

Dear Candidates:

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA) is requesting declared candidates to complete the enclosed Questionnaire on issues of interest to the Kona coffee farming community. To assist in making voting choices in the primary and general elections, KCFA will provide summaries of candidate responses to our members and the Kona community. Please find the Questionnaire below. Attached to this email for your review is a copy of the Feldman Study referenced in Question 1. We request that you complete and sign the Questionnaire, scan it, and return it to us at info@konacoffeefarmers.org no later than August 20, 2010.

The KCFA is a not-for-profit membership organization with a mission to promote and protect the economic interests of farmers who grow and sell 100% Kona coffee; to preserve two centuries of Kona coffee heritage; and to seek greater legal protection of the Kona coffee name. Voting membership in the KCFA is open only to Kona coffee farmers. More information about KCFA can be found at www.konacoffeefarmers.org.

We very much appreciate your cooperation.

With best regards and aloha, Bruce Corker, President Kona Coffee Farmers Association

Responses

w/Comments is available from the bottom of 4 | Page

Governor Candidates and Lt. Governor Candidates

NOTE: All Candidates received this preface (below) to Their Question 1

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. A recent 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 1: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as "Kona Blends", with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package?

"YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Governor

Neil Abercrombie ...**OTHER** *w/Comments*

Duke Aiona**OTHER** *w/Comments*

John Carroll.....*did not reply*

Mufi Hannemann.*did not reply*

Lt. Governor

Lyla Berg.....*did not reply*

Robert Bunda.....*did not reply*

Lynn Finnegan.....**YES**

Steve Hiramami.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Gary Hooser.....**YES**

Jon Karamatsu.....**YES**

Adrienne King..... **Other** *w/Comments*

Norman Sakamoto...*did not reply*

Brian Schatz.....**YES**

NOTE: All Candidates received this preface (below) to Their Question 2

2. Video Conferencing of Legislative Hearings

The current State Legislative system of short-notice hearings and testimony on proposed legislation, as a practically matter, 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 2: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of legislation to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Governor

Neil Abercrombie...**YES** *w/Comments*
Duke Aiona.....**YES** *w/Comments*
John Carroll.....**did not reply**
Mufi Hannemann...**did not reply**

Lt. Governor

Lyla Berg**did not reply**
Robert Bunda.....**did not reply**
Lynn Finnegan.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Steve Hiramami..... **YES** *w/Comments*
Gary Hooser.....**YES**
Jon Karamatsu.....**YES**
Adrienne King.....**YES**
Norman Sakamoto...**did not reply**
Brian Schatz.....**YES**

NOTE: - All Candidates received this preface (below) to Their Question 3

3. Service of 100% Hawaiian Coffees Exclusively

Kona coffee and other Hawaiian 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 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Governor

Neil Abercrombie.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Duke Aiona.....**YES** *w/Comments*
John Carroll.....**did not reply**
Mufi Hannemann...**did not reply**

Lt. Governor

Lyla Berg.....**did not reply**
Robert Bunda.....**did not reply**
Lynn Finnegan.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Steve Hiramami.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Gary Hooser.....**YES**
Jon Karamatsu.....**YES**
Adrienne King.....**YES**
Norman Sakamoto...**did not reply**
Brian Schatz.....**YES**

Candidates for Congressional District 2

Question 1: If elected, will you work with us on the federal level to bring truth-in-labeling protections to American-grown coffee both for the benefit of consumers and for the benefit of Hawaii and Puerto Rico coffee farmers? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Mazie Hirono.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Ramsay Wharton.....**YES**
John Willoughby.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Question 2: If elected, will you encourage the State to adopt a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings, and to seek federal financial assistance for doing so? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Mazie Hirono.....**YES**
Ramsay Wharton.....**YES**
John Willoughby.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

Mazie Hirono.....**OTHER** *w/Comments*
Ramsay Wharton.....**YES**
John Willoughby.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Candidates for State Representative, District 5 and for State Representative, District 6

Question 1: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as “Kona Blends”, with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package?
“YES” “NO” “OTHER”

District 5

Johnathan Able ...**YES**
Fred Fogel.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Robert Herkes.....**NO**

District 6

Denny Coffman....**Other** *w/Comments*
Becky Leau.....**did not reply**

Question 2: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of legislation to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings? “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

District 5

Johnathan Able...**YES**
Fred Fogel.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Robert Herkes.....**YES**

