

LATE TESTIMONY

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To the Agricultural Committee,

**Regarding HR 265 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2012 AS
HAWAII GROWN CACAO MONTH**

Dear AG Committee,

On behalf of Sweet Paradise Chocolatier, a locally owned company we are requesting that this measure to declare February as Hawaii Grown Cacao month is an important step in gaining recognition for the emerging Cacao industry in Hawaii.

Hawaii is unique in that it is the only state in the US able to grow cacao. Chocolate is a popular food and gift as well as having numerous documented health benefits. For Hawaii this can be an important future crop, providing jobs on many levels and providing a unique opportunity for Agro-Tourism. Please support and pass this bill.

**Melanie Boudar, Owner
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