

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

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 24, 2012
Room 308
1:30 P.M.

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

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee

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

February 24, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 280, HD1
RELATING TO BEES

Room 308
1:30 PM

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, 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.

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

TESTIMONY ON HB280

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Friday, February 24, 2012
1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, 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



P O Box 5436 · Kailua-Kona · Hawaii · 96745
www.KonaCoffeeFarmers.org email: info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org

RE HB280 Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA) **OPPOSES**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

My name is Cecelia Burns Smith. I am the fourth generation of my family that has worked in Hawaiian agriculture, and the current President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association. My husband and I operate one of the many hundreds of small family farms in the Kona geographic origin.

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association was founded in 2006 when it became obvious that the existing coffee associations represented the interests of blenders, large-scale processors, their employees in Honolulu and the sister islands, but not the interests of the actual Kona growers. The KCFA has grown rapidly as other growers and supporting business recognized this fact. KCFA has more than 320 members and continues to add new members every month.

I speak for these grower/members and we strongly urge you to VOTE NO on HB280. The bill has many flaws and is not well thought out. KCFA was not invited to participate in discussions of the draft language. If enacted it will cause significant economic harm to the hundreds of small family farms both in Kona and in other Hawaiian geographic origins that are developing a reputation for superior quality. We farmers depend on the mandatory inspections to ensure that grade and geographic origin are certified to maintain Kona's reputation for outstanding quality and the price it commands in the market. No one knows if the current buyers of "Kona" coffee will continue to buy it at its justifiable premium price if they can't be sure it is really Kona coffee.

This bill explicitly strips the protections of both grade and geographic origin enacted after the infamous Kona Kai scandal. Voluntary certification will not work. Adding penalties will not work. The other voluntary parts of the statutes re: coffee is simply ignored by the large-scale interests.

This rush to legislation is also totally unnecessary. The current law that this last minute bill will

repeal provides that:

(d) All Hawaii grown green coffee beans shall be inspected and certified by the department for grade and origin *unless otherwise specified by rules of the department*. (Emphasis added.)

Thus, HDOA already has the power to reduce or eliminate some or all of the inspections. It simply has to specify the rules to do so. If there is to be a change in the inspection requirements, it should be left to a more deliberate process of HDOA rule making after appropriate notice and opportunity to comment from all affected interests.

Let's not play dangerous games with the current market. Let's think about and get complete consensus before we risk peoples' livelihoods. The current statute has been instrumental in keeping counterfeit coffees at bay. Let's not open the door to the unscrupulous and return to the bad old days. The end result would be to diminish the worth of Kona coffee with resulting harm to the family farms in the Kona district.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Burns Smith, President
Kona Coffee Farmers Association



MOKULELE FARMS
100% KONA COFFEE
78-6993 WALUA ROAD
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

Hawai'i House of Representatives
Finance Committee

RE HB280 OPPOSE

Will not be able to attend hearing

Feb 22, 2012

Dear Committee Members,

I am a hands-on coffee grower near Keauhou in Hawai'i County who is privileged to be steward of heritage agricultural lands. I would like to continue that but this bill will make it harder for me to survive and continue said stewardship. BTW, the KCC and HCA does not speak for me; my membership lapsed years ago because they never asked for my input on policy.

I urgently ask you to VOTE NO or VOTE TO DEFER HB280 a fatally-flawed bill with long-term DOWNSIDE for this heritage industry.

Not only does this bill **end** mandatory certification of grade **AND origin** (regardless of what the proponents canned form letters say), but the **HDOA is stripped of the ability to define geographic origin**. So, give your coffee whatever origin is "hot". Hey, I'm not outrageously far from Ka'u and they're developing quite a following, . . . Or better yet, why not bring in green from El Rancho Kona, Mexico. Never mind about taste and quality.

On the face value, the bill seems pleasing. There's a budget shortfall, and not enough inspectors are available to inspect and certify large volumes fast enough for the convenience of the largest millers. So they cry they are losing money: the state must change certification to "voluntary".

