

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1709

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 , 2023

RE: H.R. No. 132

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.R. No. 132 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-GROWN TEA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to recommend appropriate labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee acknowledges that the leaves of tea grown in the State's volcanic soil can embody a distinct and unique flavor of citrus and a subtle honey-like sweetness. These unique qualities of taste create the potential for Hawaii-grown tea to become a premium agricultural commodity. Your Committee further finds that labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea would help to protect and promote the viability of the budding tea industry in the State and that the Department of Agriculture is well suited to study and recommend such requirements.

2023-3048 HR132 HSCR HMSO



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 132 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,



CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



