

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2278, H.D. 1, RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Travis T. Moon or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General respectfully submits comments regarding this bill.

This bill proposes to amend section 486-120.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by including additional labeling requirements for macadamia nuts to list the countries of origin of the portion of the raw or processed macadamia nuts not grown in Hawaii on the principal display panel pursuant to section 304 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1304), as amended.

The country-of-origin labeling requirement on page 2, line 19, through page 3, line 3, of the bill may be subject to challenge under the United States Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which provides that the laws of the United States are declared to be supreme to those of the individual states. See U.S. Const. art. VI, cl. 2.

The Federal Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 1638, *et seq.*) (federal act), and its corresponding regulation, title 7 Code of Federal Regulations part 65 (federal regulation), require retailers to inform consumers of the country of origin of raw macadamia nuts.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA), provides in the Federal Register (promulgating 7 C.F.R. part 65), that the language of the federal act "is clear" that Congress intended to preempt state law. See Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Goat Meat, Wild

and Farm-Raised Fish and Shellfish, Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Peanuts, Pecans, Ginseng, and Macadamia Nuts, 74 FR 2658 at 2679, 2701 (January 15, 2009) as confirmed in 78 FR 3137, 3184-3185 (May 24, 2013). A state's country of origin labeling requirement that encompasses commodities governed by this federal regulation is preempted. See id. at 2701. As stated above, the federal act and the corresponding federal regulation specifically regulates country of origin labeling of macadamia nuts offered for sale, and State law on this matter is preempted. See 7 C.F.R. § 65.135. Labeling requirements for processed macadamia nuts, however, are allowed. See 7 C.F.R. §§ 65.220 and 65.300(c). To avoid the Supremacy Clause issue, we recommend deleting the words "raw or" on page 2, line 20, of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2278, HD1
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2278, HD1. This measure clarifies labeling requirements for macadamia nuts. Requires country of origin to be included on the principal display panel of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this bill and requests one full-time inspector for enforcement as long as it does not impact the budget priorities set forth in the Executive Budget Submittal.

DOA's Measurement Standards Branch currently enforces section 486-120.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to labeling requirements of macadamia nuts. We support the strengthening of this statute with the language in this bill. Truth in labeling should prevent companies from misusing the origin of the actual macadamia product used and consumers being confused that they are getting a Hawaiian origin product when it may have been outsourced from another country. In addition, we ask you to support funding a dedicated position at the SR-22 level, beginning salary of \$63,000 to



enforce these laws which will help rebuild the Department of Agriculture packaging and labeling enforcement capability that was eliminated in 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:34:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merle C. Alvarado	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai'i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Who really benefits from this Bill? No one.

Not the Growers. Who will they sell their nuts to? If they can't sell the nuts, it will sit on the ground and rot.

Not the Manufacturing/Processing businesses. They need to lay off people to change packaging. What about the product in the market?



Testimony of Andrew Trump

Island Harvest Inc.

February 22, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Andrew Trump and I am a second-generation macadamia farmer writing on behalf of Island Harvest Inc. to support House Bill 2278 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts. Island Harvest manages over 500-acres of organic macadamia nuts in Kapa'au on the Island of Hawai'i. In addition to macadamia nuts, we grow breadfruit, limes, and raise sheep. As a farming company, we employ agricultural and business practices that contribute positively to our environment and community while ensuring that our farming team can work in a safe environment.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

We are not opposed to macadamia nuts grown in foreign countries being sold in Hawai'i, however, consumers should not be misled to believe that the product they are purchasing contains Hawaiian macadamia nuts when it does not.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Andrew Trump

Vice President

Island Harvest Inc.



TO: Representative Tarnas, Chair House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Representative Takayama, Vice Chair
House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Ed Schultz
President & CEO, Hawaiian Host Group

RE: **HB 2278 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Hawaiian Host Group (HHG) is a legacy Hawaii company whose roots date back to nearly 100 years in our islands. Our founders, Mamoru and Aiko Takitani from Maui, created the first chocolate covered macadamia confections from Hawaii helping to create the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii and to innovate macadamia nut products. These macadamia nut chocolates are now known and shared all over the world.

HHG has been a company dedicated to its Hawaii roots, proudly employing over 400 local employees - many that have been with us for decades – in our farm and manufacturing plants on Oahu and the Big Island. There are even generations of families in some cases working side by side in our factories, continuing to grow their legacy with our company.

HHG is also the largest buyer of local Hawaii grown macadamia nuts as well as being one the largest macadamia landowners and growers. We at HHG understand and fully support the local macadamia industry and believe there is tremendous potential for growth. However, there are several concerns with the bill both from a business perspective and a legal viewpoint and believe it will ultimately cause harm to the industry.

First, the main challenge for the industry is not in the purchase of local macadamia nuts but in processing capacity. There is not enough capacity to process all of the nuts grown in Hawaii. At the start of harvest in September 2023, HHG offered to purchase nuts from all growers who were willing to harvest their orchard.

Additionally, the macadamia nut market price is substantially lower than it was only a few years ago due to an excess of available product and other nuts around the world. While this is frustrating for growers, it is a market force of supply and demand driving the price. Today the price HHG is paying to growers this season is at a 35% premium to the Australia farm gate prices from the 2023 harvest.

We should focus on the real issue that the industry is facing, the tremendous shortage of processing capacity and modern world-class facilities. In order for Agriculture to thrive, size and scale matter. As an island industry we have not build a modern nut processing plan in over 30 years and the largest one that Mauna Loa owned was built in 1971 and today is shut down due to age and boilers that were in violation of EPA and Hawaii Department of Health regulations.



Since a similar bill was introduced in 2023, HHG has worked hard to invest in a vision that we believe benefits, growers, processors and branded food companies based in Hawaii.

1. In early April 2023 soon after the HB1348 did not pass, HHG convened a working group, to discuss a potential new co-op plant to be built in Kea'au that would benefit many constituents. Mauna Loa, MacFarms, Hamakua Macadamia/Olsen Trust, Island Harvest Macadamia, Mahi Pono, Island Princess Macadamia, Ahualoa Farms and three independent growers on the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association Legislative Committee attended several sessions in person and via Zoom. Leaders of other local Ag co-ops were consulted as well as an attorney in the Midwest who has advised large co-ops including Land O'Lakes, one of the largest Ag co-op in the U.S. Unfortunately, this group did not agree on a co-op structure as many still wanted to forge a totally independent path.
2. On April 14, 2023, Hawaiian Host Group invested \$26 million to acquire 4,000 acres of macadamias and a nut processing plant in South Kona from an Australian investment group. This farm produces 8-10 million lbs of macadamias a year and this year will process another 6-7 million lbs of nuts grown by independent local farms.
3. In Summer 2023, HHG invested funds to design a new 80,000 sqft macadamia plant in Kea'au that we believe would solidify the states macadamia processing capacity and improve efficiencies in order to be more competitive in the global macadamia market. In Hawaii our processing costs are at least \$2.00/lb higher than in Australia, the 2nd largest macadamia producing country, which has similar operating costs to Hawaii (labor rates, benefits, energy costs, insurance, etc). This gap is wasted money that is tied up in costs that do not benefit growers, processors or consumers. This must change if the macadamia industry is going to survive in Hawaii. More importantly, it would mean increased profitability for growers and companies like HHG.

The future of the local macadamia nut industry is being able to have a technologically advanced plant where local nuts can be processed and utilized by companies like HHG in their products or for independent brands or growers to sell direct. We should be focused on how to grow the industry rather than cannibalizing local businesses.

Finally, and most specifically for this committee, there are substantial legal concerns about the implementation of this bill. These concerns were on display during the House Consumer Protection Committee hearing on February 16, where Representatives Belatti and Onishi were asking simple questions to the Assistant Attorney General and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture about the implementation of the HB2278 and they could not provide clear answers. If the committee members would like to review the session it is at the 1h 51m mark of the recording of the February 16 hearing the House Committee of Consumer Protection and Commerce held.

Specifically here are our legal concerns that the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs committee should take into account when reviewing HB2278

- 1. May be found void for vagueness.** HB2278 fails to give notice that will enable ordinary people a reasonable opportunity to understand what it prohibits so they may act accordingly; and provide explicit standards for those who will be tasked with applying the law. *See Planned Parenthood of Cent. & N. Arizona v. State of Ariz.*, 718 F.2d 938, 948 (9th Cir.1983) (holding that a statute is void for vagueness if persons of common intelligence must necessarily guess at its meaning); *Chicago v Morales*, 527 U.S. 41, 119 S.Ct. 1849, 144 L.Ed.2d 67 (1999) (recognizing that vagueness may invalidate a statute for two independent reasons: “[f]irst, it may fail to provide the kind of notice that will enable ordinary people to understand what conduct it prohibits; second, it may authorize and even encourage arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement.”). We see at least several issues with HB2278 as currently written, including:

First, that HB2278 provides that the use of “branding” on packaging of a product which contains raw or processed macadamia nuts *per se* (automatically and by itself) represents the origin of the raw or processed macadamia nuts as being from any place within the State, is overbroad and susceptible of being found void for its vagueness. HB2278 does not require that the use of “branding” be used together with an express written representation that the macadamia nuts were in fact grown in Hawai‘i, *e.g.*, “Hawai‘i-Grown Macadamia Nuts.” The phrase “branding” or “representing” is an undefined term that on its face, is overbroad, vague and ambiguous. For example, HB2278 does not require that the branding depict any natural or manmade landmark that is famous or provide explicit standards to allow ordinary persons to understand what qualifies as branding or representing that macadamias were grown in the State. Under HB2278, “ordinary” and / or “generic” images of coconut, macadamia nuts, plumeria, hibiscus, and orchids which are often associated with, but are neither native nor exclusive to the State, could arguably trigger compliance. Similarly, images of ordinary and / or generic beach scenery, pineapple fields, or volcanos could be misattributed as being “branding” or “representing” when in fact they are not.

Second, HB2278 creates a bright line rule that a company name alone can represent the origin of the raw or processed macadamia nuts as being from any place within the State, but does not articulate the criteria by which a company name necessarily represents the origin of the macadamia nuts as being from any place within the State. Under HB2278, arguably, a company name which includes words such as “Hawaiian”, geographic descriptors such as “Hawai‘i”, “Diamond Head”, “Kaua‘i”, “Maui”, “Honolulu”, or “Hilo”, or Hawaiian language words such as “Aloha” or “Mele”, whether used together or with other words, could require compliance with HB2278.

- 2. May violate the dormant Commerce Clause.** HB2278 may violate the dormant Commerce Clause to the extent it (1) discriminates against interstate commerce in favor of in-state commerce; and (2) imposes a burden on interstate commerce that is excessive relative to the putative benefits as there has been no demonstration that the



intent of HB2278 cannot be served by reasonable nondiscriminatory alternatives. HB2278 is not facially discriminatory, but appears purposefully discriminatory because it burdens commerce, including interstate commerce, with new onerous labeling requirements for macadamia nut products designed and specifically intended to benefit of Hawai'i based mac nut farmers.

3. May conflict with the policy of federal trademark law under the Lanham Act.

Hawaiian Host and Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company are the owners of dozens of well-known and widely recognized federal and state trademarks (as well as trademarks registered in other countries). Hawaiian Host and Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company have spent significant time, energy, and expense promoting their respective trademarks and those trademarks have accrued considerable value and goodwill to each company as a result thereof. Each company's claims of ownership in their respective trademarks are based upon long existing and clearly delineated common law and statutory rights. These rights constitute legally protectable property. As to the trademarks for which Hawaiian Host and Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company hold federal registrations, the federal trademark laws are designed to promote and encourage uniform trademark use, and to discourage activities which would result in confusion among purchasers. To the extent local labeling regulations, such as HB2278, disproportionately burdens those owning federally registered marks incorporating Hawai'i "branding" or "representing" place names, words or images, and effectively require those marks to be modified to comply with local labeling regulations, this would produce a result that conflicts with the underlying policy of federal trademark law to promote and encourage uniform trademark use.

In conclusion, while HB2278 is well intended, it will not benefit growers as believed, but in fact will hurt the jobs of a large legacy agriculture company in Hawaii. Our 400+ local employees want to grow the macadamia industry in Hawaii, on the mainland and abroad. When we do this, all will benefit our agricultural ecosystem.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to defer this measure and allow the industry to work together on a solution that will help to increase the macadamia nut production in Hawaii. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Testimony of Nathan Trump

Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278: RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Nathan Trump, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association in strong support of House Bill 2278: RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i and macadamia nuts have been linked since the early 1900s when Hawai'i became the birthplace of the commercial macadamia nut industry. Macadamia nuts became especially important to Hawai'i's economy when sugar cane became infeasible, and farmers began to seek alternative ways to support themselves and the communities that had been created around important agricultural lands.

Today, Hawai'i has built a globally recognized brand around Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts, but unfortunately, the Hawai'i brand is now being used to market macadamia nuts grown in foreign countries. Hawaiian words, place names, and images of Hawai'i's beautiful landscapes are being used on packaging of macadamia nut products that contain foreign grown macadamia nuts.

Hawai'i's macadamia nuts have a special taste, unique crunch, and are grown almost exclusively under non-irrigated rainfed orchards. Unlike macadamia nuts grown in other parts of the world, almost all Hawai'i macadamia nuts are insecticide-free.

Macadamia nuts are growing in popularity as people recognize the importance of healthy fats and Hawai'i is well-positioned with its reputation for beauty, cleanliness, and luxury, to increase the agricultural value of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. Unfortunately, Hawai'i's macadamia industry is not growing as farmers face the threat of cheaper macadamia nuts of foreign origin flowing into the Hawaii market.

The impact of the increased prevalence of foreign-grown macadamia nuts has had a clear negative impact on Hawai'i's growers the past few years. In 2022, many growers were not able to find buyers for their crop, and those who did saw the farmgate value of in-shell macadamia nuts plummet. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value. 2023 statistics are not yet available, but growers report that while they've been able to find a market for their macadamia nuts, the prices they are receiving are not enough to cover the cost of production for most growers.

We need clear action from Hawai'i's state government to address the concerns of Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers. The Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association believes HB2278 is the clear action our farmers, processors, and consumers need to re-establish the authenticity and integrity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut industry.

We want to be clear, if we do not see action taken during the 2024 legislative session, we will see numerous small and large farms reduce their operation size and/or cease to exist. We are not asking for a handout, we are asking the legislature to ensure proper labeling so that consumers are not misled and Hawai'i's reputation for beauty, authenticity, and aloha remains intact. Mahalo for receiving our testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Trump". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nathan Trump

President

Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association

Testimony of Jeffrey Clark

Ka'u Farms Management and Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jeffrey Clark. I manage Ka'u Farms Management which grows Hawaii-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u and Hilo. I am the Chief Operating Officer of the Edmund C Olson Trust No 2 which owns Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company and Ka'u Farms Management. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Our organization farms macadamia nuts in Ka'u and Hilo on approximately 1,500 acres of land. We also process macadamia nuts in our factory at Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company in Kawaihae. We use only Hawai'i-grown nuts.

The macadamia nut industry is a significant contributor to Hawaii's agricultural economy. There are currently about 16,000 acres of macadamia nuts statewide on roughly 620 farms. In 2021, the industry generated \$62.73 million (51 million pounds of wet-in shell sales), and in 2020, it was the 2nd largest agricultural commodity produced in Hawai'i, behind only seed crops. There are about 650 farms, which employ thousands of workers growing macadamia nuts in Hawaii.

