H.B. NO. ⁵³⁴ H.D. 2 S.D. 1 C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that local tuna fisheries
and associated seafood markets are an important sector of the
State's economy and food production and that the identification
of foreign imported tuna is critical to inform and safeguard
consumers.

6 According to statistics from the United States Department 7 of Commerce, the annual dockside value of commercial yellowfin 8 and bigeye tuna (marked as ahi) landed in Hawaii's ports is around \$100,000,000, making tuna the highest valued food 9 10 commodity produced in the State. Even with these impressive 11 landings, previously frozen and carbon monoxide-treated foreign 12 imported tuna dominates sales at local retail establishments. 13 Due to a loophole in federal country of origin labeling 14 requirements for seafood, retail establishments are not 15 providing consumers with information on where the ahi tuna 16 originates. The legislature is therefore concerned that most 17 consumers that buy ahi at local retail establishments falsely

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believe that previously frozen, gas-treated ahi is caught by
Hawaii fisheries.

Moreover, the legislature further notes that the majority of ahi sold at local retail establishments is in the form of poke and sushi products. Consumers of poke are commonly subjected to misleading advertisements and in-store terminology, such as "prepared fresh", "freshly made", and "locally made", while the ahi used to prepare the poke is foreign-sourced, previously frozen, gas-treated, and imported in pre-cut cubes.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the 11 sale of raw processed ahi at Hawaii retail establishments 12 without a label stating the country in which the ahi was landed. 13 SECTION 2. Chapter 486, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 14 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately 15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "<u>§486-</u> Raw processed ahi; labeling requirements; retail

17 establishments. (a) No retail establishment shall keep, offer,

18 display, expose for sale, or solicit for the sale of any raw

19 processed ahi without a label stating the country in which the

20 ahi was landed.

21 (b) As used in this section:

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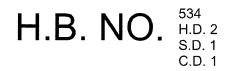
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1	"Ahi" means yellowfin tuna or bigeye tuna, including farm-
2	raised fish and ahi that meets the definition of "wild fish and
3	shellfish" as defined in title 7 Code of Federal Regulations
4	section 60.133, as amended.
5	"Farm-raised fish" has the same meaning as defined in
6	title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 60.106, as amended.
7	"Raw processed ahi" means a retail item derived from ahi
8	that has undergone transformation by methods including but not
9	limited to cutting, cubing, slicing, and mincing or has been
10	combined with any ingredients (e.g., soy sauce, onions, limu,
11	etc.) and offered for sale.
12	"Retail establishment" means an establishment licensed
13	under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act of 1930, which
14	includes any retail establishment that purchases over \$230,000
15	of fresh or frozen produce per calendar year."
16	SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
17	SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



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Report Title:

Uniform Packaging and Labeling; Food Labeling; Country of Origin; Tuna; Raw Processed Ahi; Unfair and Deceptive Practices

Description:

Prohibits the sale of any raw processed ahi by retail establishments without a label that states the country where the ahi was landed. Effective 7/1/2026. (CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