District 6

Denny Coffman...**YES** *w/Comments*
Becky Leau.....**did not reply**

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office? “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

District 5

Johnathan Able...**YES**
Fred Fogel.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Robert Herkes.....**YES**

District 6

Denny Coffman...**YES** *w/Comments*
Becky Leau.....**did not reply**

Candidates for Hawaii County Council, District 6 and District 7 and District 8

Question 1: If elected, will you introduce and actively work for passage of a Council resolution asking the State Legislature to adopt labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as “Kona Blends”, with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package? “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

District 6

Marie Burns.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Maile David.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Guy Enriques.....**did not reply**
Brittany Smart...**YES** *w/Comments*

District 7

Brenda Ford...**YES** *w/Comments*
Enock Freire...**did not reply**

District 8

Kelly Greenwell...**NO** *w/Comments*
Debbie Hecht.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Angel Pilago.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Jim Rath.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Question 2: If elected, will you introduce and actively work for passage of a County resolution asking the State Legislature to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings? “YES” “NO” “OTHER”

District 6

Marie Burns.....**YES**
Maile David.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Guy Enriques.....*did not reply*
Brittany Smart...**YES** *w/Comments*

District 7

Brenda Ford....**YES** *w/Comments*
Enock Freire...*did not reply*

District 8

Kelly Greenwell.....**NO** *w/Comments*
Debbie Hecht.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Angel Pilago.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Jim Rath.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office? "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

District 6

Marie Burns**YES** *w/Comments*
Maile David.....**OTHER** *w/Comments*
Guy Enriques....*did not reply*
Brittany Smart...**YES**

District 7

Brenda Ford....**YES** *w/Comments*
Enock Freire...*did not reply*

District 8

Kelly Greenwell....**NO** *w/Comments*
Debbie Hecht.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Angel Pilago.....**YES** *w/Comments*
Jim Rath.....**YES** *w/Comments*

Governor Candidate Comments and Lt. Governor Candidate Comments

Question 1: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as "Kona Blends", with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package?

Governor Candidates

Abercrombie: I am committed to Truth-in-Labeling, and working against deceptive labeling, particularly deceptive labeling that works against Hawaii products. The details regarding the minimum requirement for the percentage of Kona coffee still need to be worked out. As Governor, I will also be aggressive in protecting and marketing Hawaii's brands. I will direct the Attorney General's Office to clamp down on protecting Hawaii's unique brands so that local businesses can benefit from all their efforts to ensure the high quality and stellar reputation of local products and services.

Aiona: Coffee is the 2nd most important agricultural export of our state, and represents an important segment of diversified farming in Hawai'i. We have worked with coffee growers and their associations to develop labeling standards that identify for the consumer the origin and percentage of various beans used. While we know there has not yet been consensus within the industry, as Governor, I will work with all parties to ensure labeling standards are clear, fair and help coffee drinkers make informed choices. In addition, my Administration will make this a high priority to complete since the issue of labeling protocols has been lingering for an extended period.

Lt. Governor Candidates

Hirakami: How does State insure 10% is used presently and how would it regulate blenders including at least 75% in Blends? Would it better for the KCFA to benefit financially from the use of the word "Kona" in Blends?

King: The integrity of products made or produced in Hawaii must be insured and maintained. I have heard varying percentages discussed on the Kona Coffee issue and am open to supporting an increase in the percentage from the current 10% to something higher.

Question 2: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of legislation to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings?

Governor Candidates

Abercrombie: People on the neighbor islands have told me that they feel disconnected because of their difficulties to be involved in the decision making process and that government is not listening to them. If I am elected Governor, it will not be an Oahu-centric administration. On my visits to the neighbor islands over the last 18 months, I have seen so much innovation, creativity, resourcefulness and friendliness. Our neighbor islands residents will be included in the decision-making process. We will find creative and convenient ways to communicate by using technology, such as video-conferencing that are cost-effective and easy to use.

Aiona: We must ensure the people of Hawai'i have efficient access to their state government, especially on the Neighbor Islands. I will propose legislation to allow for the use of modern technology, such as VOIP, video-conferencing and audio conferencing, so that boards and commissions have the ability to conduct state business with the full

(Aiona continued)... participation of Neighbor Island residents. Current law restricts the use of video-conferencing to guidelines that are hard for boards and commissions to utilize. The Governor does not have the ability to require the Legislature to allow testimony to be accepted via videoconferencing. However, the Governor can set the example and encourage the Legislature to allow a greater level of participation in legislative hearings via the use of modern technology. In addition, to ensure a smart, well-run state government, I will work to create the proper organizational structure to support a cabinet-level Chief Information Officer with the authority to integrate and deploy modern technology to expedite and improve the delivery of state services.

