

Biotech Dangers from Open Air Experimentation of "GMO" Life Forms and Pesticide Combinations Force Maui County Citizens to Demand Hawaii State Constitutional Protection

The alarming increase of birth defects and rare illnesses testified to by local doctors during recent public hearings in Kauai County and the lack of federal and state oversight is forcing Maui County citizens to stand up to Hawaii's GMO giants on their own. While biotech industry lobbyists scramble to block them, five Maui citizens, with community support through the SHAKA Movement, are using a unique clause in the state constitution to call for a temporary moratorium until the agro-chemical companies show current scientific data and proof that their GMO practices are not harmful to people and the land.

Kahului, Hawaii ([PRWEB](#)) February 27, 2014 -- Five Maui County citizens are going toe-to-toe with Hawaii's mammoth agricultural biotech industry with the submission of a new ordinance, written by the people, for the people and voted on by the people, as a ballot initiative in the 2014 November general elections.

This first-of-it's-kind on Maui citizens' initiative calls for a temporary moratorium of all genetic engineering (GE) operations within Maui County until the Biotech companies finance a detailed Environmental and Public Health Impacts Study (EPHIS), administered by the county, showing current scientific data and proof that open air experimentation of GE crops and associated mixed pesticide use is not harmful to people and the land.

Over 500 people attended a petition drive kick-off event on Monday, Feb 24th. More than 200 people registered to collect signatures and left with petitions in hand, excited to meet the deadline for collecting 8500 registered Maui County voters' signatures by March 31st.

The five citizens, Mark Sheehan Ph.D., (environmentalist and health advocate) Lorrin Pang M.D., MPH (consultant to the World Health Organization since 1985, selected as one of America's Best Doctors – top 3%) Lei'ohu Ryder (Spiritual Kumu), Alika Atay (indigenous Hawaiian natural farmer and Hawaiian Spiritual Leader), and Dr. Bonnie Marsh N.D., (Naturopathic Doctor) all spoke of their concerns for the land, the health and well being of all of Maui County's residents, and particularly it's children. The evening concluded with a presentation from world-renowned GMO, Roundup and biological weapons expert, Retired Coronel, Dr. Don Huber.

The event was coordinated by the SHAKA Movement (Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki (children) and the 'Aina (land)), an advocacy, communications and information hub in Hawaii.

<http://www.ShakaMovement.org>

The five citizens assert that the multiple crops each year of Genetically Engineered (GE) seed, other GMO experimentation and chemical cocktails (multiple pesticides applied in combination or in sequence) in Maui County differ significantly from the GE food farming occurring elsewhere in the world, and pose unique risks that have not been studied and are not adequately monitored by county, state or federal agencies. (http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/cfs-bill-2491-written-testimony--7-15-13_24101.pdf For an ordinance to amend the Kaua'i County code 1987 relating to pesticides and genetically modified organisms. July 2013) (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0042768> A Preliminary Investigation into the Impact of a Pesticide Combination on Human Neuronal and Glial Cell Lines In Vitro,

August 03, 2012)

Mark Sheehan said, “The citizens of Maui County have serious concerns as to whether the GE seed operations, open-field mixing of pesticide cocktails, and GE crop experimentation occurring in Maui County are causing irreparable harm to the people, the environment, and public trust resources.”

(<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/infoservices/pesticidesandyou/Winter%2003-04/Synergy.pdf> Synergy: The Big Unknowns of Pesticide Exposure 2004)

Hawai’i is the only US state who’s constitution stipulates that the land, water, air and other the Public Trust Resources have rights unto themselves and must be defended from harm and “...shall be conserved and protected for current and future generations.”

Lobbyists for the agro-chemical industry are actively working against GMO regulations and are aggressively pushing state legislators to pre-empt and strip local counties of their right to regulate GMO and biotech industries on the local level.

“Right now there’s a big movement by the industry, the state and the feds to preempt us, trying to say that we cannot be more precautionary.” said Dr. Pang, “That goes against the basic principles of Precaution.”

