

# 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 events.**

## **SENT To: Candidates for Hawaii County Council Districts 6, 7, & 8**

### **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:** Will you introduce and support a County Council resolution calling for enactment of State legislation as described in Resolution No. 417-07 in the 2009 Legislative Session?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 – QUESTION #1**

Guy Enriques: OTHER

Bob Jacobson: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Frederick Fogel

*COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 - Candidate comments follow on Question #1*

Guy Enriques: I would support legislation as described in Reso. 417-07. At this time I have no experience in introducing legislation and would not be comfortable making a commitment to that effect.

Bob Jacobson: Yes, I fully support Truth in Labelling and will introduce or support a resolution to that effect as well as hiring a Hawaii County lobbyist to help advance this and other important Hawaii County Legislation.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – QUESTION #1**

Casey Delo Santos: YES

Brenda Ford: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Steven Texeira

*COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - Candidate comments follow on Question #1*

Casey Delo Santos: I have been promoting 100% Kona Coffee for over 30 years in various ways.

Brenda Ford: I voted for the resolution. I also support truth in labeling that identifies what percentage of the product comes from what country. I think Americans buying a "Kona Blend" would be horrified to learn that they are buying coffee from foreign countries that sells for \$3/lb.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 – QUESTION #1**

Kelly Greenwell: NO

Debbie Hecht: YES

Joe Reynolds: YES

Tsing Young: YES

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8 - Candidate comments follow on Question #1*

Kelly Greenwell: No, this is an industry matter and should be agreed upon at that level.

Debbie Hecht: Yes, In 2006 when I worked for Council Member Brenda Ford as her legislative aide, I wrote the resolution for truth in labeling for Kona Coffee.

## **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 support a County Council resolution calling 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"

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 – QUESTION #2**

Guy Enriques: OTHER

Bob Jacobson: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Frederick Fogel

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6 - Candidate comments follow on Question #2*

Guy Enriques: Same response as previous question.

Bob Jacobson: Yes, I will introduce or support a resolution calling for a study of the effectiveness of the current regimen protecting Hawaii coffee orchards from leaf rust and twig borers.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 – QUESTION #2**

Casey Delo Santos: YES

Brenda Ford: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Steven Texeira

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 7 - Candidate comments follow on Question #2*

Brenda Ford: At the least a study should be completed on this serious issue for two reasons: 1) the effectiveness of the fumigation process is questionable, and 2) many people prefer coffee that has not been fumigated. I think coffee fumigated with methyl bromide should indicate that process on the label.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 - QUESTION #2**

Kelly Greenwell: YES

Debbie Hecht: YES

Joe Reynolds: YES

Tsing Young: YES

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8 - Candidate comments follow on Question #2*

Kelly Greenwell: Yes, while industry support is essential, this is an area where govt process is appropriate and needed.

Debbie Hecht: Yes. I would want to know who would be required to pay for the study and who would do the study.

### **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 County to protect our Big Island coffee orchards? ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 - Question #3**

Guy Enriques: YES

Bob Jacobson: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Frederick Fogel

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6 - Candidate comments follow on Question #3*

Guy Enriques: Yes, assuming it is the desire of the majority of coffee growers on the Big Island.

Bob Jacobson: Yes, if methyl bromide use is banned I would support a ban on green coffee imports into Hawaii. I would support County legislation to demonstrate County support of the ban.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - Question #3**

Casey Delo Santos: YES

Brenda Ford: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Steven Texeira

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 7 - Candidate comments follow on Question #3*

Brenda Ford: Since methyl bromide is a carcinogen, the public is entitled to know that it was used on a food product. If methyl bromide is removed from use and there is no reasonable alternative, then green beans should not be imported to the Island of Hawaii or the neighbor islands where coffee is grown.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 - Question #3**

Kelly Greenwell: OTHER

Debbie Hecht: OTHER

Joe Reynolds: YES

Tsing Young: YES

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8 - Candidate comments follow on Question #3*

Kelly Greenwell: The question is whether Meth-Bromide is in fact a toxin--I don't know that it in fact is--seems to be OK some of the time.

Debbie Hecht: Probably--I would like to understand if there are other methods. I understand it is very important to protect crops from diseases and pests.

## **4. Service of 100% Hawaii-Grown Coffees Exclusively**

Kona coffee and other Big Island-grown coffees are among our County's signature agricultural products. The example of our elected representatives is important to the promotion of Big Island-grown coffees.

**Question #4:** If elected, will you direct that only 100% Big Island-grown coffees (including 100% Kona Coffee) be served at events hosted by your office?" ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

### **COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 - Question #4**

Guy Enriques: OTHER

Bob Jacobson: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Frederick Fogel

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6 - Candidate comments follow on Question #4*

Guy Enriques: I am not certain if that directive is possible, however I do support the use of all Island grown products.

Bob Jacobson: Yes, I already am serving only Hawaii Island grown coffees and teas at events hosted by my office. During my travel as part of being the National Association of Counties Western Interstate Board Representative for Hawaii I frequently buy Hawaiian coffees and teas and give them out as gifts to people across the country. When I travel internationally on my personal vacations I make a point of bringing Hawaiian coffees, teas, flowers and other Hawaii products as gifts from my family to leaders and hosts where ever I go. The Police Chief of Beijing likes Hawaii coffees.

**COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - Question #4**

Casey Delo Santos: YES

Brenda Ford: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Steven Texeira

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 7 - Candidate comments follow on Question #4*

Brenda Ford: In my campaign of 2006, I promised to serve only 100% Kona Coffee in the council office in Kona. I keep that promise by buying different brands of 100% Kona coffee and serving it to the staff and guests.

**COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 - Question #4**

Kelly Greenwell: NO

Debbie Hecht: YES

Joe Reynolds: YES

Tsing Young: YES

*COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8 - Candidate comments follow on Question #4*

Kelly Greenwell: No, If the industry wishes to assure Kona Coffee, then it should make this commitment as an industry.

Debbie Hecht: Yes, I think it is very important for the unique taste of Kona coffee be preserved to be appreciated worldwide, I would be proud to serve 100% Kona coffee in my office. I drink Kona coffee almost every day--medium roast

Joe Reynolds: Yes, I have done so in past terms on the Council.

Tsing Young: Yes, for sure.

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