

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1724

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2025

RE: H.B. No. 534
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 Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 534, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LABELING REQUIREMENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the sale of processed food items with raw ahi products as an ingredient at Hawaii retail establishments without a label stating the country in which the ahi was landed.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawaii Longline Association, Hawaii Seafood Council, and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii is known for its high-quality ahi tuna fish, which are caught under strict fishery management standards. Many consumers prefer to buy locally sourced food to support the local economy, and stringent Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements under existing federal laws are intended to provide consumers with the information necessary to make informed choices about the foods they eat. These COOL regulations, however, do not apply to prepared foods offered for retail sale at food service establishments, where certain "locally made" labels may be misleading to consumers if the product is



prepared with non-Hawaiian caught fish. This measure ensures consumer transparency while protecting the local fishing industry by requiring COOL requirements for processed ahi products sold at retail establishments in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 534, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



JARRETT KEOHOKALO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 534 HD2 SD1 | Committee Referral: EDT, CPN | Date: 3/27/25 |
|--|--|-------------------------|

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-----|----------|
| KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett (C) | ✓ | | | |
| FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. | | | | ✓ |
| RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" | | | | ✓ |
| AWA, Brenton | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | | | 2 |

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**