Hypothetically, that might work if it were not for the human nature. In the case of coffee at least, human nature definitely has not gotten better since the Kona Kai scandal.

Stop this before another Kona Kai counterfeit coffee scandal is allowed to happen. **Another scandal would make Hawai'ian coffee the laughingstock of the worldwide coffee industry with financial downside to small growers and the state revenues.**

These same mega-scale **millers ignore and avoid any voluntary** part of any law (origin labeling in 486-120.6 comes to mind) and this bill is part of their systematic dismantling of industry regulations. Their economic model maximizes short-term margin by making Hawaiian origin coffee a commodity with cachet. And that plantation-era mind-think is a stranglehold on *_hundreds_* of us small family cherry , parchment, and green bean farms. And it kills us after the cachet is gone. **Another heritage agricultural industry and tourism draw disappears.** Make way for more condos and ziplines.

I find it very disturbing (to say the least) that Agriculture Committee “kicked the can down the road” and in their report, explicitly handed you the “hot potato” issue of counterfeit coffee. I am very disappointed that HDOA has all too willingly agreed to stand down from their mission; but that's another issue.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Ben Franklin said that. It's true today. Passing HB280 removes the ounce and incurs the far more *_costly_* pound of investigation and prosecution.

The proponents say add strong penalties. **Penalties won't work.** That's laughable. If HDOA doesn't have the capital and manpower to be proactive in certifying, there is no way they have the resources and will to be reactive on investigating, prosecuting, and proving violations. It's more than laughable; it opens the door and beckons counterfeiting with open arms. And it is far, far more costly to the state in the long run.

Please stop the madness. Vote down or at least defer this fatally flawed bill.

Thank you,

Paul Uster,
Proprietor and coffee picker
Mokulele Farms

Greenwell Farms, Inc.

P.O. Box 248
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

TESTIMONY ON HB280

House Committee on Finance

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Friday, February 24, 2012
Conference Room 308

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Finance 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 HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules.

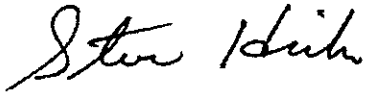
The current certification process for coffee in Hawaii has evolved to focusing more on quality issues and less on verification of origin. We believe that stronger documentation requirements for origin of coffees sold from Hawaii are as important now as they were when the industry suffered from the highly public Kona Kai counterfeiting case back in the 1990's. We need to relieve the Hawaii Department of Agriculture from the burden of third party certification on EVERY lot of coffee leaving Hawaii origins so that they can focus as well on origin documentation by Hawaii producers. The current origin documentation requirements are severely lacking.

Greenwell Farms will likely continue to have grade certifications performed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as many of our customers rely on this

process. However, we have many customers who we have dealt with over decades that trust our grading abilities. These customers have been penalized significantly due to the recent constraints in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's quality assurance programs.

We respectfully request that you pass HB280.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Hicks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Steve Hicks, CFO

Testimony of Marvin Feldman, Ph.D. in Opposition to HB280

I strongly oppose HB 280 which would remove important protections on exports of green coffee and would exacerbate the already serious problem facing Kona coffee farmers.

There is no basis on which to assume that the problems that the inspection requirements that this legislation would remove are not needed. The inspection requirements currently in effect were instituted to prevent a recurrence of the Kona Kai counterfeiting scandal. If HB 280 is enacted there would be no protection against this counterfeiting happening again.

As I noted in my report to the Kona Coffee Farmer Association, which can be viewed at <http://www.konacoffeefarmers.org/Economic%20Efforts%20of%20Blending%20Kona.pdf>, the appropriation of the Kona Coffee appellation for 10% blends is worth at least \$14.7 million/year to blenders. Growers receive none of this benefit and suffer from the degradation of the Kona Coffee appellation. The passage of HB 280 would possibly exacerbate this degradation of the appellation.

