

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1710

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 , 2023

RE: H.C.R. No. 131

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 131 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-GROWN TEA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to recommend appropriate labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau and Hawaii Volcanic Tea LP. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee acknowledges that the leaves of tea grown in the State's volcanic soil can embody a distinct and unique flavor of citrus and a subtle honey-like sweetness. These unique qualities of taste create the potential for Hawaii-grown tea to become a premium agricultural commodity. Your Committee further finds that labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea would help to protect and promote the viability of the budding tea industry in the State and that the Department of Agriculture is well suited to study and recommend such requirements.

2023-3048 HCR131 HSCR HMSO



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 131 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture & Food  
Systems,



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CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 1710

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HCR 131	<b>Committee Referral:</b> AGR, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 3/29/2023		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
<b>AGR Members</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Ayes (WR)</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Excused</b>
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	✓			
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene				✓
<b>TOTAL (7)</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee     Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office     Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				