

Attn:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

HB 280, HD1 (HSCR295-12) Status
DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2012
TIME: 11:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Opposition to HB280/HD1

As a farmer and producer of Kona coffee I support the HDOA inspection and certification of Hawaii-grown green coffee beans by the Department of Agriculture.

It is in the interest of the Kona coffee growers and State of Hawaii that at minimum, the measure should be deferred until coffee growers have had full opportunity to review the bill and provide full input to the Legislature.

The Department of Agriculture of the State of Hawaii should help the anti-counterfeiting controls, the State of Hawaii should be affirmatively moving toward providing greater protections for Hawaii-grown coffee similar to what the State of Georgia provides for Vidalia Onions, Idaho provides for Idaho Potatoes, and California provides for Napa and Sonoma Wines.

Sincerely,
James E. Slusser

James Bean Coffee Co.
77-360 A Nohealani St
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Tel: (808) 322-2277
Web: <http://www.JamesBean.us>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 8:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kimo Falconer
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2012

Comments:

Chair Tsugi and members of the committee, The Hawaii Coffee Growers Association (HCGA) has voted unanimously to support this bill. Our group accounts for better than 70% of the approximate 7 million lbs of green coffee produced statewide. We are adamant about our quality standards and adhere to the rules. This measure will allow us better flexibility to get our product to market without jeopardizing quality standards fixed inside the rules of the Department of Agriculture.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 9:03 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: maria@coffeesofhawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maria Holmes
Organization: Coffees of Hawaii - Molokai
E-mail: maria@coffeesofhawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2012

Comments:

We are in support of voluntary certification as long as it does not change grading standards. We must keep tractability of origin of the coffee. Records must be kept and details of record keeping need to be worked out in the language and the DOA would have access to those records if coffee processor questioned.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 3:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: koepua@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cecelia Smith
Organization: smithfarms.com
E-mail: koepua@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2012

Comments:

I am opposed to this Bill. To remove the requirement! that "no Hawaii-grown green coffee beans shall be shipped outside the area of their geographic origin unless they have been inspected by the Department of Agriculture, unless otherwise specified in the Department Rules. (HB280 HD1)", is simply fool hardy. I remember the Kona Kai scandal of 1996 which resulted in dire loss of prestige of the KONA NAME and made all consumers question its authenticity. Do not allow this Bill to proceed, please.

aloha,
Cecelia B Smith

From: john@konaloha.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 3:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB280

My name is John Koontz, of Konaloha Farms. It appears to me that this bill will eliminate the controls in place which insure the purity and quality of Kona coffee. Let's not do Kona Kai over again.
.....John Koontz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 6:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Dursins' Farm
E-mail: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/14/2012

Comments:

Dear Chairman Tsuji and members of the Agriculture Committee:

Thank you for taking my testimony. As a Kona coffee farmer, I have appreciated the state's oversight of bulk green coffee shipments, ensuring that the coffee is certified Kona and not the coffee from somewhere else. Rather than reducing the protection we have had for at least fifteen years, which includes some verification of the quality in terms of grading, the Agriculture Committee should be considering increased protection such as branding protection. That kind of support is common to many products in the United States and in other countries. Please do not vote for this bill.

Thank you,
Susan Dursin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bruce Corker
Organization: Rancho Aloha Organic Coffee
E-mail: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I am a coffee and avocado farmer in Holualoa in the North Kona District, Hawaii County, and testify in OPPOSITION to HB280/HD1.

This is a measure that has appeared as a matter or record only two days ago—with ZERO prior consultation with the Kona Coffee Farmers Association and its more than 320 members.

Where has the bill come from? Who are the parties that requested its introduction by the House Agriculture Committee?

A measure of this importance—the abolition of a longstanding inspection, certification, and enforcement system designed to protect the reputation of Hawaii-grown coffee--should only be considered after full review with and input from coffee farmers.

SB280/HD1 appears to be undoing the protective system put in place after the counterfeiting of Kona coffee by Kona Kai was discovered and prosecuted by the federal government in the 1990s.

The State of Hawaii should not be abandoning its anti-counterfeiting systems.

Rather, the State of Hawaii should be strengthening those systems to provide for Hawaii-grown coffee protections similar to what Florida provides for Florida Orange Juice, Vermont for Vermont Maple Syrup, Idaho for Idaho Potatoes, and California for Napa Wines.

This bill will return Hawaii agriculture to the lawless days of Kona Kai.

**Ka'u Farm Bureau
PO Box 1109
Naalehu Hawaii 96772
808-929-9550**

TESTIMONY ON HB280

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 16, 2012
11:30am
Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

Ka'u Farm Bureau supports the intent of HB280.

State budgetary cutbacks in recent years have hindered Hawaii Department of Agriculture's ability to effectively execute the coffee certification program. This has led to long delays, hurting customer relations and crimping cash flows for growers and processors. Ka'u Farm Bureau supports the intent of this measure and recommends **STIFF, ENFORCEABLE PENALTIES IN THE LAW** that will close the door to counterfeiting coffee.

Counterfeiting of coffee is what originally led to the mandatory certification program. The scandal that ensued threatened the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. It is our understanding that certification for grade and origin will still be made available by the Department on a voluntary basis and that HDOA will effectuate HAR revisions to provide for enhanced record keeping.

Ka'u Farm Bureau will continue to work with HDOA, industry and law enforcement to ensure that amendments are made to this measure making counterfeiting of coffee a criminal offense.

Please pass this measure out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important measure.

Mahalo,

Chris Manfredi
President

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:11 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: victor.lim@partners.mcd.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victor Lim
Organization: McDonald's
E-mail: victor.lim@partners.mcd.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

As users of Kona Coffee here in Hawaii for the past 40 years, we strongly support HB 280 for its intent and would support penalties for violations of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on the origin documentation or the grading of coffee.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on this Bill.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:58 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: chuck@cuppakona.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles L Moss
Organization: Aina na Hoku Kai Farm
E-mail: chuck@cuppakona.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Kona coffee farmer and am very concerned by this bill. I am concerned that it appears to remove the requirement that Kona coffee be certified as to originating in Kona and meeting certain quality standards. The existing certification system was set up to prevent further large scale fraud such as the "Kona Kai" scandal of several years ago. If in fact it is the intention and/or effect of this bill it would open the door for a repeat of large scale fraud which would be damaging to many parties in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Chuck Moss

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Hieret
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I strongly support HB280.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jesse Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I strongly support HB280.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Roger Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I strongly support HB280.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Casey Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Council council
E-mail: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I support HB280

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: marlin658@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven M. McLaughlin
Organization: Captain Cook Coffee Company Ltd
E-mail: marlin658@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 280. I also urge the addition of strong penalties into the law for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on Origin documentation or grading of coffee. In the past 2 years, certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the Dept of Agriculture have lead to furloughs and employee head count cuts. There just are not enough certification agents to get the job done. This past season the Big Island had only one inspector to certify all coffee on the Big Island. The wait for certification finalization was over 4 weeks during the peak of the season. We feel that the Dept of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Bateman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. While I support the overall concept of the bill I urge the addition of strong penalties into the law for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee.

In the past two years certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture have lead to furloughs and employee head count cuts. There just are not enough certification agents to get the job done. This past season the Big Island had only one inspector to certify all coffee on the Big Island. The wait for certification finalization was over four weeks during the peak of the season. I had two shipments to the mainland and one shipment to Russia delayed for three weeks. In any business, especially agriculture, "time is money."

I feel that the Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.

David Bateman, President
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 12:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: brun0-1000@usa.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Uster
Organization: Mokulele Farms
E-mail: brun0-1000@usa.net
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

this is a huge step backward in protecting Hawaiian origin coffee. Doesn't anyone remember the Kona Kai scandal? Human nature hasn't changed; don't change the law and allow more abuse.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: michael.conway@dole.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Michael Conway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: michael.conway@dole.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
RESUBMITTED W/ERRORS CORRECTED. Please disregard previous submission.

My name is Michael Conway. I am the Agriculture Manager for Dole Food Company Hawaii which includes Waialua Estate Coffee. Our 150 acre farm is the only commercial growing operation on Oahu Island.

