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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN CACAO MONTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. Cacao, derived from the *Theobroma cacao* tree,  
2 is the dried and fermented seed from which chocolate is  
3 obtained. Cacao 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 although the cacao industry in  
8 Hawaii is in its infancy with fewer than thirty growers and a  
9 total acreage of approximately fifty acres, this emerging Hawaii  
10 industry holds the promise of helping diversify the State's  
11 agricultural market. The University of Hawaii's college of  
12 tropical agriculture and human resources has conducted a series  
13 of meetings, including a one-day workshop on October 23, 2008,  
14 entitled the Future of Cacao in Hawaii, that featured key  
15 stakeholders in the local cacao industry and representatives  
16 statewide to strategize on methods for positioning Hawaii in the  
17 growing cacao market.



1 Cacao was first introduced to the Hawaiian islands in 1850.  
2 The legislature recognizes that Hawaii's unique environment and  
3 tropical climate position it as the only state in the United  
4 States that can commercially grow cacao. Hawaii, which is in  
5 close proximity to both Asia and the United States mainland, is  
6 ideally located to capture and prosper from the opportunities of  
7 a growing worldwide cacao market which currently generates  
8 \$75,000,000,000 annually from an array of cacao products, such  
9 as cacao butter, which is rich in antioxidants. Cacao is also  
10 used for medicinal and cosmetic purposes, as a stimulant similar  
11 to coffee, and as a vasodilator (blood-vessel widener) and heart  
12 stimulant.

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



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

4 "§8- Hawaii-grown cacao month. The month of February  
5 shall be known and designated "Hawaii-Grown Cacao Month" to  
6 recognize the potential of Hawaii-grown cacao to positively  
7 impact Hawaii's diversified agricultural economy. This month is  
8 not and shall not be construed as a state holiday."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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# H.B. NO. 2824

**Report Title:**

Hawaiian-Grown Cacao Month

**Description:**

Designates February as "Hawaii-Grown Cacao Month."

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