Now, the industry is **failing** due to the fact that the largest brands do not purchase most of their mac nuts from Hawaiian growers. Instead, they now rely largely on foreign nuts, mostly from Africa, which are much cheaper. Then, they peddle these foreign nuts in packaging that exploit their brands' long-standing history in Hawai'i without explaining they are selling "a taste of Africa," not a taste of Hawai'i.

This practice creates the greatest threat to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawaii. Unfortunately, there is now little or no regulation to prevent the use of Hawaiian names and images in marketing macadamia nuts grown outside of Hawaii.

Consumers are not made aware that many of the macadamia nut products sold in Hawaii contain little to no Hawaii-grown nuts. It is in the best interest of the consumers of the state to clarify the labeling regulations and end the practice of misleading labeling.

In Hawaii, the macadamia nut industry is slightly smaller than the coffee industry at the farm level. Unlike coffee, the macadamia industry does not have labelling laws to protect farmers from brands that use less than 100% Hawaii-grown crop. Like coffee, there are many products that use macadamia as an ingredient. Many products use coffee or macadamia such as chocolate products, cookies, ice cream and other confections. The legislation under HB2278 seeks to strengthen the law to protect the farming community and inform consumers.

This is the perfect time to incorporate these new regulations under HB2278.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Clark', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Clark

Chief Operating Officer

Edmund C Olson Trust No. 2 / Ka'u Farms Management / Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2278, HD1
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Conference Room & Videoconference
9:10 AM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, 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 2278, HD1, which clarifies labeling requirements for macadamia nuts and requires country of origin to be included on the principal display panel of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts.

Hawai'i is the 5th largest producer of macadamia nuts in the world (620 farms, operating on 17,000 acres), after Australia, South Africa, China, and Kenya. Production in 2021 totaled 51 million pounds; the farm value was estimated at \$62.7 million.

The Hawai'i macadamia nut industry is under great stress from economic and environmental pressures. One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. Currently, there is little to no regulation to prevent the use of Hawaiian names to market macadamia nuts grown outside of Hawai'i. HB 2278, HD1, enacts positive changes to protect macadamia nut farmers in the State and the premium brand of goods grown and produced in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services

February 23, 2024

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2278 HD1, RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Reggie Souza and I am a farmer of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in the districts of Kea'au and Ka'u on the Big Island. I am pleading with you to strongly support House Bill HB2278 HD1, RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I have farmed macadamia nuts for 36 years. Throughout all of these years, I have witnessed so many challenges that our macadamia nut industry has had to endure, especially after the covid pandemic. Today, the Hawai'i macadamia nut farmers like me are facing the greater challenge of having to compete with low-cost foreign kernels. Well-known local brands have replaced our nuts with foreign macadamia nuts in their products but have continued to market their products as Hawai'i-grown nuts. This is deceptive to Hawai'i's people and visitors. Growers are just asking that companies be required to label the origin of their nuts. HB2278 HD1 will give Hawai'i growers a chance to keep our jobs and save Hawaii's macadamia nut industry.

Like many of our employees, I too have family members working for our company. My wife, sons, daughter, and son-in-law all work in the industry. Employees who live and work in Ka'u are proud of what we do and have virtually no other job options in the area because Ka'u is an hour and a half drive from Hilo and it's also an hour and a half drive to Kona. Pahala is a small rural community that is an old sugar plantation farming town that farms coffee and macadamia nuts. We currently employ multiple families in this area. What will happen to these families if we can no longer stay in business?

As a macadamia nut farmer, my biggest fear is that we will end up just like sugar and pineapple; closed down. We have 180 employees, and the majority of them are ILWU members. This also affects the smaller local macadamia farmers. Some of them have suffered so badly that they have now begun to clear off the macadamia nut trees from their land. It's sad to see these trees that have taken nearly 20 years to reach maturity be cut down.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Reggie Souza
Orchard Manager
Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services

Testimony of Cara Souza



Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 HD1 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Cara Souza, and I am an employee of Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services which farms Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Kea' au and Ka'u on the Big Island. I am writing to you in strong support of House Bill HB2278 HD1 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

This bill will require listing the origin of foreign macadamia nuts in Hawaii branded products and will help protect Hawaii farmers and their employees. Protecting our way of life is of the utmost importance to me.

I am a second-generation macadamia farm employee. My dad, a Vietnam veteran, found employment with Mauna Kea Sugar that lasted for 24 years. By the 1990's most of the sugar production had stopped as sugar became cheaper to produce elsewhere.

When the sugar mill closed, my dad found employment with the macadamia farm that lasted for another 22 years until his retirement in 2016. My dad was not a rich man, but he provided for our family and taught us the value of hard work and dedication.

Some of my best memories are of when I would get to go to the orchard with him. He inspired me to also seek employment with the macadamia farm. I have now been working on the farm for

over 15 years, fulfilled with the work I do, and proud to be a part of the macadamia farming family.

Many of my family members are also employed with the macadamia farm. My husband, two sons, daughter, son-in-law, and brother all work in the macadamia industry. Our family combined has over 102 years of macadamia farming experience. We all grew up on the macadamia farm and chose to continue the way of life. No one chooses farming life as a means of getting rich, but we are rich in other ways with strong deep-rooted culture, family ties and a collective sense of purpose.

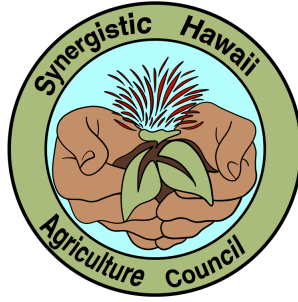
Working together to achieve a common goal keeps us closer than ever and having this in common bridges the generational gap to my dad. He loves it when we get to talk about our workday on the farm, and especially when we seek his advice on farming practices. The Hawaiian macadamia farm life is a little bit of what is left of old Hawai'i.

Our livelihoods and our way of life are being threatened by the economic challenges we are currently facing, just like the Hawai'i Sugar industry. Local macadamia brands have been replacing Hawai'i-grown nuts with low-cost foreign nuts while still maintaining the original Hawaiian branding. This hurts all local macadamia farmers, especially the small farmers who are now being faced with the decision to give up their crop altogether. HB2278 HD1 will help to strengthen our local macadamia farms viability as well as provide product transparency to loyal consumers, kama'aina and visitors alike.

To restate my position, I am in full support of HB2278 HD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Cara Souza
Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services



RE: SUPPORT for HB2278

RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Macadamia Nuts, Labeling Requirements, Country of Origin

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) stands in support of this Bill. Our consortium represents 1,500 agribusinesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State.

SHAC receives Federal marketing funds to promote 100% Hawaiian origin products around the world, including macadamia nuts, coffee, papaya, and floriculture. Frequently we find that the demand for 100% Hawaiian products exceeds available supply. However, **without proper labeling, consumers cannot know whether they are truly buying Hawaiian products.**

There are over 800 growers in the state, 75% of which are small farms. Protecting the Hawaii name protects their jobs.

This bill will align State law with Federal country of origin requirements. It will make it easier for our state Department of Agriculture to support small and mid-sized growers who wish to bring their origin products to market. And **it will allow Hawaii growers to stand out in the marketplace.** This is win-win for growers, for consumers, and for our state excise coffers.

Proper labeling will level the playing field for everybody.

Mahalo nui loa for supporting this bill!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition to HB 2278 HD1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

As a proud 13-year team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278 HD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Darryl Miki
Sales Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group nearly three years ago because I was inspired by the company’s long-term vision and continuous dedication to helping the Islands’ future flourish. Sitting here today and looking back over these past three years – I’m proud to say that I have seen first-hand how this vision and dedication comes to life each and every day. I work alongside a great leadership team that is truly committed to sharing the spirit of Hawai’i through our products and is committed to giving back to our local community.

I oppose HB 2278 because of the negative impact it would have on our business, other companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai’i, and the greater local community at large. Our company is committed to collaborating with other farmers on regulations, but we feel this specific bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Aloha,
Stanley Huang
Director, Commercial Finance
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:09:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonnay Vilmaire	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because we are actively working to strengthen and better the local macadamia nut industry.

I am proud to work for Hawaiian Host Group because I’m proud of the amazing products we create that are loved and shared globally. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i with the world.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jonny Vilmaire

Marketing Specialist

Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the mission of being the Hosts of Hawaii and spreading that Aloha and Joy as far as we can. I have been with the company for 6 months now and have seen firsthand the care and commitment to the local community that Hawaiian Host Group brings every day.

I am proud to work for Hawaiian Host Group because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Ryan Manthey
Procurement Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:13:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Alvarado	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

I appreciate you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Fred Alvarado

Mauna Loa/Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:14:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tazsha Taatia	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I absolutely know this organization fully supports the Hawaiian macadamia industry. With that being said we are currently modernizing our Honolulu facility to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. Hawaiian Host supports our local farmers 100%. However, our demand for Macadamia kernels is well elevated. It is important that we continue to grow our Hawaiian culture and business with suppliers overseas. This gives Hawaiian Host an opportunity to share are Aloha throughout the world.

Aloha no,

Tazsha Taatia

Production Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:15:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francine Kekona	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill - put simply - will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

While we, as Hawai'i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB2278.

Mahalo,

Francine Kekona

Acct Coordinator

HawaiianHost/Mauna Loa/Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:16:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher M Walker	Hawaiin Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

This bill has the potential to do great harm to the Macadamia industry in the future. The current growers are not looking forward to what could and will become of their crops if companies like HHG, Mauna Loa and other manufacturers on the islands are forced to spend millions of dollars on separate packaging to call percentages on each product.

It doesn't help that these same growers have been selling their Macadamias to places like China since before the Covid-19 Pandemic forcing HHG and other local companies to source Macadamias from other places. If they were really concerned about Hawaii and local industry this would not be the case. The founding company of Mauna Loa planted most of those same farms that are now selling elsewhere instead of to us or other local companies. In essence this complaint about not using local Kernal is a problem of their own creation.

If they succeed in what seems like their goal of not only making percentages necessary but killing the brand name Mauna Loa or HHG which are worldwide known brands for over 50 years, how does that help Hawaii? How does that help our community and families if this in turn drives the business out of Hawaii? Who is going to buy local Macadamias which sell at a premium price if not local food processors like HHG?

It won't be long before the Mainland, China and other countries realize they can get their kernel for 1/3 the cost from places like Africa and Australia. When that happens, they will cease buying kernel from Hawaii growers altogether and the industry here is dead just like Sugar cane. This shortsighted view being taken is harmful to the future of Hawaii Macadamias, not beneficial.

HHG is committed to working with growers to keep the Macadamia business and brands here in Hawaii. This is not feasible if we incur millions of dollars of extra costs for something that does little or nothing for the consumer and ultimately does nothing to protect the growers here as well.

That's why I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Chris Walker

Production Supervisor

Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:18:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andre Afonso	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:18:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Lim	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry. The team members who make up our company work tirelessly each and every day towards our Purpose Statement which is to 'make the islands future flourish'. Our team members are as diverse as the farmers and factory workers to office and admin staff. Even though we all play different roles to bring our products to market for consumers to enjoy, we are all united in this purpose.

This bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I strongly oppose this bill. It absolutely will harm the industry, not just our company but all the growers and vendors that service the macadamia nut industry. Farmers will have no one to send their crop to if companies like ours are not able to compete in the market place due to regulations placed on us. The negative downstream effects of this bill will be massive in regards to job losses. Hawaiian Host Group has done and will continue to do what we can to support the industry. I have already mentioned 3 major initiatives that our company has done, is currently executing on, and has plans for in the near future.

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and hope you will consider the realistic impact of how this bill will negatively affect our company, the macadamia nut industry, and ultimately Hawaii at large if passed.

Mahalo,

Steven Lim

Director of Finance, Operations

Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I’m proud of the amazing and delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i. I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent, communicative, and considerate. They have the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large. I’m also proud of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here and who care deeply about Hawai‘i. They are people who are involved in our community and who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lok
Logistics Specialist
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:20:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles W Hill	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2278

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:21:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Gamble	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2278

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:22:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson Cabay	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2278

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:24:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
draden kapua	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

The reason why I joined and continue to stay with Hawaiian Host Group is that I believe in the people that I work with everyday. Each of them come in everyday to do their part to make products that are loved by people across the world, gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. As with previous versions of this bill, it is poorly written and contains vague language that will be difficult to enforce with little time to pivot, opening up companies to frivolous penalties that will only waste everyone’s time and energy and hurting everyone involved.

I understand the desire to protect our local growers. I truly get it. But the way we are doing so with this bill will harm local companies like ours in the process of doing so, companies that are doing what we can to stay local and to keep things local and to help our local community grow and flourish. We keep reacting and rushing to address a problem or concern that we end up doing harm and great disservice to the community at large, only to find ourselves with more problems on our hands that we now spend countless more hours and months and years to have to deal with because we didn’t consider the consequences. We as a State can, and should, do better to make sure that we as a community all benefit and grow. We can do better than this, and we must if we want our people to succeed.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Kenneth Yeung
Data Engineer,
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:26:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Olivar	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i. If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo

Lon Olivar

Maintenance

Maunaloa Macadamia

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:30:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilou Akamine	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill - put simply - will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Mahalo,

Marilou Akamine

Factory Worker

Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:32:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Guting	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

John Guting

IT Administrator

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:32:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo

Austin Mattos

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe in dedication to teamwork and surrounding yourself with those who come to work for a purpose. Exceeding expectations with the Spirit of Hawai’i in everything we do is our Mission and I feel confident each day our team is committed to that.

Because of the people I work with each day who grew up here and know the true meaning of what the Spirit of Hawai’i is, I feel a connection of the warm culture that connects us all with the best intentions of providing the highest quality of delicious products that are loved by people around the world. Many of us who are involved in our community enjoy connecting with those around us for a purpose.

If HB2278 HD1 passes, it is not a win for Hawai’i and our industry as it doesn’t consider the consequences it might have on businesses from the growers. Therefore, I would like to strongly OPPOSE HB2278 SD1.

I would like to thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Dino Ortiz
Logistics Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I was living on the mainland for 6 years, then covid brought me home. When I was looking for jobs, I really wanted to work for a company that was making a big impact not only in the lives of its employees but the community, my home. I had grown up with Hawaiian Host products, my family loves it, and it’s always what I send as omiyage to my mainland and international ohana, these gifts truly share the spirit of Hawai‘i with the world - it’s truly a legacy brand that people love and I’m grateful for this journey I’ve been on since I started. Being at this company, I am witnessing firsthand the incredible leadership team that is leading us towards our vision, purpose, goals - always progressively thinking and have the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i. I strongly believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because as a company we whole heartedly want to see the future of the islands flourish and to share the spirit of Hawai‘i with the world and these values align with my personal values. People move away because cost of living here is rising but Hawaiian Host Group genuinely wants to help create jobs for people to stay here and thrive. It’s truly a special place to be and I believe in what we’re trying to accomplish as a company.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. I believe there will be long term negative impacts. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

All my best,
Dayna Tamashiro
Marketing Specialist
Hawaiian Host

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:39:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Prima Nicolas	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Prima Nicolas

Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here and who care deeply about Hawai‘i. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Vivian Fung
Associate Brand Manager, Hawaiian Host
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:49:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Ucol	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

I appreciate you considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Ucol

Mauna Loa/Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:50:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leticia Dalmacio	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am opposing HB 2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. I believe that there are potential impacts that can hinder the growth of the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

I have worked at Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company for 30+ years. As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry. Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

There are potential impacts that HB 2278 HD 1 will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai`i and livelihoods of all the people working for these companies and their families. Thank you for considering my testimony. Mahalo.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of SB 3303 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large.

