



## Fooled ya! No chocolate here!

My top candy find of the year is Big Island Coffee Roasters' Classic Espresso Bites, mainly because this luxurious bar is delicious, but also because I like the art of deception that it represents.

It looks like dark chocolate and seems full of chocolate richness, but contains not a whit of chocolate.

Husband-wife company owners Brandon Damitz and Kelleigh Stewart have had the Espresso Bites bars on the market only about a month. They're made of 100 percent Kau coffee, with organic cocoa butter and cane sugar. Break off bits and savor them as is, or dissolve some in hot water or milk to make coffee. Each bar contains the caffeine equivalent of three espressos. Find them at Coffee Shop 831 in Waikiki, Dean & DeLuca (two stores in Waikiki) and Magnolia Boutique & Gallery in Kahala Mall.

Damitz says they'll soon be available at Whole Foods Market. Or order through [bigislandcoffeeroasters.com](http://bigislandcoffeeroasters.com), which also sells the Mountain View company's coffees. Espresso Bites sell for \$9 for a 1.5-ounce bar, or in packs of three for \$25, six for \$48 or (if you want some for gift giving and have a lot of deserving friends) a case of 18 for \$135.

*Betty Shimabukuro, Star-Advertiser*

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