

Kona Coffee Farmers Association Questionnaire

Each Questionnaire was sent with following Instructions: August 22, 2008. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed, stamped addressed envelope to Kona Coffee Farmers Association, PO Box 417, Holualoa, HI 96725. Alternatively, email responses to corkclan@msn.com

For each of the 4 questions, please circle 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 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

SENT To : Candidates for Hawaii State Representative District 6 & Senate District 3

1. Truth-in-Labeling for Kona Coffee

Current state law permits the use of the "Kona" name on packages of "Kona coffee blends" which contain as little as 10% actual Kona coffee. We know of no other agricultural region anywhere in the world that permits the use of its geographic identity on packages containing as little as 10% of its agricultural product. On November 20, 2007, the Hawaii County Council passed Resolution No. 417-07 (copy enclosed) calling on the State Legislature to enact Truth-in-Labeling for Kona Coffee--but the State Legislature failed to act.

QUESTION #1: In the 2009 Legislative session will you introduce and actively support legislation providing the same protections for Kona Coffee as called for by Hawaii County Council Resolution No. 417-07 and as provided in SSB 661 which was introduced in the Legislature last year?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 6

Denny Coffman: YES

Megan MacGregor: YES

Andy Smith: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Gene Leslie

Candidates comments follow on Question #1

Denny Coffman: I gave testimony in support of County Resolution 417-07.

Meagan MacGregor: I believe we need to maintain the highest quality product to carry the Kona Coffee label.

Andy Smith: I have always favored truth in labeling and will support legislation.

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 3

Joshua Green: OTHER

Virginia Isbell: YES

Candidates comments follow on Question # 1

Josh Green: I will work to forge a compromise between the KCFA and the blenders. The council resolution language will be killed by individuals antagonistic to your position. A compromise is possible. As you know, I was one of only 2 legislators to fight for hearings on Issue 1 and I am sympathetic to your position.

2. Assessment of Green Coffee Import Protections

Coffee leaf rust and coffee twig borer are two coffee plant pests which have destroyed coffee production in many parts of the world. Neither of these pests is currently found in Hawaii, but the importation of green coffee beans presents very real risks of introduction into this state. Currently there is in place an import regimen administered by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture ("HDOA") which requires fumigation of imported green coffee beans with methyl bromide to combat risks of pest importation. However, there are substantial and recurring questions as to the effectiveness of this fumigation regimen.

QUESTION #2: Will you introduce and actively support legislation providing funding for an independent study to assess the effectiveness of the current green coffee importation regimen in protecting Hawaii coffee orchards from coffee leaf rust and coffee twig borer?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 6

Denny Coffman: YES

Megan MacGregor: YES

Andy Smith: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Gene Leslie

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 2

Andy Smith--I will support any damage crop mitigation to protect the Kona coffee industry.

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 3:

Joshua Green: YES

Virginia Isbell: YES

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 2

none

3. Prohibition of Unfumigated Green Coffee

Methyl bromide is a carcinogen and atmospheric ozone depletant which was ordered to be phased out by 1999 in the Montreal Protocol of 1987. Special extensions for use of methyl bromide to fumigate coffee have been granted by the US government, but this extension may not be renewed indefinitely. There is currently no acceptable alternative to methyl bromide fumigation of green coffee to eradicate coffee leaf rust and coffee twig borer.

QUESTION #3: If continued use of methyl bromide for green coffee fumigation is prohibited, will you support a ban of green coffee imports into Hawaii to protect the state's coffee production?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 6

Denny Coffman: YES

Megan MacGregor: YES

Andy Smith: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Gene Leslie

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 3

Meagan MacGregor: Our coffee crops are too important to our local economy for us to take a chance in losing it to introduced coffee plant pests.

Andy Smith: I will take the necessary steps to protect our state's coffee production

STATE SENATE DIST. 3:

Joshua Green: YES

Virginia Isbell: YES

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 3

Virginia Isbell--What coffee companies presently bring in green coffee?

4. 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 #4: If elected, will you direct that only 100% Hawaiian-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DIST. 6

Denny Coffman: YES

Megan MacGregor: YES

Andy Smith: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Gene Leslie

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 4

Meagan MacGregor--I would be proud to.

Andy Smith--I would be proud to represent Kona Coffee as often as I could.

STATE SENATE DIST. 3:

Joshua Green: YES

Virginia Isbell: YES

Candidates' comments follow on Question # 4

None

#####end#####