STAND. COM. REP. NO. /292

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 2 3 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1628

H.D. 1 S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2007 State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1628, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII MACADAMIA NUT PRODUCT LABELING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to enhance consumer awareness regarding the origin of macadamias in food products.

Specifically, this measure requires macadamia nut package labeling to specify the percentage of nuts by weight grown in Hawaii and provides penalties for violations.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the ILWU Local 142.

Your Committee finds that the macadamia nut industry is a vital component of Hawaii's economy and proper labeling is essential in securing and maintaining the competitiveness of Hawaiian macadamia nuts in the food industry. Your Committee further finds that clarifying the labeling requirements and penalties for violations will enhance the effectiveness of the labeling law in protecting the Hawaiian macadamia nut industry.

Your Committee also finds that it is important to ensure truth in labeling so consumers can make informed choices regarding their purchases.

This measure was amended to delay the effective date to ensure further discussion on this measure. Technical, nonsubstantive changes have also been made for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and grammatical accuracy.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1628, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1628, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs,

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Fourth Legislature State of Hawaii

Record of Votes Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs WAH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Date:	
HB 1628 HD1	WAH, CPH 3			3/21/0	7
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)		Х			
TOKUDA, JIII N. (VC)		<u> X</u>			
FUKUNAGA, Carol					<u>X</u>
HEE, Clayton					<u> </u>
SLOM, Sam	# Table 4 Tabl	χ			
TOTAL		3	Ø	95	2
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency					

*Only one measure per Record of Votes