Aloha Chairman Oshiro and Members of the Finance Committee

We are Kona coffee farmers from Holualoa. We are opposed to HB 280. After years of rebuilding the reputation of Kona coffee as a superior coffee, it would be disastrous to return to the time when anyone would be able to bring in cheap undesirable green coffee and then export it at high prices touting the coffee as Kona coffee. This will happen – the profits are too great to be resist.

This results in a serious problem for the honest coffee farmer. The counterfeit coffee will not have the fine Kona coffee flavor and thus the reputation of Kona coffee will suffer and sales will drop. Then, if and when a counterfeiter is found out, all Kona coffee will be suspect with a greater loss in sales.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

Kiyoshi Matsuo

Ueshima Coffee(UCC Hawaii) Corp.

Dorothy Case
Oppose
HB280

At a recent coffee farm tour, the owners proudly displayed the Kona coffee certification sticker that goes on the bags of green coffee. That sticker is the only thing holding the price of coffee high enough to have reason to farm coffee in Hawaii. HB 280 is a very dangerous bill for coffee farmers, and dangerous for the legislature to pass.

It will likely affect the price of Kona coffee on the retail market in Hawaii and abroad. Retailers do ask for proof of certification that what they are buying (and selling) is "100% Kona Coffee." If the seller can't provide it, then it stands to reason that the retailer (and probably his customers) will not buy it-- at least not at the 100% Kona price. This question should be definitively answered before making such a substantial change in the certification process that could unpredictably affect the Kona coffee economy.

Dept. of Agriculture has not said how the "voluntary" certification will (or can) be carried out. If there is not enough funding for inspectors now, how will there be enough funding for voluntary inspection after this bill is passed? Why would finance fund a position at all anymore?

HDOA rule making would enable the department (and everybody in the industry-- farmers, processors, wholesalers and retailers) to determine exactly what voluntary certification would entail and how it would be accomplished.

You cannot say that HD280, HD 1 will "strengthen Mandatory Origin Documentation" because it clearly will NOT. It will put big Hawaiian coffee farmers out of business, which means the Bishop estate will have defaults on its leases, and the Big Island Kona side will lose its tourist niche within a couple years. Actually, the smaller farms with loyal internet customers will be the only ones selling coffee because they sell it by the pound, roasted. Anyone selling green beans loses big time as soon as their customers ask for certification.

Brent Hight

Support

HB280

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 that eliminates Mandatory Certification grading of coffee in Hawaii, Yet Strengthening Mandatory Origin "Documentation" outlined in the Hawaii Ag Department Rules.

In the past two years certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic delaying our product shipments to Hawaiian Coffee buyers all over the world.

Government Budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has lead to furloughs of key employees and front line inspectors. Simply put there just are not enough certification agents to get the job done, causing huge delays and animosity between the DOA inspection process and the coffee community at large. This past season the Big Island had only one inspector to certify all coffees produced. The wait for certification finalization was over four weeks during the peak of the season.

Beautiful Hawaiian Coffee, truly a perishable product changes during the four week waiting period while setting in the government inspection office waiting its turn. This situation has a direct negative financial impact on your fragile Hawaiian Coffee Industry, during these very tough economic times. The delays also result in downgrades and lost customers who cannot wait for the coffee to be shipped.

I feel that the Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards in a failed effort to control quality.

In reality the final decision and testing surrounding quality is performed by our customers worldwide! Most green bean buyers request samples before buying. They have their own QC departments and sample or cup the coffee assigning a quality score to each lot tested. These test results really have nothing to do with Hawaiian DOL Grade guidelines!

The grading program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was really needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee origins.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: michael.conway@dole.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael J. Conway
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Growers Association
E-mail: michael.conway@dole.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
Dear Representative Oshiro:

I am speaking on behalf of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association (HCGA) to request support in passing HB 280 which will be heard by your committee on February 24, 2012.

