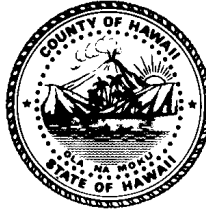


Karen Eoff
Vice Chair
Council District 8 – North Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 31, 2014

House Committee on Agriculture
Jessica Wooley, Chair
Richard H. K. Onishi, Vice Chair
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via Email Only: repwooley@capitol.hawaii.gov
Via Email Only: reponishi@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: **Request for Hearing on HB213 Relating To Agricultural Product Labeling**
(Companion - SB558)

Dear Chair Wooley and Vice Chair Onishi:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, I would like to thank the Hawaii State Association of Counties for introducing this measure as part of the 2013 HSAC legislative package, now pending before your committee in the 2014 session.

With regard to HB213 "Relating to Agriculture Product Labeling", I formally request that this measure be scheduled for hearing. I support the truth in labeling measures and benefit that will be brought to consumers by bringing fair marketing and disclosure to the labeling of Hawaii grown agricultural products, particularly honey, macadamia nut, coffee, tea and vanilla.

As a step toward food security, Hawaii needs to protect and promote the regional identity of its own agricultural products. This measure provides a modest step away from dependency on imported food and a step toward food security.

I strongly urge the enactment of HB213. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair,
Council Member-District 8, North Kona