
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MĀMAKI TEA.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that māmaiki (Pipturus
2 albidus) is a plant that is endemic to the Hawaiian islands,
3 meaning that the Hawaiian islands are the only place in the
4 world where māmaiki grows naturally. Māmaiki is found across the
5 entire Hawaiian island chain from the island of Kauai to the
6 island of Hawaii and flourishes at elevations between four
7 hundred feet and six thousand feet.

8 The legislature further finds that māmaiki tea is a growing
9 agricultural commodity and believes that the implementation of
10 labeling requirements would ensure the viability of Hawaii-grown
11 māmaiki tea.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to protect
13 Hawaii-grown māmaiki tea by:

- 14 (1) Prohibiting the use of certain words on the label of a
15 consumer package that contains or includes tea or
16 dried leaves from the plant *Pipturus albidus*, unless



1 one hundred per cent of the tea or dried leaves were
2 grown in the State; and

3 (2) Appropriating funds for one staff position for the
4 department of agriculture to support enforcement of
5 labeling regulations.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 486, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§486- Māmaki tea; labeling requirements. (a) No
10 label on a consumer package that contains or includes tea or
11 dried leaves from the plant Pipturus albidus shall contain the
12 words "Māmaki", "Hawaii", or "Hawaiian", or any variation of
13 these terms, unless one hundred per cent of the tea or dried
14 leaves were grown in the State.

15 (b) Any nonconsumer package that contains tea or dried
16 leaves from the plant Pipturus albidus grown in the State and
17 introduced into intrastate or interstate commerce shall bear on
18 the package a label stating that the package contains
19 Hawaii-grown māmaki tea by using the words "Hawaii-grown māmaki
20 tea". This label shall be required in addition to all other
21 labeling requirements specified in this chapter.



1 (c) Any person keeping, offering, displaying, exposing for
2 sale, or soliciting for sale any tea or dried leaves from the
3 plant Pipturus albidus subject to and labeled in accordance with
4 subsection (a) shall make available to the administrator, upon
5 demand, documented proof that the tea or dried leaves were grown
6 in the State.

7 (d) Any person who violates this section shall be subject
8 to penalties under section 486-32."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2026-2027 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
14 measurement standards inspector V position to support
15 enforcement of labeling regulations pursuant to this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.

21 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

HDOA; Māmaki Tea; Labeling Requirements; Position; Appropriation

Description:

Prohibits the use of certain words on the label of a consumer package that contains or includes tea or dried leaves from the plant *Pipturus albidus*, unless 100% of the tea or dried leaves were grown in the State. Appropriates funds for a Measurement Standard Inspector position. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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