Up until 2009 certification of Waialua Estate Coffee was conducted by a limited staff of HDOA inspectors who lack necessary coffee evaluation facilities on Oahu. Completion of the certification process requires samples be sent off island and subjectively evaluated against other coffees particularly in regards to taste. This aspect of certification has never seemed fair to us because of different growing conditions, ag practices and varieties. Additionally, the delays in obtaining results together with lack of consistency have lead to lost business opportunities, erosion of pricing and broken promises to customers. The ongoing CBB problem and requirement that inspectors focus on enforcement of a Big Island quarantine requires an immediate change in certification protocols. Inspectors simply cannot be in two different places at the same time and deal with growing backlogs of coffee requiring certification. Dole Food Company supports the language of HB 280 to consider the immediate installation of a program of self inspection of Hawaii grown coffees.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Konarising@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Maria Da Silva
Organization: Kona Rising Coffee Co.
E-mail: Konarising@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

This bill is a further assault on the Kona Coffee industry which is already under attack by the CBB. While in the short run individuals with damaged beans who cannot get their inventory certified may be able to get their beans off island, in the long run, it will ruin the Brand name of Kona Coffee because of the poor quality of the beans being shipped. It will also ultimately bring down the price that Kona coffee commands because of the loss of the quality of Kona Coffee. Please kill or delay the bill to get input from farmers such as myself as to another interim solution.



P.O. Box 248 • 81-6581 Mamalahoa Highway • Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
toll free 888-592-5662 • t: 808-323-2862 • f: 808-323-2584 • www.greenwellfarms.com

TESTIMONY ON HB280

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 16, 2012
Conference Room 312

Chairman Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Greenwell Farms, Inc. has a long history in the coffee industry in Kona. Since the 1980's, our company has been purchasing coffee cherry, parchment, and green bean from Kona Farmers in order to provide high quality certified green bean to the specialty coffee markets in Hawaii, across the main USA, in Europe and around the Pacific Rim. Our customers have come to rely upon the certification standards developed in Hawaii.

We strongly support the need for the changes outlined HB 280. The lack of financial resources at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has greatly curtailed the certification process placing a great deal of strain on growers and processors of Hawaiian Coffees. We believe a voluntary system for certification can greatly reduce the demands on the Department of Agriculture and still provide a viable certification program for our customers around the world.

We are hopeful that, as this important bill passes through the legislative process, industry and the Department of Agriculture can make alterations to HB 280 that will strengthen the enforcement of grading standards and reporting of origins.

We strongly urge that you pass HB 280 out of committee.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Greenwell, President

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: stacieloo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacie Loo
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: stacieloo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I strongly support house bill 280.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 4:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Scarr
Organization: Daily Fix Coffee
E-mail: sandrascar@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

To Chairman Tsuji and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

HB 280 is a radical bill that dismantles the certification of the origins of Hawaiian coffees. Making the inspection and certification system voluntary opens Hawaii origin coffees to easy fraud and counterfeit.

We should all be reminded of the Kona Kai scandal of some 15 years ago. Central American coffee was being sold as higher priced Kona coffee. State certification of Hawaiian coffee origins was a rational response to prevent further fraud.

Eliminating the mandatory certification system exposes the state to another Kona Kai scandal. Moreover, without mandatory certification, how will anyone know whether there is even 10% Kona coffee in so-called Kona blends? How would anyone discover that only 5% Kona or no Kona coffee was in the bag?

State certification of Hawaiian coffee origins is a good system that needs to be fully funded. It is largely or wholly funded by users. If rates need to be raised to fund the program, then the HDOA should apply new fees, hire more inspectors, and implement a workable system.

We cannot open up Hawaiian coffees to the kind of fraud the state certification system addressed and has prevented for more than 15 years.

Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:27 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kathygideon1@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kathy gideon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kathygideon1@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Please help support 100% Kona Coffee and keep Kona coffee high quality. 5 voters in our property are opposed.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:30 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: patwayman@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Wayman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patwayman@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 280 so we can expedite the transfer of coffee without the delays that have been occurring due to shortages of inspectors. Thank you

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jlenhart@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Lenhart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jlenhart@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I am in support of HB 280 as due to manpower shortages it is now taking too long for the certification process.

