

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE  
RULES TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION, AND  
AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COFFEE GROWN IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, coffee requires a specific combination of sun,  
2 soil, and water, and is successfully grown in only a limited  
3 number of locations around the world; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Kona weather pattern of bright, sunny  
6 mornings, humid rainy afternoons, and mild nights create  
7 favorable coffee growing conditions; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the Kona coffee name only applies to coffee beans  
10 grown in North and South Kona, thus, coffee that is grown  
11 elsewhere in Hawaii cannot be called "Kona coffee"; and  
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13 WHEREAS, all coffee beans grown in Hawaii are regulated by  
14 the Department of Agriculture under chapter 147, Hawaii Revised  
15 Statutes, for quality and assurance; and  
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17 WHEREAS, under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all  
18 Hawaii-grown green coffee beans (coffee beans that are milled  
19 and ready for roasting) need to be inspected and certified by  
20 the Department of Agriculture for grade and origin unless  
21 otherwise specified by rules adopted by the Department; and  
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23 WHEREAS, title 4, chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules,  
24 establishes standards for coffee, including labeling  
25 requirements, grade standards, inspection requirements, and a  
26 coffee quality verification program; and  
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28 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-2, Hawaii Administrative  
29 Rules, the inspection and certification of green coffee for  
30 origin, grade, or both are required by the Department of  
31 Agriculture, except for a few exceptions; and  
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1 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-10, Hawaii Administrative  
2 Rules, dry millers may participate in a coffee quality  
3 verification program, which is a self-certification program that  
4 authorizes dry millers to certify green coffee and issue a  
5 coffee quality verification program certificate; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, a participating dry miller in this program must,  
8 among other requirements, process at least five thousand pounds  
9 of green coffee per week for three consecutive weeks during a  
10 twelve month period, and establish a satisfactory record of  
11 milling and grading of coffee beans; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, additionally, the Department of Agriculture must  
14 follow a coffee quality verification program audit scheme  
15 consisting of three levels of audits depending on production  
16 output; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the audit scheme ensures that a consistent level  
19 of quality is maintained for all green coffee beans grown in  
20 Hawaii because poor quality coffee degrades the "Kona coffee" or  
21 "Hawaii Seal of Quality" names; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the inspection and certification requirements  
24 under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and title 4,  
25 chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules, apply to green coffee  
26 beans, and not roasted coffee beans; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, roasted coffee beans are considered processed  
29 foods under part IV, chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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31 WHEREAS, although roasted coffee beans must also be  
32 inspected for grade or origin, it does not follow the same  
33 inspection and certification processes as green coffee beans;  
34 and

35  
36 WHEREAS, uniform inspection and certification requirements  
37 for all coffee beans grown in Hawaii, whether green or roasted,  
38 will ensure a better and higher quality and assurance for all  
39 Hawaii-grown coffee; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
43 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
44 Agriculture is requested to adopt uniform administrative rules



1 relating to all coffee beans grown in Hawaii, whether green or  
 2 roasted beans, to establish uniform inspection and certification  
 3 requirements to ensure better and higher quality and assurance  
 4 for all Hawaii-grown coffee; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 7 adopt administrative rules to establish audit requirements for  
 8 all coffee mills and roasters in Hawaii so that a uniform level  
 9 of quality and assurance can be maintained and monitored; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 12 cooperate and coordinate with the Kona Coffee Council and form a  
 13 special committee to establish a suitable certification and  
 14 audit plan to appropriately meet the needs of small coffee  
 15 farmers; and  
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 18 submit a written report to the Legislature of its findings and  
 19 recommendations, and any proposed legislation and rules, no  
 20 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008  
 21 Regular Session; and  
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 25 Board of Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical  
 26 Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the  
 27 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the President of  
 28 the Hawaii Coffee Association; the President of the Kona Coffee  
 29 Council; the President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association;  
 30 and any other statewide coffee organizations.  
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 32  
 33

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