

MAR 16 2011

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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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1 WHEREAS, Maemae Elementary School's pipeline worm system  
2 for cafeteria waste, designed in a lateral flow that allows easy  
3 movement for worms and eliminates the need for hand-harvesting,  
4 completed its first cycle in January 2011, with the goal of  
5 integrating vermicomposting into their ecosystem curriculum; and  
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7 WHEREAS, Waianae High School composts cafeteria waste and  
8 food waste from home and uses the vermicast for experiments; and  
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10 WHEREAS, California has adopted a statewide vermicomposting  
11 program as part of that state's waste management policy and  
12 includes vermicomposting in school curriculums; and  
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14 WHEREAS, vermicomposting reduces school waste, enables  
15 students to recycle natural materials and raise funds from the  
16 vermicast, and teaches students to care for the environment;  
17 now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
22 is encouraged to implement vermicomposting in all of Hawaii's  
23 public schools; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
27 Board of Education; the Superintendent of Education, who in turn  
28 is requested to transmit copies to the principal of each Hawaii  
29 public school; and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.  
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