SB 3303 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Aloha,
Robert Vargas

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because it supports making the islands flourish. As a company that’s roots started in Hawaii over 95 years ago and has been internationally recognized as “the host” of Hawaii- Hawaiian Host Group is a pillar in the local community- leading the support and growth of Hawaiian agriculture and providing jobs in the local market.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo.

Theresa Tuxhorn
Managing Director, KOHO
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I believe deeply in its purpose to Make the Islands' Future Flourish, and its vision to Share the Spirit of Hawai'i with the world. In my time with Hawaiian Host Group, I have seen that these are not just statements the company claims to do – but they are things that are lived in the day-to-day. Every person at our company – from our entry-level team members all the way to our executives – operates with Aloha and a sense of true care for each other, our industry, and Hawai'i at large.

This is reflected in the work Hawaiian Host Group does in the community, and in the ways in which we collaborate with our internal and external partners across the macadamia industry. I am proud of not only the delicious products we create – that are loved by people across the globe – but because of how our team has proven our commitment to growing macadamias locally, supporting all local macadamia growers, and working in collaboration with local growers to create a solution for our industry.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for them. If HB 2278 passes, it is not a win for our state, nor our industry at large as it does not consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Furthermore, while we, as Hawai'i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Mahalo nui for considering my testimony.

With Aloha,
Ruby Lee
Associate Corporate Communications Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

Ever since I graduated college on the continent and moved back home, I always wanted to work for a local company that not only represents Hawai‘i well but takes action to positively impact the people of Hawai‘i. After working at Hawaiian Host Group for 3 years, what keeps me at here are the people that I work with every day. They are people from all around the world that have one mission, to help make Hawai‘i’s future flourish. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Best,

Brenden Goo
Associate Inventory Analyst
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tiffany Chu and I am the Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist for Hawaiian Host Group (HHG). I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 HD1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

In addition to already purchasing millions of pounds of macadamia kernels from local farms each year, a local business like HHG needs to continue to look for ways to meet demands. As Hawai‘i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, HHG wants to collaborate with other farmers on regulations as well as support the success of local farmers. We are in their corner. In an industry as impactful as macadamia for Hawai‘i, we want to work together for a resolution that is beneficial to the community as a whole. Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

As a professional in the talent acquisition industry, building and helping teams grow for most of my career, I have seen the impact of how a business’ workforce growth is a direct reflection of the local economy. HHG has a deep history in Hawai‘i, with the local community, and is deeply entrenched in the macadamia nut industry. HHG’s local operations of producing Hawaiian made macadamia confections now includes a farm, a processing facility, and manufacturing plants to produce our household names of macadamia products. We’ve been a proud contributor to the local economy, providing employment opportunities and supporting the livelihoods of numerous families in our community. It’s been one of the most rewarding parts of my job here knowing that I’m growing a team that makes such an impact and contribution to the broader community. That’s why I see HHG’s success, as Hawai‘i’s success.

I joined HHG because it’s important to me to be a part of a local business that aligns with my values, and where I believe in the company’s mission and vision. Especially in talent acquisition, without this alignment, it would be difficult for me to do my job well. I’m on the frontlines speaking with candidates regularly about my first-hand experience as a part of the team. HHG aligns with my personal values- to make an impact, to do good, and to help the community flourish. When I think about Hawaiian Host Group, I think of an organization that embodies all

of that and more. Through its dedicated team, HHG produces products that share the Spirit of Hawai'i, and these values, through every piece of delicious macadamia confections.

The proposed changes in macadamia nut labeling, as outlined in HB 2278 HD1, threaten to impose unnecessary burdens on local businesses like ours. These added regulatory requirements not only create undue financial strain but also divert valuable resources away from the core activities that drive our business and contribute to the economic growth of Hawai'i, provide local jobs, and our ability to partner with local farmers.

As an employee of Hawaiian Host Group, I believe that this bill will have detrimental, cascading consequences for our company & employees, the broader community, and the macadamia industry as a whole in Hawai'i. Therefore, I strongly **oppose** HB 2278 HD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Chu
Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:20:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lagura	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

My name is William Lagura and i am sending my testimony about this bill HB2278, i strongly opposed this bill because it will affect me,my family and the whole group working in Macadamia Nut industry, im been working here for more than 17 years in Mauna loa Mc Nut LLC./Hawaiian Host Group and during this years this company is my bread and butter which helps me sending my son to school and finish his college degree.I love my job because i believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are transparent/considerate and with the best intension for Hawai'i at large and because of the people i work everyday who grew up here and people who care deeply about Hawai'i. This is the reason why i strongly opposed this bill HB2278. Y

our consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:29:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresita Baldonado	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Teresita Baldonado and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:32:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Treyton Calantoc	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Treyton Calantoc and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:33:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Dacalio	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Pete Dacalio and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:35:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loea Kaupu	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Loea Kaupu and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:36:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arnold Abellera	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Arnold Abellera and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:37:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Tuzon	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts.

As a proud member of our corporate brand, Hawaiian Host Group, I have seen the vision and actions the company has been doing to grow the Hawaiian macadamia industry. For example, our facilities in Honolulu and Kea`au have been in the modernization process so that we can ensure local jobs. However, this bill can divide us from growers. Our company invested in acquiring in Hawaiian agriculture and we would like to continue to work will all the local growers to help the industry flourish.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I really like the company and after being here for almost 5 years, I enjoy working here with all my team members. I'm so proud of the amazing products that we create and sharing the spirit of Hawai`i around the world. Our company has also been improving products and innovating to share local favorites to all our visitors and kama`aina.

While we, as Hawai`i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate and work together with other farmers on regulations, this bill divides us and may have negative impacts on the Hawaiian macadamia industry. So I am opposing HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:38:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydia Agustin	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lydia Agustin and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:39:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Aurelio	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Robert Aurelio and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:40:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jose Baruelo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jose Baruelo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:42:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlon Biason	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Marlon Biason and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:42:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ainsley Afelin	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai‘i, people who are involved in our community and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Ainsley Afelin

Visitors Center Sales Associate

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:43:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nestor Visaya	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Nestor Visaya and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:45:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerod Andrade	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jerod Andrade and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:47:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlos Dulig	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Carlos Dulig and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:48:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laureno Galban	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Laureno Galban and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:50:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaine Kuilipule	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Shaine Kuilipule and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:51:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Navarro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jonathan Navarro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a nursery worker employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in STRONG OPPOSITION of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

This bill is so unclearly defined as demonstrated by the Hearing on 2/14 per Representative Onishi’s concern, and is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us all from the growers.

The main reason why I oppose HB2278 is because it doesn’t help the Hawaiian macadamia industry at large as it solely focuses on sustaining the business of growers and farmers in the short-term. It does not consider the potential impact it will have on other Hawaiian-based companies and the livelihoods of the people working for these companies.

At HHG and other Hawai‘i-based companies, we cannot use 100% Hawaiian macadamias for several reasons. We need more nuts than are available in Hawai‘i. Of the 40 million lbs of kernel grown in Hawai‘i, only 23 million lbs are processed here (HMNO sends their nuts to China for processing so are those really Hawai‘i nuts anymore?). If companies that sell their macadamias on-shelf limit themselves to only Hawai‘i-grown nuts, that will result in job losses for Hawaiian companies.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

I love working at Hawaiian Host Group because I truly feel heard as an employee and feel that my work is valued and appreciated each and every day. Not only that, I am proud of the delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” which they are, they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Your strong consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Kylie LaBarge
Category manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:53:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arsenio Norberte	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Arsenio Norberte and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:53:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adelaida Agudo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am opposing HB 2278 HD 1 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because this bill will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry. However, this bill could hinder the industry from growing and instead further divides us from the growers.

I would like to see all of our companies continue to grow. I have worked here for 38 years and have seen my team members working everyday and we all do this to provide for our families. I believe in the vision of our company and our leadership team as they are transparent with us about the future of our company. We can see how our plans can help the Hawaiian macadamia industry as a whole.

This bill could potentially put many families out of work since many of us are all related to each other. It also has potential consequences for all agriculture, production, and retailers. We would really like to collaborate with growers so that we can create a thriving industry. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated. Mahalo.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:53:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keilana Ishibashi	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai‘i, people who are involved in our community and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Keilana Ishibashi

Visitors Center Key Holder

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:53:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Cabay	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian Macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian host group because I'm proud of the amazing/delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being "from" or made in Hawai'i, they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawaii.

SB2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

While we, as Hawai'i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why we oppose SB2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony

Mahalo,

Maria Cabay

Factory worker

Hawaiian host /Maunaloa macadamia nuts corp.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:53:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paterna Padasdao Jr.	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai'i, people who are involved in our community people who believe in making the Islands' future flourish...

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Paterno Padasdao

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I’m a proud local that grew up eating our product. It always brought my family joy to share Hawaiian host chocolate and it was always a treat to receive them. When I had the opportunity to work for an established local company with the same family values as myself I had to jump at the opportunity.

I’ve worked for Hawaiian Host for the past 3 years and love it because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here and believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

I oppose this bill because SB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Brandon Tanaka
Director of Technology
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:54:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoriano Pinzon	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Victoriano Pinzon and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:56:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Marumoto	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai‘i, people who are involved in our community and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Karen Marumoto

Visitors Center Associate Manager

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:56:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betty Aguinaldo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Betty Aguinaldo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:56:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caryn Tangalin	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai'i, people who are involved in our community people who believe in making the Islands' future flourish...

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Caryn Tangalin

HR Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:57:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elvira Alonzo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am in opposition of HB2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because this bill could potentially hurt the Hawaiian macadamia industry as a whole.

I have worked at Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company for about 30 years and have seen our brand grow to be worldwide known. As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, and are in the works of modernizing both the Honolulu and Kea`au facilities to create efficiency within production and nut processing. However, this bill can hinder us from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

This bill, HB2278 HD 1, does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the Hawaiian macadamia industry and the livelihoods of the people and their families that work for these legacy Hawai`i companies. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Elvira Alonzo

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:00:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurea Aquino	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Aurea Aquino and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:02:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Flora Ballesteros	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Flora Ballesteros and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:04:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harris Bautista	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Harris Bautista and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:07:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Calaro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jeffrey Calaro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I joined Hawaiian Host group nearly 3 years ago, after nearly 25 years working at other consumer products companies all based on the mainland. I joined because 1) I love Hawaii (I visited Hawaii each year for a decade before I knew anything about this job) 2) I love our products 3) I wanted to be a part of a great culture 4) and I wanted a company with incredible values that includes caring about community.

Everything done here at HHG is done with the Aloha Spirit. This spirit is driven by our people, many of which have been with us for decades and most of whom are folks that were born and raised in Hawaii and live this spirit every day.

The leadership at our company has made it their passion to get HHG to be voted as the best place to work on in the beautiful islands of Hawaii. In my entire career I have never been a part of an organization that did more or cared more about their community (we just went all in on Hawaii with the farm purchase adding hundreds of new employees in Hawaii, and 4000 acres of Hawaiian grown macadamia – the single largest macadamia farm in all of Hawaii). If that doesn't scream we are investing in Hawaii and doing everything we can to run our business Hawaiian, not sure what does!!!

Just a couple months after this farm purchase came the devastating Maui fires, where our company raised nearly \$500K for the people in Maui who lost so much. I have never been with a company that were all about their people the way HHG is. It is by far the best culture I've ever been a part of, I love this company and everything about it with all my heart. I am a people person, I love helping others, I love making others better, and this is what our company strives to do every single day!

In addition to all this, I'm incredibly proud to work for a company that makes such delicious products for 2 iconic brands that are synonymous with Hawaii. The products are loved so much that people not only consume it for themselves, but gift it to loved ones. Simply put, our

products (with over 150 years of history in Hawaii) are the gifts that share the Spirit of Hawaii with the world, with every bag and box!

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawaii and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies. If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawaii and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. Therefore, I strongly **oppose** HB 2278.

Thank you so much for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Amir Zahedi
Chief Sales Officer
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I am deeply aligned with the vision of the Hawaiian Host Group due to the exceptional individuals I collaborate with daily. Our team consists of native Hawaiians and those deeply connected to the islands, embodying the Aloha spirit, and bringing authenticity to our work. We share a profound love for Hawai‘i, extending our commitment beyond business to actively contribute to and support our local community. Together, we believe in preserving the islands' cultural heritage, natural beauty, and unique identity, striving to shape a future where Hawai‘i flourishes sustainably. In essence, the Hawaiian Host Group represents more than just a business; it symbolizes a collective dedication to honoring the past, cherishing the present, and safeguarding the future of Hawai‘i.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

I appreciate you considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Tegan Hetzel-Dobbins

Innovation Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:11:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monaliza Caluya	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Monaliza Caluya and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:12:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reima Corpuz	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Reima Corpuz and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:14:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Jacinto	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Roger Jacinto and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:15:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Lucas	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Patrick Lucas and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:17:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodolfo Manzano	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Rodolfo Manzano and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:19:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Prado	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Manuel Prado and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:20:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arthur Puas	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Arthur Puas and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:22:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joselito Rosana	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Joselito Rosana and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:23:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Spencer	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Charles Spencer and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:24:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicitas Bautista	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Felicitas Bautista and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:26:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Bernardo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Marilyn Bernardo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:27:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fe Caluya	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Fe Caluya and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:28:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emeterio Castro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Emeterio Castro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:29:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonarda Castro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Leonarda Castro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:31:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julita Dela Cruz	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Julita Dela Cruz and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:32:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margarita Dela Cruz	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Margarita Dela Cruz and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:34:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ignacio Elefante	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ignacio Elefante and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:35:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonie Gamilo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Bonie Gamilo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in **opposition of HB 2278 HD1**, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

As a member of the Talent Acquisition Team at Hawaiian Host Group, I am proud to say that our organization lives up to its values of supporting our local community. In my role, I am responsible for hiring initiatives and am often the first point of contact for potential employees. It's easy for me to speak about our company culture, our commitment to Hawai‘i, and our efforts to create more job opportunities for our community. I joined Hawaiian Host Group three years ago because I wanted to work for an organization that aligns with my values, and I can confidently say that it has been a fulfilling experience.

I am sharing a testimony today concerning a bill that will have a direct impact on the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i. Unfortunately, this bill fails to consider the impact it will have on our workforce. Instead, it is further dividing the industry. It is important to recognize that this bill will not only affect our workforce but all companies in the macadamia industry. This is why I **strongly oppose HB 2278 HD1**.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my testimony with you and I appreciate your consideration on these matters.

Mahalo,

Tricia Sills
Talent Acquisition Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:36:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauro Manzano	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lauro Manzano and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:38:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn San Diego	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Evelyn San Diego and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:39:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Sorei	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is John Sorei and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:40:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Navarro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jennifer Navarro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a HR Administrative Assistant employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of House Bill 2278.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in strong opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill, though well-intentioned, threatens to replicate the historical decline experienced by the pineapple and sugar cane industries in Hawai'i, a fate we cannot afford for our macadamia sector.