HB 280 removes the requirement that all Hawaiian coffee be certified by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture before it can be removed from the growing origin. Under HB 280 certification of grade will now be voluntary instead of mandatory but documentation by origin will remain mandatory. For those growers who find it desirable for their business model to have State certification of grade it will still be available on a voluntary basis.

The recent introduction of coffee berry borer (CBB) to the Big Island has set in motion a set of strict quarantine/enforcement protocols in order to keep this insect from contaminating other coffee growing regions in the State. This mandate now tasks HDOA inspectors to prioritize inspections of all green bean coffee out of Kona and at the same time perform timely certification of coffee by grade and origin. Unfortunately, due to lack of facilities on some islands coffee may have to be sent to the Kona station which adds to the backlog. This problem together with reduced staffing for completing certification forces grower/producers such as myself to wait even longer for approval. For these reasons the current program has evolved into a cumbersome, unfair and unacceptable way of doing business since no green bean coffee can leave an island unless certified by grade and origin.

There are risks associated with any decision the State chooses to take by relaxing grading standards and going with a strictly enforced voluntary program of certification by origin, however, the urgency to contain the most serious problem the coffee industry has ever faced must remain priority one. To put it another way, if CBB were ever to reach other coffee growing regions of the State there is a high likelihood those businesses would encounter irreversible damage due to their size and face imminent closure. Please take these thoughts under consideration by your committee and thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 9:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kkunitake@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melvin Kunitake
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kkunitake@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB280 which eliminates mandatory certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening mandatory origin documentation in the DOA regulations. Because of our economic downturn I have noticed that even my scale isn't checked annually. I am sent a bill to recertify my scale which I rarely use.

I am a cherry coffee farmer who depends on the processors to buy my coffee. My livelihood depends on all facets of the industry working well.

Keeping documentation that requires origin of Hawaiian coffee mandatory provides protection against fraud.

Sincerely,
Melvin S. Kunitake
Kona coffee farmer.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Friday, February 24, 2012 7:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: usopen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Wong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: usopen@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2012

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 led 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.

Mahalo for your support in this very important legislative bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Bateman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
Chair Oshiro and Members:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening mandatory origin documentation in the Ag Department rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee counterfeiting operation which took place on the mainland USA 13 years ago. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.

David Bateman
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms
Holualoa, HI

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mokione@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roger Rittenhouse
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mokione@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

My name is Roger Rittenhouse. My wife and I own Moki's Farm in Captain Cook.

I am a member of the Kona Coffee Council and the Kona Coffee Farmers Association but am submitting this as an individual.

I personally think "self certification" will end very poorly for the Kona Coffee industry. The state doesn't really enforce the current standards now. I ship green bean (all certified and with no hassle ever - to date) and the only folks who have ever even mentioned State Certification are the folks at Kona Trans - bless them. OK - the state has looked at the shipment since the quarantine but not before it was in place. The labor and money spent on the increased enforcement area could hire another inspector(s) to speed the certification process - which I have never had a problem with.

To think that people will self certify themselves is some kind of joke. Because, here's the deal: someone has their coffee graded out and makes an Extra Fancy green bean sale. They just label their coffee Extra Fancy and ship it - right. I know that Extra Fancy has been down graded in some cases to Fancy due to bug damage in enough beans to fail the standard for Extra Fancy. So this sale goes through and people think they are getting Extra Fancy when really they are not. The only difference between this and the Kona Kai fraud is the customer is getting Kona coffee - maybe - but is not getting the grade they are paying for. Just another Kona Kai waiting down the road and given that people who buy green bean are alerted to our plight - it will probably happen sooner than later. Sorry to be so cynical but just don't see people behaving well when money is involved.

