
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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,

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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, the Senate concurring, that the Department of



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1 Agriculture is requested to conduct a study to recommend
2 appropriate labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea; and

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

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8 (1) Labeling requirements, including:

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10 (A) The identity statements for tea that contains one
11 hundred percent Hawaii-grown tea by weight;

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13 (B) The identity statements for tea consisting of a
14 blend of one or more Hawaii-grown teas and tea
15 not grown in Hawaii; and

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17 (C) Specific details for the identity statement,
18 including type size and location on packages;

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20 (2) Penalties for violations of the labeling requirements;
21 and

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23 (3) Recordkeeping requirements for growers, manufacturers,
24 or other persons who package tea or tea leaves,
25 including records on the volume and geographic origin
26 or regional origin of teas purchased and sold; and

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

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31 (1) Estimate the increased trade value of Hawaii-grown tea
32 that could result from requiring geographic origin
33 disclosures on packages containing one hundred percent
34 Hawaii-grown tea and packages containing a blend of
35 one or more Hawaii-grown teas and tea not grown in
36 Hawaii; and

37
38 (2) Perform a cost analysis of implementing the labeling
39 and recordkeeping requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;
40 and

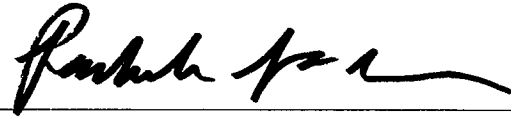


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
2 is requested to submit its study, including any findings,
3 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no
4 later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular
5 Session of 2024; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
9 Board of Agriculture.

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11
12 OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

