
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CONTRACTING OF THIRD PARTY
AGENTS TO INSPECT AND CERTIFY HAWAII-GROWN GREEN COFFEE
BEANS.

1 WHEREAS, the reduction in force and imposition of furlough
2 days has resulted in the Department of Agriculture being too
3 understaffed to meet the needs of the State's agricultural
4 sector; and
5

6 WHEREAS, in the past five years, the value of sales for
7 Hawaii-grown coffee beans has increased by thirty-two per cent,
8 ranking fourth in value of diversified agricultural commodities
9 in the State; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Kau coffee industry alone has a gross minimum
12 farm gate value of \$2,300,000, and a value-added value of
13 \$9,800,000, which does not include employment figures or
14 revenues generated by collateral businesses; and
15

16 WHEREAS, all Hawaii-grown green coffee beans are required
17 by law to be inspected and certified by the Department of
18 Agriculture; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Specialists
21 who certify Hawaii-grown green coffee beans have been subject to
22 a reduction in force, causing grave concern in Hawaii's coffee
23 industry that the certification services for coffee will be
24 negatively affected; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the remaining Agricultural Commodities Marketing
27 Specialists and Agricultural Commodities Aides, not subject to
28 the reductions in force, who certify Hawaii-grown green coffee
29 beans are able to reasonably service those farmers within a
30 fifty-mile vicinity of the respective Department of Agriculture
31 inspection office; and
32



1 WHEREAS, the small, remotely located farmers and producers
2 not within that fifty-mile vicinity are particularly concerned
3 about the reductions in force, and are worried that they will be
4 unable to meet the statutory requirements for mandatory
5 certification to export Hawaii-grown green coffee beans and this
6 may cause marketing problems; and
7

8 WHEREAS, some Kau farmers, for example, have had to ship
9 coffee beans from Hilo to Kauai for certification before the
10 coffee beans reach their final destination in Honolulu or on the
11 mainland, which increases the cost of the coffee approximately a
12 dollar per pound and increases the risk of exposure to moisture;
13 and
14

15 WHEREAS, there are private individuals in these small
16 communities who are knowledgeable about coffee production, and
17 have the requisite skills and knowledge to certify Hawaii-grown
18 coffee beans; and
19

20 WHEREAS, if the Department of Agriculture designated
21 private agents as certified green coffee bean graders, who are
22 authorized to inspect or classify Hawaii-grown green coffee
23 beans for these underserved, remote areas located more than
24 fifty miles from the nearest Department of Agriculture
25 inspection office, the farmers would have additional options to
26 attain the necessary certification; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the ramifications of having no available
29 inspectors could cause the coffee industry in more remote
30 locations, like Kau, to close, result in the loss of customers
31 due to the lack of protections for the integrity of
32 certification, and result in a loss of the regional identities
33 for the various coffee districts; now, therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
38 Agriculture is requested to facilitate and submit a feasibility
39 study on the contracting of third party agents to inspect and
40 certify Hawaii-grown green coffee beans; and
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
43 is requested to facilitate a task force consisting of:
44



- 1 (1) Two members to be designated by the Senate President;
- 2
- 3 (2) Two members to be designated by the Speaker of the
- 4 House of Representatives; and
- 5
- 6 (3) One member to be designated by the Chairperson of the
- 7 Board of Agriculture; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
10 include an analysis of the economic impact on Hawaii's coffee
11 industry if the Department of Agriculture does not either fill
12 the positions or authorize third party agents to certify Hawaii-
13 grown green coffee beans; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
16 is requested to submit the Task Force's report on its findings
17 and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
18 prior to the Regular Session of 2011; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
22 of Agriculture, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives, and the Chairperson of the Board of
24 Directors of the Hawaii Coffee Association.