Our Commitment to Hawai'i

Hawaiian Host Group cares about the local macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and we have invested significantly in the design of a world class macadamia processing co-op facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry. Yet, this bill is a distraction from scaling the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

Having worked with our executives for years now, I can attest that they make decisions with the best intentions, not just for our company, but for the industry and Hawai'i at large.

The Potential Harm of HB 2278

HB 2278 poses significant operational challenges for businesses like ours. It mandates a complete overhaul of packaging and branding, introduces complexity into our systems, complicates inventory processes, and disrupts our production and supply chain entirely. These changes not only incur substantial costs but also risk the viability of local operations, potentially leading to significant job losses.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the potential adverse effects of HB 2278 on Hawaii's macadamia industry and to seek alternatives that encourage unity and progress. Let us not repeat the history of the pineapple and sugar cane industries. Let us work together towards a thriving future for our entire industry.

Therefore, I respectfully oppose HB 2278 and am eager to look into different solutions that will benefit all parties involved. Thank you for taking the time to read through and consider my testimony.

Stijn Spaas
Director of Corporate Brand Strategy

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:44:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsela Cani	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group 7 years ago. I am a Mauna Loa employee and I love working for Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work every day. These people care deeply about Hawaii, they have been working most of their life in the Macadamia industry and are people that believe in making the islands' future flourish. I am also proud of the delicious products we create every day that are loved by people across the world.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai 'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I strongly OPPOSE HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Marsela Cani

Cost Accountant

Mauna Loa

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:47:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes M Habab	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 HD1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

HB 2278 HD1 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Habab

Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:58:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonia Tejada	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am opposing HB 2278 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because it will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry. Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I have been with Mauna Loa for 38 years on our cupline. I love coming into work for 38 years is because of the people I work with. These are people who care deeply about Hawai'i. Mauna Loa has helped me put my kids through school. I oppose HB 2278 HD 1 because it only focuses on the farmers and does not focus on the whole industry of Macnuts for Hawai'i.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sonia Tejada

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:01:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delia Prado	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because there are many potential consequences that can hinder the growth of the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, and we are modernizing both our Honolulu and Kea`au facilities that would benefit the entire industry. However, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because the products that we put out are loved by people all over the world. They are small gifts that share the great spirit of Hawai`i. I'm opposing HB2278 because it does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai`i and the livelihoods of its workers and families.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated. Mahalo.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:59:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Orlando V Libunao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Orlando V Libunao

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:02:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Domingo C Ramos	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Domingo C Ramos

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:06:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilma O Obra	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Wilma O Obra

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:08:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Remedios Gani	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because it would potentially hinder the growth of the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

I knew about Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company before having a job here and since I've been here, I'm proud of all the amazing products we create that are enjoyed by people across the globe. Many of our products are gifts to others that share the spirit of Hawai`i. For myself and my team members, we care about our community and would like to see the industry grow more. I've worked with my team members for about 18 years and we really have become a family.

While we want to have the Hawaiian macadamia industry grow, this bill, HB 2278 HD 1, could divide us from growers. Instead, Hawai`i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products should collaborate with each other on regulations. Thank you for considering my testimony. Mahalo.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:08:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria B Olarte	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Gloria B Olarte

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:09:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilfredo B Olarte	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Wilfredo B Olarte

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:11:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander B Alejo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Alexander B Alejo

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:12:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Falay	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

While we, as Hawai‘i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary Falay

Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:12:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hazel C Pumaras	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Hazel C Pumaras

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:13:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Gum	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because they support the local community and business. I am proud of the amazing and delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in

the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai'i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That is why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Garrett Gum
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:14:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ferdinand P Pumaras	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ferdinand P Pumaras

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because this is a brand that is very near and dear to my heart growing up in the islands. Hawaiian Host also has a core set of values that align with my own personal values as I believe we need to promote our local brands and do our best to create sustainable growth. I love working here because we do a lot to give back to the community which I feel is a core part of who we are as a Hawaiian company.

I oppose HB 2278 because it does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Jeffrey Lam
Director of Sales
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:18:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marites Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Marites Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:18:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliet T Tabilin	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Juliet T Tabilin

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:19:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cecilia P Palalay	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Cecilia P Palalay

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:20:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rogelio A Palalay	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rogelio A Palalay

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:21:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita V Cariaga	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lolita V Cariaga

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:22:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oscar T Tabilin	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Oscar T Tabilin

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:23:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Q Nolasco	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Edward Q Nolasco

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:24:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virgilio V Candaroma	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Virgilio V Candaroma

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:25:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilibeth F Tolentino	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lilibeth F Tolentino

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:26:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cedrick Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Cedrick Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:27:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicanor N Duldulao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Nicanor N Duldulao

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:30:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford M Kamei Jr	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Clifford M Kamei Jr

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:33:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nestor B Alejo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Nestor B Alejo

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:35:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelina Miyamoto	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because this bill could potentially hinder the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

I have worked at Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Company for 30 years. I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry and am proud of how worldwide known we have become. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, and are in the process of modernizing both the Honolulu and Kea`au facilities. Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of our company, of sharing the spirit of Hawai`i, and our leadership team has been transparent and shown us what is planned for the future so that the Hawaiian macadamia industry can grow more. I oppose HB 2278 because of the potential consequences it would have on the macadamia industry in Hawai`i. I appreciate you considering my testimony. Mahalo.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:36:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela D Miguel	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Angela D Miguel

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:37:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melchor B Miguel	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Melchor B Miguel

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:38:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francisco Alexander C Nolasco	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Francisco Alexander C Nolasco

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:40:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelina I Libunao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Angelina I Libunao

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

As someone who is part of the Innovation Team, I am proud of the amazing products that we get to create that are so loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share spirit of Hawai‘i.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

I appreciate you considering this testimony.

Mahalo,
Vivian Xu
Associate Innovation Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:41:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frando V Libunao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Frando V Libunao

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:45:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresita B Alejo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Teresita B Alejo

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here and care deeply about Hawai‘i. They believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Angel Flores
Corporate Buyer
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:47:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Della M Kaluna	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Della M Kaluna

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:49:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myrle Saplan	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Myrle Saplan

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:52:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael M Baniaga	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Michael M Baniaga

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:56:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell D Medeiros	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Russell D Medeiros

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:59:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pilar Cacho	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts because this bill will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry but, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of our company because we have been striving to improve our facilities as I have mentioned above. Our products have become a wonderful gift to many tourists and spread through people around the world. However, this bill really divides growers and manufacturers which can hurt the Hawaiian macadamia industry if we don't work together.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated. Mahalo.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:03:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Welhelmino B Cortel	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Welhelmino B Cortel

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:04:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rolando Sabala	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rolando Sabala

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:05:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Tolentino	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Michael Tolentino

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:06:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Wilkes	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai‘i, people who are involved in our community and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Angelique Wilkes

Visitors Center Sales Associate

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:06:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madelyn Eder	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Madelyn Eder

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:06:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonida Eder	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Leonida Eder

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gloria D. Tolentino
Associate Staff Accountant
Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:08:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fedelina B Balibat	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Fedelina B Balibat

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:09:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Dennis Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:10:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiko Yamagishi	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here, people who care deeply about Hawai‘i, people who are involved in our community and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,

Mikiko Yamagishi

Visitors Center Sales Associate

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:10:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Mary Ann Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:11:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Recto Bautista	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Recto Bautista

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:16:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Salvador	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

While we, as Hawai'i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278 HD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Antonio Salvador

Mauna Loa/Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:16:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben C Bolaoen	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ben C Bolaoen

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:17:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delia L Ramos	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Delia L Ramos

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:19:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Baclig	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jaime Baclig

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:22:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Castellanos	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you **in strong opposition** of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. In short, this bill will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group two years ago because of how special the products we create, and sell are to the local community, as well as around the world. These products are more than just something people consume. They are products made and supported by hundreds of local employees filled with pride for the community they grew up in and care deeply about. Our delicious products share the spirit of Hawai'i, their Islands, with all who receive them, which is far more important than where the products are made or from.

During my time here, I have had the pleasure of spending time with many of our wonderful employees who have spent their lives in Hawai'i, giving back to their communities and demonstrating great commitment to ensuring the islands continue to flourish. It is because they are employed by Hawaiian Host Group, that they can continue to invest in the future of Hawai'i.

As a member of the Executive Team of Hawaiian Host Group, I know firsthand how much this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. It is at the heart of every decision we make. We continue to invest in Hawaiian agriculture to move the industry forward as well as ensure we keep jobs local. Last year, we invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture, we have invested heavily to modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and we have developed plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

With all this investment and demonstrated commitment to the communities of Hawai'i, we are looking to collaborate with other farmers on regulations. This Bill, as written, will prevent the Hawaiian macadamia industry from growing and instead further divide us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because I get to be part of creating it. We as a leadership team have the best intentions for our team, for Hawai'i as a whole and the Hawaiian macadamia industry. My family has lived on Oahu for over 50 years and some of my best childhood memories include getting to choose a Hawaiian Host Group product at Longs so many years ago. I am so proud to be employed by such a special and memorable brand that truly represents Hawai'i.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why **I oppose HB 2278**.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Shannon Castellanos

Chief Financial Officer

Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony of James Trump
Island Harvest Inc.
February 21, 2024

RE HB 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

This is a letter in support of HB2278. We are a medium sized grower (500 acres) of macadamia nuts in North Kohala but this testimony also reflects the views of most, if not all, small growers in our district. In my thirty years managing macadamia nut orchards, I believe that this is clearly the most important legislation that the industry has faced.

North Kohala macadamia growers ship their in-shell nuts to on-island processors who buy, crack and package our crop. Hawaii kernel has a great reputation for its freshness, distinct oil content and its association to the State of Hawaii. We can compete globally because of these distinctions. When cheaper foreign kernel is sold, implying Hawaii as a place of origin, local growers cannot compete. Fairness in labeling is necessary or Hawaii macadamia nut farming will be history. Truth in labeling is the request; we are not asking for subsidies or bailouts. Please feel to contact me regarding this important legislation.

Thank you,
James Trump
President
Island Harvest Inc.
808-895-3448
jamestrump@gmail.com

Testimony of Brad and Jeri Raymond - Kealahou, Hawaii

Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association

February 21, 2024

RE: HB 2278: RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Our names are Brad and Jeri Raymond, and we are testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association in strong support of House Bill 2278 - RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i and macadamia nuts have been linked since the early 1900's when Hawai'i became the birthplace of the commercial macadamia nut industry. Macadamia nuts became especially important to Hawai'i's economy when sugar cane became infeasible, and farmers began to seek alternative ways to support themselves and the communities that had been created around important agricultural lands.

Today, Hawai'i has built a globally recognized brand around Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts, but unfortunately, the Hawai'i brand is now being used to market macadamia nuts grown in foreign countries. Hawaiian words, place names, and images of Hawai'i's beautiful landscapes are being used on packaging of macadamia nut products that contain foreign grown macadamia nuts.

Hawai'i's macadamia nuts have a special taste, unique crunch, and are grown almost exclusively under non-irrigated rainfed orchards. Unlike macadamia nuts grown in other parts of the world, almost all Hawai'i macadamia nuts are insecticide-free.

Macadamia nuts are growing in popularity as people recognize the importance of healthy fats and Hawai'i is well-positioned with its reputation for beauty, cleanliness, and luxury, to increase the agricultural value of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. Unfortunately, Hawaii's macadamia industry is not growing as farmers face the threat of cheaper macadamia nuts of foreign origin flowing into the Hawaii market due to labor and many extenuating factors.

The impact of the increased prevalence of foreign-grown macadamia nuts has had a clear negative impact on Hawai'i's growers the past few years. In 2022, many growers were not able to find buyers for their crop, and those who did saw the farmgate value of in-shell macadamia nuts plummet. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022.

Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's


macadamia nut market value. 2023 statistics are not yet available, but growers report that while they've been able to find a market for their macadamia nuts, the prices they are receiving are not enough to cover the cost of production for most growers.

We need clear action from Hawai'i's state government to address the concerns of Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers. The Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association believes HB 2278 is the clear action our farmers, processors, and consumers need to re-establish the authenticity and integrity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut industry.

We want to be clear, if we do not see action taken during the 2024 legislative session, we will see numerous small and large farms reduce their operation size and/or cease to exist. We are not asking for a handout, we are asking the legislature to ensure proper labeling so that consumers are not misled and Hawai'i's reputation for beauty, authenticity, and aloha remains intact.

Mahalo for receiving our testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brad and Jeri Raymond, Kealahou, Hawaii

Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:34:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nenita B Jara	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Nenita B Jara

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:36:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luzviminda O. Ulep	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Luzviminda O. Ulep

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:38:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luzviminda C Velasco	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Luzviminda C Velasco

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:39:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilson Dela C Velasco	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Wilson Dela C Velasco

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:40:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josephine Dela C Velasco	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Josephine Dela C Velasco

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:50:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geraldin B Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Geraldine B Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:51:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eduardo T Ballard	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Eduardo T Ballad

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:52:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria C Ballad	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Maria C Ballad

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:53:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosita C Tayamen	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rosita C Tayamen

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:54:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maycel B. Lugtu	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Maycel B. Lugtu

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:55:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ambrocio Edwin T Felipe	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ambrocio Edwin T Felipe

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arthur A Estranero	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Arthur A Estranero

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:57:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avelina A Ancheta	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Avelina A Ancheta

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:58:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Theresa O Sheppard	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Maria Theresa O Sheppard

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:00:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rolando C Cancio	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rolando C Cancio

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:01:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danilo F Ulep	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Danilo F Ulep

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:02:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julio C Bilog	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Julio C Bilog

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:03:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph P Castaneda	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Joseph P Castaneda

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:04:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dedrick-Ken K Saplan	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Dedrick-Ken K Saplan

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:05:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danhill S Libunao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Danhill S Libunao

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:06:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fritz Omar Amor	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Fritz Omar Amor

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:07:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian K Castillo-Kamei	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Christian K Castillo-Kamei

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:07:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andonio Bernardo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Andonio Bernardo

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:08:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Efren T Tabilin	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Efren T Tabilin

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:11:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Mejia	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Mejia

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:11:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zennia Alejo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Zennia Alejo

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:12:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mirasol Tyson	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Mirasol Tyson

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:13:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Bety Candaroma	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Janet Bety Candaroma

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:16:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Analisa B Ancheta	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Analisa B Ancheta

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:17:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constante Ancheta	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Constante Ancheta

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:18:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowena Flores	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rowena Flores

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:19:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Florpina Alinea	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Florpina Alinea

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:20:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pagasa Domingo	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Pagasa Domingo

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:20:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilia Miguel	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Emilia Miguel

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:23:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Mason	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Felicia Mason

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:24:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nenita Gallarde	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

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Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Nenita Gallarde

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

February 14th, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

You may continue with a statement along the lines of:

- I joined Hawaiian Host Group because...
- I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because...
- Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe...
- The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is...

Examples of reasons why you might love your job are:

- Because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.
- Because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large.
- Because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here / people who care deeply about Hawai‘i / people who are involved in our community / people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish...

