

# 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 County Mayoral Candidates**

### **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:** As Mayor will you seek in the 2009 Legislative session the introduction of, and actively support, State legislation providing the same protection for Kona Coffee as called for by Hawaii County Council Resolution No. 417-07, and will you travel to Honolulu to testify at committee hearings in support? ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

### **Candidates for MAYOR responses:**

Lorraine Inouye: YES

Sam Masilamoney: YES

Jasper Moore: YES

Angel Pilago: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Joseph Barrozo, Stacy Higa, Billy Kenoi, Randell Riley

*Mayoral Candidate comments follow on Question #1*

Sam Masilamoney: People think they are getting 100% Kona Coffee. But this is not true. This is deceptive to consumers.

Jasper Moore: Stop consumer fraud, stop the degrading of the Kona coffee name When it says Kona coffee it's from Kona.

## **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 support a County Resolution calling for the State to fund 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"

### **Candidates for MAYOR responses:**

Lorraine Inouye: YES

Sam Masilamoney: YES

Jasper Moore: YES

Angel Pilago: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Joseph Barrozo, Stacy Higa, Billy Kenoi, Randell Riley

*Mayoral Candidate comments follow on Question #2*

Lorraine Inouye--If elected mayor, I will have the county to do the assessment as part of my agricultural sustainability program that I will establish.

Sam Masilamoney--I am concerned about long term effects with methyl bromide treatment.

## **3. Moratorium on Growing Genetically Modified Coffee**

The planting of genetically modified in Hawaii would threaten Hawaii's traditional coffees with cross pollination and contamination. Such contamination would be economically ruinous to Hawaii's specialty coffees, including Kona coffee. On January 24, 2008, the Hawaii County Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 263-08 (copy enclosed) supporting HB1557HD1, which would have placed a 5-year moratorium on growing genetically modified coffee in Hawaii--but the Legislature failed to act.

**QUESTION #3:** As Mayor will you actively support a County Ordinance enacting a moratorium on growing genetically modified coffee in Hawaii County?

ANSWER: "YES" "NO" "OTHER"

### **Candidates for MAYOR responses:**

Lorraine Inouye: YES

Sam Masilamoney: YES

Jasper Moore: YES

Angel Pilago: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Joseph Barrozo, Stacy Higa, Billy Kenoi, Randell Riley

*Mayoral Candidate comments follow on Question #3*

Lorraine Inouye--If that is the wishes of your industry--I will support it.

Sam Masilamoney--I am totally against genetically modified coffee which can effect immediate and 1st generation crops.

**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"

**Candidates for MAYOR responses:**

Lorraine Inouye: YES

Sam Masilamoney: YES

Jasper Moore: YES

Angel Pilago: YES

DID NOT RESPOND: Joseph Barrozo, Stacy Higa, Billy Kenoi, Randell Riley

*Mayoral Candidate comments follow on Question #4*

Lorraine Inouye--I did that as mayor in 1990 -1992. And will certainly do it again.

Sam Masilamoney-- I'll only serve 100% Kona Coffee. I drink only 100% Kona Coffee.

#####end#####