STAND. COM. REP. NO. 175 -24

Honolulu, Hawaii

ED 09 , 2024

FEB 08

RE: H.B. No. 2613

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 2613 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the application of the criminal offense of false labeling of Hawaii-grown coffee to include roasted coffee;
- (2) Enhance the penalties for the criminal offense of false labeling of Hawaii-grown coffee through the imposition of a mandatory fine for each offense; and
- (3) Establish and appropriate funds for a position within the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of labeling and packaging enforcement and inspection.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Rancho Aloha Coffee Farm; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Coffee Growers Association; Hawaii Coffee Association; Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council; and Hawai'i Farmers Union United. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Coffee Company.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii-grown coffee is among the highest priced coffee sold anywhere in the world, largely due to the high cost of production and its reputation for outstanding quality. However, the State's coffee industry is susceptible to fraud when less expensive coffees are falsely labeled as originating from Hawaii. This measure further protects the brand integrity of the State's coffee industry by investing in enforcement of coffee labeling laws.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2613, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2613, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 175-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2613	Committee Referral:	, FIN Da	te: 2/7/2024	1
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	/			
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2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	V			
3. COCHRAN, Elle			A CONTRACT C	
J. Cooman, Enc				
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.				
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.				
6 WOODSON Justin II	STATISTICS OF BUILDING			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.		ARCHAR AND		William St. St. St.
7. WARD, Gene				
TOTAL (7)	6			1
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				