Next, end your testimony by explaining why you OPPOSE HB 2278 because of the impact it will have on our business. For example:

- HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.
- If HB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

- While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Lastly, thank the Committees for considering your testimony:

- Thank you for considering my testimony.
- I appreciate you considering this testimony.
- Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo / Best / Sincerely / Aloha / ...,

[First Name + Last Name]

[Title]

[Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group]

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:25:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hegine Kenny Tugade	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Hegine Kenny Tugade

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:26:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marites Angalao	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Marites Angalao

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:27:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Destiny Ward-Demotta	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Destiny Ward-Demotta

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:30:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlton George	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Carlton George

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:31:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jose Carmelo Manantan	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jose Carmelo Manantan

Kapua Orchards

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:33:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunnia Amps	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Sunnia Amps

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here / people who care deeply about Hawai‘i / people who are involved in our community / people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish...

- HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.
- Thank you for considering my testimony..

Mahalo / Best
Gene Uehara
Salesperson
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:41:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iokepa Fernandez-Higa	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Iokepa Fernandez Higa and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii. I am writing to you as a Equipment Operator in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:43:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Salmo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Desiree Salmo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:45:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Mangoba	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Samuel Mangoba and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:52:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Mitchell	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is William Mitchell and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:55:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CAESARIA SALMO	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired Hand Harvest Foreman for Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services in the Pahala Orchard. I strongly support 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:05:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAMELA A. SALMO	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Pamela Salmo I worked for Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Service in the Pahala Orchard for 37 years. I was born and raised in Ka'u and graduated from Ka'u High School. I lived in a rural area out in Ka'u all my life my parents work for the Sugar Plantation and the Macadamia Orchard out Pahala. This is our livelihood in Ka'u. I strongly support Bill 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:10:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Manantan	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Ruby Manantan I have migrated to Pahala, Hawaii from Philippines in 2002 and work for Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services in the Pahala Orchard. I started as a hand harvester and now a Harvesting Supervisor. I would like to see Macadamia survive for the future as I plan to retire from Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I strongly support bill 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:11:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yolanda Norberte	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.



February 21, 2024

Representative David A. Tarnas
Chair, JHA
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Bonnie Self, representing the Macadamia Growers of Hawaii. With over a decade of experience in Hawaii's macadamia nut industry as an agronomist and manager, my family and I are deeply rooted in this sector. Our livelihoods are directly connected to the success and sustainability of the industry.

As a new legislative session unfolds, we are presented with HB 2278 HD1, an act that holds significant implications for the agricultural integrity and economic sustainability of Hawaii's macadamia nut industry. This letter is written in staunch support of HB 2278 HD1, a bill that not only stands to protect the industry from deceptive labeling practices but also empowers consumers and producers alike with transparency.

The past year has underscored the vulnerability of our macadamia nut industry, with a stark production decline from 52.9 million wet in-shell pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million wet in-shell pounds in 2022. This alarming 29% decrease in production has been compounded by the shutdown of the largest processing facility in the state and the aggressive influx of foreign kernels, which have significantly reduced the prices to growers, from \$1.23 to \$0.88 per pound. The consequences of these events are more than just numbers in a report—they reflect the livelihoods of our workers who have faced reduced hours and the harsh reality of over 8 million pounds of nuts left on the ground in our orchards alone.

HB 2278 HD1 is a critical step towards rectifying these issues. The bill offers a pathway to address these issues by emphasizing the importance of accurate labeling, thereby preserving the integrity and legacy of the Hawaii macadamia nut industry. This legislative action is not merely about compliance; it is about preserving the cultural and economic legacy of the Hawaii macadamia nut industry.

The implementation of HB 2278 HD1 will ensure that our beloved industry can withstand the tides of global competition and market saturation with foreign products. By supporting this bill, you are endorsing a future where the Hawaii macadamia nut industry continues to thrive and contribute to our state's prosperity. This issue is extremely time sensitive. Without changes now, more farms will disappear and not return.

I urge you to consider the weight of your decision on the future of our state's agriculture and the well-being of its dedicated workers. Please lend your support to HB 2278 HD1 and stand with Hawaii's macadamia nut growers and workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Self
Macadamia Growers of Hawaii



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2278, RELATED TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

February 21, 2024

Senator David Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services strongly supports HB 2278 relating to labeling of macadamia nuts. Formerly Ka'u Agribusiness, our company is approximately 70 years old and farms more than 40% of Hawai'i's macadamia nuts. With about 180 employees, mostly on the Island of Hawai'i, we are the only macadamia nut farmer with union workers who are members of the ILWU.

While this bill is about labeling, for our company and our employees, this bill is about the survival of our industry and their jobs. We employ families. Whole households are being impacted and at risk.

Last year, the growers testified that millions of pounds of macadamia nuts were left on the ground. Subsequently, that has been proven to be true with the USDA report showing a decline of 49% in the farm value of the macadamia nut industry. This removed more than \$30 million from the economy of rural Hawai'i. As the largest grower, our company and our employees bore the largest part of the decline, weakening households that were just recovering from the pandemic.

As a farmer, we are constantly at risk from environmental and market factors, and we understand and accept them. But in this case, there is one company creating unfair conditions for farmers and is opposing the bill to keep things that way. The same company has over 90% retail market share in Hawai'i and controls the majority of processing capacity in Hawai'i. The opposition claims that the problem is due to outdated processing plants without making it clear that it is the one that has not invested in updating its plants. The opposition claims it is buying as many nuts as it can from growers but not stating that the price it is paying is below the cost of farming in Hawai'i and that its labeling practice enables this as it forces growers to compete with foreign nuts from low cost growing regions.

When a company is a monopoly and has so much power, regulation is needed to ensure a fair and competitive market. Without fair labeling, there is no market and there will be no further investment in processing plants. Without fair labeling, there will be no macadamia industry.

Thank you for allowing us to share our concerns on this bill.

Sincerely,

Bradford Nelson
President

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:48:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Michael Clark	Hawaiian host group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to the strong demand for macadamia products, Hawaiian host must import nuts to provide product for demand. Although they have orchards. Here in Hawaii, there's not enough local grown nuts to meet the strong demand.

Testimony of Lori-Lee Lorenzo

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lori-Lee Lorenzo and I live in Pahala, Hawaii, a town where many people work for companies that grow Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. Many families here depend on this product for their total income. I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 3303 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. SB3303 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lori-Lee Lorenzo
Conservation Practitioner
The Nature Conservancy: Ka'u Preserve

Testimony of Frank Lorenzo Jr.

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Raylyne Welker and I live in Pahala, Hawaii, a town where many people work for companies that grow Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. Many families here depend on this product for their total income. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Frank Lorenzo Jr.
Cowboy/Ranchhand
Kapapala Ranch

Testimony of Jesse Lorenzo

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jesse Lorenzo, and I work for Ka'u Farms Management LLC., a company that grows Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Wood Valley, Ka'u, Hawaii. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jesse Lorenzo
Ka'u Farms Management LLC.

Testimony of Ikaika Grace

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ikaika Grace, and I work for Ka'u Farms Management LLC., a company that grows Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Wood Valley, Ka'u, Hawaii. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ikaika Grace
Ka'u Farms Management LLC.

Testimony of Frank Lorenzo Sr.

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Frank Lorenzo Sr., and I am the Manager of Ka'u Farms Management LLC. a company that grows Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Wood Valley, Ka'u, Hawaii Island. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO THE LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Frank Lorenzo Sr. Manager
Ka'u Farms Management LLC.

Testimony of Mary Mahina Lorenzo

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Mary Mahina Lorenzo, and I am the Manager's Assistant at Ka'u Farms Management LLC, a company that grows Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Wood Valley, Ka'u, Hawaii Island. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO THE LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Mary Mahina Lorenzo: Manager's Assistant
Ka'u Farms Management LLC.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I was given the opportunity to begin working for Mauna Loa of the Hawaiian Host Group back in 2020 during the beginning of hard times for all businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year marks four years and I cannot express how happy I am to have had this chance.

It was difficult seeing people around me, acquaintances and family, struggling through the pandemic and I felt it was a blessing and had been given hope when I became part of a company with such a legacy of charity and caring for the community in many areas. The Takitani Foundation naturally comes to my mind as it was heard everywhere growing up here in Hawaii. We were able to listen to a talk by a local business professional who was able to continue their education because of being awarded the scholarship.

I experience the impact Hawaiian Host Group has made on the local economy daily. My job offers me the chance to see how a local and a visitor interacts with gift products made with macadamia nuts. The spirit of Hawaii is alive and well in many of them and I see how at the end of the day freedom of choice is there for everyone. I am happy when customers choose my products. It makes me happier still to see with my own eyes someone who works in that retail establishment, who sold that product, choosing one of my products for their personal purchase.

There has also been a few innovations in our product line that have appealed to not only our local customers but also the visitors recently.

I oppose the passage of this Bill. I feel this bill will stifle a lot of the excitement being felt by everyone who enjoy our products, including our employees who are proud of where we work, day in and day out. There are no words to express the regret of no longer seeing such iconic brands as Hawaiian Host and Mauna Loa in markets local and global because it becomes unfeasible for our company to exist and continue doing business due to SB 3303.

I appreciate you considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Lance Nakamura
Sales Representative
Hawaiian Host Group



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23, 2024, at 2:00 pm

RE: HB 2278 HD 1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of HB 2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts as this bill will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

Hawaiian Host Group has been a legacy business in Hawaii for almost 100 years. We remain committed to growing the Hawaiian Macadamia industry and continuing our local operations, which employs over 450+ people – **keeping local jobs in Hawaii**. We further demonstrate this commitment by investing over \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture last year, starting our \$12 million Honolulu facility modernization project this month and proactively working on plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Keaau that would widely benefit the industry and our community.

Unlike other crops grown in Hawaii, there are many products that use Macadamias as an ingredient but not the sole source of the package. Macadamias, like other crops, are seasonal and require some volume to be purchased outside of Hawaii to maintain consistency and supply, with end products that include chocolate, shortbread, cookies, ice creams, nut milks, butters, and other confections. Those products likely contain some ingredients that are not grown but are **made into value-added products in Hawaii**. These products account for thousands of local jobs and a valuable diversification from tourism.

HB 2278 HD 1 as it is currently written is vague and does not clearly define what should be included regarding type of product. Given the broad language of the bill, companies could incur tremendous expenses to redesign and set up new packaging and be left with considerable amount of packaging inventory that will result in additional financial burden for these local businesses. In addition, it may be impossible or impractical to retrieve products already being



offered for sale or in the possession/control/ownership of third parties and imposing the requirements of SB3303, including without any phase-in over time provisions, is not commercially reasonable.

In 2023, I testified in opposition of a similar bill, HB 1348 on behalf of Hawaiian Host Group. I expressed our commitment to collaborate with growers to find an opportunity to sell and process their crops. Since then, Hawaiian Host Group has made sizable investments to grow and purchase macadamias in Hawaii. We have worked hard to make operational improvements and **hired more local employees** to be able to purchase and process from all growers that wanted to sell to us this harvest season.

I also testified requesting more time for growers and processors to work through these discussions and explore opportunities. We acknowledged that this collaboration between growers and processors would take several years to thoughtfully outline and determine a unified plan forward for the industry. Since then, we have engaged in the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association discussions about increasing processing capacity in Hawaii and initiated plans to build a large co-operative processing facility in Keaau at the request of the growers.

We have made progress in a short period, but we are deeply concerned that this bill is a distraction that further divides us and prevents us from creating a unified plan to move the industry forward. SB 3303 SD1 also does not consider the potential consequences to local businesses downstream from the growers. The negative impacts HB 2278 HD 1 could have on local employees, their families and their future livelihood would not result in a win for Hawaii.

For these reasons, I ask for you to hold this measure and allow us the time to continue efforts on developing a unified plan for the industry's future.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Michelle Leon-Guerrero
Chief Administrative Officer
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I oppose this bill.

Mahalo,
Justin Virtudes
Sales Representative
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:26:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ching	Hawaiian Host	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Michael Ching - Route Sales



Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2278,

RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Oliver Asistin and I am a farmer of Hawaii -grown macadamia nuts in Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services which farms in the districts of Kea'au and Ka'u on the Big Island. I am pleading with you to strongly support House Bill HB2278, RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I started working in the macadamia nut industry in 2020 as a mechanic for Hawaiian macadamia nut services in the district of Ka'u, throughout the years I been with this company I have grown to love and enjoy working in this industry. In just a short of time working here I've made my way up to garage supervisor for the Kea'au side of the company which I enjoy having to build up my history here as an employee.

I am a 3rd Generation macadamia nut employee. My grand parents worked as hand harvesters for 13 years after the sugar plantations shut down, my mother is an employee also for Hawaiian macadamia nut services she's been in the industry for 34 years. I have aunties and uncles who worked in the macadamia nut farm, and cousins that have also worked in the fields.

HB2278 will help other macadamia nut businesses, for labeling and clarification of origin of nuts that's important, it will help prevent false advertising of macadamia nuts. This bill can help and give Hawaii growers a chance on keeping our jobs, it can help save Hawaii's macadamia nut industry.

Thank You for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Oliver Asistin

Garage Supervisor

Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:52:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
blaise brown	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that this bill is important to ensure that hawaiian macadamia nut products are labeled correctly, and so mac-nuts from els-where are not labled under hawaii.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:00:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbi Wilson	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of its long history of doing business in Hawai‘i and the iconic products we produce. I enjoy my job because of the people I work with every day, they are involved in our community and care deeply about Hawai‘i.

I oppose HB 2278 as it does not consider the impact it could have on all companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the people they employ. My hope is that growers and manufacturers can work together so it's a win for all and a win for Hawai'i.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Bobbi Wilson

Mauna Loa

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:07:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abegaile Baon	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host group because after living away from Hawai'i for a few years I wanted to settle and start a career back home. I always knew I wanted to come back home and give back to the community, and that was through working with a Hawai'i based company. A company that truly cares about the local community and their workers. After taking my time in researching I knew Hawaiian Host Group shared the same values.

I love my job and the company I work for because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here and who care deeply about Hawai'i. Just like me we want to continue to live in Hawai'i, to raise our children and continue to give them the same childhood we had. To do that we need local companies to help support us.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Abegaile Baon

Accounts Payable Coordinator

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:08:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NOEL SEBASTIAN	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services LLC	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Noel Sebastian and I am an employee of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala. I am writing to you as a Supervisor in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

Testimony of Rebecca Hemstead

Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Hemstead and I have dedicated several years to supporting growers in the Hawaii macadamia nut industry through research and marketing efforts. I am writing to express my **support** of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut industry has encountered significant challenges in recent years. Farmers in Hawaii have worked hard over the years to build the value of our macadamia nuts and bring one of the tastiest and highest quality products to the market. According to USDA NASS, the utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts declined by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Additionally, farmgate prices plummeted to their lowest point since 2015, averaging \$0.88/lb. This resulted in a 49% decrease in the total income for macadamia nut farmers, eroding nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to our industry is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. Many macadamia growers are struggling to compete with foreign macadamia nuts entering the market. Store shelves are now loaded with products containing misleading labels that imply products are made from Hawaii produce even though they are not. It is now more important than ever to buy local to support farmers and address long-term food security. House Bill 2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation safeguards the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and provides consumers and retailers important information on the origin of the macadamia nuts used in the products.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,



Rebecca Hemstead

Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Company

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:12:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pablo Sebastian	HAWAIIAN MACADAMIA NUT SERVICES	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Pablo Sebastian, I am a employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:14:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paris Marques	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Paris Marques and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:15:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Ancheta	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jordan Ancheta, I am an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:17:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Rose Aguinaldo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sally Rose Aguinaldo employee of a Hawaiian grown Macadamia nuts. I am wrting to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:19:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Almaliza Tuzon	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Almaliza Tuzon an employee of Hawaii grown Macadamia nuts in Pahala. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:18:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanette Castillo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2278 for the future of our employees, their families and our community.

