

Make the Sugar Program Work for America

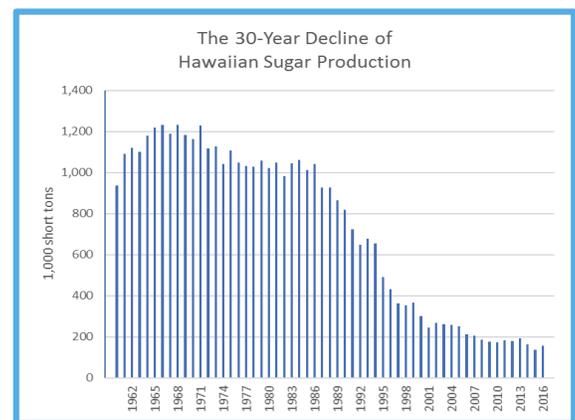
May 23, 2017

Big Sugar Plays the Blame Game to Protect Its Unfair Federal Subsidies

The well-heeled Big Sugar lobby is out today with an ad in the *Wall Street Journal*, blaming Mexico for the decline of Hawaii's sugar industry - a ridiculous claim. **Let's unwrap the facts.**



Hawaii once produced more than a million tons of raw sugar, but the last million-ton crop was in **1986**. In the 30 years since then, production steadily shrank to less than **200,000 tons** due to the poor underlying economics of sugar production in Hawaii. The last crop was in 2016.



Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company's (HC&S) January 2016 announcement of the closure plan came after the firm lost \$30 million in 2015, a year in which raw sugar prices averaged almost 25¢ per pound, 6¢ above the price support level, and the sixth highest price in the last 35 years.



Even the company that owns the HC&S facility didn't blame the closure on Mexico. Christopher Benjamin, Alexander & Baldwin President & CEO, said: **"No one factor drove this decision, but a lot of factors contributed to it. I would say that sugar prices, the challenges we've had with weather of late, the challenges of harvesting and some of community opposition to cane burning and water use, all of those things played a role, but no one thing drove this."**

**Get the Facts.
It's Time for the U.S. Sugar Policy to Work for America.**

Learn more at www.sugarreform.org.

Connect with us.



The Coalition for Sugar Reform is an alliance of consumers, food and beverage manufacturers, trade advocates, environmental groups, taxpayer watchdog organizations, responsible government advocates, think tanks and other interests. Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program - a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.