

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 14, 2019

RE: H.B. No. 144

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 144 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support Hawaii's coffee growers by requiring more accurate labeling and increasing coffee blending amounts to protect the Hawaii coffee brand by:

- (1) Requiring disclosure on the label of coffee blends of the respective regional origins and percent by weight of the blended coffees; and
- (2) Making it a violation of the coffee labeling law to use a geographic origin in labeling or advertising for coffee blends that contain less than fifty-one percent coffee by weight from that geographic origin.

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Monk's Delight Kona Coffee, Bea's Knees Farm, LavaRock Farm, Sugai Kona Coffee, Daily Fix Coffee, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and a number of concerned individuals supported this measure. The Kona Coffee Council, Hawaii Food Industry Association, Hawaii Coffee Association, and a concerned individual opposed this measure. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) submitted comments on this measure.



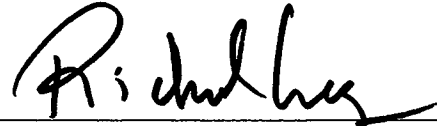
Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce to consider and take appropriate action on DOA's proposed amendment, as set forth in its testimony. The amendment takes into account and recognizes the extreme hardship on the coffee blending industry to require it to disclose the geographic origins of the various coffees not grown in Hawaii on the label of its coffee blends. The individual blend coffee components may not be available at all times due to logistics, crop size, and pricing. If any one of the blend components were not available, it would render the packaging material obsolete which would be very costly for a business. Accordingly, DOA proposes the following proposed language for section 486-120.6(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes:

"(b) A listing of the geographic origins of the various, Hawaii-grown coffees and the regional origins of the various coffees not grown in Hawaii that are included in a blend **may** be shown on the label. **If used, this** list shall consist of the term "Contains:", followed by, in descending order of per cent by weight and separated by commas, the respective geographic origin or regional origin of the various coffees in the blend. **If a listing of the regional origins of the coffees not grown in Hawaii is not shown on the label, a statement consisting of the total per cent by weight of all coffees not grown in Hawaii followed by the words "non-Hawaii grown coffee" shall be shown on the label.** The type size used for this list or **statement shall not appear less than half that of the identity statement.** This list or **statement shall appear below the identity statement on the front panel of the label.**"

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 144 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture,



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RICHARD P. CREAGAN, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 144</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AGR, CPC</b>	Date: <b>1/30/2019</b>
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)     Pass, with amendments (HD)     Hold  
 Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. CREAGAN, Richard P. (C)	✓			
2. DeCOITE, Lynn (VC)		✓		
3. CABANILLA ARAKAWA, Rida				✓
4. CACHOLA, Romy M.	✓			
5. HOLT, Daniel		✓		
6. ONISHI, Richard H.K.		✓		
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. OKIMOTO, Val	✓			
<b>TOTAL (8)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>

The recommendation is:  Adopted     Not Adopted  
If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  
   committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: Ly DeLoe

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