

I strongly believe that import permits should be granted to allow kava importation. This will be a control measure that monitors the sales the territory in which the licence permits are given. A responsible import system must include a licensed supplier from the Pacific Islands either registered or recognised by the Government Agency. This must be a pre-requisite to any import licence being issued.

The quality of kava that is currently bought in by travellers vary from being some of the best to worst. Kava product for consumption is derived from two parts of the plant. The Roots (Waka) and the Stem (Lewena). It makes two distinctive brews. Both Kava products a relaxants and can have the same effect.

Most people will buy one of the other depending on their preference. Fijians will drink either or a mixture of both. Tongans and Samoans will use the stems or bark as their preferential brew for consumption. Where there is no choice, Pacific Islanders will not accept whatever the host is providing.

Option two is the way to ease the restriction and to form some control on the product going into the right hand and not falling into the wrong hands or getting shipped interstate into the aboriginal hands.

An import licensee must ensure that the sale of Kava is only sold to Pacific Islanders for their ceremonial, cultural, social and tradition obligation.

Record of kava sales should be kept by a licensee and made available to any government agency studying the effects of kava in the community.

Kava in its powder form as used by Pacific Islanders in its communal and traditional relations, if it is controlled do not need warning labels. There is also no harm if the authorities consider it necessary to put labels on it. If a warning is required on the kava, the label it must state "use of larger amounts of kava may eventually cause numbness, drowsiness, malnutrition and dry skin."

I have drunk kava for the past forty years and I continue to drink kava whenever there is a social or cultural gathering amongst islanders. Here in Australia most Pacific Islanders tend to know their limits to drinking kava and I do not believe there is a need to worry about its abuse. Kava can affect people differently and when someone gets affected which is rarely, there is also a great communal or duty of care.

Kava if imported through an approved licences scheme will see an improvement to the quality and possibly a reduction in the price. For better controls, licence permits should be given to given to individuals who can manage, record and account for sales within the community.

Kava in our communities must be used for cultural and social gathers and the licensee must control any misuse or sale that could affect families and other Pacific Island groups. A licensee should be able to provide details of the person or community it has sold kava to and the amount and provide number in the group if required. Kava should only be sold for cultural or traditional gatherings. Where individual customer like myself are concerned. An effective way of collating data can be requested through an annual medical check and the effects on the liver and kidney.