Thank you!

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:21:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernesto Gallarde	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ernesto Gallarde an employee of a Hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:21:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarold Capiral	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jarold Capiral and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:25:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhames Kenneth Soriano	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jhames Soriano employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia in Pahala, I am writing to you in suport of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:27:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerman Dilipau	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kerman Dilipau an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:29:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maricel Aguinaldo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Maricel Aguinaldo an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am wrting to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:30:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raul Simulata	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Raul Simulata and employee of a hawaiian grown Macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:31:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Salmo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Victor Salmo an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia in Pahala, I am writing to you in supoort of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:32:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Echalas	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Cristina Echalas and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:33:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Keanu	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alfred Keanu an employee of a hawaiian grown Macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:35:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Sebastian	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth Sebastian an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:36:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tyler blanco-louis	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Tyler Blanco an employe of a hawaiian grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:37:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Domingo Corpuz	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Domingo Corpuz and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvest employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:37:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roscoe Young	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Roscoe Young strongly support 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:39:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maverick Mariano	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Maverick Mariano an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:41:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dillin ballo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Dillin Ballo an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, i am writing in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:42:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ito	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts.

I have worked at Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Co. for 40+ years. Our corporate brand, Hawaiian Host Group has been doing many things to grow the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Our facilities in Honolulu and Kea`au have been in the modernization process so that we can ensure local jobs.

However, this bill can divide us from growers. Our company invested in acquiring in Hawaiian agriculture and we would like to continue to work will all the local growers to help the industry flourish.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because we have been uniting local companies with each other. For example, our Visitor Center is a partner with Mana Up, a company that helps local entrepreneurs grow their business. This bill has potential consequences to the Hawaiian macadamia industry as a whole and i would like to see manufacturers and growers work together.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:42:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arturo Candia	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Arturo Jr Candia and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:42:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clive Galban	Hawaiian Macadamia Nuts Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Clive Galban an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala. I am wrting to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:44:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Crippen	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Seth Crippen an employee of hawaiian grown Macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:45:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Davis-Natividad	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Bryan Davis-Natividad an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:47:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Andrade	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Derek Andrade an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:47:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonifacio Echalas	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Bonifacio Echalas and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:50:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Takanishi	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

We work hard every day to keep our Hawaii businesses afloat and competitive, including the Hawaii macadamia industry. We certainly need to avoid failures similar to the pineapple and sugar industries. In 2023, we invested in a local macadamia farm! Please help save our Hawaii jobs as this bill can impact our businesses severely. I am concerned that it will likely result in Hawaii job losses!

Have you ever had to layoff groups of hardworking, dedicated, Hawaii employees? Sad to say, I have. It is heart-wrenching. You lose sleep, you can't eat, your stomach aches. You cry along with them and treat them with kindness, dignity, and respect. Please, consider our companies too and the huge impact this Bill can have on us.

Hawaiian Host and Mauna Loa have been in business in Hawaii for over 150 years combined! We have provided for thousands of employees and their families over this time period. As our own employees have expressed to us, HHG is like their extended ohana and they will not forget all we've done for them...as we are forever grateful to all our employees who have helped to build our iconic Hawaii brands.

We provide economic opportunity for employees to work, live, raise their families, and retire in Hawaii, where many of them were born and raised, instead of having to move out of state to earn a living and/or retire elsewhere. HHG has also given back to our Hawaii communities we live in. We were recognized as One of Hawaii's Most Charitable Organizations and our legacy includes decades of college scholarships awarded to Hawaii's graduating high school students.

HHG has done Hawaii good! We want to keep as many jobs here in Hawaii. We help to make Hawaii's economy thrive. HHG has been a good steward for Hawaii and has invested and re-invested in our facilities, equipment, Hawaii agriculture and its employees, all the while taking care of its communities as well.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I appreciate your consideration of this very important matter.

Mahalo,

Joy Takanishi

Senior Director of Talent Management

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:48:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaeo Pascubillo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kaeo Pascubillo an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:50:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Andres	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Dennis Andres an employee of a hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – to my understanding – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry at all.

I am a team member at Hawaiian Host Group, and I know our company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

This bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because we are thoughtful and respectful of the Hawaiian Culture. I’m proud of the amazing, delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i. The people I work with every day are people who grew up here, care deeply about Hawai‘i, are involved in our community, and people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish! HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. If BB 2278 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278 HD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Brian Sankey
Business Development Manager - East
Hawaiian Host Group

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Cameron Uemura, and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

I started working for Hawaii Macadamia nut Services as a mechanic in 2023 in the district of kea'au. Throughout the short time that I've been here I've grown to love the job and the people around me. I'm a 3rd generation mac nut employee and want to make many memories and grow with the company.

The origin of macadamia used in Hawaii made products must be kept transparent, origin of any macadamia should be displayed on every Hawaii made product label. This ensures that Hawaii grown macadamia can retain their authenticity and products utilizing foreign macadamia can be easily distinguished. The use of foreign macadamia tarnishes a Hawaii staple product that has been grown and processed here within our islands for over 70 years. Locally grown macadamia that is world renowned should be protected and projected upon, not replaced by that of another for profit purposes. We have macadamia companies and growers that are still farming this local product. Companies and their multi-generational employees that depend on the sale of the macadamia they care for. Introduction of foreign macadamia within our Hawaiian economy floods the market, ultimately hindering our local farmers and their companies from maintaining sustainability. HB2278 will help and benefit farmers in the industry, it could help workers like me keep our jobs and prevent the industry from shutting down like how the sugar plantation days. So I support this bill and hopes for it to pass.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2278,
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS**

February 22, 2024

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is John C. Cross, a director of Macadamia Growers of Hawai'i, our organization strongly supports HB 2278, Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts. We are concerned that the Hawaiian macadamia nut industry is at risk of collapsing. For the past few years, our industry has faced increasingly intense global competition and now the import dumping of foreign nuts into the Hawaii and U.S. market. This has been used by certain well-known companies that appear on label as Hawaii grown and produced macadamia nuts, but the kernel inside those bags are anything but Hawaiian, they are from foreign sources. This undermines the value of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts through their deceptive labeling practices. As a result, millions of pounds of nuts have gone unharvested, and growers are facing millions of dollars of losses due to unsold or unharvested inventories. Worse yet many hundreds of acres of mature macadamia trees are being bulldozed out of existence. The investments into these orchards and the families had loved, lived, eaten, and raised their children upon are gone.

A select few companies are using low-cost foreign macadamia nuts in their products with images and packaging that portray them as authentic Hawai'i product to capitalize on the brand and value of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. This unsavory practice allows them to sell their products at prices that yield better margins, but misleads customers into believing they are buying Hawai'i-origin products. The practice also wreaks havoc on the local macadamia nut industry, and robs multiple generations of Hawaii residents of quality jobs.

The proposed amendment will strengthen the existing state statute on accurate and truthful labeling. The proposed amendment will also provide welcome relief for the local macadamia nut industry.

Thank you for allowing Hawai'i's macadamia nut growers to share our concerns on this bill.

Sincerely,

John C. Cross
Director
Macadamia Growers of Hawai'i

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:00:33 AM

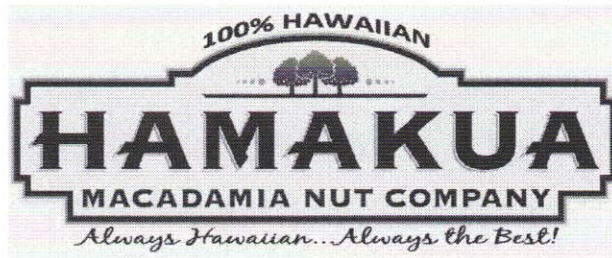
Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trieson Pascubillo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Trieson Pascubillo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."



Testimony of Raymond Kanehailua Jr.

Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Raymond Kanehailua and I am a manufacturing employees of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am writing to you in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RK', is written over the word 'Mahalo,'.

Raymond Kanehailua Jr.

Production Manager, Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:02:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith simolata	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Judith Simolata and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.



Testimony of Christie Bruno-Nahinu

Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Christie Bruno-Nahinu and I am a manufacturing employees of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am writing to you in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

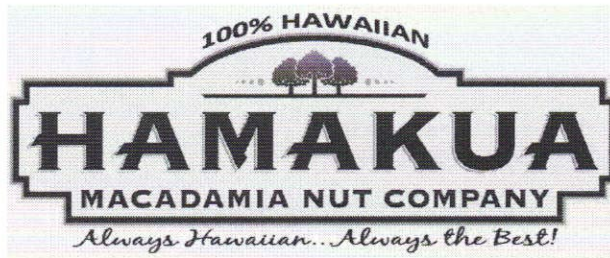
Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C. Bruno-Nah.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christie Bruno-Nahinu

Production Lead, Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company



Testimony of Jacob Salvador

Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jacob Salvador and I am a manufacturing employees of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am writing to you in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacob Salvador".

Jacob Salvador

Factory Supervisor, Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:07:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stu Haack	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world-class macadamia processing facility in Kea’au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is because of its commitment to the people of Hawai‘i and the future growth of its economy. I live on the mainland, but Hawai‘i has been a big part of my childhood and career. I remember the first time I visited when I was 15 years old and I was absolutely amazed by the Aloha spirit, the wonderful people, and the beauty of the islands. This is a magical place that I want to help continue to flourish for generations to come. And Hawaiian Host Group is helping make that happen with the decisions we make every day.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. It is our mission to help the economy thrive, and this bill will have a significant impact on our ability to do so, which may end up resulting in a loss of jobs, economic revenue, and future impact.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo.

Stu Haack

Director of eCommerce

Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the work culture and passion to make the islands’ future flourish with the products we manufacture, and the work we put in everyday serving the community.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because we share the spirit of Hawaii to world with our quality products.

Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe in giving back to the community and the land of Hawai‘i.

I love my job because I’m proud of the amazing, delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

I am opposed to HB 2278 because of the impact it will have on our business. For example:

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai'i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo

Drew Reynado

Field Sales Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:12:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudio Bagaoisan	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Claudio Bagaoisan and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a harvest labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Isaiah Souza and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

I am a 2nd generation in Hawaiian Macadamia nut services, I work in the fields of Keaau. I support this bill and hope to see this pass.

The origin of macadamia used in Hawaii made products must be kept transparent, origin of any macadamia should be displayed on every Hawaii made product label. This ensures that Hawaii grown macadamia can retain their authenticity and products utilizing foreign macadamia can be easily distinguished. The use of foreign macadamia tarnishes a Hawaii staple product that has been grown and processed here within our islands for over 70 years. Locally grown macadamia that is world renowned should be protected and projected upon, not replaced by that of another for profit purposes. We have macadamia companies and growers that are still farming this local product. Companies and their multi-generational employees that depend on the sale of the macadamia they care for. Introduction of foreign macadamia within our Hawaiian economy floods the market, ultimately hindering our local farmers and their companies from maintaining sustainability.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:17:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Calaro	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Antonio Calaro and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:20:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oscar Quilausing	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts.

I have worked at Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Co. for about 35 years. Our corporate brand, Hawaiian Host Group has been doing many things to grow the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Such as modernizing our process plants in Honolulu and Kea`au so that we can ensure local jobs.

I believe in the vision of our company and our leadership team as they are transparent and have the best intentions for the growth of all our brands. However, this bill can divide us from growers. Our company invested in acquiring in Hawaiian agriculture and we would like to continue to work will all the local growers to help grow the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

I appreciate you considering this testimony.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name Domingo Pablo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

The origin of macadamia used in Hawaii made products must be kept transparent, origin of any macadamia should be displayed on every Hawaii made product label. This ensures that Hawaii grown macadamia can retain their authenticity and products utilizing foreign macadamia can be easily distinguished. The use of foreign macadamia tarnishes a Hawaii staple product that has been grown and processed here within our islands for over 70 years. Locally grown macadamia that is world renowned should be protected and projected upon, not replaced by that of another for profit purposes. We have macadamia companies and growers that are still farming this local product. Companies and their multi-generational employees that depend on the sale of the macadamia they care for. Introduction of foreign macadamia within our Hawaiian economy floods the market, ultimately hindering our local farmers and their companies from maintaining sustainability.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:22:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Imelda Asistin	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee

My name is Imelda Asistin and I am a farmer of Hawaiian Grown Macadamia Nuts in Pahala Hawaii. I am writitng to you in Support of House Bill 2278.

Thank you!

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:24:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernesto Abellera	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi

My name is Ernesto Abellera and I support House Bill 2278.

Thank you so much!!

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:25:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Davis-Natividad	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Lena Davis-Natividad an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, I am writing to you in support of the 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Rene Marcos and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

The origin of macadamia used in Hawaii made products must be kept transparent, origin of any macadamia should be displayed on every Hawaii made product label. This ensures that Hawaii grown macadamia can retain their authenticity and products utilizing foreign macadamia can be easily distinguished. The use of foreign macadamia tarnishes a Hawaii staple product that has been grown and processed here within our islands for over 70 years. Locally grown macadamia that is world renowned should be protected and projected upon, not replaced by that of another for profit purposes. We have macadamia companies and growers that are still farming this local product. Companies and their multi-generational employees that depend on the sale of the macadamia they care for. Introduction of foreign macadamia within our Hawaiian economy floods the market, ultimately hindering our local farmers and their companies from maintaining sustainability.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:29:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DONNA SHIBUYA	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Donna Shibuya and I am a farmer of Hawaii grown Macadamia Nuts in the Ka'u District on Hawaii. I am writing to you in "Support" of House Bill 2278 relating to "Labeling of Macadamia Nuts".

Mahalo!!

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:31:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brilliante Aguinaldo	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Brilliante Aguinaldo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:31:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reynan Ranada	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts.

As a proud member of our corporate brand, Hawaiian Host Group, many things have been in the works from our brands to grow the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Our facilities in Honolulu and Kea`au have been in the modernization process so that we can ensure local jobs.

However, this bill can divide us from growers. Our company invested in acquiring in Hawaiian agriculture and we would like to continue to work with all the local growers to help the industry flourish.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the vision of our company and our leadership team as they are transparent in showing the best intentions for our team and their families. I have seen my team members work hard every day and I'm proud of the products that we create.

This bill, HB 2278, doesn't consider the potential impact it will have on all companies in the macadamia industry. Many of our livelihoods would be impacted and it could potentially hurt many legacy Hawai`i companies as well.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Mahalo

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:32:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renz Ranan	Maunaloa Macadamia	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I am in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry. Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is because I like the products we produce. We have products that ship all over the world. They are gifts from local people that emphasize the spirit of Hawai`i with everyone.

This bill, HB 2278, doesn't consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry. There's so many people that are involved, growers, manufacturers, sellers, etc. that this bill could impact many of the livelihoods of the workers' families in these legacy Hawai`i companies.