We need help from the State to better deal with the bug rather than abandon our standards. I oppose HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 1:46 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: info@ihilanicoffee.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Candi Johnson
Organization: `Ihilani Coffee Company
E-mail: info@ihilanicoffee.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

Against this as it will undo the HDOA inspection and certification system for green coffee 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. This is still a threat to Hawaiian coffeegrowers as evidenced by continuing efforts of coffee "blenders" diluting our coffee while profiting off our tradename KONA.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sjcollector@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Collector
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Association
E-mail: sjcollector@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 1:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: michael.conway@dole.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Conway
Organization: Dole Food Company/Waialua Estate Coffee
E-mail: michael.conway@dole.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
Chair & Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Conway. I am the Agriculture Manager for Dole Food Company Hawaii which owns and operates Waialua Estate Coffee.

Despite the long term effectiveness of the coffee certification program in maintaining a standard of quality and safeguarding the industry against fraud the current program has become cumbersome and problematic. The recent introduction of coffee berry borer (CBB) to the Big Island requires strict quarantine protocols be imposed and enforced in order to protect the rest of the industry from being contaminated. Clearly the CBB problem has created a new high priority requirement by HDOA inspectors and it is obvious that limited staffing statewide will not permit timely certification of coffee going forward. To put it another way, if CBB ever reaches our coffee farm on Oahu it is very likely we will go out of business rather than fight a costly losing battle.

We also support the current language of HB 280 which requireing origin documentation be mandatory.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 1:46 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: info@ihilanicoffee.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Candi Johnson
Organization: `Ihilani Coffee Company
E-mail: info@ihilanicoffee.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

Against this as it will undo the HDOA inspection and certification system for green coffee 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. This is still a threat to Hawaiian coffeegrowers as evidenced by continuing efforts of coffee "blenders" diluting our coffee while profiting off our tradename KONA.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gbiven@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gloria Biven
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gbiven@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB280. HB280 will eliminate the 'Mandatory Certification' of Hawaii Coffee grading, but also strengthens mandatory Origin documentation in the Ag Department Rules.

With all the manpower cut backs; and budget cuts in our systems, we all know what happens. The day stands still and so does our Grand Hawaiian Coffees. This would give the inspectors the opportunity to save time, gas, and rely on each other rather than the way it is now; not having enough time to cover all the coffees in a timely manner. Somebody gets left behind. This would also make it financially affordable for those involved in the coffee industry. From farmer to consumer and all in between, Coffees from Hawaii will then again be able to sustain itself.

Mahalo, gloria

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 10:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tikehara@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Terry Ikehara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tikehara@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 10:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: b davidson@wik.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandon Davidson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bdavidson@wik.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: KonaFancyJW@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jim Wayman
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Association
E-mail: KonaFancyJW@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:51 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gjstille@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Greg Stille
Organization: Maui Coffee Association
E-mail: gjstille@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

From: Greg Stille

President of the Maui Coffee Association I would appreciate testimony from you IN SUPPORT of HB 280 being heard by the Hawaii Legislature in the Finance Committee on Friday February [JW:] 24th at 1:30 am. Your written testimony can be submitted now. HB 280 removes the requirement that all Hawaiian Coffee be certified by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture before it can be removed from the growing origin. Under HB 280 Certification of grade will now be voluntary instead of mandatory but Origin Documentation will remain mandatory. For those growers who find it desirable for their business model to have State Certification of grade it will still be available on a voluntary basis.

Background: 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. One of our HCA members had a number of containers of green Kona coffee that were presold but could not be shipped due to a lack of State certification. In this case the farmers had been paid and all costs incurred by the member but they could not generate any revenue due to a lack of timely State certification. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture SUPPORTS HB 280 as does the Hawaii Coffee Association, the Kona Coffee Council and the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darrylhara@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darryl Hara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: darrylhara@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: patwayman@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Wayman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patwayman@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Please pass this bill. With the budget cuts there are not enough qualified people to fulfill this job of inspection and has also become very expensive for tax payers. Thank you for your consideration of this measure. Patricia Wayman

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jim Lenhart
Organization:
E-mail: jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Due to budget cuts there are not enough agents of the Department of Agriculture to certify all the coffee on the Big Island. Some farmers had to wait over four weeks. I support HB 280 which eliminates the mandatory certification of Hawaii coffee grading.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: f_fong2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Francine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: f_fong2004@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:24 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stewkona@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patrick Stewart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stewkona@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 2:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
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: 2/22/2012

Comments:

To: Rep. Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee
From: Bruce Corker
Re OPPOSITION TO HB280/HD1

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 first appeared as a matter of record less than 10 days ago on February 13--with ZERO prior consultation with the Kona Coffee Farmers Association and its more than 320 members.

