

TESTIMONY
SCR217
LATE

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 9:44 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR217 on 3/22/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/22/2010 3:15:00 PM SCR217

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phil Becker
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Phone: 808-927-2252
E-mail: aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2010

Comments:

We need your help in making Ka'u green bean coffee affordable to sell. Having a certified inspector in the Ka'u district will help. Having a State inspector come to Ka'u to certify a bag of green bean costs a minimum of \$125.00. (time and labor) This is the cost quoted us from the Dept. AG in Hilo. It would be more from Kona. This would be for a 10# bag or more. Which means the cost of a 10# bag of green beans now costs \$125.00 plus the cost of the coffee.

To save time and expense, a Ka'u coffee farmer took his coffee into Hilo to have it certified. He was told their testing machine was broken and they would have to send it to Kona. For some strange reason Kona couldn't certify the coffee so they sent it to Kauai. The last I heard was, he's still waiting for the 3# of samples to be returned.

If the certification was privatized, it would lift the burden of money and man power from the state, make it more affordable for the farmers and certification would be done in a timely matter.

Thank you for listening.

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