backbone of the private sector here on Molokai, and this measure if passed is sure to have a devastating impact on the overall economy of our island home and the lifestyles of our neighbors, our friends, and our families. The organizations and individuals behind this measure are making some very fantastic claims that in truth aren't supported by any type of science or stretch of the imagination. For those making these claims the burden of proof lies with them. As with all things if one is going to make a claim it must be supported by objective fact, and this is the one thing lacking of the supporters of this measure. We keep hearing so much about beliefs but there's just one problem with that, no matter how strongly one believes in something it doesn't make it an objective fact. If this were about safety then we would be addressing specific issues directly, but there are none here, only a broad stroke of supposition and hyperbole. This measure is discriminatory and has been brought about by a group of people with a dangerous ideology that has one single goal which is to remove the corporate biotech farms from Molokai, Maui County, and all of Hawaii. The language in the proposed measure has been carefully crafted to where it's virtually impossible to comply.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. STEPHENSON: The direct consequence of this shutdown will undoubtedly be felt by all of the businesses that are supported by local farming. Agriculture is under attack, and if the biotech industry is driven out of Maui County the viability of all other agriculture operations is at risk. The current shared economies of scale are necessary for all farming operations to exist and thrive, especially on Molokai. I know it's late so I'll keep my remarks brief and leave you with this, Molokai relies on agriculture for our --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. STEPHENSON: --wellbeing and if this measure is successful the very future of Molokai and our families may never achieve that same success. Mahalo and good night.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. We shall return to the Chambers. Roma Carlisle.

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MS. CARLISLE: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, great.

MS. CARLISLE: Here I am.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

MS. CARLISLE: Thank you very much. Mr. Chair, Council members, thank you so much for listening to all of us. My name is Reverend Roma Carlisle and I know that we are living in a universe that is governed by law, and every culture on planet earth is governed by law which creates order and safety for its inhabitants. The human body is governed by law, and when a human organism eats a genetically modified organism in the stomach when these genetically modified organisms are there the human body does not recognize these as food. They recognize them as an invader, and the immune system comes to the fore and starts fighting the invader. This creates inflammation in the body, and inflammation is the perfect breeding ground for all diseases, for cancer, for diabetes, for heart and lung diseases, for multiple sclerosis, for autism. That's where all of these diseases thrive is in a human organism that is in an inflamed condition. Now somewhere in the mid-'90s...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MS. CARLISLE: In the mid-'90s the genetic organisms were secretly put into our grocery stores on our shelves. I'll never forget the moment in time that I tasted a GMO broccoli. I love broccoli. I'm like the first President Bush and I'll never forget it.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MS. CARLISLE: I sometimes wonder whether there is a plan afoot to diminish the population of planet earth. I had someone from the IRS in Maui come to me and tell me that Monsanto is going to third-world countries like the Philippines and promising ten years of employment in return for them going back to their countries and --

MS. NAKATA: Two and a half minutes.

MS. CARLISLE: --receiving social security checks for the rest of their lives. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Carlisle. Steven Davis, please, and following Mr. Davis is Joseph Kohn, K-O-H-N.

MR. DAVIS: First I'd like to apologize for my applause earlier, I did not know that was not allowed. I'm sorry for that, for anybody that was offended by that. Second, I'd like to assure all of you on Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, all islands where Monsanto is doing business that the SHAKA movement is very actually Christ-like in their intentions. I am not a good representative for them but I'm

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speaking as a private citizen. But I assure you they are coming to you from a love in their hearts for the aina, for the islands, and all the people that live here and all the little faces that haven't really had a chance to live their lives yet until we know for sure it's proven that this is safe. It has not been proven. And I think Molokai has painted themselves into a corner and put all their eggs in one basket and there's other alternatives. We need a few entrepreneurs to investigate industrial hemp. There's also a product called hempcrete instead of concrete. There's a vast array of food and product that comes from hemp. Canada is making billions of dollars because United States will not allow this to go on, and so we're missing the boat there and Molokai could be, create great jobs for their islanders, the good --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. DAVIS: --people that live there all through all the islands. There's wonderful people here and they work very hard and they deserve something more than just one job or else. I don't believe that, and I think people on Molokai should consider something else than just Monsanto. Because there's a reason we're all here, there's got to be some truth to the fact that this is a dangerous chemical cocktail.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony this evening. Joseph Kohn, K-O-H-N, please, and he will be followed by Michelle Kwik.