This is a measure that threatens grave consequences for Hawaii coffee growers. The abolition of a longstanding inspection, certification, and enforcement system designed to protect the reputation of Hawaii-grown coffees would be a mistake. This is a bill that should only be considered after full review with and input from the State's coffee farmers.

SB280/HD1 seeks to undo 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.

The only rationale advanced in support of SB280 by the Coffee Middlemen and 10% Coffee Blenders is that a reduction in the number of HDOA inspectors has increased the time needed for inspection and certification. If delay, in fact, is the concern, the obvious solution is to hire more inspectors paid for by inspection fees. Abandoning a protective system that has worked well for many years is foolish.

Rather than moving backwards, the State of Hawaii should be strengthening its 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 and the State of Hawaii to the risks of 'international embarrassment' similar to that which resulted from the Kona Kai Coffee Fraud Scandal.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 2:54 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maria@coffeesofhawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maria Holmes
Organization: Coffees of Hawaii, LLC - Molokai
E-mail: maria@coffeesofhawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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 lost out on Kona Coffee Sales in our operation because of this. We feel that the Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: randy@randyphillips.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randall Phillips
Organization: Kona View Coffee
E-mail: randy@randyphillips.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

The coffee industry in Hawaii has been seriously hurt in the past by passing off inferior coffee as grown in Kona. The bill in place was to help insure that buyers of Kona green coffee were actually buying coffee grown here. To remove the requirement to have coffee inspected and certified as grown here is a big mistake. We have almost lost any value in the name Kona Coffee because of the lack of support from the state to protect our name - please try to sell sparkling wine from California with the name "Champagne" and see where it gets you (in a lawsuit.) If you take this very meager requirement to have Kona Coffee certified as such you will be taking another step to potentially degrade our name. If the argument is that the processing time to certify makes commerce difficult for the bulk buyers of our beans then do something to speed it up. Please do not abandon one of the few protections the state has deemed appropriate help Kona Coffee growers. If you want our industry to survive and continue to add allure to Hawaii as a travel destination please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Randy Phillips & Atsumi Hara
Kona view Coffee
Holualoa, HI

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:41 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mauioma@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Gridley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mauioma@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

In the past two years, it has been increasingly difficult to get coffee certified for shipment. This is due in large part to staffing cut backs in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the strict rules about state certification of origin and grade. Shipments from Kona have been held up 4-6 weeks while waiting for HDOA certification. This is severely impeding the flow of commerce for a key coffee districts that are struggling to meet demands. I support doing away with mandatory state certification and replacing it with a voluntary system of quality grading accompanied by a mandatory documentation to verify the origin of coffee before it leaves its growing region. The limited HDOA staff would be more beneficial to the industry to use its time enforcing the current rules rather than inspecting coffee. The proposed change that makes grade certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save the state money and hopefully create time for the HDOA to better enforce the current rules of origin documentation.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: konagene@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gene Pike
Organization: Individual
E-mail: konagene@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: petrus@cerrogrande.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Juan Dufar
Organization: Individual
E-mail: petrus@cerrogrande.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: devotedninspired@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wendy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: devotedninspired@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

Thank you for your help

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 3:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mwitter@heinrich.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marc Witter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mwitter@heinrich.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 that eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: colemel@kanalanifarm.org
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colehour Bondera
Organization: Kananani Ohana Farm
E-mail: colemel@kanalanifarm.org
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
Aloha!