“The Precautionary Principle says each lower level of government has the right to be more precautionary than the levels above them. You can’t preempt a local government from being more precautionary.” said Dr. Pang, “If the federal regulators are not going to regulate for us, then the state has a right to do it. If the state is not going to regulate for us, then each county has the right to do it.”

“More and more information is coming out about the risks of pesticide exposure, especially to children.”

Sheehan continued. “A November 2012 report by the American Academy of Pediatrics, cited ‘growing evidence that developing fetuses and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticides.’” (

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/AAP-Makes-Recommendations-to-Reduce-Children's-Exposure-to-Pesticides.aspx>).

“At least 50 doctors, nurses and health professionals testified to their concerns of pesticide exposure at recent public hearings on Kauai, citing specific and rare birth defects, some that may be occurring at a rate 10 times above the national average.” says Sheehan.

(<http://www.stoppoisoningparadise.org/#!/doctors-nurses-to-mayor---sign-the-bill/cgpz>

Sample Medical Testimony - Kaua’i Doctors Oct, 2013.)

“This throws the safety of all GE operations into question, which brings the ‘Precautionary Principle’ to bear.” says Sheehan, “Our moratorium shifts the burden of proof back to the Agro-Chemical companies. They have to stop their potentially risky practices until they publicly share whatever current research they may have that scientifically proves what they are doing in Maui County is not harmful to current and future generations.”

Areas of Maui’s groundwater are already significantly contaminated with pesticides, including DBCP and TCP, from former conventional pineapple growing operations.

(<https://info.ngwa.org/GWOL/pdf/872944335.PDF> “DBCPC, EDB and TCP Contamination of Ground Water in Hawaii” Nov 1987.)

In 1999 Maui County successfully sued the companies who made and used the chemicals that polluted Maui’s groundwater. They agreed to pay the majority of costs for 30 years to filter pesticides from polluted aquifers. (

<http://www.co.maui.hi.us/documents/22/DBCPsettlement.PDF> Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims, Sept 1999)

“Based on our previous experience with pesticide companies poisoning of our aquifers we’re very concerned with what’s happening with GE operations in Maui County. Biotech practices here involve unprecedented use and experimental mixing of pesticides, none of which have been tested together, nor in concert with what’s already in the ground’ says Sheehan. (<http://ecowatch.com/2014/02/26/petition-launched-to-halt-gmo-production-pesticide-use-in-hawaii/> Petition Launched to Halt GMO Production, Pesticide Use in Hawaii Feb 2014)

“I’m very concerned for the combinations because each new combination could have stunning effects”, Says Dr. Pang, “The minute you combine them, all hell can break loose.” (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature11585.html> Combined pesticide exposure severely affects individual- and colony-level traits in bees, Apr 2012)
The five citizens maintain that the Hawai’i Dept. of Agriculture does not have an adequate regulatory structure in place to monitor GE crops or to aid in understanding the impacts that experimental and seed crops have on Maui’s environment, public health, economy or cultural heritage.

“The land and waters surrounding Maui County have cultural and spiritual significance in Hawaiian traditions.”, says Sheehan, “This heritage would suffer irreparable harm if the natural environment of Maui County was contaminated by GE practices.”

“Another concern,” says Sheehan, “is that there are no known or proven scientific methodologies or procedures to recall GE organisms or decontaminate the environment from any damages once GE organisms are released and contamination has occurred. One example is the uncontrollable invasion of GMO papaya across the island of Hawai’i. With no way to stop it, after just a few years, GMO papaya is well on its way to eradicating all Non-GMO varieties.”

“Hawaii’s remote location,” adds Sheehan, “has long been seen as a bonus from the risk assessment perspective of GMO experimentation. If an environmental catastrophe occurs here there’s some chance of it being sequestered from the rest of the world.”

“If you really step back it may look like we’re just a big experiment, a big research lab to experiment with - effecting people,” asserts Alikea Atay, “so it’s questionable, are we being sacrificed?”

**Contact Information****Mark Sheehan**

Shaka Movement: Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki and the 'Aina

<http://www.shakamovement.com>

+1 (808) 283-2158

Sam Small

Small Wonder Video Services

<http://www.smallwondervideoservices.com>

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Over 11,000 Maui County Citizens Stand Up and Say “Nuff Already” to Biotech Experimentation with a History Making Social Action

Five Maui County citizens, with the support of over 11,000 registered voters, made history submitting the first ever Maui County citizen’s initiative with enough petition signatures to potentially get a proposal on the November election ballot. The SHAKA Movement is helping promote the citizen's proposed temporary moratorium on all open air experimentation of GE crops and associated mixed pesticides in Maui County until the Biotech companies deliver a detailed, county administered Environmental and Public Health Impacts Study (EPHIS) showing current scientific data and proof that their activities are not harmful to the people, the land, water, air, and reefs for current and future generations.

Wailuku, Hawaii ([PRWEB](#)) April 14, 2014 -- Over 400 volunteer petition handlers, coordinated by the SHAKA Movement, saw an overwhelmingly positive response from the community and succeeded in gathering over 11,000 signatures in less than 6 weeks, a process for which the county allows 6 months.

Following a ceremony and rally on the lawn of the county building in Wailuku on Monday, April 7th, the petition signatures were submitted to the County Clerk's office for verification. Having never done this before, the office predicted it will take the entire 45 days allowed to complete the task. The five citizens will then be notified how many more signatures may be needed to meet the 8,500 validated minimum required for the proposed moratorium to be placed on the November 2014 ballot.

The citizens expressed confidence in meeting that minimum signature requirement because they already have over 3000 additional signatures ready and 45 days to gather more. They anticipate collecting over 20,000 signatures by May 15th.

Rain didn't stop hundreds of supporters from attending the ceremony led by the five citizens: Mark Sheehan Ph.D., (environmentalist and health advocate) Lorrin Pang M.D., MPH (consultant to the World Health Organization since 1985, selected as one of America’s Best Doctors – top 3%) Lei’ohu Ryder (Spiritual Kumu), Alika Atay (indigenous Hawaiian natural farmer and Hawaiian Spiritual Leader), and Dr. Bonnie Marsh N.D., (Naturopathic Doctor)

Supportive speeches were given by Makana, Maui County council member Elle Cochran, state senate candidate Terez Amato, environmentalist and county council candidate John Fitzpatrick, campaign finance reformer Kory Payne, local activists Courtney Bruch, Dr. Joe Marshalla and Bruce Douglas and Ben Cohen from Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

Ben & Jerry’s ice cream has vowed to become completely GMO free within the next two years. “It’s a very difficult task these days to become GMO free in the ice cream industry because most of the feed given to cows comes from GMO crops.” said Cohen. “We're making great headway in that area yet it’s even more difficult finding GMO free sources for all the other products that are added to ice cream.”

The Biotech Industry has converted Maui County, which consists of the three islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, into one of the largest biological and chemical test sites in the world. (<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/02/20132514512529904.html>) Opposition crops up to GMO

foods in Hawaii - Feb 2013) The recent identification of 15 “Super Weeds” and over 500 “Super Bugs” that have developed resistance to the chemical pesticides and herbicides used in GE farming, (<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/10/19/herbicide-resistant-super-weeds-increasingly-plaguing-farmers> Herbicide-Resistant 'Super Weeds' Increasingly Plaguing Farmers - Oct 2012) is fueling aggressive open-field experimentation of new GE life forms, and even stronger combinations of pesticides and herbicides.

“They’ve turned us into guinea pigs for their experiments.” said Alika Atay, one the five citizens to bring forth the new law, “We say: ‘Nuff Already. If there’s a doubt, vote it out, until we’re absolutely sure it’s safe.”

Mark Sheehan, another of the five, released this statement: “They're using this land and endangering everything on these islands in an attempt to control the new outbreaks and problems evolving everywhere GE crops are grown.

