

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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
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5 WHEREAS, the Kona weather pattern of bright, sunny
6 mornings, humid rainy afternoons, and mild nights create
7 favorable coffee growing conditions; and
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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33 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-10, Hawaii Administrative
34 Rules, dry millers may participate in a coffee quality
35 verification program, which is a self-certification program that



1 authorizes dry millers to certify green coffee and issue a
2 coffee quality verification program certificate; and

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

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10 WHEREAS, additionally, the Department of Agriculture must
11 follow a coffee quality verification program audit scheme
12 consisting of three levels of audits depending on production
13 output; and

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

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

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25 WHEREAS, roasted coffee beans are considered processed
26 foods under part IV, chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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

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

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
40 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to adopt uniform
41 administrative rules relating to all coffee beans grown in
42 Hawaii, whether green or roasted beans, to establish uniform
43 inspection and certification requirements to ensure better and
44 higher quality and assurance for all Hawaii-grown coffee; and



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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the President of the Hawaii Coffee Association; the President of the Kona Coffee Council; the President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association; and any other statewide coffee organizations.

OFFERED BY: Russell Kohb

Claudia M. M. M. M.
Anna M. M. M. M.
April M. M. M.
John M. M. M.

Will M. M.
Jim M. M.
Mark M. M.
John M. M.
Guy M. M.
David M. M.