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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE STATE BEVERAGE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature has designated a state song,  
2 flower, gem, tree, land mammal, marine mammal, fish, dance,  
3 insect, sport, team sport, and musical instrument. However,  
4 Hawaii has no state beverage even though more than half of the  
5 states in the United States have official beverages. The  
6 designated official state beverage of Hawaii should serve as an  
7 expression of appreciation for the significance of that beverage  
8 in the Hawaiian culture. 'Awa or kava (*Piper methysticum*) is a  
9 Hawaiian canoe plant, plants taken or transported to other  
10 Pacific islands by Polynesian explorers. The roots of the kava  
11 when grated and extracted produce a beverage with some  
12 psychoactive relaxant properties that is viewed as being  
13 enjoyable.

14       The plant roots of the kava plant (*Piper methysticum*) have  
15 been used to make the beverage known as 'awa here in Hawaii since  
16 before European contact. Hawaii is the best state to cultivate  
17 *Piper methysticum* because of the State's sunny, humid



1 conditions, and year-round warm temperatures. The residents of  
2 this State, including the k  naka maoli, Hawaii's indigenous  
3 people, recognize   awa as an important traditional and cultural  
4 beverage. Drinking   awa promotes "aloha" by eliciting a feeling  
5 of relaxed contentedness that aids in discussion and conflict  
6 resolution. The legislature concludes that   awa symbolizes the  
7 environmental, social, and cultural values important to Hawaii.

8 In Hawaii,   awa was a very promising agricultural crop with  
9 the European Union and Germany, a major market. Due to concerns  
10 about liver toxicity, it was banned in the European Union and  
11 the market, and production crashed. The toxicity question has  
12 been largely resolved by avoiding the use of extracts of stems  
13 and leaves and using only extracts of the root. It is hoped  
14 that recognition of   awa as a state beverage would revive and  
15 stimulate agricultural production and provide a promising crop  
16 for small farms in Hawaii.

17 The purpose of this Act is to formally recognize the  
18 importance of   awa's historical significance and its deep  
19 cultural roots in Hawaii by establishing and designating   awa  
20 made from Piper methysticum as Hawaii's state beverage.



1       SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
3 read as follows:

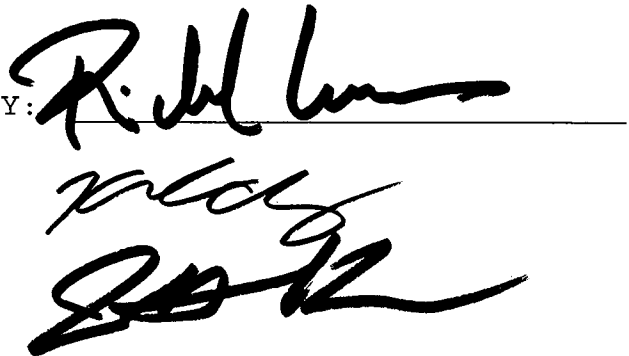
4       "§5-       State beverage. 'Awa made from Piper methysticum is  
5 established and designated as the official beverage of the  
6 State."

7       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2018



# H.B. NO. 2494

**Report Title:**

'Awa; Official State Beverage

**Description:**

Establishes and designates 'awa made from Piper methysticum as the official state beverage.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

