

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 16, 2012
Room 312
11:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 280, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 280 , House Draft 1 that seeks to repeal the requirement that all Hawaii-grown green coffee beans shall be inspected and certified by the Department of Agriculture and repeals 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. The Department supports this measure.

Prior to 1997, green coffee certification was conducted on a voluntary basis for users requesting for certification. Following a counterfeit scandal, a coffee dealer was indicted for fraud for selling counterfeit green Kona coffee at depressed prices in the mainland. This prompted legislation that required all Hawaii-grown green coffee be certified prior to leaving the geographic region of production. However, this requirement did not apply to roasted Hawaii-grown coffee.

As a result of the reduction in force in 2009, currently, there is only one full-time Agricultural Commodities Marketing Specialist in the West Hawaii district to inspect Kona coffee. This has resulted in a delay of inspections with a turnaround time of up to



3 to 4 weeks, and a subsequent delay for the Kona coffee industry to export their coffee and limits cash flow needed to pay their coffee producers in a timely manner.

Following discussions with various coffee industry members, the Department feels that a voluntary certification program, and mandatory compliance to grading standards and origin documentation under proposed changes to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, will provide sufficient protection for Hawaii's coffee industry.

The Department does want to clarify that while the proposed bill will make certification voluntary, this measure would not trump the current quarantines in place that are meant to prevent the spread of coffee berry borer or other potential invasive pests or diseases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

LATE TESTIMONY

FEBRUARY 16, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 280, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
11:30 AM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports the intent of HB 280, HD1 which proposes to remove the requirement that all Hawaii-grown green coffee beans be inspected and certified by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) unless otherwise specified by rules of the HDOA. It also removes 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 HDOA.

State budgetary cutbacks in recent years have hindered HDOA'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. HFBF 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

HDOA on a voluntary basis and that HDOA will effectuate Hawaii Administrative Rules revisions to provide for enhanced recordkeeping.

HFBF 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.

HFBF respectfully requests your assistance in passing this measure.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important measure.



Testimony Reference : HB 280 HD1
Committee : HLT

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: Jan 16

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

OPPOSE

HFUU is speaking up for The KCFA (Kona Coffee Farmers Association) Legislative Committee, unable to attend today.

This measure would undo the HDOA inspection and certification system that was put in place in the 1990s after the Kona Kai Scandal. That inspection and certification system was intended to combat counterfeiting of Hawaii-grown coffee.

The HDOA inspection and certification was primarily set up to require all bulk green coffee shipments of Kona coffee to actually originate with inspection in Kona and seller certifying to the HDOA that it was grown in Kona, and secondarily to establish some quality controls which includes the grading. Intent was to assure remotely located mainland and foreign buyers that they were actually getting Kona coffee.

The Department of Agriculture testified earlier that they were aware of the problems of the five week backlog in inspecting coffee shipments, but they are understaffed and unable to meet the demands of the existing law requiring inspections.

Perhaps there needs to be a user fee on the coffee grower or buyers to pay for the inspections to be done on a timely basis.

Rather than retreating from 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.

We had a major problem in the past, what makes us think it won't happen again?

At a minimum, the measure should be deferred until coffee growers have had full opportunity to review the bill (and analyze the ramifications) and provide full input to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez
HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono-crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where their voice is different than the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: colemel@kanalanifarm.org
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

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

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colehour Bondera
Organization: Individual
E-mail: colemel@kanalanifarm.org
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Tsuji & Agriculture Committee Members:

As a Kona coffee farmer who has kept up with the present (and past) actions in the coffee industry, it is against my understanding that such a piece of legislation as this become law.

Essentially the small-scale coffee farmers who seek to have the the geographical identity of the most valuable Hawaiian agricultural commodity (Kona coffee) protected rely upon the State of Hawaii to ensure that the large-scale processors are held to the law by inspecting the products declared as Kona coffee.

State resources should be directed to ensure that the inspections which are in place to protect Hawaiian integrity and farmer and consumer protection as well as business practices which are based on imitations will happen at the required rate. Thus it is necessary that staff and funding are in place to allow for timely inspections, rather than do away with the law since there is a staffing problem.

That said, it is my request that your committee recognize that this piece of legislation has not been given the chance of a thorough review in any case, and therefore should be deferred for thorough consideration by all parties involved and affected (including small-scale coffee farmers).

