

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION, AND
AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COFFEE GROWN IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, coffee requires a specific combination of sun,
2 soil, and water, and is successfully grown in only a limited
3 number of locations around the world; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Kona weather pattern of bright, sunny
6 mornings, humid rainy afternoons, and mild nights create
7 favorable coffee growing conditions; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Kona coffee name only applies to coffee beans
10 grown in North and South Kona, thus, coffee that is grown
11 elsewhere in Hawaii cannot be called "Kona coffee"; and
12

13 WHEREAS, all coffee beans grown in Hawaii are regulated by
14 the Department of Agriculture under chapter 147, Hawaii Revised
15 Statutes, for quality and assurance; and
16

17 WHEREAS, under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all
18 Hawaii-grown green coffee beans (coffee beans that are milled
19 and ready for roasting) need to be inspected and certified by
20 the Department of Agriculture for grade and origin unless
21 otherwise specified by rules adopted by the Department; and
22

23 WHEREAS, title 4, chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules,
24 establishes standards for coffee, including labeling
25 requirements, grade standards, inspection requirements, and a
26 coffee quality verification program; and
27

28 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-2, Hawaii Administrative
29 Rules, the inspection and certification of green coffee for
30 origin, grade, or both are required by the Department of
31 Agriculture, except for a few exceptions; and
32



1 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-10, Hawaii Administrative
2 Rules, dry millers may participate in a coffee quality
3 verification program, which is a self-certification program that
4 authorizes dry millers to certify green coffee and issue a
5 coffee quality verification program certificate; and
6

7 WHEREAS, a participating dry miller in this program must,
8 among other requirements, process at least five thousand pounds
9 of green coffee per week for three consecutive weeks during a
10 twelve month period, and establish a satisfactory record of
11 milling and grading of coffee beans; and
12

13 WHEREAS, additionally, the Department of Agriculture must
14 follow a coffee quality verification program audit scheme
15 consisting of three levels of audits depending on production
16 output; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the audit scheme ensures that a consistent level
19 of quality is maintained for all green coffee beans grown in
20 Hawaii because poor quality coffee degrades the "Kona coffee" or
21 "Hawaii Seal of Quality" names; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the inspection and certification requirements
24 under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and title 4,
25 chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules, apply to green coffee
26 beans, and not roasted coffee beans; and
27

28 WHEREAS, roasted coffee beans are considered processed
29 foods under part IV, chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
30

31 WHEREAS, although roasted coffee beans must also be
32 inspected for grade or origin, it does not follow the same
33 inspection and certification processes as green coffee beans;
34 and
35

36 WHEREAS, uniform inspection and certification requirements
37 for all coffee beans grown in Hawaii, whether green or roasted,
38 will ensure a better and higher quality and assurance for all
39 Hawaii-grown coffee; now, therefore,
40

41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
43 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
44 Agriculture is requested to adopt uniform administrative rules



1 relating to all coffee beans grown in Hawaii, whether green or
 2 roasted beans, to establish uniform inspection and certification
 3 requirements to ensure better and higher quality and assurance
 4 for all Hawaii-grown coffee; and
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 7 adopt administrative rules to establish audit requirements for
 8 all coffee mills and roasters in Hawaii so that a uniform level
 9 of quality and assurance can be maintained and monitored; and
 10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 12 cooperate and coordinate with the Kona Coffee Council and form a
 13 special committee to establish a suitable certification and
 14 audit plan to appropriately meet the needs of small coffee
 15 farmers; and
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 18 submit a written report to the Legislature of its findings and
 19 recommendations, and any proposed legislation and rules, no
 20 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008
 21 Regular Session; and
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 25 Board of Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical
 26 Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the
 27 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the President of
 28 the Hawaii Coffee Association; the President of the Kona Coffee
 29 Council; the President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association;
 30 and any other statewide coffee organizations.
 31
 32
 33

OFFERED BY:

Bruno Kohler
Clement Mihihara
Anna Mercedes K...
David Y. J...
Y. J...
Jim
Open He
J. Kala...
Ray L. ...
R. D. J. ...

