



P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099

LATE

March 27, 2016

Support for SCR 129

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Hawaii Farmers Union United and its 820 members in 9 chapters statewide support the Hawaii tea industry. We strongly support this Concurrent Resolution.

Now that Hawaii grown tea has made great strides in branding the state of Hawaii as a significant contributor in US tea agriculture, it is imperative that consumers are assured in identifying genuine Hawaii grown tea with geographic indicators established by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture utilizing tea industry standards.

SCR129 will help Hawaii tea growers engaged in international trade and encourage the farming community producing and marketing genuine origin tea. It will provide opportunities to gain public trust supporting local agriculture identified by geographic indicators contributing to the statewide economy.

Mahalo,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

SIMON RUSSELL

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Hawai'i Farmers Union United and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawai'i law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers, ranchers and fishers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education and legislation.

Rick Rosen
Wailani Farm
Post Office Box 339
Honomu, Hawaii 96728

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March 27, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Chairman, Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

Dear Senator Gabbard and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for SCR 129. The growing and processing of tea in East Hawaii is a small but important agricultural activity on the Big Island. The tea that comes from these dedicated and creative farmers is of high quality and is deserving of receiving formal status from the Department of Agriculture to define geographical region designations for tea grown in the State.

Hawaii has been well known for its coffee, and it's time to give equal status to the emerging tea industry. This will support the growth of tea production, which will benefit both the local economy, and provide uniquely Hawaiian tea that can be enjoyed around the world.

I encourage you to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Rick Rosen
Honomu, Hawaii

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:41 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: bruce@elmwoodinn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR129 on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM

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SCR129

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Richardson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been a tea buyer for over 20 years and have seen similar legislation in other tea producing areas. It is imperative for this geographic designation for Hawaii Tea to be implemented for the long term viability of this agricultural product. It will certainly make it a more valuable commodity.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 6:39 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR129 on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM*

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SCR129

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 11:32 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: selena.ahmed@montana.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR129 on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM
Attachments: HawaiiTea.docx

LATE

SCR129

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 28, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selena Ahmed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii tea industry is at an exciting and promising place of development. The local agroclimatic factors and biodiversity in Hawaii result in a unique tea product. Tea producers are experimenting and innovating to develop the tea industry in Hawaii including working to identify and protect characteristics that make tea from Hawaii unique. Further support through policy to define geographical region designations for tea grown in Hawaii would be a tremendous help to the long-term development and sustainability of tea for the state and for US agriculture more broadly.

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