Lt. Governor Candidates

Finnegan: The workings of state government ultimately affect the daily lives and business practices of all our residents and it is a fundamental right that these individuals have a chance to be heard.

Hirakami: Should have been set up years ago. I personally have spent many hours travelling to and from the Legislature 2001 to present to represent charter schools in the State. I have testified remotely at Hawaii County Council meetings so I know it would work.

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?

Governor Candidates

Abercrombie: I believe that government needs to take the lead by making every effort to buy local and keep dollars here in Hawaii. As Governor, I will coordinate "Buy Local" efforts by bringing together individual efforts happening now to support local businesses and by measuring these results.

Aiona: We played a key role in encouraging Hawai`i-grown Kona coffee to be served at the White House during former President Bush's Administration. We have also championed the use of locally grown food, produce, vegetables and coffee at many events hosted at Washington Place, the official state residence. And we have proudly featured locally grown coffee and foods at international events.

Most recently, the State Department of Agriculture worked with officials in China during the Shanghai Expo to showcase Hawai`i-grown products at the "Hawai`i House"—a part of this international event which boasted an average monthly attendance of 12 million people.

While it is important for our elected officials to do their part in the promotion of Hawai`i-grown coffee in our state, we must also expand and promote the Kona coffee brand into new and emerging markets. As Governor, I will continue programs to open up markets in mature and emerging economies in Asia, including Korea, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Lt. Governor Candidates

Finnegan: As the only coffee-growing state in the nation, it is important that we promote Hawaii-grown coffee in our state-level gatherings as well as our national-level events.

Hirakami: At home I drink 100% Kona Peaberry.

Candidates for Congressional District 2 Comments

Question 1: If elected, will you work with us on the federal level to bring truth-in-labeling protections to American-grown coffee both for the benefit of consumers and for the benefit of Hawaii and Puerto Rico coffee farmers?

Hirono: The state law should also be part of the discussion regarding any federal legislation.

Willoughby: Incumbent Representative Mazie Hirono has been in office four years and has not addressed this issue. I will work with the Kona Coffee Farmers Association to address this issue within my first six months.

Question 2: If elected, will you encourage the State to adopt a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings, and to seek federal financial assistance for doing so?

Willoughby: We must take immediate action to bring down the obstacles that inhibit progress that must take place on all the Neighbor Islands.

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?

Hirono: I do my best to support and focus on Hawaii products, including Kona coffee.

Willoughby: I am happy to commit to this.

Candidates for State Representative, District 5 and State Representative, District 6 Comments

Question 1: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as “Kona Blends”, with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package?

Candidates for State District 5

Fred Fogel: Don't know where you draw the line 90%?, 75%?, 50%?, but to use the Kona name, a blend should definitely have more than 50% Kona coffee in it. Although 75% would be even better, when you really get down to it, to use the Kona name (or Kau or Maui or whatever), it really should be 100%. (Is there such a thing as “Jamaica Blue Mountain blend?”). However if a coffee is a blend, and the manufacturer wants to use, say, the Kona name, the term “Blend” should follow “Kona” on the package, same type size, same font.

Candidates for State District 6

Denny Coffman: I have and I will continue to actively work for legislative policy that eliminates the deceptive labeling of Kona Coffee. We have three major problems with the labeling of Kona Coffee:

1. The use of secondary identification lines/label such as “Kona Classic” in larger font and above the primary identification line/label implies that the product is 100% Kona Coffee.
2. Using the name “Kona” in the brand name and/or company name such as “Royal Kona Coffee Company” in larger font and above the primary identification line/label implies that the product is 100% Kona Coffee.
3. We allow the use of “Kona Coffee” for a percentage of the coffee blend that is a minority of the products content. The use of the name “Kona Coffee” implies a product of superior quality. However, being able to use as little 10% Kona Coffee in a blend cannot be considered a superior quality product.

Question 2: If elected, will you ask the Legislature to adopt and will you actively work for enactment of legislation to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings?

Candidates for State District 5

Fred Fogel: Since the state legislature has exempted themselves from the Sunshine Law that they themselves passed, it doesn't surprise me that the legislature doesn't take video testimony from residents on neighboring islands. Shame. But look on the bright side. If the legislature met for 10 months out of the year instead of five (legislation I will propose same salary), perhaps they would have more time for testimony.

Candidates for State District 6

Denny Coffman: My recommendation will be to have the Lt. Governor responsible for expanding the Governor's liaison offices in each neighbor island to included computer workstations. Each workstation should be set-up to use Skype or Google's teleconferencing system. At the Capitol, we set-up a workstation with a projector and speaker system in each conference room. (ed. *abbreviated*)

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?

Candidates for State District 5

Fred Fogel: Another nobrainer! All events hosted by the legislature should showcase local products whenever possible. This includes all food products, not just coffee. It's time the legislature started supporting the local farmer instead of just saying they do. (Zone land properly. If it's residential ag., designate it “RA” instead of “A”. Make the ag. land tax rate the lowest. Keep the water rate for ag. use the lowest rate. Require point-of-origin labeling for all produce. Require GMO labeling for all food products. Implement a standardized Big Island sticker for produce. Enable the consumer to make an informed choice. Build a produce irradiator on the Big Island. Do a better job of preventing and eradicating invasive species.)

Candidates for State District 6

Denny Coffman: This should be a requirement of all government offices and state functions.

Candidates for Hawaii County Council, District 6 and District 7 and District 8 Comments

Question 1: If elected, will you introduce and actively work for passage of a Council resolution asking the State Legislature to adopt labeling reform called for by the KCFA—that is, a minimum requirement of 75% Kona coffee in packages labeled as “Kona Blends”, with express disclosure of the origin of the non-Kona coffee in the package?

County District 6

Marie Burns: I would even be willing to say 100% required. Can you folks send me a “Get Real” bumper sticker? (ed. *done*)

Maile David: If it’s the will of Kona Coffee Farmers to support a 75% Kona coffee blend minimum and express origin disclosure.

Brittany Smart: By non-Kona coffee, is this to exclude Kau or other Hawaii grown coffees from this blend minimum requirement?

County District 7

Brenda Ford: Some people see the “10%” Kona blend and mentally think 100% or just see the “Kona” name. Using the Kona name in a 10% blend is deceptive advertising since professional cuppers cannot taste the Kona coffee difference in those blends. Idaho would not allow packaging for 10% Idaho potatoes nor would Georgia allow packaging for 10% Georgia peaches because it degrades the geographical significance of the product for which the states are justifiably proud. Hawai‘i should not have the reputation of the only state that deceives the buying public about its agricultural products. I already supported legislation to the State for 75% minimum blends and will do so again. I believe it is also paramount to disclose the country of origin (“COOL”) and the percentage of the coffee from other countries in descending order! I believe that American buyers of the “Kona Blends” would be horrified to learn that 90% of the coffee in the blends comes from other countries and that the commodity coffee prices for that blended product is much less than \$2.00 per pound. They can buy the equivalent on their supermarket shelves for far less with no taste difference. Buyers of 10% “Kona Blends” are being ripped off!

County District 8

Kelly Greenwell: 10% Kona exposes 7.5 times as many people to Kona as 75% Kona does

Debbie Hecht: When I worked for Council member Brenda Ford as her legislative aide in 2006, I helped to research & write the first resolution. I would be honored to advance the cause of 75% blend. I hope that KCFA will be able to lobby the east side council members to support this.

Angel Pilago: I have in the past, and am committed to introduce any legislation to adopt labeling reform for minimum 75% Kona Coffee; and, will continue to do so till the State Legislature enacts said measure.

Jim Rath: Even at 75% they would cheat! I’ll introduce the resolution and probably even get it passed. However, it won’t do any good. I was in the Legislature. They don’t read the resolutions and I doubt even the staff does.

Question 2: If elected, will you introduce and actively work for passage of a County resolution asking the State Legislature to put in place a video conferencing system for testimony of Outer Island residents at Legislative hearings?

County District 6

Maile David: I support any legislation that brings access to, and transparency in government, to its citizens.

Brittany Smart: I am a big advocate of accessible government.

County District 7

Brenda Ford: Bringing government to the people is absolutely necessary, and video-conferencing to allow testimony from the Neighbor Islands is required. I constantly hear positive comments about the video-conferencing provided by the Hawai‘i County Council. The State Legislature needs to be open to receiving verbal testimony from the Neighbor Islands in a timely manner. For too long, we have been ignored by the State Legislature that allows lobbyists and the corporate blenders to dominate the coffee industry, and it is not just the coffee industry that is affected. Every Hawaiian-grown crop (e.g. macadamia nuts) needs to be protected by its geographical designation and “COOL” disclosures.

