

L A T E

Date: 02/04/2008

Committee: Senate Education; Senate
Energy and Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2571 RELATING TO FOOD WASTE RECYCLING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education, in a partnership with the department of health, to establish a three-year food waste recycling pilot project within public school districts. Makes an environmental management special fund appropriation for this purpose.


Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) does support SB 2571 if it provides adequate funding to develop and implement the pilot project set forth in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

L A T E

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Education Committee

Senator Ron Menor, Chair
Senator Gary Hooser, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

Fr: Sandi Yagi
Eco  Feed, Inc
P.O. Box 31089
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February 4, 2008

Testimony in Support of SB 2571

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 2571. Eco-Feed has been recycling food waste since 1999. Recycling food waste is an economically viable and environmentally sustainable solution to landfill or incineration at HPower.

The City & County of Honolulu website opala.org stated that in 2006, on Oahu, 119,645 tons of food waste was disposed of at the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary landfill or incinerated at HPower. An additional 36,647 tons of food waste was recycled in 2006. Of the total 156,292 tons of food waste generated, less than 25% was recycled. Our company recycled more than 10,936 tons of food waste in 2006. In 2007 we recycled more than 13,000 tons of food waste.

The adverse effects of disposing food waste at the landfill include 1) potential ground water contamination. The high acidic content of the food waste can eat away at the landfill lining. 2) Methane gas build up.

Incinerating food waste at HPower is counter-productive as it takes more energy to burn wet waste than dry.

Our public schools teach Hawaii's keiki from kindergarten throughout their education the "wise use of resources" concept. Students learn the importance and necessity of recycling. They learn that recycling is a solution to an environmental problem (limited landfill space). SB 2571 will enhance and encourage this "wise use of resources" concept.

Opposition will contend that there is a lack of capacity to accommodate the amount of food waste generated should this bill pass. There are more than 200 licensed certified hog farms in the State. The farms that Eco-Feed delivers to are appreciative of the free "feed" as the escalating freight charges have made grain feeding cost prohibitive. The "slop fed" pigs are taken to the slaughter house inspected by USDA, and are sold in markets throughout the state as "Island Fresh Pork".

Other means of recycling food waste include composting. Currently, we deliver approximately 200 tons of produce per month to a certified composting facility.

Supporting SB2571 is a win-win solution.

- 1) It will help to conserve valuable landfill space.
- 2) It is a proactive step toward fostering an overall attitude to protect and preserve Hawaii's Environment.
- 3) It sustains and perpetuates Hawaii's 4.5 billion dollar pork industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE TESTIMONY

Reference : S.B. 2571 EDU/ENE. WAM
Committee Meeting
February 4th, 2008 1:15pm Conf. Room 225

Aloha,

I would like to express my support for the proposed legislation in SB 2571. It is well known here in Hawaii the challenges we face in dealing with refuse and solid waste. Landfills are at capacity or rapidly approaching their limits and recycling efforts though improving are substantially insufficient. Being closely involved with current recycling programs being developed in our communities I am familiar with the importance of continually expanding our efforts to reduce, recycle and reuse to the greatest extent possible. The proposed bill if accepted would be another small but meaningful step in our pursuit of sustainability and protecting Hawaii's environment and resources. It is my opinion that programs introduced in the schools have substantially impacted how recycling efforts are implemented and the participation required, through education and commitment from the people in our communities. It is crucial to develop and mentor these programs with today's youth preserving an attitude of salvation in participating in functional recycling programs for the greater benefit not only today but for future generations. The time to act is now to create a sustainable future minimizing our impacts to the environment, implementing and continuously evaluating the way we manage refuse and recyclables. The best way to expand the importance of waste reduction and recycling is education, what better place to start than schools. Please take this in to consideration while deciding the direction of this bill and similar proposals in the future as we all do our part to preserve the future of this island.

Mahalo,
Ron Westmoreland

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