MR. KOHN: Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'm Dr. Joseph Kohn, MD, a board certified internist licensed in Hawaii with an office here in Wailuku. I'm also the medical director of WeAreOne.cc. We're in possession of powerful scientific tools to transform our environment. I think the concerns of clean water, clean food, clean land, clean housing, clean clothing, and clean energy are the future for responsible sustainable growth and development on this planet and on Maui. I respectfully submit there's no rational reason to pollute our own environment or destroy ecosystems, and I think poisoning the water supply is criminal. There are more sustainable eco-friendly profitable projects waiting for good workers. Corporations definitionally have economic profit as their primary goal above the good of the public. Just because we have a technology does not mean it benefits us to use the technology without concern for the effects on our collective environment. We humans are not guinea pigs, our actions have consequences. It is our responsibility individually and collectively to do no harm while we increase the health and prosperity of all humanity as well as all our systems, public and private. I'm honored to speak. Thank you for your very kind attention.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Michelle Kwik, K-W-I-K. Okay. Kale [sic] or Kate Griffiths.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. David Doyle.

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MR. DOYLE: Good evening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. DOYLE: My name's Dave Doyle, I live in Haiku. You know I heard a lot tonight about jobs and just a comment about that. I used to be an engineer, I got a degree in aerospace engineering. I worked for the defense industry for a number of years and because of what that industry is and what it does I felt from my conscious I had to leave that job, and I had to leave the place where I lived. I used to be a safety guy, I worked as a safety manager for a large corporation, had 3,000 employees that I was responsible for. I came to feel that that job was not about people's safety, it was about safeguarding corporate profits and that to me was unconscionable and I had to leave that job. And so I think that circumstances arise where you have to follow your conscious and jobs cannot trump the health and safety of individuals in our society I believe. And so I think that makes this decision very simple in terms of jobs versus safety. So then the question becomes is it safe or not? And I think that, you know, regarding GMOs I think just by virtue of us being here tonight and all the discussions, the debate, there is reasonable doubt about their safety. People who say that there are no credible scientific studies out there, I mean all you gotta do is look on the Internet.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. DOYLE: Not that I would believe everything on the Internet but is there some kind of credible doubt that that information gives us and I say yes. You know at least we have to look into it and evaluate it, it is there. You know and 20,000 people have felt strongly enough that they signed a petition. I mean I talked with people, there's many more people that feel the same way that never signed that petition.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. DOYLE: So finally let me say I grew up on a family farm, we still grow GMOs, I wish I could talk more about that, but I support the SHAKA movement. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. I know it's late, people, but please, everyone has their opportunity to share their own opinions and thoughts on this subject tonight. Nancy Rahr, R-A-H-R. Shen Gandolfo.

MR. GANDOLFO: Hello. Thank you for hearing me out. So my name is Shen Gandolfo, I'm 19 years old. I was born and raised on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair, can he move closer to the mic? Speak into the mic.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, please.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, that would help us out. Thank you.

MR. GANDOLFO: I was born and raised on Maui, Hawaii. And I'm here not only representing myself but tens and thousands of people my age who have lived here and who are experiencing the effects of these GMOs. And I support the moratorium. Each and every one of us, each and every one of you and all of your families are being affected by what is going on. Why not look into it and make sure that you're safe? Make sure that we're all safe. I think that's our job is to keep us safe and it's not only us people, it's each and every one of you, and each and every one of your kids, all of your family. And these fugitive dusts containing who knows what chemicals are coming into our homes and poisoning us in our own homes. And so these people, they say they oppose this bill because they'll lose their jobs and because it'll create a negative impact on Molokai and on Maui and on their lives.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. GANDOLFO: But think about the negative impact that these chemicals are doing to our land and to our bodies. I think that is a greater impact than losing a job that you could go and find a better job. You don't have to lose a job, simply rethink your job and find something that isn't going to ruin our health and our aina.

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. GANDOLFO: According to the USDA, the demand of organic sales has increased from 11 billion in 2004 to 27 billion in 2012. Why? We people are becoming aware of what's going on and we're trying to get away from these poisons. There are facts. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us this evening. We have a...oh this is going to be tough for me. Adounay Dabo. I'm, I apologize if I've mispronounced your name.

MR. DABO: It's all good.

CHAIR HOKAMA: You can teach us.

