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March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HCR 131/HR 132
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAWAII-GROWN
TEA

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 HCR 131/HR 132, which requests that the Department of Agriculture conduct a study to recommend appropriate labeling requirements for Hawaii-grown tea.

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 fairly new, so we must protect this culturally important agricultural crop from deceptive or misleading labels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:35:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romelynne Navarrete	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support! As we look at ways to diversify our economy, we must identify industries and commodities that have the potential to thrive in Hawaii. This resolution does precisely that.

Please consider passing this measure.

Mahalo!