I appreciate your time in considering my testimony.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I believe in the vision of HHG because I have observed that through HHG's continual commitment to providing experiences through our premium products, we can share the Spirit of Hawai'i with the rest of the world. Additionally, with HHG's origins tracing back to nearly a century ago, is it important that HHG continues to honor the legacy of its original founders, Mamoru and Aiko Takitani and the dedication and perseverance they put into starting and developing the business. Moreover, HHG not only comprises of hardworking and dedicated employees who grew up on the islands but also of individuals who care deeply about Hawai'i.

I firmly believe that honoring the legacies and sharing the stories of locally rooted businesses in Hawai'i supersedes the significance of labeling ingredients as being "from" or "made in Hawai'i". With the continual development and expansion of HHG, if we choose to only rely on and limit ourselves to locally sourced and processed nuts, this would not only lead to significant job losses for HHG but also lead to negative impacts on our business, the local macadamia industry as a whole, and our local economy.

In conclusion, HB 2278 does not take into consideration the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the local macadamia industry or the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy companies. If HB 2278 passes, it would not be a win for Hawai'i and our industry at large, as it does not consider the potential consequences that it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278. While we, as Hawai'i growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. The reasons stated above are why I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Stella Jones
Procurement Specialist
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:37:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danilo Aquino	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Danilo Aquino and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:41:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Efres Nethon	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Efres Nethon and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:50:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlos Andrew	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Carlos Andrew and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:59:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andre Carvalho	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Andre Carvalho and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:07:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Tellechea	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of SB 3303 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because the company's values align with my own personal values. As a mother raising her kids in Hawai'i, I felt it was important as a mother to work for a company that cares about our community and supports the people. Our leadership is very transparent with its employees and has the best of intentions not just for our company, but for Hawai'i at large.

SB3303 does not consider the negative impact it will have on all of the companies in the macadamia industry and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Diana Tellechea

Customer Support Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:15:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Belmes	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Roy Belmes and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a harvesting supervisor of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:22:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Balcita	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

My name is Ruth Balcita, and I work as Payroll Clerk with the Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services. I strongly support HB-2278.

I believe in fairness. People consuming a product should know what and where it is made from. I believe consumers have the right to know. It is just right.

Let the consumer choose. There would be people who would look for original Hawaii grown macadamia nuts; some would terribly miss the good old Hawaiian macnuts.

On the other hand, there would be those who would not care, hence the need for labelling. Both consumers will be happy.

Most importantly, I sincerely believe Hawaii should be recognized for what it is, as the grower of the best macadamia nuts in the world.

Respectfully yours,

Ruth Balcita

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:25:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Octavio	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

i write to you in opposition of HB2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill will not help the macadamia nut industry as intended.

As a proud member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the macadamia nut industry here in Hawai'i as the company just invested 25 million in Hawaiian agriculture and also investing in upgrading our plant Alakawa, and also is in the development stage of building a nut processing plant at Kea'au.

Hawaiian Host group has good intentions of building the macadamia nut industry in Hawai'i. Yet this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and divides us from the growers we need the leadership to bring us together so we can all thrive.

Mahalo

Luke Octavio

Operations Manager

Hawaiian Host Group (Mauna Loa)

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:37:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominador Taronas	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Dominador Taronas and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:42:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irineo Bautista	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Irineo Bautista and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:47:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhames Soriano	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jhames Soriano and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:48:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renny Simeona	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Renny Simeona and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:50:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayson Antonio	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Dayson Antonio and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

I am in full support of this bill.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write to express my OPPOSITION to the proposed bill regarding the labeling requirements for macadamia nuts.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I can attest to our deep commitment to supporting the Hawaiian macadamia industry, our local communities, and our employees. We at HHG believe in making the Islands' future flourish. In the past year alone, we've allocated \$25 million towards bolstering Hawaiian agriculture. We are currently enhancing our Honolulu facility to ensure local jobs, and our plans include the development of a state-of-the-art macadamia processing facility in Kea'au, which will elevate the entire industry to new heights.

While I understand the importance of transparency in labeling, this bill puts unnecessary burdens on businesses and the judicial system, without providing any significant benefit to consumers. Courts should not be bogged down with endless litigation over minor labeling infractions when they have more significant cases to address, such as food safety, environmental sustainability, etc. Lawmakers should prioritize policies that genuinely protect consumers and promote responsible business practices.

It's crucial for lawmakers to recognize the importance of supporting Hawaii's macadamia industry and take measures to promote its growth and sustainability rather than burdening it with excessive labeling regulations. Policymakers should work collaboratively with industry stakeholders to develop solutions that balance consumer transparency with the needs of Hawaii's macadamia nut producers.

I urge you to reject/hold this bill and instead pursue measures that encourage innovation and support and strengthen Hawaii businesses. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Kori Kawagishi
HR Specialist
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:59:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reynaldo Jacinto	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Reynaldo Jacinto and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a general labor employee of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS..

I am in full support of this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:06:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodrigo Bagaoisan	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Rodrigo Bagaoisan and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:06:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josephine Ceredon	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Josephine Ceredon and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Kea'au. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:08:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marcelina mangoba	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Marcelina Mangoba and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a hand harvester employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:09:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Matthews	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lyle Matthews and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:13:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josiah Manila-Louis	Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Josiah Manila-Louis and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee in support of House Bill 2278.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I was attracted to and joined Hawaiian Host Group because of their commitment to strengthening the community. We work to not only solidify ourselves as the leading manufacturer of premium chocolate and macadamia nut products, but to uplift our state through educational scholarships, jobs, supporting local small businesses and growers, charitable contributions, community outreach and great efforts toward sustainability.

Hawaiian Host Group’s purpose, our job “is to make the islands’ future flourish.” This is a powerful statement that I believe we all take to heart. I am genuinely proud of our company and the people I work with every day. We are people who grew up here, care deeply about Hawai‘i, and are dedicated to providing futures for the next generations.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. Therefore, I **strongly oppose HB 2278.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,

Denice Delos Santos
Senior Demand Planner
Hawaiian Host Group

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024, 2:00pm
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and I represent the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association (HMNA). I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

The macadamia nut industry is a significant contributor to Hawaii's agricultural economy. There are currently about 16,000 acres of macadamia nuts statewide on roughly 620 farms. In 2021, the industry generated \$62.73 million (51 million pounds of wet-in shell sales), and in 2020, it was the 2nd largest agricultural commodity produced in Hawai'i, behind only seed crops. There are about 650 farms, which employ thousands of workers growing macadamia nuts in Hawaii.

Now, the industry is failing due to the fact that the largest brands do not purchase most of their mac nuts from Hawaiian growers. Instead, they now rely largely on foreign nuts, mostly from Africa, which are much cheaper.

Therefore, the mac nut farmers who are members of the HMNA require this legislative assistance to allow them fair business practices in the State of Hawaii and enable them to grow and flourish in the mac nut industry. Again, I strongly support HB2278.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,



Scott Enright
President
Scott E. Enright Company LLC

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here in the islands and care deeply about Hawai‘i.

If SB 3303 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly **oppose** SB 3303.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo
Jason Lee
Financial Systems Analyst
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

As a local boy, born and raised in Kaneohe, I joined Hawaiian Host Group to level-up a local company so that it can enrich the local community.

This bill is poorly written without consideration for any knock on effects; it is a shining example of superficial bureaucracy and lazy legislation. I believe we as a State are better than this, and there is a solution that will help our local growers without penalizing other companies just for the sake of votes. We need to work together as a community instead of some leaders just chasing votes thoughtlessly.

Therefore, I **strongly oppose** this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Chris Wakukawa
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

My name is Jaymie Umehira, and I am the Talent Acquisition Coordinator for Hawaiian Host Group (HHG). I was born in raised in Honolulu and was so excited to make the move back home to a well-known local company. My decision to join this company was driven by a deep desire to be part of something great, something that resonates with the spirit of Hawaii. When I first learned about Hawaiian Host Group, it wasn't just the reputation for quality products, but also the sense of community and tradition that the company embodies. I wanted to work for a company that not only values its employees but wants to make the Island future flourish. The Talent Acquisition Team is responsible for the hiring initiatives, and we are the first point of contact. One of the things that truly resonated with me is Hawaiian Host Group's commitment to providing job opportunities for our residents. By offering meaningful employment, the company not only sustains families but also fosters a sense of pride and belonging within our community.

SB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. Being apart of a Team who hires not only great talent but people who genuinely love what they are doing is the biggest blessing to me. This is why I strongly oppose HB 2278 because it will have an impact on our workforce.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my testimony and your consideration on these matters.

Mahalo,
Jaymie Umehira
Talent Acquisition Coordinator
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition to HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I was born and raised on the island of Oahu. Growing up, I knew that if I ever wanted to give someone a gift from Hawaii, I couldn't go wrong with a box of chocolate macadamias from Hawaiian Host/Mauna Loa. I consider myself lucky to be employed by a company that has been a significant part of my life. This local company has continuously given back to the community even during the pandemic.

I thoroughly enjoy my time at Hawaiian Host Group, primarily due to the exceptional individuals I have the privilege to work with daily. They consist of locals who harbor a profound love for Hawai'i, actively engage in our community, and are committed to fostering a prosperous future for the Islands.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Rick Komori
Inside Sales Representative
[Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group]

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host group because of their mission to make the Hawaiian Islands flourish, and the fact that they are following through on their mission by continuing to invest in projects that keep jobs in Hawai‘i. As someone who grew up here, it was extremely important to me to find a company that prioritized local investment to grow business in the Islands.

It is a joy to work for a company that cares so deeply about Hawai‘i and its employees, but I’m also extremely proud of the amazing products that we create. Our products are enjoyed around the world while sharing the spirit of Hawai‘i.

SB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. Therefore, I strongly oppose SB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Casey Smith
Demand Planner
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe in communication, consideration, and in family. My values align with Hawaiian Host Group's as they believe in bettering themselves and its employees through learning, growth, and hard work.

I love working at Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent, communicative, and considerate all while having the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large. Hawaiian Host Group took a chance on me when they brought me on to work for them. They treat me like family and encourage me to learn and grow. This company is the only company that I have worked for where they are completely transparent with their employees in all aspects of the business. We need more like Hawaiian Host Group.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. I feel that this Bill will divide the industry further. This isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

I appreciate your consideration of these matters and solutions and for considering this testimony.

Mahalo,
Candice Smith
Accounting Clerk
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in their vision, to share the spirit of Hawai‘i with the world. In my experience, our company has never failed in keeping their vision at the core of every single decision we make.

I am grateful to work for a company that values me not just as an employee, but as a person. I was able to start a family and transition seamlessly into the life of a working mother because HHG supported me with generous maternity leave and ongoing understanding of my circumstances. This motivates me to work hard and simultaneously drive our purpose: to make the Island’s future flourish.

HB 2278 will have an immediate impact to HHG’s business and therefore myself and the hundreds of people we employ. As Hawaiian manufacturers of macadamia products, we want to collaborate with farmers on regulations, but this bill will only divide us from growers. For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and am hopeful we can all work towards a better solution.

Mahalo,

Natalie Herr
National Account Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of SB 3303, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Claydine Mew
Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable Supervisor
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:09:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Wee	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

February 22nd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chairs Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

I write in opposition of HB 2278, which tackles the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry.

- We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year;
- We are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure the quality of Hawaii products and support local jobs,
- I have also seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

This bill is a distraction from real growth of the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because the company’s value aligns with mine. I am happy and proud of what we have worked hard to do ---share the spirit of Aloha and Ohana to the rest of the world as well as continuing to make the Hawai‘i islands flourish through giving back to the local community as well as providing job opportunities to our Kama‘aina.

I believe that HB 2278 will impact all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. And because of this, it’s not a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. I oppose HB 2278.

As Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, we want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations. This Bill, however, further divides the industry.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I hope that this will help shed light on the negative implications of passing the HB 2278 bill.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Michelle Wee

Ecommerce Manager

Hawaiian Host Group

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I joined Hawaiian Host Group because my core values align with theirs. They are a company that is innovative and is constantly giving back to their employees and community. They have proved to be a company that sticks with their mission which is to “make the island’s flourish,” by consistently investing in the Hawaiian ecosystem and economy. They have also proved to give back to Hawaiian locals by starting the non-profit, Takitani Foundatin which was started in 1993 that helps give local Hawaiian’s access to advancing their education.

Because I’m proud of the amazing and delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.

While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278 HD1.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Erika Martinez
Senior Sales Business Analyst
Hawaiian Host Group

**Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian
Affairs**

February 23rd, 2024, at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition to HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, we have consistently demonstrated our commitment to supporting Hawaiian agriculture, as evidenced by our recent \$25 million investment in the local agricultural sector. Moreover, our ongoing efforts to modernize our facilities in Honolulu and our plans to establish a state-of-the-art macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au underscore our dedication to fostering local jobs and advancing the macadamia industry as a whole.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawaii and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawaii companies.

If HB 2278 passes, it isn't a win for Hawaii and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I oppose HB 2278.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Trish Peters
Associate Corporate Buyer
Hawaiian Host Group

RE: SB 3303 SD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of SB 3303 relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill and its lack of clarity on execution and sustainable operation will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry.

As a team member of Hawaiian Host Group, we are actively making strides to better the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Within the last year our company invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture, began modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from local growers.

You may continue with a statement along the lines of:

- I joined Hawaiian Host Group because...
- I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because...
- Hawaiian Host Group’s values align with my personal values as I believe...
- The reason why I joined Hawaiian Host Group is...

Examples of reasons why you might love your job are:

- Because I’m proud of the amazing / delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being “from” or “made in Hawai‘i,” they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai‘i.
- Because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large.
- Because of the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here / people who care deeply about Hawai‘i / people who are involved in our community / people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish...

Next, end your testimony by explaining why you OPPOSE SB 3303 because of the impact it will have on our business. For example:

- SB 3303 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies.
- If SB 3303 passes, it isn’t a win for Hawai‘i and our industry at large as it doesn’t consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. Therefore, I strongly oppose SB 3303.

- While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That's why I oppose SB 3303.

Lastly, thank the Committee for considering your testimony:

- Thank you for considering my testimony.
- I appreciate you considering this testimony.
- Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Nicole Morisugi
E-Commerce Specialist
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:56:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Isa	Hawaiian Host Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB2278 HD 1, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. I view that this bill could hurt our macadamia industry in Hawai`i.

Though I've only been a team member of Hawaiian Host Group for a short time, I know that the macadamia is highly valued by people worldwide. Our company invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year to bring it back to local roots, and we are in the works of modernizing our Honolulu and Kea`au facilities so that we can improve our processes and production. Yet, this bill could potentially stop the industry from growing and instead further divides us from the growers.

I have always known the brand Mauna Loa & stopped by the Visitor Center many times as a child to pick up omiyage. As I got older, I went away for school, but each time I left, I made sure to take up some Mauna Loa products to share. Some of them already knew of Mauna Loa (even internationally), but for others it was their first time hearing about us. This is what we, as Hawaiian Host Group, which is the parent company of the brands: Mauna Loa, Hawaiian Host, MacFarms & KOHO, strive to do--share the essence of Hawai`i with the world. Since I started working here, I've been given the great privilege to see our employees hard at work. From our families that harvest from the fields, to production side that makes the products, to our Visitor Center staff that cater for many tour companies as an essential stop, to our marketing & sales team who had such a huge hand in rebranding our packaging so we can show off locations in Hawai`i just by being on the shelves.

