
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that coffee is an
2 important agricultural crop of the State and a highly valued
3 commodity in Hawaii. Despite the premium value of Hawaii-grown
4 coffee, the State has not protected the integrity of the names
5 of coffee origin regions, such as "Kona", "Kau", or "Kauai".
6 Instead, existing law allows coffee blends that contain only
7 very small amounts of coffee beans from these distinctive
8 regions to use the name of those regions on product packaging, a
9 practice that deceives consumers and harms coffee growers.

10 The legislature further finds that Hawaii law requires
11 that, for coffee products, only ten per cent of the coffee must
12 originate in the geographic area indicated for that product to
13 use the geographic origin name on its label. Other
14 jurisdictions typically require that one hundred per cent of the
15 coffee originate in the geographic area to protect the value,
16 integrity, and reputation of that product and its associated
17 geographic origin name.



1 The legislature notes that a 2018 publication entitled
2 "Strengthening Sustainable Food Systems Through Geographical
3 Indications: An Analysis of Economic Impacts" by the Food and
4 Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the European
5 Bank for Reconstruction and Development concluded, among other
6 things, that Kona coffee "does not enjoy any strong protection
7 of its name" from the State and, as a result, downstream
8 stakeholders, rather than farmers, "reap the economic benefits
9 of the fame of Kona".

10 The legislature additionally finds that despite existing
11 labeling laws that include specific requirements for font sizes
12 and disclosure of blend percentages, the simple inclusion of a
13 geographic origin name on a product effectively misleads
14 consumers into believing that the product is representative of
15 the specialty product of that region, even though, for example,
16 in a coffee blend that is ten per cent Kona coffee, the flavor
17 of the Kona coffee is often undetectable at such low
18 concentrations. Consumers are then deceived into paying a
19 premium for a "Hawaii" product that does not represent the name
20 on its label. Therefore, a change to the law is needed to
21 protect consumers by ensuring that minimum blend amounts allowed



1 for coffee products that bear geographic origin names constitute
2 a majority of the product from that geographic origin and are
3 sufficient to ensure that the product reflects the quality and
4 character of the region.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Make it a violation of the coffee labeling law to use
7 a geographic origin in labeling or advertising for
8 roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
9 coffee beverage blends that contain less than a
10 certain percentage of coffee by weight from that
11 geographic origin, phased in to one hundred per cent;
12 and
- 13 (2) Exempt retailers that do not package roasted coffee,
14 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage from
15 liability for the sale of roasted coffee, instant
16 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage that use a
17 label or advertisement in violation of the coffee
18 labeling law.

19 SECTION 2. Section 486-120.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:



1 "§486-120.6 Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed coffee;
2 labeling or advertising requirements. (a) In addition to all
3 other labeling requirements, the identity statement used for
4 labeling or advertising roasted coffee, instant coffee, or
5 ready-to-drink coffee beverages produced in whole or in part
6 from Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed green coffee beans shall
7 meet the following requirements:

8 (1) For roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
9 coffee beverages that contain one hundred per cent
10 Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed coffee by weight,
11 the identity statement shall consist of either:

12 (A) The geographic origin of the Hawaii-grown and
13 Hawaii-processed coffee, in coffee consisting of
14 beans from only one geographic origin, followed
15 by the word "Coffee"; provided that the
16 geographic origin may be immediately preceded by
17 the term "100%"; or

18 (B) The per cent coffee by weight of one of the
19 Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed coffees, used
20 in coffee consisting of beans from several
21 geographic origins, followed by the geographic



1 origin of the weight-specified coffee and the
2 terms "Coffee" and "All Hawaiian";

3 (2) For roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
4 coffee beverages consisting of a blend of one or more
5 Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed coffees and coffee
6 not grown or processed in Hawaii, the per cent coffee
7 by weight of one of the Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-
8 processed coffees used in the blend, followed by the
9 geographic origin of the weight-specified coffee and
10 the term "Coffee Blend"; and

11 (3) Each word or character in the identity statement shall
12 be of the same type size and shall be contiguous. The
13 smallest letter or character of the identity statement
14 on packages of sixteen ounces or less net weight shall
15 be at least one and one-half times the type size
16 required under federal law for the statement of net
17 weight or three-sixteenths of an inch in height,
18 whichever is smaller. The smallest letter or
19 character of the identity statement on packages of
20 greater than sixteen ounces net weight shall be at
21 least one and one-half times the type size required



1 under federal law for the statement of net weight.
2 The identity statement shall be conspicuously
3 displayed without any intervening material in a
4 position above the statement of net weight. Upper and
5 lower case letters may be used interchangeably in the
6 identity statement.

7 (b) A listing of the geographic origins of the various
8 Hawaii-grown and Hawaii-processed coffees and the regional
9 origins of the various coffees not grown or processed in Hawaii
10 that are included in a blend shall be shown on the label. This
11 list shall consist of the term "Contains:", followed by, in
12 descending order of per cent coffee by weight and separated by
13 commas, the respective geographic origin or regional origin of
14 the various coffees in the blend. Each geographic origin or
15 regional origin shall be preceded by the per cent coffee by
16 weight represented by that geographic origin or regional origin,
17 expressed as a number followed by the per cent sign. In place
18 of separate listings of regional origins of coffee not grown or
19 processed in Hawaii in the blend, the list may include the words
20 "Foreign-grown Coffee", preceded by the per cent coffee by
21 weight in the blend. The type size used for this list shall be



1 no less than half that of the identity statement. This list
2 shall appear below the identity statement on the front panel of
3 the label.

4 (c) The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall
5 apply to the labeling of any inner package or inner wrapping of
6 the roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee
7 beverages that includes any geographic origin of Hawaii-grown
8 and Hawaii-processed coffee, regardless of whether the inner
9 package or inner wrapping is intended to be individually sold.

