THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007 STATE OF HAWAII

S.R. NO. 63

MAR 1 4 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, coffee requires a specific combination of sun, 1 soil, and water, and is successfully grown in only a limited 2 number of locations around the world; and 3 4 WHEREAS, the Kona weather pattern of bright, sunny 5 mornings, humid rainy afternoons, and mild nights create 6 favorable coffee growing conditions; and 7 8 WHEREAS, the Kona coffee name only applies to coffee beans 9 grown in North and South Kona, thus, coffee that is grown 10 elsewhere in Hawaii cannot be called "Kona coffee"; and 11 12 WHEREAS, all coffee beans grown in Hawaii are regulated by 13 the Department of Agriculture under chapter 147, Hawaii Revised 14 Statutes, for quality and assurance; and 15 16 WHEREAS, under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all 17 Hawaii-grown green coffee beans (coffee beans that are milled 18 and ready for roasting) need to be inspected and certified by 19 the Department of Agriculture for grade and origin unless 20 otherwise specified by rules adopted by the Department; and 21 22 WHEREAS, title 4, chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules, 23 establishes standards for coffee, including labeling 24 requirements, grade standards, inspection requirements, and a 25 coffee quality verification program; and 26 27 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-2, Hawaii Administrative 28 Rules, the inspection and certification of green coffee for 29 origin, grade, or both are required by the Department of 30 Agriculture, except for a few exceptions; and 31 32 WHEREAS, under section 4-143-10, Hawaii Administrative 33 Rules, dry millers may participate in a coffee quality 34 verification program, which is a self-certification program that 35

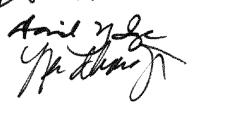


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authorizes dry millers to certify green coffee and issue a 1 2 coffee quality verification program certificate; and 3 4 WHEREAS, a participating dry miller in this program must, 5 among other requirements, process at least five thousand pounds of green coffee per week for three consecutive weeks during a 6 twelve month period, and establish a satisfactory record of 7 milling and grading of coffee beans; and 8 9 WHEREAS, additionally, the Department of Agriculture must 10 follow a coffee quality verification program audit scheme 11 consisting of three levels of audits depending on production 12 13 output; and 14 WHEREAS, the audit scheme ensures that a consistent level 15 of quality is maintained for all green coffee beans grown in 16 Hawaii because poor quality coffee degrades the "Kona coffee" or 17 "Hawaii Seal of Quality" names; and 18 19 20 WHEREAS, the inspection and certification requirements under section 147-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and title 4, 21 chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules, apply to green coffee 22 beans, and not roasted coffee beans; and 23 24 WHEREAS, roasted coffee beans are considered processed 25 foods under part IV, chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and 26 27 WHEREAS, although roasted coffee beans must also be 28 29 inspected for grade or origin, it does not follow the same inspection and certification processes as green coffee beans; 30 and 31 32 WHEREAS, uniform inspection and certification requirements 33 for all coffee beans grown in Hawaii, whether green or roasted, 34 will ensure a better and higher guality and assurance for all 35 Hawaii-grown coffee; now, therefore, 36 37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth 38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, 39 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to adopt uniform 40 administrative rules relating to all coffee beans grown in 41 42 Hawaii, whether green or roasted beans, to establish uniform inspection and certification requirements to ensure better and 43 higher quality and assurance for all Hawaii-grown coffee; and 44 2007-1235 SR SMA-1.doc 2

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1 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture adopt administrative rules to establish audit requirements for 3 all coffee mills and roasters in Hawaii so that a uniform level 4 5 of quality and assurance can be maintained and monitored; and 6 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture 8 cooperate and coordinate with the Kona Coffee Council and form a special committee to establish a suitable certification and 9 audit plan to appropriately meet the needs of small coffee 10 11 farmers; and 12 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture submit a written report to the Legislature of its findings and 14 recommendations, and any proposed legislation and rules, no 15 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 16 Regular Session; and 17 18 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of 20 Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and 21 Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the President of the 22 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the President of the Hawaii 23 24 Coffee Association; the President of the Kona Coffee Council; the President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association; and any 25 other statewide coffee organizations. 26 27 28 Kuneus. k 29 OFFERED BY: m brenn



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