



Not all agree that GMOs are safe

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 2, 2015 • A9

FOUNDED IN 1992

DENNIS FRANCIS President BILL BULEY Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Mark Phillipson's opinions in the "Other Voices" section of *The Garden Island* (Oct. 31) are refreshing because he has confessed the process of offering useful and insightful information, transparency and dialogue between the pro- and anti-GMO groups.

Clearly no scientist or medical doctor will dispute the laudable goals of genetic engineering. I myself favor solutions to obstacles in genetic engineering by going beyond chemistry to deeper, more fundamental levels of nature, such as subatomic physics and theoretic unified field theory.

Hawaii's students, like Brooke Laidlaw, Spencer, who won a \$20,000 National Institute of Health grant, are absolutely brilliant. It is primarily for Hawaiian students that I am writing this letter.

Phillipson wrote "86 percent of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science agree that GM foods are safe." This indicates 12 percent that otherwise. Scientists who publish negative findings about GMOs publish in the same journals. For example, "Transcriptome profile analysis reflects rat liver and kidney damage following chronic ultra-low dose Roundup exposure" was published by *Environmental Health Perspectives* in 2013 in which a two-year study in rats administering 0.1 parts per billion Roundup was conducted. "Our results suggest that chronic exposure to a glyphosate-based herbicide at an ultra-low, environmental dose can result in liver and kidney damage."

As for the AMA's endorsement of genetically engineered food, *Natural News* reported in 2007, "Despite its stated mission, 'To promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health,' the American Medical Association has taken many steps in protecting the health of the American people."

One of the most striking examples in the AMA's long-term relationship with the tobacco industry. In 1964, three decades after medical research demonstrated the dangers of cigarettes, the AMA finally issued a statement on smoking, calling it "a serious health hazard."

American public interest attorney Steven Drucker's book, "Unsettled Ground: Twisted Truths," reviews court-obtained documents showing corporate fraud perpetrated by FDA managers helping contribute to scientific endorsement of GMOs. Drucker's book is endorsed by even genetic scientists who originally approved the GMO project.

Other nations recently have shown a stronger opposition to GMOs. Based on research resulting in negative findings, Austria, Belgium for the Walloon region, Ireland for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia and Slovenia are opting out of genetically engineered foods for safety reasons.

I agree with Mr. Phillipson that natural genetics is precise, as when two parents have a child with blue or gray eyes. This is called vertical transfer of traits like eye color, and all other physical traits to the subsequent generation. However, biotech corporations are unilaterally confounding the DNA from two different species like bacteria and corn. This is called horizontal transfer of traits. Even though, here, there are only a few precise traits being transferred, there is still much imprecision in the process, as Mr. Michael Cocca correctly indicated in his letter to the editor on Oct. 21.

For example, extra mass residues, like sugar residues, may sometimes mysteriously attach to Monsanto's copyright protein insecticides, which can make them even more toxic. This problem occurred with a bean protein trans gene expressed in peas. The rice who ate these peas, developed lung tissue inflammation, the *Journal of Agricultural Chemistry* reported in 2005. One thing is certain, every one agrees: The bean protein expressed in the pea had an unexpected subtle change in molecular structure after the horizontal transfer from bean to pea, which is typical Methyl mercury (CH₃Hg), is highly poisonous while dimethyl mercury (CH₃)₂Hg, with an extra mass residue, an extra (CH₃), a carbon (C) atom, and three hydrogen (H) atoms, can kill just one drop of dimethyl mercury that leaked through a rubber lab glove, killed Dartmouth professor Dr. Karen Wetterhahn, Ph.D., who was studying DNA mutations caused from environmental toxins, reports the *Los Angeles Times* on Sept. 14, 1997.

Both versions of mercury are quantum wave packets of poison, but the dimethyl mercury, with such a subtle change in molecular structure, is lethal. In a bigger, more destructive ocean wave like this, reflecting complex quantum mechanical algebra at deeper subatomic levels of nature, both to dangerous extra attached mass residues like sugar residues, on linked proteins. Also, by intentionally extracting a peer-reviewed, published, two-year safety study on rats eating NK 603 corn and glyphosate, which reported high mortality rates, Monsanto has continued to introduce many toxic products into the American food chain.

Due to such problems, California's Serrano-Martin City School District became the first US school district to provide meals that are 100 percent organic and non-GMO, reports the *Organic & Non-GMO Report* at <http://www.organicandnongmo.com> and *The Non-GMO Project* at <http://www.non GMOproject.org>.

Many of us feel it would be interesting to invite to Kauai concerned scientists who have discovered negative health and environmental effects from GMOs for a conference where their information could be generated.

When there are reputable scientists finding dangers from GMOs, even if they are in the minority at this time, it sets up a red flag. Thus, it is inaccurate to state that genetically modified foods do not pose any risk to people.