10 (d) It shall be a violation of this section to:

11 (1) Use the identity statement specified in subsection

12 (a) (1) (A) or similar terms in labeling or advertising
13 unless the package of roasted coffee, instant coffee,
14 or ready-to-drink coffee beverage contains one hundred
15 per cent coffee by weight from that one geographic
16 origin;

17 (2) Use a geographic origin in labeling or advertising,
18 including in conjunction with a coffee style or in any
19 other manner, if ~~[the roasted coffee, instant coffee,~~
20 ~~or ready to drink coffee beverage contains less than~~



1 ~~ten per cent coffee by weight from that geographic~~
2 ~~origin;]~~:

3 (A) During the period from July 1, 2024, through
4 June 30, 2025, the roasted coffee, instant
5 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage
6 contains less than twenty-five per cent coffee by
7 weight from that geographic origin;

8 (B) During the period from July 1, 2025, through
9 June 30, 2026, the roasted coffee, instant
10 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage
11 contains less than fifty per cent coffee by
12 weight from that geographic origin;

13 (C) During the period from July 1, 2026, through
14 June 30, 2027, the roasted coffee, instant
15 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage
16 contains less than seventy-five per cent coffee
17 by weight from that geographic origin; and

18 (D) On or after July 1, 2027, roasted coffee, instant
19 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage less
20 than one hundred per cent coffee by weight from
21 that geographic origin;



- 1 (3) Use a geographic origin in labeling or advertising
2 roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
3 coffee beverages, including advertising in conjunction
4 with a coffee style or in any other manner, without
5 disclosing the per cent coffee by weight used from
6 that geographic origin as described in subsection
7 (a) (1) (B) and (a) (2);
- 8 (4) Use a geographic origin in labeling or advertising
9 roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
10 coffee beverages, including in conjunction with a
11 coffee style or in any other manner, if the green
12 coffee beans used in that roasted coffee, instant
13 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage do not meet
14 the grade standard requirements of rules adopted under
15 chapter 147;
- 16 (5) Misrepresent, on a label or in advertising of a
17 roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink
18 coffee beverage, the per cent coffee by weight of any
19 coffee from a geographic origin or regional origin;
- 20 (6) Use the term "All Hawaiian" on a label or in
21 advertising of a roasted coffee, instant coffee, or



- 1 ready-to-drink coffee beverage if that roasted coffee,
2 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage is
3 not produced entirely from green coffee beans grown
4 and processed in Hawaii;
- 5 (7) Use a geographic origin on the front label panel of a
6 package of roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-
7 to-drink coffee beverage other than in the trademark
8 or in the identity statement as authorized in
9 subsection (a) (1) and (2) unless the roasted coffee,
10 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage
11 contains one hundred per cent coffee by weight from
12 that geographic origin;
- 13 (8) Use more than one trademark on a package of roasted
14 coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee
15 beverage unless the roasted coffee, instant coffee, or
16 ready-to-drink coffee beverage contains one hundred
17 per cent coffee by weight from that geographic origin
18 specified by the trademark;
- 19 (9) Use a trademark that begins with the name of a
20 geographic origin on a package of roasted coffee,
21 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage



1 unless the roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-
2 to-drink coffee beverage contains one hundred per cent
3 coffee by weight from that geographic origin or the
4 trademark ends with words that indicate a business
5 entity; or

6 (10) Print the identity statement required by subsection
7 (a) in a smaller font than that used for a trademark
8 that includes the name of a geographic origin pursuant
9 to paragraph (7) and in a location other than the
10 front label panel of a package of roasted coffee,
11 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverage.

12 (e) Retailers that do not package roasted coffee, instant
13 coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverages shall not be liable
14 for the sale of roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-
15 drink coffee beverages that use a label or advertisement in
16 violation of this section.

17 [~~(e)~~] (f) Roasters, manufacturers, or other persons who
18 package roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee
19 beverages covered by this section shall maintain, for a period
20 of two years, records on the volume and geographic origin or
21 regional origin of coffees purchased, sold, and used and any



1 other records required by the department for the purpose of
2 enforcing this section. Authorized employees of the department
3 shall have access to these records during normal business hours.

4 [~~f~~] (g) As used in this section:

5 "Geographic origin" means the geographic regions in which
6 Hawaii-grown green coffee beans are produced, as defined in
7 rules adopted under chapter 147; provided that the term
8 "Hawaiian" may be substituted for the geographic origin
9 "Hawaii".

10 "Per cent coffee by weight" means the percentage calculated
11 by dividing the weight in pounds of roasted green coffee beans
12 of one geographic or regional origin used in a production run of
13 roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee
14 beverages by the total weight in pounds of the roasted green
15 coffee beans used in that production run of roasted coffee,
16 instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverages, and
17 multiplying the quotient by one hundred.

18 "Ready-to-drink coffee beverage" means a prepackaged
19 beverage that consists of or includes coffee and is sold in a
20 prepared form that can be immediately consumed upon purchase.



1 "Ready-to-drink coffee beverage" does not include made-to-order
2 beverages."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Consumer Protection; Coffee Labeling; Geographic Origins;
Prohibitions

Description:

Establishes a timeline by which roasted coffee, instant coffee, and ready-to-drink coffee beverages that use a geographic origin in labeling or advertising are required to contain a certain per cent coffee by weight from that geographic origin. Exempts retailers that do not package roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverages from liability for the sale of roasted coffee, instant coffee, or ready-to-drink coffee beverages that use a label or advertisement in violation of the coffee labeling law. Takes effect 7/1/3000. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

