
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that māmaki (*Pipturus*
2 *albidus*) is a plant that is endemic to the Hawaiian islands,
3 meaning that the Hawaiian islands are the only place in the
4 world where māmaki grows naturally. Māmaki is found across the
5 entire Hawaiian island chain from the island of Kauai to the
6 island of Hawaii and flourishes at elevations between four
7 hundred feet and six thousand feet.

8 The legislature further finds that māmaki tea is a growing
9 agricultural commodity and believes that the implementation of
10 labeling requirements would ensure the viability of Hawaii-grown
11 māmaki tea.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to protect
13 Hawaii-grown māmaki tea by:

14 (1) Prohibiting the use of certain words that can be used
15 on the label of a consumer package that contains or
16 includes tea or dried leaves from the plant *Pipturus*



1 albidus, unless one hundred per cent of the tea or
2 dried leaves were grown in the State; and
3 (2) Appropriating funds for a staff position for the
4 department of agriculture to support enforcement of
5 labeling regulations.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 486, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§486- Māmaki tea; labeling requirements. (a) No
10 label on a consumer package that contains or includes tea or
11 dried leaves from the plant Pipturus albidus shall contain the
12 words "Māmaki", "Hawaii", or "Hawaiian", or any variation of
13 these terms, unless one hundred per cent of the tea or dried
14 leaves were grown in the State.

15 (b) Any nonconsumer package containing tea or dried leaves
16 from the plant Pipturus albidus grown in the State and
17 introduced into intrastate or interstate commerce shall bear on
18 the package a label stating that the package contains Hawaii-
19 grown māmaki tea by using the words "Hawaii-grown māmaki tea".
20 This label shall be required in addition to all other labeling
21 requirements specified in this chapter.



1 (c) Any person keeping, offering, displaying, exposing for
 2 sale, or soliciting for sale any tea or dried leaves from the
 3 plant Pipturus albidus subject to and labeled in accordance with
 4 subsection (a) shall make available to the administrator, upon
 5 demand, documented proof that the tea or dried leaves were grown
 6 in the State.

7 (d) Any person who violates this section shall be subject
 8 to penalties under section 486-32."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
 12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 13 year 2026-2027 to establish full-time equivalent (FTE)
 14 measurement standards inspector V positions to support
 15 enforcement of labeling regulations pursuant to this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 17 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
 19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
 20 begun before its effective date.

21 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Māmaki Tea; Labeling Requirements; Department of Agriculture;
Appropriation

Description:

Prohibits the use of certain words that can be used on the label of a consumer package that contains or includes tea or dried leaves from the plant *Pipturus albidus*, unless one hundred per cent of the tea or dried leaves were grown in the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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