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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO  
RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-  
GROWN TEA.

1           WHEREAS, locally-grown tea is a relatively new crop for the  
2 agricultural industry in Hawaii; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, in 2015, there were approximately two dozen tea  
5 farms in Hawaii, a small fraction of which operated as steady  
6 businesses consistently producing high-quality tea; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, most locally-grown tea comes from the east side of  
9 Hawaii Island, which is populated with small tea gardens that  
10 grow and process one hundred percent Hawaii teas; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, since all tea in the State is essentially grown on  
13 volcanic soil, the leaves take on a distinct flavor-generally  
14 bright and clear, with elements of citrus and a subtle honey-  
15 esque sweetness; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, Hawaii-grown tea has the potential to become a  
18 premium agricultural commodity like Kona coffee; and

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20           WHEREAS, to protect and promote the viability of the  
21 budding tea industry in Hawaii, labeling requirements should be  
22 implemented; and

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24           WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture is best suited to  
25 study and recommend appropriate labeling requirements for  
26 Hawaii-grown tea; now, therefore,

27  
28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
30 Session of 2023, that the Department of Agriculture is requested  
31 to conduct a study to recommend appropriate labeling  
32 requirements for Hawaii-grown tea; and



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1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when conducting the study, the  
3 Department of Agriculture is requested to make the following  
4 recommendations:

- 5  
6 (1) Labeling requirements, including:  
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8 (A) The identity statements for tea that contains one  
9 hundred percent Hawaii-grown tea by weight;  
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11 (B) The identity statements for tea consisting of a  
12 blend of one or more Hawaii-grown teas and tea  
13 not grown in Hawaii; and  
14  
15 (C) Specific details for the identity statement,  
16 including type size and location on packages;  
17  
18 (2) Penalties for violations of the labeling requirements;  
19 and  
20  
21 (3) Recordkeeping requirements for growers, manufacturers,  
22 or other persons who package tea or tea leaves,  
23 including records on the volume and geographic origin  
24 or regional origin of teas purchased and sold; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the  
27 Department of Agriculture is also requested to:

- 28  
29 (1) Estimate the increased trade value of Hawaii-grown tea  
30 that could result from requiring geographic origin  
31 disclosures on packages containing one hundred percent  
32 Hawaii-grown tea and packages containing a blend of  
33 one or more Hawaii-grown teas and tea not grown in  
34 Hawaii; and  
35  
36 (2) Perform a cost analysis of implementing the labeling  
37 and recordkeeping requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;  
38 and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
41 is requested to submit its study, including any findings,  
42 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no



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1 later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular  
2 Session of 2024; and

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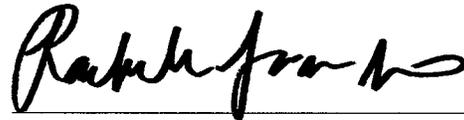
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
6 Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