County District 8

Kelly Greenwell: I believe you elect representatives to represent you –as you know, the council spends ¾ of its time listening to constituents during business hours and thusly accomplishes very little.

Debbie Hecht: I would want to thoroughly research this issue to make recommendations as to a suitable alternative.

Angel Pilago: I’m documented as a strong Open Government-Sunshine Law advocate; this fact is proven in my introducing effective legislation for equal meetings East-West Hawaii, and, video-conferencing for Kona-Waimea-Hilo. I

(*Pilago continued*)...will on December 15, 2010 introduce a County Resolution to the State Legislature to implement a video-conference system, so all citizens especially outer island constituents, can give timely and relevant testimony to Legislative hearings. I firmly believe that the foundation for our Democracy lays in citizen participatory politics.

Jim Rath: As above (ed. *under Question 1*) with the resolution, but don't hold your breath because the Legislators already think too many people come to testify.

Question 3: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?

County District 6

Marie Burns: I am a coffee drinker and a "connoisseur". I definitely believe our Big Island coffee is superior in taste. I also know Kona coffee should get the credit they deserve and know it has been a long process over 100 yrs of growing coffee to get that name. Kona coffee farmers should get the financial benefit as well.

Maile David: Personally, I drink nothing but 100% Kona. If the decision is mine to make, I would certainly choose to serve 100% Kona or 100% Hawaiian-grown coffee.

County District 7

Brenda Ford: I have only served 100% Kona Coffee in the Kona Council Office for the past 3.5 years and will continue to do so. Actions, not just words are important in elected officials. I've recently learned that at least one of the blenders has not paid our growers. Abuses of this nature need to be dealt with severely by the State Department of Agriculture, and I will continue to try to rectify this abuse. Mahalo.

County District 8

Kelly Greenwell: I think it would be nice, but I represent others as well, and they have legitimate wants as well.

Debbie Hecht: I drink Kona coffee every day. I have been drinking 100% Kona for almost 40 years. Mahalo.

Angel Pilago: Brenda Ford and I are honored to serve 100% Kona in our office. We will continue to serve 100% Kona at all our events, and we will strongly encourage all Council members to serve 100% Kona at all County Council functions.

Jim Rath: You do mean that I would continue serving 100% Kona coffee as I did in my Council Office in the Lenders Document Building and at my office at the State Capitol.

General Comments

Johnathan Able: For me these steps do not go anywhere near far enough to protect our ag industry. I believe that specialty ag is the future of our ag economy and the protection of those products is essential to the growth of ag in our community. If we are reliant on others for our most basic of needs we are not a sovereign and free people, we are but dependents to those who have their own best interests in mind when making decisions. I contacted you originally to try to build a partnership that will be integral in helping our community to become self sustaining. Without close cooperation between those that are the producers and those in government we have nothing.

Maile David: Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to participate.

Brenda Ford: Mahalo for the opportunity to respond to KCFA.

Debbie Hecht: I whole- heartedly support agriculture and the preservation of the Kona Coffee quality and brand name.

Gary Hooser: Kona Coffee Farmers can count on me to support these issues.

Steven Hiramami: Here it is back to you. The format is too easy. Every one of the candidates will react favorably. I have an extensive agricultural background dating back to the early 70's. I know how important it is for you and your product identity. In 1972, for example, I had a bumper crop of the nicest freshest grade AA zucchinis that I took to a wholesaler on Oahu. He paid me \$.20/lb. At the same time, he imported California zucchini at below \$.10/lb. He took off the top row of California zucchini, replaced the top row with ours and labeled the whole crate: "Hawaii Grade A". Needless to say, we were absolutely livid. So I have had personal experience with product name theft. Good luck on your initiative.

Jim Rath: If elected I believe we can do far more than just resolutions (which are nothing more than appeasement measures) to move the "Kona" brand in the right direction.

Brian Schatz: Keep up the great work.

Ramsay Wharton: Thank you so much for asking our campaign to participate in answering the Kona Coffee Association's candidate questionnaire. We hope you find my responses supportive of the Kona Coffee Association and hard working farmers who I value greatly in our community. I look forward to your organization's support in our primary and general election in Congressional District 2...which includes the island of Hawaii.