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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
7 AT SEATTLE

8 BRUCE CORKER, *et al.*, on behalf of  
9 themselves and others similarly situated,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP., *et al.*,

13 Defendants.

Case No. 2:19-CV-00290-RSL

FINAL JUDGMENT AND  
ORDER OF DISMISSAL

14 THIS MATTER comes before the Court upon the unopposed “Motion for Final Approval  
15 of the Class Settlement” filed by Plaintiffs. Dkt. 659. The Court, being fully advised of the  
16 premises of the Motion, FINDS:

17 1. Plaintiff commenced this action by filing their Complaint on February 27, 2019,  
18 and ultimately filed a Third Amended Complaint on April 30, 2020 (Dkt. 381) (“Complaint”).  
19 Plaintiffs alleged that the defendants violated the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125, by  
20 misleadingly labeling and selling coffee not from the Kona region as “Kona” coffee. On  
21 November 12, 2019, this Court denied motions to dismiss Plaintiffs’ original complaint (Dkt.  
22 155), and discovery began.  
23

24 2. Plaintiffs have negotiated class action settlements with three defendants: The  
25 Kroger Co. (“Kroger”), one with Safeway Inc. and Albertsons Companies Inc.  
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1 (“Safeway/Albertsons”), and one with Hawaiian Isles Coffee Co. Ltd. (“HIKC”) (“Settling  
2 Defendants”) (collectively, “Settling Defendants”). The Settlement Agreements were attached as  
3 Exhibits 1-3 to the declaration of counsel accompanying the Motion for Preliminary Approval of  
4 Class Action Settlements, filed on February 11, 2022 (Dkt. 603).

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6 3. Through the Settlement Agreements, Settling Defendants will fully and  
7 completely satisfy the claims of Class Members relating to the claims alleged by Plaintiffs in the  
8 Third Amended Complaint by paying Class Members a total payment of \$2,150,000 (\$1.35  
9 million from Kroger and \$800,000 from HIKC), and provide injunctive relief relating to the  
10 labeling of the Kona coffee products at issue. Attorneys’ fees and costs of Class Counsel and  
11 administrative costs will be paid from the Settlement Fund. By entering into the Settlement  
12 Agreements, the Settling Defendants made no admissions relating to the claims raised in this  
13 lawsuit, nor did Plaintiffs make admissions relating to the Settling Defendants’ Defenses.

14  
15 4. The Settlement Class, as defined in each of the Settlement Agreements, includes  
16 the following: All persons and entities who, between February 27, 2015, and the date of Court’s  
17 order granting preliminary approval to the settlement, farmed Kona coffee in the Kona District  
18 and then sold their Kona coffee. Excluded from the Settlement Class are any defendants to the  
19 action, as well as any judge assigned to the action, and the judge’s immediate family and staff.

20  
21 5. The Settlement Agreements describe the claims that are being settled on behalf of  
22 the Class (defined as the “Settled Claims”). The Settlement Agreements and their terms,  
23 including the definitions, are incorporated into this Final Judgment And Order of Dismissal (the  
24 “Final Judgment”) as if fully set forth herein. The Settlement Agreements and Final Judgment  
25 shall be referred to collectively herein as the “Settlements.”  
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1           6.       This Court entered an Order dated February 14, 2022, directing that notice of the  
2 proposed Settlements be effectuated as to the Settlement Class (Dkt. 604) (“Preliminary  
3 Approval Order”). The Preliminary Approval Order set a hearing for June 3, 2022 to determine  
4 whether the proposed Settlements should be approved as fair, reasonable and adequate.  
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6           7.       In accordance with the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement  
7 Administrator caused to be mailed and emailed to potential members of the Settlement Class for  
8 whom addresses could be located, a notice (the “Settlement Notice”) in the form approved by the  
9 Court in the Preliminary Approval Orders. Also in accordance with the Court’s Preliminary  
10 Approval Orders, the Settlement Administrator also caused the publication notice to be placed in  
11 the *West Hawaii Today*. The Court finds that the Settlement Notice, along with the publication  
12 notice, provided to potential members of the Settlement Class constituted the best and most  
13 practicable notice under the circumstances, thereby complying fully with due process and Rule  
14 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court did not receive any objections to the  
15 Settlement from class members.  
16

17           8.       The Settling Defendants caused to be mailed to the appropriate federal and state  
18 officials the materials required to be submitted by the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C.  
19 § 1711, *et seq.* (“CAFA”). The Court finds that CAFA’s notice requirements have been  
20 satisfied.  
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22           9.       On June 3, 2022, the Court held a hearing on the proposed Settlements, at which  
23 time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard. Furthermore, the Court has  
24 read and considered all submissions in connection with the Settlements. As explained below, the  
25 Court grants the motion for final approval of the Settlements.  
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1                   **Class Certification**

2                   10.       The first question before the Court is whether to certify the Settlement Class. *See*  
3 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) & (b). Class certification is proper if Plaintiffs demonstrate: (1) The  
4 Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members in a single proceeding would be  
5 impracticable; (2) Resolution of the claims will involve common questions of law and fact; (3)  
6 The named Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the Settlement Class Members; (4) The  
7 named Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Counsel have fairly and adequately represented the  
8 interests of the Settlement Class and will continue to do so; (5) Questions of law and fact  
9 common to the Settlement Class predominate over the questions affecting only individual  
10 Settlement Class Members, and (6) certification of the Settlement Class is superior to other  
11 available methods to the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. *Id.*  
12

13                   11.       In its Preliminary Approval Order, the Court concluded that Plaintiffs showed that  
14 they were likely to satisfy these requirements. *See* Dkt. 604. The Court now finds no reason to  
15 disturb those conclusions. As such, the Court certifies the proposed Class.  
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17                   **Settlement Approval**

18                   12.       The Court must also determine whether the Settlements are “fair, reasonable, and  
19 adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). The Court’s Preliminary Approval Order applied these  
20 standards and concluded that the Settlement appeared to be “fair, reasonable, and adequate.”  
21 Dkt. 604 ¶ 4. Plaintiffs explained, and the Court determined, that approval of the Settlements  
22 will bestow a substantial economic benefit on the Settlement Class, result in substantial savings  
23 in time and money to the litigants and the Court and will further the interests of justice, and that  
24 the Settlements are the product of good-faith arm’s length negotiations between the Settling  
25  
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1 Parties. The record is even more supportive of approval now that no Settlement Class Member  
2 has objected to the Settlements. The Court thus finds the Settlements to be fair, reasonable, and  
3 adequate. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e).

4 13. The Settlement Agreements, including all of the terms defined therein including  
5 but not limited to the definitions of “Settled Claims,” are incorporated herein. Any terms used in  
6 this Final Judgment are governed by their definitions in the Settlement Agreements. The Court  
7 has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation and all parties to this litigation, including  
8 all members of the Settlement Class.

9 14. The certified Settlement Class is defined for purposes of the Settlement  
10 Agreements and this Final Judgment as set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

11 15. Therefore, the Settlements are approved in all respects, and shall be binding upon,  
12 and inure to the benefit of, all members of the Settlement Class.

13 16. All Settled Claims are hereby dismissed with prejudice.

14 17. This Final Judgment may not be used as an admission by or against Settling  
15 Defendants of any fact, claim, assertion, matter, contention, fault, culpability, obligation,  
16 wrongdoing or liability whatsoever.

17 18. The Court has, by separate order, granted Class Counsel’s “Motion for Attorneys’  
18 Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses.” The amount of Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation  
19 Expenses awarded to Class Counsel shall be distributed to Class Counsel by the Settlement  
20 Administrator from the Settlement Funds.

21 19. The Court reserves jurisdiction over this matter, the Settling Parties, and all  
22 counsel herein, without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment, including over (a) the  
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