MR. DABO: Yeah. All right well, yeah, thank you. Adounay Dabo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. DABO: Twenty-two years old. I lived here for most of my life and, you know, I'm in full support of the moratorium because I have a friend who's 17 years old and has cancer. That's not normal, and it's from exposure to glyphosate. So, you know, this is not a ban, what we're asking for is complete evidence that what Monsanto's practices and the GE practices are safe, that's it. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Anthony Brown, next, please, and following Mr. Brown, Heather Salmon.

MR. BROWN: I just want to thank you for having me out here today. You know I'm a proud citizen of the United States of America. You know one of my favorite things about it is freedom. You know for over the past...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Please introduce yourself, please. Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Oh, I'm Mr. Anthony Brown.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Sorry about that, sir. And back to what I was saying is, you know, is the freedom. You know over the past 200-plus years, you know, our military, you know, our police officers, our firefighters, our politicians, and civilians like all of us have fought for one thing, our rights. So I don't understand why it's in discussion to say that we have the right to know that it's not destroying our ecosystem, poisoning our lands, and poisoning our bodies. And I'm not here to point the blame and say that they are but I'm saying we all deserve to know. And for all you out there who don't want to know and don't want to use your rights as citizens of the United States of America, you know, I respect that but I'll never understand it. And I'm going to tell you right now I'm pro moratorium. Thank you for taking the time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Heather Salmon. Heather. Joe Marshalla, and following Mr. Marshalla is Michael Covich.

MR. MARSHALLA: Good evening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. MARSHALLA: I'm Dr. Joe Marshalla. I sure wish we all had more than two minutes to speak but hopefully there'll be another opportunity and maybe SHAKA movement will be able to give a presentation. I don't know. I would like to reiterate, you know, what Ms. Rego was saying that there are many other options for these biotech industries to grow other crops of their own that are in fact patented so they would be, you know, safe to be able to maintain their particular market share, if you would, by growing their own products and no jobs would have to be lost while this testing was occurring. You know it's been a tough year here in Maui so far. I, you know, water pollution, \$100 million maybe. I mean, you know, we're working against that but I mean a \$100 million fine for water pollution. And then just recently, what, was 1.4 million for air pollution. And the thing is is that it's not the regulators that found those issues, it was people, it was citizens who found these issues and forced the regulators to regulate and create these fines. And so it is the people who is bringing the attention to this just to find out it's safe. You know they say there's no evidence, where...there's not a single test. There's not a single test for

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anything that is happening here in Maui. Not a single test of soil samples, not a single test of air samples, not a single test of dust samples and the fugitive dusts that are accumulating in our homes. Not a single test. And now, you know, the FDA, the USDA and...

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. MARSHALLA: The FDA, EPA, and USDA do not require human testing on pesticides. Why? Because humans are not the intended target of pesticides, so there's not even a single test on the effects of pesticides on humans, yet there is collateral damage occurring. There is dust in all of our homes and in that dust, you know, are these various chemicals. But and the crazy thing is that our State and our County do not even have the equipment --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. MARSHALLA: --to test. And not only do we not have the equipment to test, we do not know what to test for because we do not know what is being used. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Michael Covich, followed by Lokahi Sylva.

MR. COVICH: Good evening, Chair, County Council members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. COVICH: There's been a lot of things said tonight. I will first of all agree that pesticides whether they're organic or petrochemical in large quantities are not good for us, but when people start talking about numbers of seven or six parts per billion, that would be equal to an Olympic-sized swimming pool having 150 drops or 4,400 gallons, one drop. If you believe that chemicals at that dosage are harmful then you still believe that you get pregnant by swimming in a swimming pool. It doesn't make any sense to me. Part of the other thing that's concerning me is people are saying how they're going to save jobs for people, they're going to offer people jobs. We can't even employ what we have now, we can't employ veterans coming back from war, we're not, we're surely not going to be able to reemploy all the people that work for the companies that are presently using them. The obligation of you guys to protect our environment and save our water also goes along with what they're doing. If you grow crops that use less water you're saving water for the future. I remember when I was a kid we used to go to Washington market and used to buy the apples with the worm in 'em, right?

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. COVICH: But people want food to look good. We've been eating pesticides and chemicals for generations. We continue to evolve as human beings. I have heard nothing tonight that's going to stop us from evolving forward. I'll eat GMOs tomorrow. We've all ate them already. I do not work for Monsanto, I do not work for the SHAKA movement, I think for myself. In my mind this --

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MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

MR. COVICH: --initiative belongs in the trashcan, and if you can't get it there pass it out tonight, stop talking about it, and don't be threatened about your future jobs because I can tell you if you pass this in your Committee you're at more risk for losing than if you listened to the SHAKA movement. Thank you and good night.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good night, Mr. Covich. Lokahi Sylva, please.

