

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VERMICOMPOSTING AT ALL HAWAII
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii reportedly leads the United States in the
2 amount of solid waste produced per person; and
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4 WHEREAS, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings, chipped palm
5 fronds, shredded newspaper, and white paper can all be easily
6 composted; and
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8 WHEREAS, vermicomposting, which uses worms for composting,
9 has been introduced at one hundred eighteen public and private
10 schools on Oahu since 2005; and
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12 WHEREAS, vermicomposting is an effective method for
13 teaching biology, ecology, and soil science; and
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15 WHEREAS, vermicast, or worm castings resulting from the
16 breakdown of organic matter in vermicomposting, is a plant
17 growth enhancer, suppresses certain plant diseases, and holds a
18 full range of key and trace elements important for plant health;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, vermicomposting has no odor and the bins can be
22 easily stored in a cool, shaded place indoors or outside with a
23 lid; and
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25 WHEREAS, some schools have developed vermicomposting
26 systems for their cafeterias, including Maemae Elementary,
27 Webling Elementary, Waianae High School, and the University
28 Laboratory School; and
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30 WHEREAS, one Hawaii school, using only fifteen per cent of
31 its lunch waste, generates about four hundred fifty pounds of
32 vermicast annually for sale at fundraisers; and
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34 WHEREAS, Maemae Elementary School's pipeline worm system
35 for cafeteria waste, designed in a lateral flow that allows easy
36 movement for worms and eliminates the need for hand-harvesting,



1 completed its first cycle in January 2011, with the goal of
2 integrating vermicomposting into their ecosystem curriculum; and
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4 WHEREAS, Waianae High School composts cafeteria waste and
5 food waste from home and uses the vermicast for experiments; and
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7 WHEREAS, California has adopted a statewide vermicomposting
8 program as part of that state's waste management policy and
9 includes vermicomposting in school curriculums; and
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11 WHEREAS, vermicomposting reduces school waste, enables
12 students to recycle natural materials and raise funds from the
13 vermicast, and teaches students to care for the environment;
14 now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
18 that the Board of Education is encouraged to implement
19 vermicomposting in all of Hawaii's public schools; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Education; the Superintendent of Education, who in turn is
24 requested to transmit copies to the principal of each Hawaii
25 public school; and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

Mike Hubbard

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