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brent Hight
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brent@koacoffee.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. The overall concept of the bill I support strongly, but I would like encourage and ask that you consider adding into the law strong enforceable penalties for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture grading rules and or origin documentation enabling the protection of coffee grown in Hawaiian origins from counterfeiting and other abuses. In the past two years certification of coffee has become very cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture have lead to furloughs and employee head count cuts. There just are not enough certification agents to get the job done causing animosity between the inspection process and the coffee business affected by his decisions of a perishable product that changes during the four week waiting period. To explain, this past season the Big Island had only one inspector to certify all coffee on the Big Island. The wait for certification finalization was over four weeks during the peak of the season. We feel that the Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather that just inspecting coffee. These delays and manpower limitations has hobbled the coffee industry on the big island and leads the way for counterfeiting of coffee origins. The increased costs, delays and possible misrepresented shipments of coffee to customers results in lost or disappointed customers for the future of Hawaiian coffee sales.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 12:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: puaonaona@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kirstee Biven
Organization: Individual
E-mail: puaonaona@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB280. I do urge an additon that penalties into the law for violations of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 12:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gbiven@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gloria Biven
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gbiven@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB280. I do urge an additon that penalties into the law for violations of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: baylyv@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anna Vogel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: baylyv@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I support this bill even though I believe deregulation so be a very bad idea becuae, what is far worese, is that the State of Hawaai can only provide one Ag inspector. Kona Coffee is a huge part of the economics of the Big Island. Coffee councils here have offered ideas and even subsidies to insure proper inspections in accepable time frames. That was refused. So farmers are disabled, their crops aging in the long, long wait for one inspector. This cannot be so please allow farms to self certify. At this point, unfortunately, it is vital to the success of the Kona Coffee industry.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tifanysugi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tiffany Acia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tifanysugi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I support this bill only because it will help speed the certification process not because I agree with self certification. However, I do have one concern or suggestion, will the coffee inspector do sporadic checks on the different farms who are self certifiying their green bean, so it is verified that they are not falsely certifiying their product because I do not want Kona Coffee to lose it's value. I pray that this all turns out for the best, and that people will stay true and honest.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gary@KonaEarth.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Strawn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gary@KonaEarth.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I am a full-time Kona coffee farmer. I prefer to certify all of my coffee but it is becoming more and more difficult. Unexpected delays, lack of inspectors and out-of-date rules have made it nearly impossible to get my coffee certified. The state has already cost me thousands of dollars in lost revenue. That is not acceptable.

I NEED the state to either fix and fully fund the certification process or make it voluntary. Voluntary certification will promote coffee with state approval to an extra level of quality rather than simply an unfair burden to those trying to follow the laws. It will also allow me to avoid the burden when it is not necessary. The decision to get or not get certification should be up to the customer, not the government.

Therefore I strongly support HB 280.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kaeolani@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Geraldine Loo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaeolani@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:
I support the HB280

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Bayview@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roslyn Roy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Bayview@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I support HB280.

I have been in the green Kona coffee business for at least 30 years and I had seen the difficult changes in this industry from fraud thru climate changes and the increasing demand with no supply. Recently I came across the said problem wherein an order was placed late November and was shipped late January due to the wait of certification and fumigation. The latter we understand but with only one inspector to deal with the task covering all of us processors and farmers trying to finalize a sale that might not happen because we have no idea whether the inspectors could get to us in time.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 11:30 am
Conference Room 312

FORM LETTER	
1. American Electric Co, Robert Dewitz	Support
2. McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii, Veronica Kaneko	Support
3. Jim Wayman	Support
4. Wendy Woolford	Support
5. Eriko Fong	Support
6. Margaret Von Kaenel	Support
7. Susan Deboer	Support
8. Brandon Davidson	Support
9. Darryl Hara	Support
10. Rachel	Support
11. Francine	Support

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:49 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bdewitz@american-electric.cc
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM HB280

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Dewitz
Organization: American Electric Co
E-mail: bdewitz@american-electric.cc
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. While I support the overall concept of the bill I urge the addition of strong penalties into the law for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee. In the past two years certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture have lead to furloughs and employee head count cuts. There just are not enough certification agents to get the job done. This past season the Big Island had only one inspector to certify all coffee on the Big Island. The wait for certification finalization was over four weeks during the peak of the season. We feel that the Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee.