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

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

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



1 and climate position it as the only state in the United States  
2 that can commercially grow cacao. Additionally, because Hawaii  
3 is in close proximity to both Asia and the mainland United  
4 States, it is ideally located to capture and prosper from the  
5 opportunities of a growing cacao market which currently  
6 generates \$75,000,000,000 worldwide annually and contains  
7 commodities such as cacao butter, medicinal products, cosmetic  
8 products, and stimulants similar to coffee.

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

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
19 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
20 read as follows:

21 "§8- Hawaiian Grown Cacao month. The month of  
22 February shall be known and designated "Hawaiian Grown Cacao



1 month". This month is not and shall not be construed as a state  
2 holiday."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 20, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Grown Cacao Month

**Description:**

Designates February as "Hawaiian Grown Cacao month." Effective January 20, 2020. (HB1589 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

