

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR - 3 2006

RE: S.B. No. 3049
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Health,
to which was referred S.B. No. 3049 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HONEY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide honey-labeling
requirements for honey products sold in Hawaii.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Big
Island Beekeepers Association, C&H Farms, the Compleat Kitchen,
the Hawaii Beekeepers' Association, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Island
Honey LLC, the Source Natural Food Store, Triple F Distributing,
Inc., and three individuals. Comments were submitted by the
Department of Agriculture.

This measure provides specific requirements for labeling
honey packaging to differentiate between:

- (1) Honeys that were produced solely in Hawaii;
- (2) Honeys that were produced in Hawaii but blended with
honeys from another out-of-state location; and
- (3) Honeys that were produced entirely out-of-state.

Your Committees find that this measure will prevent
manufacturers or distributors of honeys produced entirely or
blended with out-of-state honeys from labeling its honey as a



"Hawaii" or "All Hawaiian" product. This approach is similar to the Hawaii coffee industry's labeling of Kona Coffee. However, your Committees find that requiring honey manufacturers and distributors to provide more information on the honey used, rather than where in Hawaii the honey was produced, is a better approach for honey consumers. Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by requiring specific labeling requirements for:

- (1) Honey products produced solely within one country;
- (2) Honey products produced with more than one country's honey;
- (3) Honey products blended with additional sweeteners; and
- (4) Honey products produced with honey subjected to ultra-filtration and reconstitution processes.

Your Committees have further amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding language that allows all honey products subject to this measure one year to comply with the labeling requirements;
- (2) Adding definitions for "honey style" and "imported honey"; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for style and clarity.

Your Committees noted testimony from the Department of Agriculture expressing concerns that the purpose of this measure is, in its opinion, to "protect the health and safety of all consumers of honey while promoting and protecting the Hawaiian honey industry." Thus, the department emphasized that the Department of Health and the United States Food and Drug Administration should assume the lead and manage food safety issues.

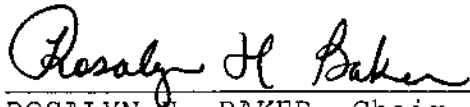
However, your Committees noted testimony explaining that many of the low-priced honeys on the market are adulterated and mislabeled as "honey." These honey products are often mixed with sweeteners or processed so extensively that the honey loses its distinct traits, including its enzymes, resins and flavinoids of plant origin, and pollen. Thus, the honey products do not



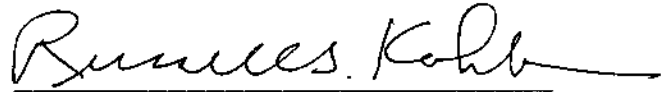
endanger human health or safety; however, the labels that are affixed to the products do not accurately reflect their actual contents. Your Committees find that this measure, as amended, will prevent the mislabeling of honey products and will allow consumers the opportunity to make an informed decision when purchasing honey products.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3049, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3049, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water, Land, and
Agriculture and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair

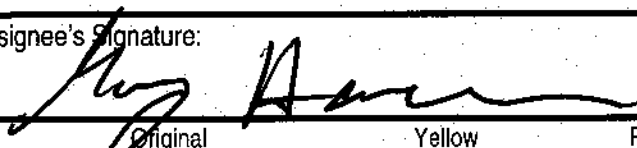


RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii


Record of Votes of the
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
(Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:* <i>SB3049</i>	Committee Referral: <i>WLA/HTA</i>	Date: <i>3/01/06</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is to:		
<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	Ayes	Ayes(WR)
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	✓	
HOOSER, Gary L. (VC)	✓	
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓	
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓	
HEMMINGS, Fred		✓
TOTAL	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>
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		

*Do not list more than one measure per Record of Votes.

The Senate
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes of the
Committee on Health
(Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:* SB 3049	Committee Referral: WLA/HTH	Date: 3/1/06		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is to: <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	Ayes	Ayes(WR)	Nays	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (VG)	✓			
HANABUSA, Colleen				✓
TSUTSUI, Shan S.	✓			
WHALEN, Paul				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
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				

*Do not list more than one measure per Record of Votes.