As I stated I am not in support of this piece of legislation going through at this time, and ask that at minimum it be deferred for input by all of those affected. Honestly there is simply NOT consensus in the coffee industry on making this into a law at this time.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera
KANALANI OHANA FARM

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 6:29 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: geneclapp@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: Eugene Clapp
Organization: Onouli Farm LLC
E-mail: geneclapp@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I strongly support HB 280. However, it would be very helpful if the new focus for the Department of Agriculture could be enforcement of existing rules and research and funding for controlling invasive pests like the borer beetle. Thank you, Gene Clapp, Onouli Farm LLC

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: page@princessradhafarm.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: Page Trygstad
Organization: Hawaii 100% Kona Coffee company
E-mail: page@princessradhafarm.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

What are you guys thinking??? You want to destroy the Kona coffee farmer and industry???

I will personally campaign against and give funds to the opponent of anyone who supports this bill.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:12 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: yoko@princessradhafarm.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: Yoko Harada
Organization: Princess Radha Farm
E-mail: yoko@princessradhafarm.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

What are you guys thinking??? You want to destroy the Kona coffee farmer and industry???

I will personally campaign against and give funds to the opponent of anyone who supports this bill.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:23 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: Individual
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Dear Chair Tsugi and members of the Ag committee, My name is Kimo Falconer, I am the owner of MauiGrown Coffee in Lahaina, Maui. We are the largest producer for certified Maui origin coffee. We intend to continue to certify or product but wish to voice our support in changing the language from Mandatory to Voluntary. Our business suffered this year due to the fact we could not get certification in a timely basis. We stand by our quality, but need the flexibility to get the product to market promptly. Mahalo.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 4:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: coffee@LymanKonaCoffee.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: Hans Eckert
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coffee@LymanKonaCoffee.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I am a diligent producer and seller of green Kona Coffee beans of the highest quality, am certified organic, operate our 8 acre family Estate and have won multiple award medals. I strongly oppose this bill. In my opinion, this proposal is all smoke and mirrors: If passed, it would open the floodgates for wholesale cheaters! This bill would open the door wide for anyone to sell ANY QUALITY green coffee FROM Kona as KONA COFFEE, and even the crappiest coffees, from Kona and elsewhere, would go out as Kona. Who would stop the Importers of cheap Latin American Coffee from selling it out of Kona AS KONA! Not the law, not the State. Watch out, this is RUINOUS for Kona Coffee. Do not be blinded by the massive propaganda and money of the coffee interests that make huge profits already by messing with the good Kona name. We are having a VERY HARD TIME defending high quality Kona Coffee against the ongoing watering-down of the good Kona name, such as is already being done by the ten percenters/blenders. The Kona Coffee Council (KCC) now IS the Hawaii Coffee Association (just look at the overlap of the two B.O.D's.), and the H.C.A. IS, and always HAS BEEN, Jim Weyman of Honolulu. His company is owned by one of the richest men on the Mainland who doesn't care about things Hawaiian, only things green with numbers on them. Anyone supporting this is SIMPLY NOT INTERESTED IN DEFENDING HIGH QUALITY KONA COFFEE, but solely in the profit for the shareholders of the few large coffee corporations. Yes, there are not enough State Inspectors -- that's a scandal. We must continue to push for more personnel and not to get rid of the checks and balances that were put in place after the LAST nearly ruinous Kona Coffee scandal. Do not go back there again! Do NOT participate in ruining what's good about Kona Coffee!

CONFIDENTIAL

stock. If KCC supports this, forget anyone believing that KCC is in support of 100% Kona Coffee. The big shippers - from Tommy on down-should push to have more agents installed, and even assure that the certification revenue goes directly to paying for certifying agents.

This is a VERY bad bill, in my view.

With Best Regards and Cordial Aloha!