The citizens rising up and the birth of the Shaka Movement is in response to reports of new and increased health problems showing up all over Hawaii. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/25/usa-gmos-hawaii-idUSL1N0LU0A220140225> Anti-GMO crop, pesticide ballot initiative launched in Hawaii - Feb 2014) Pesticides and herbicides have been used here for decades. People want to know: What's different now? Are the new GMO's and experimental pesticides and herbicides behind these heightened levels of health issues? How do we know for sure that the most vulnerable, our keiki, are safe?

The chemical tests results that Monsanto had their employees deliver to Maui's Mayor last week to try to convince us that what they are doing is safe are misleading in that they were all performed on individual chemical agents under controlled lab environments. (<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/02/15/number-chemicals-linked-to-autism-and-other-disorders-doubled-in-past-7-years/> Number of chemicals linked to autism and other disorders doubled in past 7 years, study shows - Feb 2014) But that's not true to the way the chemicals are being used in the open-air fields of Maui County.

First, the chemicals they spray in Maui County are mixed with carrying agents and surfactants or soaps that change the absorption rates through the skin (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/tx800218n> Glyphosate Formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells. – Dec 2008) and second, they are spraying combinations of chemicals (including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) some of which linger in the environment or in people's bodies where they can combine and take on new properties or increase the individual toxic effects of each. These Chemical Cocktails have never, ever, been identified let alone tested. <http://rt.com/news/monsanto-roundup-kidney-disease-921/> Monsanto's Roundup may be linked to fatal kidney disease, new study suggests – Mar 2014)

Dr. Lorrin Pang released this statement: “Where are the clinical human studies of GMO's? Monsanto's website itself will tell you there are none, because they don't feel it's necessary. <http://www.monsanto.com/newsviews/pages/food-safety.aspx> Commonly Asked Questions about the Food Safety of GMO – Apr 2014)

The FDA's regulatory position of substantial equivalence, the assumption that the proteins, fats, and carbohydrates of a GM plant will always be “the same as or substantially similar” to the non GMO version (<http://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/guidancedocumentsregulatoryinformation/biotechnology/ucm096095.htm> Statement of Policy - Foods Derived from New Plant Varieties - May 1992) was written by people who are also Monsanto executives. I'm just not comfortable with that. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/monsanto-petition-tells-obama-cease-fda-ties-to->

monsanto/2012/01/30/gIQAA9dZcQ_blog.html Monsanto petition tells Obama: ‘Cease FDA ties to Monsanto’ – Jan 2012)

I’m very concerned also with the results of the mixing of pesticides and herbicides in the environment and in people’s bodies. You may know the effects of each chemical individually but each new combination could have stunning effects. The minute you combine them, all hell can break loose. (<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/11/2/2125> Glyphosate, Hard Water and Nephrotoxic Metals: Are They the Culprits Behind the Epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in Sri Lanka? - Feb 2014) We’ve only recently learned that, on Kauai for example, they are regularly spraying 70 to 80 different chemicals to kill everything in the soil, the microbes, the viruses, the fungi. That represents 10 to the 23rd possible combinations, a trillion trillion, more than all the drops of water in the ocean.

And they certainly haven’t cleared any of this with the people who have to live with the risk of being exposed to whatever is being tested. This is all quite unethical..”

The SHAKA Movement is an advocacy, communications and educational outreach program and hub, where people and organizations come together to work in unison to affect a positive change for the environment and for the people of the Hawaiian Islands.

SHAKA is committed to bringing forth informed scientific facts through peaceful communications and actions so as to protect, preserve and improve the Public Trust Resources for current and future generations. <http://www.shakamovement.com>

(http://www.shakamovement.org/?get_group_doc=6/1393919970-CopyofOrdinanceforPetitionerswhichneedstobewithyouatalltimeswhilegatheringsignatures.pdf A bill placing a moratorium on the Cultivation of genetically engineered organisms – Mar 2013

SHAKA Movement Video <http://youtu.be/gHncnTwWvco>

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**Contact Information****Mark Sheehan**

