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April 4, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1250, HD1
RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1250, HD1, which imposes labeling requirements for Māmaki tea grown in the State and appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to administer the Māmaki tea labeling requirements.

Māmaki, a Hawaiian endemic shrub, is only found in Hawai'i which makes it uniquely Hawaiian. It can be found as a bush, shrub, or tree and its leaves are used to make herbal tea.

The Māmaki tea industry is a fairly new industry, so we must protect this culturally important agricultural crop from deceptive or misleading labels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

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Honolulu, O'ahu

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Kauai

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB1250.**

We believe that HB1250 Mamaki Tea is important legislation because it will help to ensure that mamaki tea is accurately labeled, and only mamaki tea produced in the state of Hawaii is sold to consumers. Appropriated funds to the department of agriculture to cover the administrative costs necessary for this labeling requirement is further necessary for the protection and fair promotion of mamaki tea.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

LATE

HB-1250-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:42:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Suport