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Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 30, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 909
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 909, which expands the offense of false-labeling of Hawaii-grown coffee to include grade standard violations and all stages of Hawaii-grown coffee. The department supports the intent of the bill.

Act 328, SLH 2012 established criminal penalties for Hawaii-grown cherry, parchment and green coffee, however it overlooked the enforcement on fraudulent Hawaii-grown roasted coffee.

An effective enforcement/prosecution on roasted coffee will require a scientific method to determine the actual origin of the coffee to prove the fraudulent claim. The department has been informed of a methodology that can determine a chemical fingerprint to determine the production area of other commodities. The department is unaware if this methodology can be expanded to coffee, or if it can determine an accurate percentage for a blended product. In addition, the department currently lacks the resources to cover the cost of the analysis and an appropriation will be needed in order to effectively prove any fraudulent occurrence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

HB-909

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:35:54 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Truth and transparency are important at all levels for an informed populous. Corporate secrets do not necessarily benefit the public.

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