SHAKA Movement

<http://www.shakamovement.com>

+1 (808) 283-2158

Sam Small

Small Wonder Video Services

<http://www.smallwondervideoservices.com>

(973) 271-0788

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19,273 Citizens of Maui County in Hawaii, Ground Zero for Open-Field GMO Seed Production & Pesticide Experimentation, Challenge Chemical Companies to "Prove It's Safe"

Enough Maui County residents have signed a petition to potentially place on the November 2014 ballot a temporary moratorium on all GE cultivation practices, including open-field GMO and pesticide experimentation, until a company funded, County administered Environmental and Public Health Impacts Study (EPHIS) shows they are safe for the environment and human exposure. The SHAKA Movement (Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki and the 'Aina) helped to successfully coordinated this first ever citizen's initiative to gather enough signatures to get on the ballot of a Maui County election.

Wailuku, HI ([PRWEB](#)) May 28, 2014 -- The Maui citizens assert that the multiple crops each year of Genetically Engineered (GE) seed, other GMO experimentation and chemical cocktails (multiple pesticides applied in combination or in sequence) in Maui County differ significantly from the GE food farming occurring elsewhere in the world, and pose unique risks that have not been studied and are not adequately monitored by county, state or federal agencies. (1) (2)

On April 7th, five Maui citizens submitted 9,768 signatures, 48% of which were deemed by the County Clerk to be valid. The rest were rejected mostly because signers were not registered voters or the address people entered did not match the county's voter registration rolls. (3)

“The ratio between valid and invalid signatures on the GMO moratorium petition is fairly consistent with previous initiative petitions made in other counties in the State of Hawaii.” stated Danny Mateo, County Clerk, in a Maui County press release, “Twenty percent of the total number of voters who cast ballots in the last mayoral general election, or 8,465 registered voters, are required to sign the petition to place the initiative on the ballot.” (4)

Today the five sponsoring citizens submitted an additional 9,505 signatures. The County now has ten days to verify those and determine if the threshold has been met.

“Our petition gatherers learned a lot the first go round. We reviewed this second wave and see a much higher rate of valid signatures.” Mark Sheehan, one of the five sponsoring citizen said, “We're thrilled to have gathered over 19,000 all together. We'll know for sure in ten days, but most likely, we'll be on the ballot in November. ”

“The elections can't come fast enough for me. I hope the County Council simply ratifies and enacts the moratorium when they have the chance to, as soon as possible.” Says Dr. Lorrin Pang, who is the District Health Officer for Maui County, but who speaks as a private citizen, one of the five to sponsor the bill, “I'm very concerned with the research results coming from outside of the U.S. on the growing use of combinations of pesticides associated with GMO crop production. It's alarming. You may know the effects of each chemical individually but each new combination could have stunning effects. (5)

“Our proposed moratorium is in response to reports of new and increased health problems showing up all over Hawaii.” say Sheehan, (6) “Pesticides and herbicides have been used here for decades. People want to know:

What's different now? Are the new GMO's and experimental pesticides and herbicides behind these heightened levels of health issues? How do we know for sure that the most vulnerable, our children, are safe? "

"Contrary to often-repeated claims that today's genetically-engineered crops have, and are reducing pesticide use, the spread of glyphosate-resistant weeds in herbicide-resistant weed management systems has brought about substantial increases in the number and volume of herbicides applied. " says Charles M Benbrook, Centre for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, Washington State University. (7)

"They're using this land and endangering everything on these islands in an attempt to control the new outbreaks and problems evolving everywhere GE crops are grown and their associated pesticides abused." says Sheehan. "And we're not alone in this, Russia and China both just banned GMO's and their associated pesticide abuse, Jackson and Sophia Counties in Oregon, The Big Island of Hawaii and Kaua'i have all moved to restrict or ban them too."

