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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2019 10:57 PM
Subject: Kava study [SEC=No Protective Marking]

1. Is an increase to 4 kilograms of kava a suitable quantity for personal use?This

Given kava's usage in a social context by Pacific island communities in Australia, 4 kg is very conservative and I recommend that 6 kg per person is a reasonable limit. Kava is always shared, and 6 kg will enable individuals to suppport the communal use of kava, and minimise the social costs of purchase of alcohol as a less affordable and more destructive social drug.

• What are the health and social impacts of the proposal to increase the amount of kava that may be imported for personal use?
Social effects are likely to be greater cohesion of Pacific communities in Australia and reduced costs to attend hotels. People stay home with their families and share stories, rather than risking time in hotels where they are tempted to gamble. Kava is contextualised in Pacific society and condoned by many church organisations.

• Is two years a sufficient period for the pilot?
Two years will enable some measure of social implications of kava use, but this must be contextualised with increasing kava prices, and changes in Seasonal Worker Programs, and changes in visitation rates by Pacific islanders, due to education opportunities or other family visits. Suggest that 4-5 years would provide a more stable period to assess these issues.

• What methods of evaluation should apply to this pilot?

Methods of evaluation should include baseline studies of family cohesion and living costs in Australia. Evaluation should also assess changes in global price of kava caused by changes in Australian domestic usage, and the consequent availability and continuity of use of kava within its cultural context in the Pacific. and should assess the changes in agricultural practice and implications for social, environmental and economic stability within production areas in the Pacific, and exploitation between Pacific smallholder producers and aggregators/distributors from the Pacific.

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