

MAR 12 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND LABELING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-GROWN TEA.

1 WHEREAS, the global tea market is a multi-billion dollar  
2 industry; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the specialty tea market is projected to double in  
5 the next five years; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, Hawaii presently produces high quality tea, which  
8 is part of the specialty tea market; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
11 Agriculture and Human Resources has recently discovered that  
12 Hawaii-grown tea (*Camellia sinensis*) has the potential to become  
13 a specialty crop for the State; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, making tea a specialty crop for the State would  
16 mean increased employment and revenue for the State at a time  
17 when both are sorely needed; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the tea industry in the State should be encouraged  
20 to develop and be protected so that it may fully participate in  
21 the anticipated expansion of the world tea market; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that tea grown in Hawaii  
24 is properly identified and protected by strict labeling  
25 requirements, just as coffee made from coffee beans grown in  
26 Hawaii is properly identified and protected by strict labeling  
27 requirements; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, a working group is needed to discuss and make  
30 recommendations for labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;  
31 now, therefore,  
32



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
4 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to  
5 establish a Hawaii-Grown Tea Working Group (Working Group) to  
6 discuss and make recommendations regarding labeling requirements  
7 for Hawaii-grown tea; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group be composed  
10 of the following members or their designees:

- 11  
12 (1) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
13 Tourism;  
14  
15 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;  
16  
17 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of  
18 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;  
19  
20 (4) One Senator designated by the President of the Senate;  
21  
22 (5) One Representative designated by the Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives;  
24  
25 (6) A member of the Hawai'i Collaborators to be selected by  
26 the President of the Senate;  
27  
28 (7) A representative from the Hawaii Tea Society to be  
29 selected by the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives; and  
31  
32 (8) Any other members having knowledge of commerce or the  
33 tea market designated by the President of the Senate  
34 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
37 to:

- 38  
39 (1) Examine the existing labeling requirements relating to  
40 Hawaii-grown tea;  
41  
42 (2) Identify the problems with the existing labeling  
43 requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;



- 1  
2 (3) Develop recommendations for stricter labeling  
3 requirements under state law and rules for the use of  
4 the "Hawaii-grown tea" name and other Hawaii-grown tea  
5 names;  
6  
7 (4) Determine the fiscal impact that stricter labeling  
8 requirements or a uniform national labeling  
9 requirement standard will have on owners and operators  
10 of tea farms in Hawaii;  
11  
12 (6) Develop ideas for a uniform national labeling standard  
13 and requirements for tea marketers to abide by for the  
14 use of the "Hawaii-grown tea" or other Hawaii-grown  
15 tea names; and  
16  
17 (7) Seek input from and collaborate with Hawaii's  
18 congressional delegation, the United States Department  
19 of Agriculture, and the Federal Food and Drug  
20 Administration on establishing and enforcing a uniform  
21 national labeling standard for the use of the "Hawaii-  
22 grown tea" or other Hawaii-grown tea names; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working  
25 group select a member from among themselves to serve as  
26 Chairperson of the Working Group; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
29 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
30 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
31 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
32 of 2013; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
36 Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the  
37 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the  
38 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the President of the  
39



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1 University of Hawaii; the Dean of the University of Hawaii  
2 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; the Hawaii  
3 Tea Society; and the Hawai'i Collaborators.  
4  
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6

OFFERED BY:

*[Signature]*

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