Dr. Hans F. Eckert, owner/operator

808-325-0909; 808-989-0674

Coffee@LymanKonaCoffee.com

www.LymanKonaCoffee.com

100% Certified Organic Kona Coffee

100% Certified Estate

100% Certified Aah-loha

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, U.S.A.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

FORM LETTER	
1. Piliiani Kope Farm, Greg Stille	Support
2. Campbell Oneill	Support
3. Larry Wilkens	Support
4. Donna Woolley	Support
5. Al Woolley	Support
6. David Gridley	Support

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:51 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gjstille@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: Greg Stille
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gjstille@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

Greg Stille
Piliiani Kope Farm

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 4:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: coffeeguy@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

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. While I support this bill, I also urge the addition of strong penalties for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee. Due to budget cuts, the Department of Agriculture has proven unable to keep up with proper certification in a timely and fair manner. This places undue burden on businesses trying to follow the rules while allowing those that are dishonest to proceed unimpeded. I feel that voluntary certification will change certification to a badge of honor rather than a poorly enforced burden. It also allows merchants and customers to decide for themselves what is quality coffee without interference from the government. I feel that Department of Agriculture resources would be better used to enforce existing rules and protect us from invasive pests rather than only inspecting coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: info@lionmainland.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: larry wilkens
Organization: mainland ventures
E-mail: info@lionmainland.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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 that just inspecting coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: DWOOLLEY@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

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: DONNA WOOLLEY
Organization: Individual
E-mail: DWOOLLEY@HAWAII.RR.COM
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. While I support this bill, I also urge the addition of strong penalties for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee. Due to budget cuts, the Department of Agriculture has proven unable to keep up with proper certification in a timely and fair manner. This places undue burden on businesses trying to follow the rules while allowing those that are dishonest to proceed unimpeded. I feel that voluntary certification will change certification to a badge of honor rather than a poorly enforced burden. It also allows merchants and customers to decide for themselves what is quality coffee without interference from the government. I feel that Department of Agriculture resources would be better used to enforce existing rules and protect us from invasive pests rather than only inspecting coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: SALES@ISLANDSUNCOFFEE.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: AL WOOLLEY
Organization: Individual
E-mail: SALES@ISLANDSUNCOFFEE.COM
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280. While I support this bill, I also urge the addition of strong penalties for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee. Due to budget cuts, the Department of Agriculture has proven unable to keep up with proper certification in a timely and fair manner. This places undue burden on businesses trying to follow the rules while allowing those that are dishonest to proceed unimpeded. I feel that voluntary certification will change certification to a badge of honor rather than a poorly enforced burden. It also allows merchants and customers to decide for themselves what is quality coffee without interference from the government. I feel that Department of Agriculture resources would be better used to enforce existing rules and protect us from invasive pests rather than only inspecting coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:12 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauioma@amui.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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 Gridley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mauioma@amui.net
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 law for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documenttation or grading of coffee. In the past two years certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the HDOA has lead to furloughs and employee cuts.

There just aren't 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 peak season! This hurts coffee commerce! Given the current situation, I feel the Department of Agriculture's limited resources would be better used on enforcement of the current rules and not impede commerce



FEBRUARY 16, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 280
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

LATE TESTIMONY

Room 312
11:30 AM

Chair Tsuji, Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maui County Farm Bureau, representing over 200 commercial farm families and organizations on Maui **strongly supports with clarification**, HB280, that removes the requirement that all Hawaii-grown green coffee beans shall be inspected and certified by the Department of Agriculture unless otherwise specified by rules of the Department

Coffee on Maui is growing. We support our Maui coffee growers in their request that there be strong penalties into the law for any violation of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee. Geographic origin, is part of their marketing program. Each region takes pride in their unique niche and we encourage this marketing tool. At the same time, this measure addresses the issues that have resulted from the lack of inspectors due to past budget cuts.

MCFB requests your support in passage of this measure with an amendment that imposes penalties for violating the Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules on origin documentation or grading of coffee.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important matter.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:32 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wcamara@kauaicoffee.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: Walter Camara
Organization: Kauai Coffee Company, LLC
E-mail: wcamara@kauaicoffee.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

As a representative of Kauai Coffee Company, LLC, I would like to submit testimony in favor of HB 280. We are in strong support of voluntary certification of Hawaii-grown green coffee beans.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauimartha@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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Martha Lind
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mauimartha@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I am a coffee farmer on Maui. I support HB280. There are not enough DOA agents to inspect coffee. Let the DOA agents enforce the rules, rather than inspect coffee.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Sylvia@Kolealea.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

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

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sylvia Cenzano
Organization:
E-mail: Sylvia@Kolealea.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/16/2012 11:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeanne Vana
Organization: North Shore Farms LLC
E-mail: bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments: