

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO
STANDARDS FOR COFFEE

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to Chapter 91 and Sections 147-4 and 147-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, will hold public hearings as follows:

October 7, 2013 9:00 a.m.
Department of Agriculture Conference Room
4398A Pua Loke Street
Lihue, HI 96766

October 8, 2013 9:00 a.m.
Quality Assurance Division Conference Room
1851 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

October 9, 2013 9:00 a.m.
Department of Agriculture Conference Room
635 Mua Street
Kahului, HI 96732

October 10, 2013 9:00 a.m.
West Hawaii Civic Center
Community Meeting Hale Building G
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

October 10, 2013 5:00 p.m.
Pahala Park and Community Center
96-1131 Kamani Street
Pahala, HI 96777

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive testimony related to proposed amendments to Title 4, Subtitle 7, Chapter 143, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled "Standards for Coffee". The proposed amendments are summarized below:

Requires Hawaii-grown coffee be marked with the grade or lower grade;

Requires coffees be labeled with the geographic region of origin;

Repeals exemptions to mandatory certification;

Increases the fee for additional copy of an issued certificate;

Increases inspection fee rates;

Establishes the fee rate for an appeal inspection;

Establishes a definition for natural coffee;

Repeals the standards for grades of cherry coffee grown in the geographic region of Kona;

Repeals the standards for parchment grades of coffee;

Amends standards for grades of green coffee;

Amends defect criteria for coffee beans;

Repeals the minimum export requirement for green coffee;

Amends enforcement, penalties, and prosecution section;

Amends abbreviation section;

Repeals the coffee quality verification program;

Establishes a Hawaii Natural Prime grade standard;

Establishes recordkeeping requirement for persons who produce, process, transport, or distribute Hawaii-grown coffee.

The proposed rule amendments are available for review in person at the following Department of Agriculture offices during business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday from September 30, 2013 to October 4, 2013:

Honolulu	1851 Auiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96819	Phone – 832-0700
Hilo	75 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI 96720	Phone – 974-6514
Kona	82-6130 Mamalahoa Hwy, Captain Cook, HI 96704	Phone – 323-7590
Maui	635 Mua Street, Kahului, HI 96732	Phone – 873-3554
Kauai	4398A Pua Loke Street, Lihue, HI 96766	Phone – 274-3073

Copies of the proposed amendments may also be obtained at the above offices by paying a fee charge for photocopying or sent by mail upon receipt of a fee charge for photocopying and postage. Copies may also be reviewed or downloaded at the Department of Agriculture website at <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/>.

All interested persons may attend the public hearings and submit comments orally or in writing. Written testimony may be submitted prior to the hearing via postal mail to the Quality Assurance Division c/o Department of Agriculture, 1428 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96814, or via fax at (808) 832-0683, or via email at HDOA.QAD@hawaii.gov. Please include the word “testimony” and the subject matter. If possible, submit 5 written copies of the testimony prior to the hearing. Persons requiring special accommodations at the hearing may call the Department of Agriculture at (808) 832-0703 at least 5 working days prior to the hearing.