

## **Japan Opens Market to GM Papaya**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that the Government of Japan approved Rainbow papaya for commercial shipment to Japan. The Rainbow papaya is genetically engineered to be resistant to the papaya ringspot virus.

"The market opening in Japan is great news for Hawaii's papaya producers and even better news for American agricultural exports," said Michael Scuse, Acting under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. "Under the Obama Administration, USDA has continued to expand markets for American goods abroad, worked aggressively to break down barriers to trade, and assisted U.S. businesses with the resources needed to reach consumers around the world. This announcement will ensure that Hawaii's papaya producers help to drive our agricultural economy by expanding exports, creating jobs, and strengthening our nation's competitiveness."

Japan was once the major market for Hawaiian papayas, with annual sales reaching \$15 million in 1996. With its approval for import of Rainbow papaya, U.S. papaya producers hope to regain this important market.

Find out more at

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel\\_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0002-12](http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0002-12)