
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ESTABLISH THE PROTOCOL TO BE USED AND FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED IN A STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE KONA COFFEE INDUSTRY FROM POSSIBLE CHANGES TO COFFEE LABELING LAWS.

1 WHEREAS, the production and sale of coffee is a major
2 industry in the State, with coffee from Kona being world
3 renowned; and
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5 WHEREAS, there has been contentious debate for decades
6 regarding the labeling requirements for Kona coffee, including
7 minimum percentage content; and
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9 WHEREAS, one factor brought up by those involved on both
10 sides of this debate is that changing the labeling requirements
11 will have an economic impact on the State's coffee farmers and
12 industry; and
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14 WHEREAS, based on this repeatedly discussed factor, a
15 neutral economic impact study must be completed to fully
16 understand what economic impacts, if any, will result from
17 changes to Hawaii's coffee labeling requirements; and
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19 WHEREAS, in order to ensure that an economic impact study
20 is conducted neutrally, stakeholders in the coffee industry must
21 mutually agree to the protocol used to conduct, and the factors
22 to be addressed in, a study; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2016, that the University of Hawaii Economic Research
27 Organization is requested to convene a working group to
28 establish the protocol to be used and factors to be addressed in
29 a study on the economic impact on the Kona coffee industry from
30 possible changes to coffee labeling laws; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization is requested to chair the working group, and invite the following people, or their designees, to be members of the working group:

- (1) Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- (2) Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
- (3) President of the Board of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association;
- (4) President of the Board of the Hawaii Coffee Association;
- (5) Executive Director of Hawaii Farm Bureau; and
- (6) President of the Board of Hawaii Farmers Union United; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, on behalf of the working group, is requested to submit findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, President of the Board of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, President of the Board of the Hawaii Coffee Association, Executive Director of Hawaii Farm Bureau, and President of the Board of Hawaii Farmers Union United.

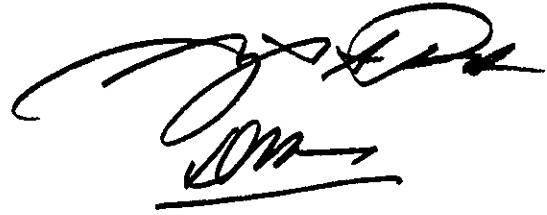
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H.R. NO. 56



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MAR 10 2016

