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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

OBED RAMOS, individually, and on behalf of
the State of California and other aggrieved
employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

KAWAHARA NURSERY, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24CV439090

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197);
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198);
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512);
4. Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7);
5. Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203);
6. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226);
7. Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802); and
8. Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*).
9. Civil Penalties Under PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code § 2699, *et seq.*).

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff OBED RAMOS (“Plaintiff”), based upon facts that either have evidentiary support or are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation and discovery, alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendant KAWAHARA NURSERY, INC. and DOES 1 through 10 (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Defendants”) for California Labor Code violations and unfair business practices stemming from Defendants’ failure to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages, failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and failure to indemnify employees for expenditures.

2. Plaintiff brings the First through Eighth Causes of Action individually.

3. Plaintiff brings the Ninth Cause of Action as a representative action under the California Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) to recover civil penalties that are owed to him, the State of California, and past and present non-exempt employees by Defendants in the State of California during the statute of limitations period for his PAGA claim (hereinafter referred to as the “Aggrieved Employees”).

4. Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and establishment within the State of California, including Santa Clara County. As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants are subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”), and the California Business & Professions Code.

5. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a systematic, company-wide policy and practice of:

- (a) Failing to pay employees for all hours worked, including all minimum, straight time, and overtime wages in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
- (b) Failing to provide employees with timely and duty-free meal periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failing

1 to maintain accurate records of all meal periods taken or missed, and failing
2 to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a meal period violation
3 occurred;

4 (c) Failing to authorize and permit employees to take timely and duty-free rest
5 periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage
6 Orders, and failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a rest
7 period violation occurred;

8 (d) Willfully failing to pay employees all minimum, straight time, overtime,
9 meal period premium, and rest period premium wages due within the time
10 period specified by California law when employment terminates;

11 (e) Failing to provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements
12 containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and
13 IWC Wage Orders; and

14 (f) Failing to indemnify employees for expenditures incurred in direct discharge
15 of duties of employment.

16 6. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them were on actual and
17 constructive notice of the improprieties alleged herein and intentionally refused to rectify their
18 unlawful policies. Defendants' violations, as alleged above, during all relevant times herein were
19 willful and deliberate.

20 7. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all of the
21 unlawful conduct, policies, practices, acts and omissions as described in each and all of the
22 foregoing paragraphs as the employers of Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees. Further,
23 Defendants are responsible for each of the unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under
24 the doctrine of "respondeat superior."

25 **THE PARTIES**

26 **A. Plaintiff**

27 8. Plaintiff OBED RAMOS is a resident of Santa Clara County, California worked for
28 Defendants in Santa Clara County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from

approximately February 2023 to approximately March 2024.

B. Defendants

9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief alleges, that Defendant KAWAHARA NURSERY, INC. is, and at all times herein mentioned, was:

(a) A California corporation qualified to do business and actually conducting business in numerous counties throughout the State of California, including in Santa Clara County; and,

(b) The former employer of Plaintiff and the current and/or former employer of the Aggrieved Employees because Defendant KAWAHARA NURSERY, INC. suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work, and/or controlled their wages, hours, or working conditions.

10. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees as alleged herein. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.

11. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as Does 1-10, inclusive, and each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of, and/or injured a significant number of the Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees in the State of California.

12. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiff and other employees and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent, partner, joint venturer, officer, director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent corporation, successor in interest and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other Defendants, and was engaged with some or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise

1 for profit, and bore such other relationships to some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable
2 for their conduct with respect to the matters alleged below. Plaintiff is informed and believes and
3 thereon alleges that each Defendant acted pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships
4 alleged above, that each Defendant knew or should have known about, and authorized, ratified,
5 adopted, approved, controlled, aided and abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

6 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

7 13. Plaintiff worked for Defendants in Santa Clara County, California as an hourly-paid,
8 non-exempt employee from approximately March 2022 to approximately March 2024. During
9 Plaintiff's employment for Defendants, Defendants paid Plaintiff an hourly wage and classified
10 him as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants typically scheduled Plaintiff to work at least five
11 days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiff regularly worked more than eight
12 hours in a workday and/or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

13 14. Throughout Plaintiff's employment, Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked
14 (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide Plaintiff with legally
15 compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff to take rest periods, failed to timely
16 pay all final wages to Plaintiff when Defendants terminated his employment, failed to furnish
17 accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, and failed to indemnify Plaintiff for expenditures. As
18 discussed below, Plaintiff's experience working for Defendants was typical and illustrative.

19 15. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of not
20 paying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including minimum, straight
21 time, and overtime wages. Defendants required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work
22 "off-the-clock," uncompensated, by, for example, requiring Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees
23 to perform work during unpaid meal periods. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at
24 the overtime rate. In failing to pay for all hours worked, Defendants also failed to maintain
25 accurate records of the hours Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees worked.

26 16. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiff
27 and the Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant meal periods. Defendants regularly, but not
28 always, required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of five consecutive

1 hours a day without providing a 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period for every five
2 hours of work, or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for meal periods
3 that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Instead,
4 Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees by requiring,
5 pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without
6 working in lieu of taking mandatory meal periods, or by denying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
7 Employees permission to take a meal period. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was
8 not to provide meal periods to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees in compliance with
9 California law.

10 17. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully failed to authorize
11 and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take legally compliant rest periods.
12 Defendants regularly required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of four
13 consecutive hours a day without Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-minute,
14 uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four hours),
15 or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for rest periods that were not
16 authorized or permitted. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiff and the
17 Aggrieved Employees by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which
18 could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory rest periods, or by denying
19 Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees permission to take a rest period. Accordingly, Defendants'
20 policy and practice was to not authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take
21 rest periods in compliance with California law.

22 18. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants willfully failed and refused to timely
23 pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees all final wages due at their termination of employment.
24 In addition, Plaintiff's final paychecks did not include payment for all expenditures, minimum
25 wages, straight time wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium
26 wages owed to him by Defendants at the conclusion of his employment. On information and belief,
27 Defendants' failure to timely pay Plaintiff's final wages when his employment terminated was not
28 a single, isolated incident, but was instead consistent with Defendants' policy and practice that

1 applied to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees.

2 19. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiff and the
3 Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates,
4 all overtime hourly rates, and all gross and net wages earned (including correct hours worked,
5 correct wages for meal periods that were not provided in accordance with California law, and
6 correct wages for rest periods that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with
7 California law). As a result of these violations of California Labor Code § 226(a), the Plaintiff and
8 the Aggrieved Employees suffered injury because, among other things:

- 9 (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid
10 minimum, straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period
11 premium wages, even though they were entitled;
- 12 (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid the minimum,
13 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
14 wages, even though they had not been;
- 15 (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid minimum,
16 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
17 wages at the correct California rate even though they were entitled;
- 18 (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum, straight time,
19 overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages at the
20 correct California rate even though they had not been;
- 21 (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum,
22 straight time, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium
23 wages owed to them;
- 24 (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in
25 connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have
26 to perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages
27 owed to them, computations they would not have to make if the wage
28 statements contained the required accurate information;

(g) by understating the wages truly due to them, the violations caused them to lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security, disability, unemployment, and other governmental benefits;

(h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage rates to which Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled, and Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which they were entitled.

Thus, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are owed the amounts provided for in California Labor Code § 226(e) and injunctive relief under California Labor Code § 226(h).

20. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendants. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees regularly paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related expenses, including, without limitation, work attire and use of personal cell phones.

21. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees incurred substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Defendants, but Defendants failed to indemnify Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for these employment-related expenses.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages for All Hours Worked)

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

23. “Hours worked” is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

24. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants knowingly failed to pay to Plaintiff compensation for all hours he worked. By their failure to pay compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code §

1 1194, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which require such
2 compensation to non-exempt employees.

3 25. Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover minimum and straight time wages for
4 all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

5 26. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiff has been deprived of his
6 rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

7 27. By virtue of the Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to
8 Plaintiff for his non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiff suffered damages in amounts
9 which are presently unknown to Plaintiff and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

10 28. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code §
11 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum wage
12 compensation due to Plaintiff.

13 29. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiff is entitled to recover
14 liquidated damages (double damages) for Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages.

15 30. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
16 wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to
17 this cause of action, Plaintiff was entitled to be paid twice a month at rates required by law,
18 including minimum and straight time wages. However, during all such times, Defendants
19 systematically failed and refused to pay Plaintiff all such wages due and failed to pay those wages
20 twice a month.

21 31. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum and straight time
22 wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§
23 218.5, 218.6, and 1194(a).

24 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)**

26 32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
27 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

28 33. California Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be

1 employed more than eight hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they
2 receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

3 34. California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 provide that employees in California shall
4 not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional
5 compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, California
6 Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed
7 by the IWC is unlawful.

8 35. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff has worked more than eight hours in a workday
9 and/or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, as employees of Defendants.

10 36. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime
11 compensation for the hours he worked in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as
12 required by California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198.

13 37. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate
14 compensation to the Plaintiff for his overtime hours worked, Plaintiff has suffered damages in
15 amounts which are presently unknown to him but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this
16 Court and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

17 38. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code § 1174(d),
18 Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime compensation due to
19 Plaintiff.

20 39. Plaintiff also requests recovery of overtime compensation according to proof,
21 interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), as well as the
22 assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the California
23 Labor Code and/or other statutes.

24 40. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
25 wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall
26 pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all
27 overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with all
28 compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code § 204.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide Meal Periods)

41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

42. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve the Plaintiff of all duty in order to take his first daily meal period no later than the start of Plaintiff's sixth hour of work in a workday, and to take his second meal period no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. California Labor Code § 512, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer provide unpaid meal periods of at least thirty (30) minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for an employer to require any employee to work during any meal period mandated under any Wage Order.

43. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants regularly failed to provide Plaintiff with both meal periods as required by California law. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiff to take all meal periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted meal periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders.

44. Under California law, Plaintiff is entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he was not provided with all required meal period(s), plus interest thereon.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)

45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

46. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than two hours). California Labor Code § 512, the applicable Wage Orders require that the employer permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of ten minutes each for each 4-hour period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten minutes, the

1 employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself
2 a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 for
3 an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period mandated under any Wage
4 Order.

5 47. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants failed to authorize Plaintiff to take rest
6 breaks, regardless of whether employees worked more than four hours in a workday. By their
7 failure to permit and authorize Plaintiff to take rest periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that
8 Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted rest periods),
9 Defendants willfully violated the provisions of California Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable
10 Wage Orders.

11 48. Under California law, Plaintiff is entitled to be paid one hour of premium wages
12 rate for each workday he was not provided with all required rest break(s), plus interest thereon.

13 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Pay Wages of Discharged Employees – Waiting Time**
15 **Penalties)**

16 49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
17 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

18 50. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if
19 an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due
20 and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or
21 her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless
22 the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in
23 which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

24 51. As mentioned above, Plaintiff's employment with Defendants ended in March 2024.
25 However, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff all wages required to be paid by California Labor Code
26 §§ 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving
27 Defendants' employ.

28 ///

52. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff his wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

53. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with §§ 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

54. Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants his additionally accruing wages for each day he was not paid, at his regular hourly rate of pay, up to thirty (30) days maximum pursuant to California Labor Code § 203.

55. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6 and 1194, Plaintiff is also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, expenses, and costs incurred in this action.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide and Maintain Accurate and Compliant Wage Records)

56. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

57. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code § 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding

number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

58. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the failure to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiff, the failure to list the true “total hours worked by the employee,” and the failure to list the true net wages earned.

59. As a result of Defendants’ violation of California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff has suffered injury and damage to his statutorily protected rights.

60. Specifically, Plaintiff has been injured by Defendants’ intentional violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) because he was denied both their legal right to receive, and his protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage statements under California Labor Code § 226(a).

61. Calculation of the true wage entitlement for Plaintiff is difficult and time consuming. As a result of this unlawful burden, Plaintiff was also injured as a result of having to bring this action to attempt to obtain correct wage information following Defendants’ refusal to comply with many of the mandates of California’s Labor Code and related laws and regulations.

62. Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants’ failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per employee.

63. Plaintiff is also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of attorney’s fees and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures)

64. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

65. As set forth above, Plaintiff was required to incur substantial necessary expenditures and losses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

66. Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802, by failing to pay and indemnify

1 Plaintiff for necessary expenditures and losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of
2 their duties or of their obedience to directions of Defendants.

3 67. As a result, Plaintiff was damaged at least in the amounts of the expenses they paid,
4 or which were deducted by Defendants from their wages.

5 68. Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and costs of suit pursuant
6 to California Labor Code § 2802(c) and interest pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(b).

7 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **(Against All Defendants for Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200,**
9 **et seq.)**

10 69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs
11 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

12 70. Defendants, and each of them, are "persons" as defined under California Business
13 & Professions Code § 17201.

14 71. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair,
15 unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff and to the general public. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important
16 rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

17 72. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and
18 constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions
19 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

20 73. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* may be
21 predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All of the acts described herein as violations
22 of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy;
23 and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby
24 constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business
25 & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

26 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages**

27 74. Defendants' failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, and other benefits in
28 violation of the California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by

California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

75. Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

76. Defendants' failure to provide meal periods in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

77. Defendants' failure to authorize and permit rest periods in accordance with California Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Indemnify Business Expenses

78. Defendants' failure to reimburse expenses incurred in accordance with California Labor Code § 2802, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

79. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described herein, the Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and has deprived Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment.

80. Plaintiff suffered monetary injury as a direct result of Defendants' wrongful conduct.

81. Plaintiff is entitled to, and does, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge money and/or property which the Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiff has been deprived, by means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. Plaintiff is not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful practices of Defendants in order to recover restitution.

82. Plaintiff is further entitled to, and does, seek a declaration that the above-described business practices are unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the Defendants, and each of them, from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in the future.

83. Plaintiff has no plain, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the injuries which he suffered as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. As a result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described above, Plaintiff has suffered irreparable harm unless the Defendants, and each of them, are restrained from continuing to engage in said unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

84. Plaintiff also alleges that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other withholdings.

85. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiff is entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants during a period that commences four years and 178 days prior to the filing of this complaint; a permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiff; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Civil Penalties Under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698 *et seq.*)

86. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 21 in this Complaint.

87. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were subject to the Labor Code of the State of California and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Orders.

88. California Labor Code § 2699(a) specifically provides for a private right of action to recover penalties for violations of the Labor Code: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by

the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3.”

89. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3. He gave written notice by online filing to the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendant of the specific provisions of the Labor Code that Defendant violated against Plaintiff and current and former aggrieved employees, including the facts and theories to support the violations. Plaintiff also paid the filing fee.

90. The LWDA has not indicated that it intends to investigate Defendant’s Labor Code violations discussed in the notice. Accordingly, Plaintiff may commence a civil action to recover penalties under Labor Code § 2699 pursuant to § 2699.3 for the violations of the Labor Code described in this Complaint. These penalties include, but are not limited to, penalties under California Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699.

91. Based on the conduct described in this Complaint, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of civil penalties on behalf of himself, the State of California, and similarly Aggrieved Employees of Defendants. The exact amount of the applicable penalties, in all, is in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial. These penalties are in addition to all other remedies permitted by law.

92. In addition, Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), which states, “Any employee who prevails in any action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.”

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff, individually, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

As to the First Cause of Action

93. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California

1 Labor Code §§ 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
2 minimum and straight time wages due;

3 94. For unpaid wages as may be appropriate;

4 95. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
5 such amounts were due;

6 96. For liquidated damages;

7 97. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
8 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

9 98. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

10 As to the Second Cause of Action

11 99. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
12 Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all
13 overtime wages due;

14 100. For unpaid wages at overtime wage rates as may be appropriate;

15 101. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from
16 the date such amounts were due;

17 102. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
18 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

19 103. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

20 As to the Third Cause of Action

21 104. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California
22 Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

23 105. For unpaid meal period premium wages as may be appropriate;

24 106. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
25 such amounts were due;

26 107. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5,
27 and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

28 108. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

109. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

110. For unpaid rest period premium wages as may be appropriate;

111. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

112. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

113. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

114. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of termination of the employment;

115. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 203 for former employees who have left Defendants' employ;

116. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were due;

117. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

118. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Sixth Cause of Action

119. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated the record keeping provisions of California Labor Code § 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

120. For all actual damages, according to proof;

121. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(e);

122. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h);

123. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

124. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Seventh Cause of Action

125. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code § 2802 by willfully failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

126. For unpaid wages or unreimbursed business expenses as may be appropriate;

127. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due;

128. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and,

129. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Eighth Cause of Action

130. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that Defendants violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to authorize and permit rest periods, and failing to indemnify employees for expenditures;

131. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiff and prejudgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

132. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendants as a result of violations of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;

133. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

134. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and,

135. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Ninth Cause of Action

136. The the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated the California Labor Code by failing to pay wages for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods and pay the correct amount of meal

period premium wages, failing to authorize and permit rest periods and pay the correct amount of rest period premium wages, failing to pay all final wages to terminated employees, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to reimburse employees for all necessary business expenses.

137. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

138. For all civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*, and all other applicable Labor Code provisions;

139. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699; and

140. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

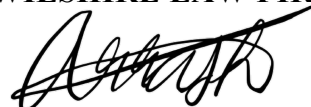
As to all Causes of Action

141. For any additional relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 15, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

By: 

Arrash T. Fattahi

Arman A. Salehi

Attorneys for Plaintiff

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

Dated: January 15, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

By: 

Arrash T. Fattahi

Arman A. Salehi

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Ramos v. Kawahara Nursery, Inc., et al.
24CV439090

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PROOF OF SERVICE