

# KNOW GMO

## Nine Facts About Hawaii's Seed Crop Industry



88% of scientists believe genetically modified foods are safe, according to a study from the Pew Charitable Trust and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Seed companies contributed \$159 million to the Hawaii economy in 2014 and represent 34% of the total value of all Hawaii agricultural crops.



About 70% to 80% of the products in grocery stores contain ingredients from genetically engineered plants. For example, this includes sugar from sugar beets, corn starch, and canola oil. We have been safely consuming foods containing GMOs for two decades.



All biotech products must undergo rigorous tests prior to approval – including health and environmental studies - and are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure they are safe for consumption and the environment.



Seed companies contribute approximately \$20 million a year in taxes to support local government.



Although cultivation of GM crops in European countries is limited, there are dozens of varieties of GM cotton, corn, soybeans, and other crops that are authorized in the European Union for import and use in food and feed.



Seed companies have been operating in Hawaii for 50 years and currently employ nearly 1,400 residents.



The seed industry, the state's #1 agricultural industry for employment and revenues, operates on less than 15% of today's readily available cropland. That means more than 85% is available for diversified agriculture.



The Hawaii seed industry is critical to the production of GM crops that are used to make environmentally-friendly products such as paper plates, cups and cutlery that are recyclable or compostable.

**Sources:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Genetic Literacy Project ([geneticliteracyproject.org](http://geneticliteracyproject.org)), and The Council for Biotechnology Information ([gmoanswers.com](http://gmoanswers.com)).