Bill M. Davis is a resident of Lahae.

LETTERS

Please support property tax cap

Tall property owners on Kauai. We are long-time residents in Hanalei. In the last four years, our property taxes have increased a horrific 473 percent. If you are a homeowner, I'm sure you have a similar story.

Gary Hooser has proposed a bill that would reinstate the property tax cap that was canceled in 2013. If this Bill 2696 is passed, any future tax increase would be limited to the most recent cost-of-living increase reflected by the Consumer Price Index. It would protect us all from exorbitant, unexpected tax increases from year to year.

Come help support Bill 2696 and make your voice and your story be heard at the public hearing at the Kauai County Building at 4386 Rice Street, today at 1:30 p.m.

Kimberly McLaughlin
Hanalei

Love is the better way to go

It has been my privilege to live here on Kauai for the past several years. I feel very blessed and thankful for all my dear friends here. The letter that *The Garden Island* printed regarding the nature of the Muslim religion was just a bit disturbing. I encourage free speech, but free flowing hate doesn't advance our island culture in any way.

There are many mean-spirited (divisive) people in the world. They arise from every religion and belief system, and will twist their scripture in knots to justify violence, prejudice and acts of intimidation. Whether it is violence at the Hanalei Pier, Oklahoma City or in Paris, these acts are fueled by ignorance and promote an attitude of hate, not abhor.

I have been involved in interfaith activities for over 30 years, and personally know individuals of many faiths, including Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Sikhs, Atheists, Yogis, followers of Jesus, and many others. I have studied, read and discussed spiritual ideas and teachings for decades. No path advocates violence, hate, intimidation, terrorism or a mean spirit, unlike Friday's vitriolic letter.

It is easy to love thy neighbor. They are most likely like you. My question is, can we be kind to every body, equally? Can we love the aloha spirit, or do we choose to love some, like some, and hate the rest? It is a choice. I choose love, how about you?

Hari Khalsa
Nashua

Share your mano

Email letters to letters@tgiforum.com. Submit online at www.tgiforum.com.

Letters must include the author's full name, address and daytime phone number.

We prefer shorter letters, 200 to 300 words. Letters may be edited.

Because of the volume of letters, we cannot acknowledge unsolicited letters.

Letters become the property of *The Garden Island*.

Setting record straight on county's long-term affordable rental program

Steven A. Hunt

In a response to Jessica Lee's article published last Sunday's edition of *The Garden Island* regarding changes to the County's Long-Term Affordable Rental program, I wanted to address several inaccuracies in the article so as not to be misleading to potential participants.

Second, the article speaks to tax credits whereas the amended bill that actually passed provides a rate adjustment from Residential to Home-stead for those that qualify. Going forward, the qualifying rent levels will still be based on 80 percent of the Kauai Median Household Income; however for the 2016 tax year, those that participated in the Long-Term Affordable Rental program, was later brought up for reconsideration and ultimately failed to garner the necessary votes and died.

With the death of the floor amendment, the bill reverted back to the version that had passed in the prior committee meeting, which included the amendments proposed by council member and Finance Committee Chair, Arya Kasahiro.

First and foremost, the floor amendment that was proposed by the Council Vice Chair, Ross Kagawa, did propose to move the participating rent levels to 100 percent of the Kauai Median Household Income; however this amendment, although initially passed, was later brought up for reconsideration and ultimately failed to garner the necessary votes and died.

With the death of the floor amendment, the bill reverted back to the version that had passed in the prior committee meeting, which included the amendments proposed by council member and Finance Committee Chair, Arya Kasahiro.

In summary, here are the changes in Bill 2690 (now Ordinance 965) that were approved by council and signed by the mayor:

- To qualify for the benefit of the Long-Term Affordable Rental, property owners must meet the following criteria:
- To have registered in the county's long-term affordable rental program during the 2015 assessment year.
- To verify that no changes in their tenant's rent were made between the 2015 and 2016 assessment years.
- Monthly rents cannot exceed the limits established for the 2015 application:

- Tenant pays an utilities: studio, \$1,026; one-bedroom, \$1,161; two bedrooms, \$1,291; three bedrooms, \$1,552; four bedrooms, \$1,633; and five or more bedrooms, \$1,675.
- Property owner pays all utilities: studio \$1,271; one bedrooms, \$1,463; two bedrooms, \$1,634; three bedrooms, \$1,861; four bedrooms, \$2,106; and five or more bedrooms, \$2,396.
- If the owner has a monthly lease and meets the other criteria listed above, they can submit an affidavit stating that the rents they are charging meets the established limits.
- Must apply on or before Dec. 31, 2015 to be eligible.

Steven A. Hunt is not property tax manager for the county of Kauai.