

Date: 03/11/2008

Committee: House Energy and
Environmental Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2571,SD1,SSCR2682 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 one or more public schools. Appropriates funds from the environmental management special fund for the pilot program. (SD1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 2571, SD1, if it provides adequate funding from the Department of Health environmental management special fund to develop and implement the pilot project set forth in the bill. We must defer to the Department of Health to speak to the priority of this project within the environmental management special fund. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

820 Milliani St., Suite 810, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808)533-1292 - Fax (808)599-2606 - Email LISHawaii@aol.com
Richard C. Botti, President



March 11, 2008

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Mele Carroll, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President, or Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: SB 2571, SD1 RELATING TO FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Food Industry Association supports this measure, but asks that the definition of food waste recycling be more specific by including composting of food waste in a commercial composting facility, and that the collection of single service food trays utilized at schools for food be collected and separated to redirect them out of landfills for either recycling or sent directly to a WTE (Waste To Energy) facility for use as energy. For this reason, we suggest that at least one pilot project be on a neighbor island, preferably Maui or Kauai, since they rely on landfills only.

We would also like to plant the seed with the Committee that we need to identify and promote commercial composting facilities on all islands, as we do have member firms that do want to be a part of the waste solution by utilizing compostable bags that cannot be collected for recycling with plastic bags because they will contaminate the mix. Compostable bags will not compost in the landfill, and require a commercial compostable facility to accomplish their purpose. While the title of this bill does not address compostable bags, it does indirectly address commercial composting.