

MAR 12 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND LABELING
REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-GROWN TEA.

1 WHEREAS, the global tea market is a multi-billion dollar
2 industry; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the specialty tea market is projected to double in
5 the next five years; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii presently produces high quality tea, which
8 is part of the specialty tea market; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
11 Agriculture and Human Resources has recently discovered that
12 Hawaii-grown tea (*Camellia sinensis*) has the potential to become
13 a specialty crop for the State; and

14
15 WHEREAS, making tea a specialty crop for the State would
16 mean increased employment and revenue for the State at a time
17 when both are sorely needed; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the tea industry in the State should be encouraged
20 to develop and be protected so that it may fully participate in
21 the anticipated expansion of the world tea market; and

22
23 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that tea grown in Hawaii
24 is properly identified and protected by strict labeling
25 requirements, just as coffee made from coffee beans grown in
26 Hawaii is properly identified and protected by strict labeling
27 requirements; and

28
29 WHEREAS, a working group is needed to discuss and make
30 recommendations for labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;
31 now, therefore,

32
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
35 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
36 Tourism is requested to establish a Hawaii-Grown Tea Working



1 Group (Working Group) to discuss and make recommendations
2 regarding labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group be composed
5 of the following members or their designees:
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- 7 (1) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
8 Tourism;
- 9
- 10 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- 11
- 12 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
13 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
- 14
- 15 (4) One Senator designated by the President of the Senate;
- 16
- 17 (5) One Representative designated by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives;
- 19
- 20 (6) A member of the Hawai'i Collaborators to be selected by
21 the President of the Senate;
- 22
- 23 (7) A representative from the Hawaii Tea Society to be
24 selected by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives; and
- 26
- 27 (8) Any other members having knowledge of commerce or the
28 tea market designated by the President of the Senate
29 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
32 to:

- 33
- 34 (1) Examine the existing labeling requirements relating to
35 Hawaii-grown tea;
- 36
- 37 (2) Identify the problems with the existing labeling
38 requirements for Hawaii-grown tea;
- 39
- 40 (3) Develop recommendations for stricter labeling
41 requirements under state law and rules for the use of
42 the "Hawaii-grown tea" name and other Hawaii-grown tea
43 names;



- 1
- 2 (4) Determine the fiscal impact that stricter labeling
- 3 requirements or a uniform national labeling
- 4 requirement standard will have on owners and operators
- 5 of tea farms in Hawaii;
- 6
- 7 (6) Develop ideas for a uniform national labeling standard
- 8 and requirements for tea marketers to abide by for the
- 9 use of the "Hawaii-grown tea" or other Hawaii-grown
- 10 tea names; and
- 11
- 12 (7) Seek input from and collaborate with Hawaii's
- 13 congressional delegation, the United States Department
- 14 of Agriculture, and the Federal Food and Drug
- 15 Administration on establishing and enforcing a uniform
- 16 national labeling standard for the use of the "Hawaii-
- 17 grown tea" or other Hawaii-grown tea names; and
- 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
 20 group select a member from among themselves to serve as
 21 Chairperson of the Working Group; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
 24 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 25 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 26 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 27 of 2013; and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate; the
 31 Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Director of
 32 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Chairperson of
 33 the Board of Agriculture; the President of the University of
 34 Hawaii; the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
 35 Agriculture and Human Resources; the Hawaii Tea Society; and the
 36 Hawai'i Collaborators.

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OFFERED BY:

[Signature]
Randy H. Bab
Clarence K. Miki
Yuliy Kolua

