



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture
March 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HR 40/HCR 89 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS "HAWAII-GROWN CACAO MONTH"

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am presenting testimony on behalf of Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM).

We fully support both resolutions which recognize and promote Hawai'i-grown cacao.

CTAHR researchers are planting a ten variety grafted cacao tree experiment statewide to provide farmers with uniform trees with high yield and high quality potential. This experiment will also help to determine how Hawai'i's diverse environments impact the yield and quality of chocolate produced.

Additionally, CTAHR has been actively conducting research on the impact of micro-organisms used in the fermentation of cacao.

It is fitting that the month of February, traditionally with its high purchase volume and high consumption rate of chocolate, is proposed as the month selected to celebrate Hawai'i-grown cacao.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.