

KULA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 417 - Kula, HI 96790

Website: <http://kulamaui.com>

*The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.
The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.*

Resolution on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Whereas, GMOs are grown in Maui County, as well as in other areas of the world, with a possible major impact on traditional farming methods; and

Whereas, GMOs have the potential to increase the world's food supply while reducing applications of chemical insecticides yet possibly increasing dependence on applications of chemical herbicides; and

Whereas, it is unclear whether GMOs present adverse consequences to adjacent crops, natural vegetation and other components of Maui's ecosystem, that are potentially irreversible; and

Whereas, the methodology of GMO development varies on a case-by-case basis and the cumulative, long term effects of specific GMOs in specific settings remains under investigation; and

Whereas, Federal and State agencies have the responsibility to investigate, monitor and regulate GMO research and GMO products, as well as to publish the results of their findings and recommendations; and

Whereas, concerns have been raised about the possible negative effects of GMOs on the food supply, crop contamination, and the health of the citizens; and

Whereas, there have been reports in Maui of adverse health reactions, possibly attributable to cultivation of GMO crops; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, by the Kula Community Association Board of Directors that it supports:

1. The agriculture industry in Kula and Maui County through the use of safe and proven technologies while ensuring the protection of non-agriculture flora and fauna, especially humans; and
2. Research on the short and long term effects of GMOs that is objective, independent, transparent, and free of any conflict of interest; and
3. Dissemination to the public of all information on the ongoing experiments, known and potential benefits and risks of GMOs; and
4. Regulation based upon the highest priorities of the health and safety of humans, animals, and native vegetation and lower priority on potential financial gains; and
5. The establishment of a County level group to include community members and individuals with medical, scientific and agricultural backgrounds to review the possible impacts of GMOs and to provide guidance on their usefulness and appropriateness in the community.

Karolyn Mossman, President April 2, 2004