"More and more surprises are coming out about pesticide exposure, which is growing due to GMO's increasing dependency on them." says Sheehan, "Farmers are reported more likely to take unreasonable physical risks or commit suicide from depression because exposure to pesticides may be interfering with an enzyme that breaks down the neurotransmitter that affects mood and stress responses. (8)

"According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), use of use of the world's most popular herbicide, Glyphosate, has tripled since 1997 and the EPA just raised the level of Glyphosate residue that's allowable in food. (9) We were told by the manufacture and the regulators that it would never end up being retained in people's bodies, but Glyphosate has just been found in the breast milk of 30% of the women recently tested. (10) Another German study found it in city dweller's urine at levels 5 to 20 times the limit allowed for drinking water (11) and a third study found it in people's blood." (12) says Sheehan.

"No one knows for sure what this all means yet but it casts enough doubt to make us want to know specifically what we, in Hawaii and Maui County in particular, are all being exposed to. It's clear that the human health effects of what they are doing here has not been adequately studied and with each new revelation it seems more likely that the future of our kid's health could be at risk. Our moratorium is a reasonable request, designed to protect both farmers and the public, until we know for sure what's happening here specifically is safe."

The SHAKA Movement (Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki and the 'Aina) is an educational and outreach program that has been helping to coordinate the gathering of petition signatures. "The movement has drawn fire from bloggers, cyber bullies and certain local press outlets that staunchly defend everything related to GMO technology." says spokesperson Bruce Douglas.

"It's a pretty well coordinated and obviously well funded crew that consistently and immediately attacks anyone who questions anything about GMO technology, calling us anti-science, fear mongers, and worse. We know they have tried to disrupt our efforts with disinformation and false claims against us, seeking to divert attention from the real issues at hand: the integrity of our fragile ecosystem and the health of our children. And it's only just begun, once we know for sure the moratorium is on the ballot the chemical company's public relations, advertising and black ops teams will kick into full gear. It's going to be a real interesting run up to the elections. Our little islands of Maui and Molokai will be thrust onto the global stage."

(1) http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/cfs-bill-2491-written-testimony--7-15-13_24101.pdf For an ordinance to amend the Kaua'i County code 1987 relating to pesticides and genetically modified organisms.

July 2013)

- (2) (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0042768> A Preliminary Investigation into the Impact of a Pesticide Combination on Human Neuronal and Glial Cell Lines In Vitro, August 03, 2012)
- (3) (http://www.mauicounty.gov/documents/24/COR.pdf_201405212058035764.pdf Certification of Results May 21st 2014)
- (4) (<http://www.co.maui.hi.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=5412> Clerk finishes first review of GMO moratorium petition May 21, 2014)
- (5) (<http://www.inra.fr/en/Scientists-Students/Food-and-nutrition/All-reports/Cocktail-effects-of-toxic-substances/The-cocktail-effect-of-pesticides> Cocktail effects of toxic substances demonstrated in vitro – Jun 2013)
- (6) (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/25/usa-gmos-hawaii-idUSL1N0LU0A220140225> Anti-GMO crop, pesticide ballot initiative launched in Hawaii, Reuters Feb 24, 2014)
- (7) (<http://www.enveurope.com/content/24/1/24/abstract>: Impacts of genetically engineered crops on pesticide use in the U.S. -- the first sixteen years, Environmental Sciences Europe Sept 28, 2012)
- (8) <http://www.pubfacts.com/detail/24125049/Structural-equation-modeling-of-pesticide-poisoning-depression-safety-and-injury>. Structural equation modeling of pesticide poisoning, depression, safety, and injury. Pubfacts.com Oct 2013)
- (9) <http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/world-our-backyard/2013/jul/5/epa-raises-levels-glyphosate-residue-allowed-your-/> EPA raises levels of glyphosate residue allowed in food. - Washington Times July 5th, 2013)
- (10) (<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/04/prweb11735170.htm>. Moms Across America and Sustainable Pulse's New Glyphosate Test Report Reveals World's Number 1 Herbicide Discovered in U.S. Mothers' Breast Milk - PRWeb 4/7/2014)
- (11) (<http://omicsonline.org/open-access/detection-of-glyphosate-residues-in-animals-and-humans-2161-0525.1000210.pdf> Detection of Glyphosate Residues in Animals and Humans - Environmental & Analytical Toxicology Jan 13, 2014)
- (12) (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24581382> The effect of metabolites and impurities of glyphosate on human erythrocytes (in vitro). - PubMed Feb 20114)

**Contact Information****Mark Sheehan**

SHAKA Movement

<http://www.shakamovement.com>

+1 (808) 283-2158

Sam Small

Small Wonder Video Services

<http://www.smallwondervideoservices.com>

(973) 271-0788

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Maui Citizens Get November Vote on GMO's and Pesticides - Crowd Funding Campaign Launched to Counter Agro-Chemical Company Propaganda Millions.

