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The kava beverage has a long cultural and historic use in Pacific island cultures, and is generally regarded as safe. There is no scientific basis for its linkage with liver injury.

Honolulu, HI – April 2, 2002 – Recent controversy over kava’s safety has been published in European and American FDA reports. However, none of these reports has any scientific basis or proof to show that kava is the cause of the reported liver injury. In fact, many in the kava industry question the whether these reported injuries are due to the patients’ use of alcohol, other liver damaging substances, and/or pre-existing liver problems.

It is established that kava (‘awa, *Piper methysticum*) has been widely used by Pacific island cultures (including Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and Hawai‘i) for centuries with no apparent evidence of it causing long-term, irreversible physiological illness. Kava does provide a sense of well being, promotes social interactions, provides relief from anxiety and stress, and provides muscle relaxation and pain relief. Kava is not considered addictive, and is considered free of tolerance buildup. And kava continues to play a strong central role in Pacific island cultures as a social, therapeutic, and ceremonial beverage.

In light of kava’s long cultural and historic use in Pacific island cultures, its general regard as being safe, and the lack of scientific proof to show linkage with liver injury or long-term health problems, the European and American FDA’s advisories on kava do not appear to have served the public interest. Rather, such reports have more likely played into the hands of proponents of the dangerous synthetic class of benzodiazepine drugs (e.g., Valium, Xanax, et al.), to which kava poses a serious threat to their 12 billion dollar market. Hawaiian Kava Center also suggests that any governmental or trade group advisories be evaluated as to the quality of its science, and the discounting of any of its hysteria.

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In the coming months and years, Hawaiian Kava Center looks forward to further scientific research especially on kava's impact on human and animal physiology. Scientific clinical studies, and Pacific island cultural have indicated a positive impact thus far. Kava's apparent benefits, indicated earlier, are very significant. And already long established as a central component to Pacific island cultures, kava will be around for perpetuity as a part of Pacific island cultural identities.

Hawaiian Kava Center researches kava ('awa, *Piper methysticum*), offers kava products & consulting services, and contributes to community-based Hawaiian gardens or lo'i. Research and production is conducted on farms and nurseries in Hawai'i and O'ahu.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

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