MR. SYLVA: Good evening --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MR. SYLVA: --Council. I just came from a meeting or it was a gathering of like minds. Very rare for me to find myself in a room full of people who like to think a lot about deer and about deer byproducts and such. But what I got from that and what I'm bringing over here from that is a sense of flexibility and of the need for change and the sense with not only our leaders, our representatives but the people who would sit by for many, many years, decades or whatever and be complacent and go oh yeah, it's messed up but oh well. They're not so much willing to sit by anymore but are standing up and saying well I guess if somebody's got to do it it might as well be because apparently nobody else knows how or whatever. So stepping up to do that in the face of for instance something like a major sector of the island economy like that part of agriculture which we're talking about, I would also like to throw HC&S in there. Any monoculture, it could crumble and make room for a lot of what do you say, entrepreneurs, and people who have a comprehensive idea of what we have at our disposal. We know too much to do this to our aina at this time, and remediation could begin right away. And not to go further into that but --

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. SYLVA: --I was at a County, couple of our representatives Ms. Baisa and Mike White came Upcountry, we sat in the Hannibal Tavares pool room, and so probably 40 citizens who showed up to circle around and talk about the most important things to us. Well, you know, it's kind of hard to figure what is the most important things to us so we went around and everybody said the same thing, we wrote on or said what was important to them, they wrote it on the board and got it down to five. Then we went around again and chalked it down to three things. If we could just talk about three things that would be great, and we started with the GMO issue and I think it was about labeling. And people, our representatives' stances on that labeling. And we couldn't get off it, there was nothing more important to the people in that room than the issue of genetically modified organisms --

MS. NAKATA: Two minutes.

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MR. SYLVA: --that are put into our food chain. You know obviously these people here are here until late at night. You guys, thank you so much for paying attention to us because we'll squawk until tomorrow morning 3:00 a.m. if there's reinforcements outside. I wouldn't want your guys' jobs. But you're going to hear it all, you're going to make your decisions. My main concern...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony.

MR. SYLVA: All right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Your time has ended. Thank you. Kawai McEwen. And believe it or not Mr. McEwen is the last person signed up for testimony.

MR. McEWEN: Hi, my name is Kawai McEwen. I grew up Maui. And I'm not sure how to do this. But so I lived down the beach as one kid, we grew up poor, ate poor. As you can probably tell I have no training for this type of thing. It sounds like a lot of these Monsanto employees are really intelligent, they got excellent write-offs or help. When I, as I was here I wasn't really going to testify but when I heard a lady talk about her health --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Talk to the Chair.

MR. McEWEN: --I seen some people laughing. I just thought, I was offended by that so I wanted to speak about that. Seems like this is more about jobs versus health. My job I'm a roofer, if there's no roofs to be done it's no one's fault, it's my fault and I need to find another job or I need to do something else. Luckily I went up and down through the roofing career for 12 years. Like I said I was poor and all of that, Monsanto never helped me, that was me. I got off my okole, went out, didn't have job opportunities, I took what I got. I have to work hard to provide for my family, and that's what taught me I should give my kids something that I never had which is better food, better things.

MS. NAKATA: One and a half minutes.

MR. McEWEN: I guess all I can say is everyone who is opposed against this, they have their way already, they have everything going according to what they like. We're just trying to get away or we're trying to find a way where we can feel safer. I don't work for SHAKA, I don't work for no one else. And that's it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your --

MR. McEWEN: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --testimony this evening. Members, there is, we have concluded receiving testimony at our remote District Offices as well as the Chamber. With no objections, the Chair will be closing testimony for this meeting.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

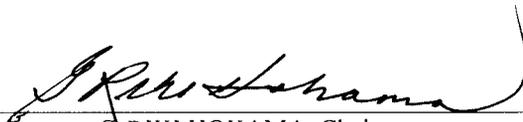
CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, so ordered.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR HOKAMA: This Committee shall stand in recess 'til 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning in this Chamber, July 1st. Okay, we are in recess 'til tomorrow 9:00 a.m. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 10:25 p.m.

APPROVED:



G. RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATE

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that the foregoing represents to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 21st day of July, 2014, in Kula, Hawaii

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Daniel Schoenbeck