

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1814

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2025

RE: H.B. No. 496
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 496, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to protect Hawaii's māmaiki tea industry.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Prohibits the use of certain words on the label of a consumer package that contains or includes tea or dried leaves from the plant *Pipturus albidus*, unless one hundred percent of the tea or dried leaves were grown in the State; and
- (2) Appropriates funds for one staff position for the Department of Agriculture to support enforcement of labeling regulations to protect Hawaii products.

Your Committees received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and Hawaii Farmers Union.



Your Committees received written comments in opposition to this measure from Tea Chest Hawaii.

Your Committees received written comments on this measure from Hawaii Food Industry Association.

Your Committees find that the māmaki plant is native to the State, where it grows naturally at elevations of four hundred to six thousand feet. Your Committees further find that, to support the growing māmaki tea industry, this measure aims to protect Hawaii-grown māmaki tea by enforcing labeling requirements and allocating funds for a staff position to enforce these regulations.

Your Committees respectfully request that, if a Committee on Conference is convened to deliberate on this measure, the Committee on Conference consider the Department's proposed appropriation amount of \$65,000 for the position of Measurement Standards Inspector V.

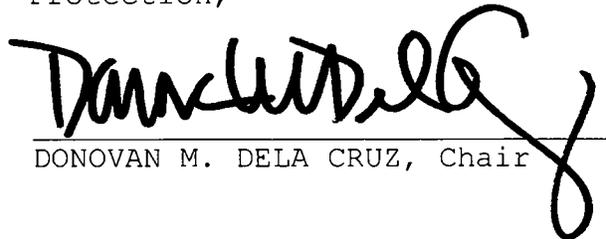
Your Committees have amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 496, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 496, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Ways and Means
and Commerce and Consumer
Protection,



JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, Chair



DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 496 HD2	Committee Referral: WEDT/AEN, WAM/CPN	Date: 4/2/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes