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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY AS HAWAIIAN GROWN CACAO MONTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature also finds that cacao, derived  
2 from the *theobroma cacao* tree, is the dried and fermented seed  
3 from which chocolate is obtained, native to the central and  
4 western Amazon region and is widely distributed throughout the  
5 humid tropical regions with commercial production concentrated  
6 in Brazil, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia and Nigeria.

7           The legislature finds that the cacao industry in Hawai`i is  
8 in its infancy stage with fewer than 30 growers and a total  
9 acreage of approximately 50 acres, but holds the promise of  
10 helping diversified agriculture markets and the College of  
11 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR) has  
12 conducted series of meetings, including the one-day workshop  
13 entitled "Future of Cacao in Hawai`i" held October 23, 2008,  
14 involving key stakeholders in the local cacao industry and  
15 representatives statewide to strategize on methods for  
16 positioning Hawai`i in the growing cacao market.

17           The legislature also finds that cacao was first introduced  
18 to the Hawaiian Islands in 1850; Hawai`i's environment and



1 climate position it as the only state in the United States that  
2 can commercially grow cacao and as the state which is in close  
3 proximity to both Asia and mainland U.S.A and is ideally located  
4 to capture and prosper from the opportunities of a growing cacao  
5 market which currently generates \$75 billion worldwide annually;  
6 and that it has wide-ranging uses for consumer products such as  
7 cacao butter, which is rich in anti-oxidants, for use as  
8 medicinal and cosmetic purposes, a stimulant similar to coffee,  
9 and can also be used as a vasodilator (blood-vessel widener) and  
10 heart stimulant.

11 The legislature further finds that the cacao industry is  
12 poised to heighten the State's economy with a broad range of job  
13 opportunities and increased revenue from diversified  
14 agriculture, production and processing, in addition to research  
15 and development with the potential to attract federal funds;  
16 further, cacao possesses a propitious opportunity to develop a  
17 new industry in the growing, cultivating, processing, and  
18 shipping of Hawai'i-grown cacao to the mainland United States  
19 and the rest of the world.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, is amended  
21 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
22 read as follows:



1            "§8-            Hawaiian Grown Cacao month.    The month of  
2    February shall be known and designated "Hawaiian Grown Cacao  
3    month". This month is not and shall not be construed as a state  
4    holiday."

5            SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6            SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Hawaiian grown cacao month

**Description:**

Designates February as "Hawaiian Grown Cacao month."

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