

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023
9:45 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1250
RELATING TO MAMAKI TEA

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1250. 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. This will enhance enforcement of any false labeling and help rebuild DOA's capability in labeling enforcement and inspection that was lost during the RIF more than 10 years ago. The labeling requirements should also include on the label where the bottling and production of the product is performed within the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1250
RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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, 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.

HB-1250

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:09:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

HB-1250

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:00:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Zuckerman	Kuwale Ridge Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 1250. The mamaki tea industry is a new and vibrant farming industry in Hawaii and needs to be protected. Mamaki has huge economic potential for the state of Hawaii and we need to take decisive action to ensure it remains so.