

Honolulu, Hawaii
March 21, 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2913
S.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 2913, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect Hawaii's coffee industry, producer of one of the top commodities in the State, from counterfeiting by expanding the scope of the offense of False Labeling of Hawaii-Grown Coffee to include:

- (1) The false labeling of natural coffee, roasted coffee, and instant coffee, in addition to green coffee, cherry coffee, or parchment coffee with regard to geographic origin; and
- (2) The false labeling of those coffees specified above with regard to grade standard classification, or the use of geographic origin in the labeling of roasted or instant coffee if the green coffee beans used in the roasted or instant coffee do not meet grade standard classifications for Hawaii-grown coffee.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau, Greenwell Farms, Kona Coffee Council, Hawaii Coffee Association, Royal Kona Coffee Visitor Center Mill & Museum, Maui Coffee Association, Edmund C. Olson Trust II, and several concerned individuals supported this measure. The Department of Agriculture supported the intent of this bill.

SB2913 SD1 HSCR AGR HMS 2014-2732



Lions Gate Farms, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Lavarock Farm, Kanalani Ohana Farm, and numerous concerned individuals opposed this measure.

Your Committee respectfully requests that your Committees on Consumer Protection and Commerce and Judiciary give special attention to the question of whether the same record requirements should apply to all coffee roasted in Hawaii to prevent coffee counterfeiting or whether exemptions may be allowed for small, farm to table coffee farms. Your Committee recognizes that those supporting this measure generally represent larger farms and coffee processors that also process and roast coffee from other farms. Those opposing this bill generally represent small-scale farms in the Kona District of Hawaii County who harvest, process, roast, and sell coffee direct from farm to table. Representatives from these small-scale farms advised your Committee that the measure would impose burdensome new regulation on small-scale, farm to table businesses for which there is no history of coffee counterfeiting.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2913, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture,


JESSICA WOOLEY, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-seventh Legislature

HSR 1112-14

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2913, SD1	Committee Referral: AGR, CPC/JUD	Date: 3/17/2014		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOOLEY, Jessica (C)	/			
2. ONISHI, Richard H.K. (VC)	/			
3. AWANA, Karen				/
4. BROWER, Tom	/			
5. CACHOLA, Romy M.	/			
6. CHOY, Isaac W.	/			
7. OHNO, Takashi	/			
8. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	/			
9. TSUJI, Clift	/			
10. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	/			
11. WARD, Gene	/			
TOTAL (11)	10			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				