

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**  
**11:30 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1250 HD1**  
**RELATING TO MAMAKI TEA**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1250 HD1. This bill imposes labeling requirements for mamaki tea grown in the State and appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to administer the mamaki tea labeling requirements.

DOA supports the labeling of Hawaii grown mamaki tea and the appropriation of funds to administer the labeling requirements. The funds will support an inspector or specialist to help rebuild DOA's labeling enforcement capability that was lost during the severe reductions in force that occurred in prior administrations, and enable DOA to address labeling enforcement challenges in various Hawaii products such as mamaki tea, coffee, and macadamia nuts. The inspector will take the lead in researching and utilizing newly developed testing technologies and protocols, such as Oritain (<https://oritain.com>), to identify the source of different products geographically. Oritain can generate science-based data that identifies specific growing regions as a proof and confirmation of truth or false labeling. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 23, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1250, HD1**  
RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1250, HD1**, which imposes labeling requirements for Māmaki tea grown in the State and appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to administer the Māmaki tea labeling requirements.

Māmaki, a Hawaiian endemic shrub, is only found in Hawai'i which makes it uniquely Hawaiian. It can be found as a bush, shrub, or tree and its leaves are used to make herbal tea.

The Māmaki tea industry is a fairly new industry, so we must protect this culturally important agricultural crop from deceptive or misleading labels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Officers**

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

Madeline Ross  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis  
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung  
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai  
Molokai

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB1250.**

We believe that HB1250 Mamaki Tea is important legislation because it will help to ensure that mamaki tea is accurately labeled, and only mamaki tea produced in the state of Hawaii is sold to consumers. Appropriated funds to the department of agriculture to cover the administrative costs necessary for this labeling requirement is further necessary for the protection and fair promotion of mamaki tea.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**HB-1250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:36:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**HB-1250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:43:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

**HB-1250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:26:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 1250 RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA.

**HB-1250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:21:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 1250