

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

786

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1291

H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 1291, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Extend the offense of false labeling of Hawaii-grown coffee to include roasted coffee; and
- (2) Impose a mandatory \$10,000 fine for each separate offense of false labeling of Hawaii-grown roasted coffee.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Heavenly Hawaiian Farms; Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council; Hawaii Coffee Growers Association; Hawaii Coffee Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Smithfarms; Ohana Martin Farms; Kona Coffee Farmers Association; Hawai'i Farmers Union; Huahua Farm; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that fraudulent representations as to a coffee's geographic origin diminish the value of that geographic identifier by harming its reputation. Your Committee further finds that the existing criminal offense of false labeling of

2025-1858 HB1291 HD2 HSCR HMSO



Hawaii-grown coffee only applies to green coffee, cherry coffee, or parchment coffee. This measure would expand that offense to roasted coffee and further protect the geographic identifier of Hawaii-grown coffee.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language establishing a mandatory fine for anyone convicted of false labeling of Hawaii-grown coffee; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1291, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1291, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



