

QUESTIONNAIRE--from Kona Coffee Farmers Association

Response Date: July 23, 2012.

For each of the 5 questions, please select either "yes", "no", or "other", so that we may quickly summarize your responses; "comments" are optional, but would be very helpful. "Yes" answers will indicate support for positions taken by the Kona Coffee Farmers Association ("KCFA") and support for the interests of Kona's coffee growers. We will provide summaries of candidates' responses to KCFA members and to the Kona community, and post results on the KCFA website (KonaCoffeeFarmers.org).

We encourage candidates to address these issues in campaign literature and at campaign events.

Candidate Signature: _____

Candidate Name (printed): _____

Date: _____

1. Truth-in-Labeling for Kona Coffee

Current state law (HRS 486-120.6) permits the use of the "Kona" name on packages of "Kona coffee blends" which contain as little as 10% actual Kona coffee. No region anywhere in the world (other than Hawaii) authorizes this type of deceptive misuse of the geographic identity of its agricultural products. An economic study by resource economist Marvin Feldman concludes that "Kona coffee blends" cause an estimated annual economic loss to Kona coffee growers of \$14.4 million—a loss of more than \$20,000 per year for the average grower.

QUESTION: If elected, will you affirmatively work to put an end to the misuse of the Kona name on packages containing 90% foreign-grown coffee? If yes, what do you commit to do?

Select: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Comments:

2. Assistance in Combating CBB

In the almost 2 years since Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) was discovered in Hawaii County, the State (including HDOA and UH-CTAHR) has failed to adequately recognize how serious the CBB emergency is and has failed to assign and fund an entomologist on the ground in Kona to help farmers develop a science-based CBB mitigation program to combat this devastating pest.

Question: If elected will you affirmatively work for assignment and emergency funding of an entomologist to Kona? If "yes", what do you commit to do?

Circle: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Comments:

3. Video Conferencing of Legislative Hearings

As a practical matter, the current State Legislative system of short-notice hearings and testimony on proposed legislation practically disenfranchises ordinary citizens from the Outer Islands. Short-notice travel to Honolulu for in-person testimony by Outer Island residents is often not possible because reservations are not available and/or costs are prohibitively high. The current system too often leaves the floor at Legislative hearings to lobbyists for special interests and effectively silences the voices of ordinary citizens (such as Kona coffee farmers) from the Outer Islands. As demonstrated by the video system for the taking of testimony from remote locations by the Hawaii County Council, use of video conferencing for citizen testimony is feasible and cost effective.

QUESTION: If elected, will you affirmatively work for implementation of a system for remote video testimony from the Outer Islands? If yes, what do you pledge to do?

Circle: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Comments:

4. Service of 100% Hawaiian Coffees

Kona coffee and other Hawaiian-grown coffees constitute one of our state’s signature agricultural products. The example of our elected representatives is important to the promotion of Hawaiian-grown coffees.

Question: If elected, will you commit to exclusively serve 100% Hawaii-grown coffee (including 100% Kona Coffee) at events sponsored by your office?

Circle: “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

Comments:

5. Support for Kona Coffee & Farmers

Question: Do you have additional thoughts as to how you can promote and protect the “Kona Coffee” name and support the farmers who grow this heritage Hawaii-grown crop? If yes, please explain.

Circle: “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

Comments:

Please scan and email completed Questionnaire to info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org

Mahalo from the Kona Coffee Farmers Association!