Please consider Kona coffee farmers, like myself, when considering this piece of legislation. HB 280 removes the involvement of the State of Hawaii from the certainty that coffee coming from here is from Hawaii at all! The large scale processors/blenders can not only control the markets, but have no oversight from the local government, who should be protecting the local farmers!

(product of designated origin is not a self-declared descriptor. We must together have rules that we agree to which ensure that any consumer (locally or internationally) knows what is in a bag so marked!

I ask that you do NOT approve this piece of legislation and instead let supporters bring it to the table with all involved in inspecting and approving of coffees, and clearly the coffee farmers must be part of that discussion.

Thank you for listening and recognizing that the damage to the coffee industry from this far outweighs any immediate benefits, and that we need to look better at how to work together. We need to ensure that Hawaii inspections can happen of product so that scandals that have happened in the past are not repeated!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Falconer
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Oshiro and members,

On behalf of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, I urge your support for passage of this measure to help the industry manage its ability to get our product to market in a timely manner.

Our Association accounts for better than 70% of the State's coffee production. We adhere to quality standards we have written into the rules ourselves and intend to continue keeping to those standards. However, we cannot allow our market to disappear due to the State's inability to properly man up the department per the guidelines of those rules. Please assist his industry by changing the wording to voluntary from Mandatory.

Thank you,

Kimo Falconer, President, Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 6:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kathygedeon1@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kathy gedeon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kathygedeon1@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Please help small farmers keep Kona coffee quality coffee. Don't help big organizations blend and not represent the real taste of 100%.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Scarr
Organization: Daily Fix Coffee
E-mail: sandrascar@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:
To the Finance 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.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pauhanaestate@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Weaver
Organization: Pau Hana Estate, L.L.C.
E-mail: pauhanaestate@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Just because there are not enough inspectors is no reason to drop all inspections of Kona Coffee and leave consumers unprotected from unscrupulous sellers just out to make a buck.

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 its California Wines.

The HDOA inspection and certification system 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. The intent was to assure remotely located mainland and foreign buyers that they were actually getting Kona coffee.

We had a major problem in the past, what makes us think it won't happen again? The State of Hawaii should not be abandoning its anti-counterfeiting system--a system that has worked well for many years.

This measure should be deferred until coffee growers have had full opportunity to review the bill and provide full input to the Legislature.

Sincerely,
Carol Weaver
Pau Hana Estate, LLC

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: victor.lim@partners.mcd.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victor Lim
Organization: McDonalds of Hawaii
E-mail: victor.lim@partners.mcd.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

As a 40 year user of Kona Blend coffee in Hawaii, we fully support HB 280 and it's intent.m

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: josephinetan333@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josephine Tan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: josephinetan333@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maukafire@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Carroll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maukafire@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

This measure is a slap in the face to kona coffee farmers and an out rage that it made a hearing at all. Really goes to show blenders really do have politicians in their pockets over there, especially in light of the recent CBB problems with the bug coming in on imported green beans! HELLO! Kona coffee should be protected like fine wine is in California.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: marlin658@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven M. McLaughlin
Organization: Captain Cook Coffee Company
E-mail: marlin658@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii Coffee Grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. In the past 2 years, Certification of coffee has become cumbersome and problematic. Budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture have led to furloughs and 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. As a coffee farmer and coffee processor, we had to wait for over 4 weeks during the peak of the season for final Certification of our coffee. The Department of Agriculture manpower resources would be better used to enforce the current rules rather than just inspecting coffee. The current Grading Certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. We now have a program that goes too far requiring state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed, "strong Mandatory Origin Documentation." The proposed change makes Grade certification voluntary and Origin documentation Mandatory. This change will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide protection for Hawaiian coffee. As one of the original Coffee companies that was involved establishing Hawaii State Certification, I now support HB 280 because I know that members of the Hawaii Coffee Association, Kona Coffee Council and Hawaii Coffee Growers Association are 100% involved in protecting Hawaiian Coffee.