I'm opposing HB2278 HD1 because it doesn't consider the possible impact it will have on the Hawaiian macadamia industry as a whole. Due to our companies having so many products and being international, we need the nuts to make product. The hope is always to buy Hawaiian kernel so that we are able to produce more jobs in Hawai`i. Our Visitor Center in Kea`au houses a spot for Mana Up. This business helps local entrepreneurs kick start their companies and allow them to really grow their business. The businesses vary with each island and it's amazing to see how many products Hawai`i can produce.

If this bill were to pass, what would happen to our workers? We would need to pause production just to rework packaging (both primary and secondary), they wouldn't be able to work at the capacity they are now. In addition, who would the farmers sell their nuts to? What happens to all

the retailers that we have shelf space in? Do they just have to dump everything and eat the cost? There are so many unknown consequences to this bill that it's concerning for the livelihoods of all those that are working in or impacted the Hawaiian macadamia industry. I would like to see collaboration and compromise with growers and manufacturers so that we can really make the this industry flourish.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Mahalo.

February 23, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2278, HD1
RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am a local agricultural business owner/manager/ at M. Nakamura Nursery, LLC and I **support HB 2278, HD1**, which clarifies labeling requirements for macadamia nuts and requires country of origin to be included on the principal display panel of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts.

Hawai'i is the 5th largest producer of macadamia nuts in the world (620 farms, operating on 17,000 acres), after Australia, South Africa, China, and Kenya. Production in 2021 totaled 51 million pounds; the farm value was estimated at \$62.7 million.

The Hawai'i macadamia nut industry is under great stress from economic and environmental pressures. One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. Currently, there is little to no regulation to prevent the use of Hawaiian names to market macadamia nuts grown outside of Hawai'i. HB 2278, HD1, enacts positive changes to protect macadamia nut farmers in the State and the premium brand of goods grown and produced in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Ray Nakamura
(owner/operator of M. Nakamura Nursery, LLC
808-936-8605

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:47:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eugenio Asistin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Eugenio Asistin and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:29:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romeo T Felipe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Romeo T Felipe

Kapua Orchards

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

- I joined Hawaiian Host Group because I believe in the vision of our company and in our leadership team as they are as transparent / communicative / considerate ... with the best intentions for our team and for Hawai‘i at large.
- I was born and raised here in Hawai‘i and love the people I work with every day. They are people who grew up here / people who care deeply about Hawai‘i / people who are involved in our community / people who believe in making the Islands’ future flourish.
- While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.
- Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo!

Dane Otani

Key Account Manager

Hawaiian Host / Mauna Loa / Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:51:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faun Skyles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 23, 2024

Chair Chris Tarnas Vice-Chair Gregg Takayama Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2278, HD1 - Labeling of Macadamia Nuts

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

I write to express my full support for HB 2278, HD1, which mandates clear labeling of macadamia nuts, including the country of origin on consumer packages. As an agricultural buyer for a local food hub, I've witnessed the challenges facing our macadamia nut industry due to misleading labeling practices. This bill is vital for protecting our farmers and preserving the integrity of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. My customers prioritize supporting local businesses, and clear labeling is essential to ensure they can confidently invest their dollars back into our community.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Faun A. Skyles

Director of Supply Chain

Honolulu, HI

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:08:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelita Badua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:36:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:53:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esmenia Garo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for my family

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:55:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nenita Dulig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:57:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simon Torres Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the bill to help our rural community

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:04:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelda Bilog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:25:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
russ clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Russell Clark and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Holualoa. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

Mahalo,

Russell

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:54:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 23, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2278, HD1

RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 2278, HD1, which clarifies labeling requirements for macadamia nuts and requires country of origin to be included on the principal display panel of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Theresa Thompson

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024, at 2:00 pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition to HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world-class macadamia processing facility in Kea'au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. I joined Hawaiian Host Group because of the intense focus this company has on making the islands' future flourish. Everything we do is driven by this purpose. As the Facilities Engineering Manager, I have seen firsthand the large investments this company is making to create more jobs and allow greater amounts of Hawaiian macadamias to be processed in Hawai'i. I am currently overseeing the installation of automated systems and robots at our Honolulu facility. Contrary to other large food manufacturers that I have worked for in the past, Hawaiian Host Group isn't using automation to remove jobs but to augment and create more. I joined Hawaiian Host Group because everyone I work with truly cares about Hawaii and its people. I am very proud of the amazing and delicious products we create that are loved by people across the world. More important than being "from" or "made in Hawai'i", they are gifts that share the spirit of Hawai'i.

HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai'i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai'i companies. This bill would divide the industry and wouldn't allow for collaboration that would improve the livelihood of all Hawaiians in this industry.

Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Michael Muñoz
Facilities Engineering Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:20:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Ortega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:29:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to require truth in labeling for origin of macnuts. Hawaii macnuts should come from Hawaii. NOT only be processed in Hawaii.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:21:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
blaine navarro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:59:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonardo B Lalin	Kapua Orchards, Inc	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

We recently joined the Hawaiian Host Group Ohana and have seen first-hand that this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. Not only have they improved our working conditions and wages, but they have also invested heavily in our facility. I believe in the vision of our company, as they operate with the best intentions for our team and Hawai‘i at large.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Leonardo B Lalin

Kapua Orchards

Testimony of Raylyne Welker

February 21, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Raylyne Welker and I live in Pahala, Hawaii, a town where many people work for companies that grow Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts. Many families here depend on this product for their total income. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Raylyne Welker

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:03:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Markham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a value-added food producer myself with a product using 100% Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts, I find it unfair that some large businesses get away with calling their products local even though most of the ingredients are imported. For macadamia nuts, some companies import a large percentage of their nuts from countries like Africa and China rather than getting them locally and still using the words "Hawaii made" and "made with with Aloha" on their packaging. This is sad and unfair for businesses who value local and also for customers who get taken advantage of because they don't know what to look for when searching for local products. This bill will make it more fair for customers and for small businesses making the effort to use local ingredients.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

The reason I joined Hawaiian Host Group was the allure of the Aloha Culture. I have experienced so many positive milestones working here. The people I work with are like a second family. They have taught me about fostering an Aloha Spirit and I try to spread that positivity daily. These are people who have close ties to the Islands, and as a part of this company I have learned to view the land from a different perspective.

If SB 3303 passes, it isn't a win for Hawai'i and our industry at large as it doesn't consider the potential consequences it might have on businesses downstream from the growers. I am dedicated to expanding the use of Macadamias across of the United States, and that is why I strongly oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Daniel Verduzco
Sales Operations Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:51:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendon natividad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Brendon Natividad and i am strongly support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:03:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jozenn zedrick cardenas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Jozen Cardenas and i strongly support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:05:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jensen Navarro-Villa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Jensen Villa and I am strongly support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:07:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana kaupu-Manini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am kaimana Kaupu and I strongly support this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:34:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Erald Aurelio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Mark Aurelio, and i am supporting this bill.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:55:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Soares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ruby Soares and I support the country of origin labeling requirements for macadamia nuts because greater transparency with respect to origin is important to me. I support the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii and packaging that accurately conveys the origin of macadamia nuts will make it easier for me as the consumer and ensure that I am truly supporting the Hawaii macadamia nut industry. Further, I purchase macadamia nuts for family and friends as a gift from Hawaii and I fully intend for the macadamia nuts to actually be Hawaii-grown.

Macadamia nuts have long been a well known Hawaii commodity, but the increase in macadamia nuts being grown globally has threatened our local industry. Enacting HB2278 HD1 will help to keep the Hawaii macadamia nut industry going, in turn supporting the livelihood of those who work in the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii, their families and our local economy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ruby Soares

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:17:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosita Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Rosita Castillo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala. I am writing to you in sorter of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

Testimony of Crystal Soder
Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 23, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Crystal Soder and I work for a company that farms Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in the Kau District. I am writing to you in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers have faced some of the most difficult times our industry has seen in the past few years. USDA NASS reported utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts fell by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Farmgate prices also fell to the lowest price since 2015 to an average of \$0.88/lb. The total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers fell by 49%, wiping out nearly half of Hawai'i's macadamia nut market value.

One of the greatest threats to the viability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the misleading labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 requires country of origin to be included on the label of a consumer package of raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation ensures the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and gives consumers and retailers important information on the origin of macadamia nuts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,



Crystal Soder

Accounts Payable

Hamakua Macadamia Nut company

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:46:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kani Konman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Kani Konman and I am a farmer of Hawai'i -grown macadamia nuts in Pahala. I am writing to you as an Equipment Operator in support of House Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS."

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:38:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Usha Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as written.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:51:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Cerovich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2278 relating to labeling of Macadamia Nuts as written.

February 22, 2024

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Susan Nakatsu and I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2278 HD1 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

My employer is Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Services on Hawaii Island. Our company farms acres of macadamia nut orchards on the Big Island. The macadamia nuts that are harvested become product for consumers. And many consumers choose to buy Hawaii grown macadamia nuts. Disclosing the country of origin of macadamia nuts on packaging provides important product information for consumers. This Bill will ensure the authenticity of Hawaii macadamia nut products. As we continue to promote our industry, this bill will benefit both farmers and consumers.

We support Hawaii grown and we ask that you support our industry by passing House Bill 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts.

Thank you for your consideration on this bill and my testimony.

Mahalo,



Susan Nakatsu

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:27:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Rafael	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Philip Rafael am in support of bill # HB2278

relating to labeling of macadamia.

The origin of macadamia used in Hawaii made products must be kept transparent, origin of any macadamia should be displayed on every Hawaii made product label. This ensures that Hawaii grown macadamia can retain their authenticity and products utilizing foreign macadamia can be easily distinguished. The use of foreign macadamia tarnishes a Hawaii staple product that has been grown and processed here within our islands for over 70 years. Locally grown macadamia that is world renowned should be protected and projected upon, not replaced by that of another for profit purposes. We have macadamia companies and growers that are still farming this local product. Companies and their multi-generational employees that depend on the sale of the macadamia they care for.

Introduction of foreign macadamia within our Hawaiian economy floods the market, ultimately hindering our local farmers and their companies from maintaining & sustainability.

Being part of this macadamia harvesting industry for 17 years gives me great pride in what it takes for us to accomplish our goals year to year. Allowing foreign countries to dilute our authentic products is shameful and disheartening. I want these local macadamia companies and farms to flourish and survive to support future generations with work opportunities in an industry that we can be proud to take part in.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:07:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Aurelio	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Elizabeth Aurelio and I am a former of Hawai'i-grown macadamia nuts in Ka'u. I am writing to you as a general equipment operator employee in support of House Bill 2278.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:24:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Alaoan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Philip Alaoan an employee of hawaiian grown macadamia nut in Pahala, i am writing to you in support of 2278 HB RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Keenan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Renee Keenan

Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company

February 22, 2024

RE: HB2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Keohokalole, Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Renee Keenan, and I proudly serve as a manager at Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company. I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2278 RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS.

The challenges faced by Hawai'i's macadamia nut farmers in recent years have been unprecedented. According to USDA NASS, the utilized production of Hawai'i macadamia nuts plummeted by 29 percent from 52.9 million pounds in 2021 to 37.7 million pounds in 2022. Furthermore, farmgate prices dropped to their lowest level since 2015, averaging \$0.88/lb. This drastic decline resulted in a staggering 49% reduction in the total take-home value for macadamia nut farmers, significantly impacting Hawai'i's macadamia nut market.

One of the critical threats to the sustainability of macadamia farming in Hawai'i is the deceptive labeling of macadamia nut products. HB2278 addresses this issue by mandating the inclusion of the country of origin on the label of all consumer packages containing raw or processed macadamia nuts. This legislation is essential for preserving the authenticity of Hawai'i's macadamia nut products and providing consumers and retailers with vital information regarding the origin of these nuts.

Thank you for considering this crucial bill and for allowing me to share my testimony in support of HB2278.

Mahalo,

Renee Keenan

Manager

Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company Satellite Store

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:40:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2278 as written.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rhiannan Shippen. I am the Director of Supply Chain for Hawaiian Host and Treasurer of the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association. I am writing to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. HB 2278 does not consider the potential impact it will have on all the companies in the macadamia industry in Hawai‘i and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. While we, as Hawaii growers and manufacturers of macadamia products, want to collaborate with other farmers on regulations, we feel like this Bill further divides the industry. That’s why I oppose HB 2278.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Rhiannan Shippen

Director of Supply Chain
Hawaiian Host Group

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of SB 3303, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers. SB 3303 does not consider the potential impact it will have on the market, local business, the Hawaii macadamia industry and the livelihoods of the people working for these legacy Hawai‘i companies. That’s why I strongly oppose SB 3303.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my testimony.

Aloha,

Kamalei Grace
Executive Assistant & Office Manager
Hawaiian Host Group

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:20:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria Sotto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gloria Sotto and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:21:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adela Fukunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Adela Fukunaga and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:26:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosita Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rosita Castillo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:28:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Sales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Grace Sales and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

My name is Grace Sales and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:29:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Owen Salmo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Owen Salmo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:29:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Fukunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Chester Fukunaga and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:31:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra Keohuloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ezra Keahuloa and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:32:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodel Abero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rodel Abero and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 23rd, 2024 at 2:00pm

RE: HB 2278 HD1 Relating to Labeling of Macadamia Nuts – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in opposition of HB 2278, relating to the labeling of macadamia nuts. This bill – put simply – will not help the Hawaiian Macadamia industry as intended.

As a proud team member of Hawaiian Host Group, I know this company cares about the Hawaiian macadamia industry. We invested \$25 million in Hawaiian agriculture just last year, we are modernizing our Honolulu facility as we speak to ensure local jobs, and I have seen our plans to build a world class macadamia processing facility in Kea‘au that would benefit the entire industry.

Yet, this bill is a distraction from growing the industry and instead further divides us from the growers.

I believe in the vision of Hawaiian Host Group because they always put the community and its people first. Whether it is the Takitani Foundation Scholarships helping local students afford tuition, to Hosting Mana Up and Keiki Rise, empowering the next generation of young entrepreneurs in Hawaii.

Hawaiian Host Group has also made the list of Hawaii’s Most Charitable Organizations in both 2022, and 2023. In 2023, HHG has donated of \$380,000+ worth of in-kind product donations and sponsorships to over 70 organizations. This displays HHG’s commitment to everyone including farmers. We are receiving all the Local Kernel that we can and not turning any growers away. I can’t say the same for other Macadamia Processors supporting this bill on the basis of supporting local farmers. One Processor in particular went in front of everyone at the 2023 Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association Meeting held at Nani Mau Gardens and stated they are not able to receive shipments from any local growers because they don’t have the demand to even move supply from their own farms. How can they claim to be helping local growers?

Mahalo
Kody Agbayani
Warehouse Manager
Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:33:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mario Badua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mario Badua and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:34:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roquito Badua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rocky Badua and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:37:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Salmo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jerry Salmo and I am a farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:42:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roslyn L. Fukunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Roslyn Fukunaga and I am a 2nd generation farmer of Hawai'i grown macadamia nuts in Pahala, Hawaii.

I am writing to you **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2278 – Relating to labeling of Macadamia nuts.

Thank you

HB-2278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 2:29:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelden Yagin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb 2278. This bill will not help the mac nut industry.