
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that nutrient cycling
2 fosters agricultural production by building soil health and
3 fertility. Without nutrient cycling, nutrients flow from
4 farmland into aquifers and shorelines, which depletes nutrients
5 in the soil and forces farmers to use commercial fertilizers,
6 which require fossil fuels to produce, decrease soil health and
7 species diversity, increase pesticide use, and reduce the
8 nutrient density of food. Nutrient cycling puts end products
9 back into the land-based food chain instead of generating waste
10 or causing pollution as with food waste.

11 The legislature further finds that nutrient cycling
12 benefits local agriculture by lowering production costs,
13 increasing yields, and leaving the soil in revitalized
14 condition. Nutrient cycling also reduces waste streams.
15 Research conducted at nutrient cycling centers focuses on a
16 whole system of agriculture, identifying the optimum overall



1 solution instead of one that just produces the highest crop
2 yield.

3 The legislature further finds that a regional nutrient
4 cycling center in Hawaii, particularly on Maui island, would
5 promote environmental, economic, and social benefits for the
6 State along with food and energy security for Hawaii residents.
7 Food waste on Maui is buried in landfills, creating voluminous
8 methane gas that is emitted into the atmosphere. A feasible
9 alternative is to process food waste and other organic waste
10 through a nutrient cycling center. The end result is that the
11 waste goes back into the farming system as a whole, which spares
12 landfills. Waste is processed into low-cost fertilizer to
13 supply farmers who can use the fertilizer for crops which
14 fosters food security, decreases climate change, and improves
15 air quality. Furthermore, regional nutrient cycling minimizes
16 the interisland transfer of waste streams, reducing the
17 likelihood of transporting invasive species.

18 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for a
19 nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui and require
20 reporting on the efficacy of the pilot project.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
 4 establishment of a nutrient cycling center pilot project on
 5 Maui, including costs for program operations, equipment,
 6 regulatory compliance, land development and leasing,
 7 administration, personnel, and contaminant testing.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 9 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall report to
 11 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
 12 of the regular session of 2018 on the operational and economic
 13 efficacy of the nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui,
 14 as established by section 2 of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

16 [Signature]
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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2016



H.B. NO. 2586

Report Title:

Appropriation; Agriculture; Nutrient Cycling Center Pilot Project

Description:

Makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui. Requires DOA to report on the efficacy of the pilot project.

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