Thank you
Captain Cook Coffee Company

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: larrywilkens@roadrunner.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: larry wilkens
Organization: mainland ventures
E-mail: larrywilkens@roadrunner.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 280 which eliminates Mandatory Certification of Hawaii coffee grading while strengthening Mandatory Origin Documentation in the Ag Department Rules. 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. The current grading certification program was brought about by a Kona Coffee Counterfeiting operation which took place on the Mainland USA. What was needed at the time was a strong program in Hawaii which would document the origin of Hawaiian Coffee. Instead we got a program that went too far and required state certification of grading standards to control quality. The program has been costly to Hawaii tax payers and has not produced what was needed (strong mandatory origin documentation). The proposed change making Grade Certification voluntary and origin documentation mandatory will save money for the State of Hawaii and provide better protection for Hawaiian Coffee.

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Falconer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

Chair Oshiro and members of the Finance Committee, I am writing this from a coffee grower's perspective and the only grower of Certified Maui origin coffee. I urge you to pass this bill through due to the extreme need we in the industry have to deliver our product to the market. The term "voluntary" certification will not change our quality standards. We fully intend to follow the rules of the HDOA addressing this. The fact that there is lacking inspection capacity is really hurting us. We are handcuffed and need relief. Please accept this testimony supporting HB-280.

Ohalo,
Kimo Falconer, President/Owner, MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: honaunau8@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Quinn
Organization: The Governor's Choice Coffee Farm
E-mail: honaunau8@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

Protect Kona Coffee Farmers and keep the inspection requirements

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 9:23 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: decker_bryce@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryce Decker
Organization: Kona Coffee Farmers' Assovciations
E-mail: decker_bryce@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

This is the worst kind of deregulation, because it invites abuse of the good reputation of our own Kona coffee. Certification for export was mandated in response to the Kona Kai scandal in the 90s which saw coffee wholesalers routinely selling Central American coffee under the Kona label.

It will happen again if de-certification passes into law because counterfeiting Kona coffee is so profitable. Such sharp practice can be worth worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to unscrupulous coffee wholesalers.

Do Please vote against this attempt to remove one of the very few protections of our world-class Hawaii-origin product.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Friday, February 24, 2012 9:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bendysart@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Dysart
Organization: Dysart Farms
E-mail: bendysart@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2012

Comments:

SB280/HD1 appears to be undoing the State's response to the Kona Kai scandal. The HDOA inspection and certification system was designed to guarantee that coffee identified as Kona coffee actually originated with inspection in Kona and what the seller was certifying to the HDOA that it was grown in Kona, and secondarily to establish some quality controls which includes the grading. The intent was to assure remotely located mainland and foreign buyers that they were actually getting Kona coffee.

We had a major problem in the past, what makes us think it won't happen again? The State of Hawaii should not be abandoning its anti-counterfeiting system--a system that has worked well for many years.

I believe that this measure should be defeated but if not then the measure should be deferred until coffee growers have had full opportunity to review the bill and provide full input to the Legislature.

Mahalo, Ben Dysart, member KCFA

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Roger Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I Strongly Support HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dsayad@socopac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David S Sayad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dsayad@socopac.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 280 which eliminates mandatory certification of hawaii coffee grading while strengthening mandatory origin documentation in the ag department rules.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Hieret
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I strongly Support HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:15 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bigdog46@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Zac Tagavilla
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: bigdog46@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I Strongly Support HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ken@mycoffee.net
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ken love
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ken@mycoffee.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

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.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Casey Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I Strongly Support HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Roger Kaiwi
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
E-mail: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I Strongly Support HB280.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: m-a-c-k@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: maile kaohi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: m-a-c-k@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: orlandowpb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Orlando O'Campo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: orlandowpb@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bobmatt01@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB280 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB280

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Mattingly
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bobmatt01@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments: