

Date: 03/18/2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0178, SD1 (SSCR802) 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 in one or more public schools. Allows departments to enter into public/private partnerships to establish and operate the pilot program. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. (SD1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports the proposal to partner with the Department of Health to establish a food waste recycling pilot program. Funding consideration should include provisions to contract a solid waste management specialist to provide technical assistance in developing a pilot, recommend or provide appropriate training, and help implement trade and industry waste management standards.

One barrier will be identifying appropriate DOE personnel to manage and maintain a food waste recycling project for an extended timeframe.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
S.B. 178, S.D. 1, RELATING TO FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

March 18, 2009
3:00 P.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully opposes this measure because of funding and
2 resource concerns.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified amount from the general funds.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), in partnership with
5 the Department of Health (DOH), to establish a three-year food waste recycling pilot project within one
6 or more public schools, to be paid through general funds, public-private partnerships or any donations.

7 We understand that some schools are currently recycling their food waste by sending it to pig
8 farms. However, there are not enough pigs to consume all of the waste. Therefore, we will have to
9 either rely on the future development of a food waste recycling facility or establish our own recycling
10 operations, such as on-site composting bins. While we have received a permit application for a food
11 waste composting operation on Oahu, we do not anticipate that it will be operational until the latter part
12 of 2009. We also do not have cost estimates on this recycling option. If on-site composting bins are
13 utilized, we estimate that the cost of one vermi-composting (worm based composting) pilot project
14 (capital cost and three years of operation) would be about \$100,000 assuming a waste generation rate of

1 100 pounds of food waste per day and that the composting operation will be contracted out. If existing
2 DOE staff operates the on-site worm bins during the pilot project, the project cost would be about
3 \$30,000. However, based on our discussions with DOE, they do not have staff to segregate waste and
4 operate the bin.

5 The DOH appreciates the intent of this measure; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it
6 would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time. In addition, please note that the Governor has
7 vetoed a similar bill (S.B. 871) last year on the basis of undue burden on resources. The Governor
8 indicated that the Department of Education should otherwise determine the need for the program and
9 whether it will result in a cost savings.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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