Public relations efforts, backed by GMO and pesticide manufacturers, are in high gear in Maui County in the run up to the November elections. (1) The SHAKA Movement, a local, grassroots not-for-profit, has pledged to provide unbiased, factual information that is not controlled or manipulated by corporate interests and seeks the public's support through an Indiegogo crowd funding campaign at <http://igg.me/at/donateshaka>

Paia, Hawaii ([PRWEB](#)) August 04, 2014 -- Registered Maui County voters will be asked in November to ratify a temporary moratorium on GMO and Pesticide crop production and open-air experimentation until an Environmental and Public Health Impacts Study (EPHIS) of the practices specific to the fields in Maui County show scientific proof that the activities here are not harmful to the people, the land, water, air, and reefs for current and future generations. (2)

In another similar voter contest, California's Prop 37 for GMO labeling, advocacy groups funded by the Agro-Chemical industry dwarfed their opponents by spending \$64 million dollars on local advertising, some of which was criticized as misleading. (3)

Rather than complying with a new local law on the island of Kauai that created simple buffer zones between pesticide flooded fields and public schools the Agro-Chemical companies chose to sue to block the community's measure. (4)

"Tax deductible donations are being solicited through a crowd funding campaign at <http://igg.me/at/donateshaka> to counter the advertising that's flooding our community from chemical industry backed advocacy groups" says Mark Sheehan, one of the five citizens who initiated a successful local petition drive and a spokesperson for the grassroots group The SHAKA Movement.

SHAKA stands for Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki (children) and the Aina (land).

Adds Sheehan: "As a grassroots, public service, educational organization, SHAKA is committed to delivering to the citizens of Maui County unbiased, factual information that is not controlled or manipulated by corporate interests. We do so to empower the citizens of Maui County to make a truly informed personal decision in November. We encourage all Maui County residents to register to vote so that the people may determine their own and their children's future, not corporations. (5)

"It's unfortunate that the sensationalized fear of loss of jobs in the Ag sector will end up putting at risk our far larger Tourism Economy." says Sheehan, "Non-GMO is now the top driving factor in brand choice for health conscious consumers. (6) As vacationers worldwide continue the current and growing trend to avoid GMO's and pesticide exposure, will Maui's reputation as a center of holistic lifestyles and healthy vacationing suffer?

Says Sheehan, "SHAKA is looking forward to helping find and create alternative jobs for bio-tech workers who may want to transfer to healthier alternatives such as ecotourism and small farm sustainable agriculture. State and federal programs are available for this already. If we raise enough funds we plan to acquiring land and set

up schools for Natural Hawaiian Farming and work to bring Maui County back as a premier example of local food security and sustainability.”

- 1) KITV, April 7, 2014; <http://www.kitv.com/news/Petition-could-stop-Maui-GMO-battle/25370686>
- 2) The Washington Times, July 25, 2014; <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/25/gmo-initiative-to-appear-on-nov-4-ballot-in-maui/>
- 3) Reuters, November 5, 2012; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/05/california-gmo-idUSL1E8M2DGD20121105>
- 4) Reuters, January 11, 2014; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/11/usa-gmos-hawaii-idUSL2N0KL0CE20140111>
- 5) Time, November 6, 2012; <http://science.time.com/2012/11/06/prop-37-why-californias-ballot-initiative-on-gm-food-is-about-politics-more-than-science/>
- 6) Market LOHAS Press Release, March 5, 2014; <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/non-gmo-trumps-organic-2014-195600917.html>

**Contact Information****Mark Sheehan**

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