

March 27, 2008

LATE
Testimony

To: The Honorable Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

From: Gary Guittard, Guittard Chocolates (via email)

Subject: House Resolution 270 - Relating to Cacao, in support

Guittard chocolate supports the investigation of cocoa production on Islands of Hawaii.

We are willing to lend our expertise in the development of a cooperative venture with the Farmers and the technical education for the growth of quality cocoa. We have worked with farmers in numerous areas through out the world.

We believe this needs to be done in a planned step by step manner so a solid foundation for a sustainable industry can be developed.

We think there may be questions about the ability to produce the quality that can command the prices needed to sustain this type of industry in a modern society at the edge of the growing region for cocoa. Cocoa is grown in areas with very low labor costs. Fermentation and drying are the keys to quality flavor cocoa and because of Hawaii's location some unique differences are present.

If you chose to move ahead we look forward to working with you however you wish.

Respectfully,

Gary Guittard