



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:00 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2586 – RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2586, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui.

The high cost of imported fertilizer and soil amendments is a significant impediment to the agricultural community. Food waste, particularly in a state with a very large number of retail food establishments serving the tourist industry, also poses significant disposal problems in Hawai'i, and is a wasted resource. HB 2586 would create a pilot project on Maui to recycle such food waste into low cost fertilizer. Due to the infrastructure needs to establish such a project, the Department of Agriculture is the appropriate lead agency, but we expect that College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) staff will engage with the Department and the farming community, as resources permit, to further this pilot project.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2586.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanne Vana	West oahu county farm bureau	Support	No

Comments: Confirming Support position.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:33 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bexter@maui.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Sydney	MFUU	Support	No

Comments: Finally! We are working together to make Maui sustainable and renewable instead of just throwing it away. This idea is a no-brainer. Please pass.

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PO Box 240848  
Honolulu, HI 96824  
[www.hawaiifoodpolicycouncil.org](http://www.hawaiifoodpolicycouncil.org)

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture**

February 11, 2016, 9:00AM

Conference Room 312

Subject: **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2586, Relating to Nutrient Cycling**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2586, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot nutrient cycling facility.

The Hawai'i Food Policy Council **supports** this measure, recognizing that the strategic investment of state funding will be necessary to ensure that we are able to grow adequate food, to support rural economies, and to sustain small-scale agriculture operations.

Nutrient cycling is the future of local food production. It takes two problems: soil infertility and food waste, and turns them into an elegant solution. The passage of HB2586 would be a bold statement to the rest of the nation that Hawai'i is taking sustainable local food production seriously. If Hawai'i is sincere about lowering farming input costs, increasing yields, and ultimately weaning itself off of imported produce, we ought to take a thoughtful look at groundbreaking systems such as these.

We sincerely appreciate this committee's efforts to explore bold and innovative solutions to increase local food production. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Daniela Kittinger  
Executive Director, Hawai'i Food Policy Council

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:48 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** info@ihilanicoffee.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ihilani Coffee	Ihilani Coffee Company	Support	No

Comments: This bill is a good start toward Hawai`i becoming more food self-sufficient. With the state importing the vast majority of food, Hawai`i's residents and visitors are at serious risk in the event of shipping strikes, disastrous weather-related incidents, etc. We wholeheartedly support any effort that moves Hawai`i toward food self-sufficiency.

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P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099

February 9, 2016

## Support for HB 2586

### HFUU Board of Directors

Vincent Mina  
President  
HFUU

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Honorable Committee Members,

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of HB 2586.

Simon Russell  
Vice-President  
HFUU

HB 2586 makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui. It would promote nutrient cycling, fostering sustainable agricultural production by building soil health and fertility. A regional nutrient cycling center, particularly on Maui Island, would promote environmental, economic and social benefits for the State along with food and energy security for Hawai'i residents.

Anny Bruch  
Secretary  
HFUU

Ray Maki  
Treasurer  
HFUU

Upwards of 27 thousand tons of food waste (54 million pounds) is dumped into the Maui landfill every year. We can return these nutrients to the earth using best practices in a regenerative, safe and healthful way. Instead of having this huge quantity of food waste making methane inside our landfill, this resource can be cycled back into our soils to grow more food while restoring beneficial microbial vitality to the land.

Kyle Studer  
East Hawai'i

Nate Hayward  
Kohala

In 2012 Maui County was fined \$380,000 for violations of the clean air act, due to excessive methane emissions. The county was then required by the EPA to spend \$5.1 million to collect and store these emissions. This bill aims to reduce the emissions by preventing a major source of the pollution from entering the landfill in the first place. First we must pilot the program to hone and maximize the building of an economical efficient system. Once the pilot is finished, we can begin to build a state wide network of regional nutrient cycling, which will increase our food security, build up our carbon stores in the ground, which will reduce water runoff and erosion of our precious topsoils.

Steve Sakala  
Kona

Greg Smith  
Ka'u

Phyllis Robinson  
Haleakala

We appreciate your support for this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future.

Alika Atay  
Mauna Kahalawai

Mahalo,  
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Mikala Minn  
Hana

Vincent Mina, President

Pamela Boyer  
Oahu

*The Hawai'i Farmers Union United and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawai'i law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education and legislation.*

AGRtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:28 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com  
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**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Jacintho	Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments: The Maui Cattlemen's Association has been supporting the composting efforts on the island of Maui at the County Council, and encourage the State to support composting as well. It's a shame to let food waste, go to waste, when, if done properly at a proper location, a very good plant nutrition product can become available to local producers.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:54 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** malikoestate@hawaii.rr.com  
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**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sydney smith	Maui Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments: We desperately need this! We're being fined for excess methane emissions at our land fill. We need rich compost. This is a win-win for the whole state. We can set the example of how well this can work state-wide. Please support this bill for us! Sydney Smith President, Maui Coffee Association Ag Working Group, Maui County

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** francisspalluto@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
francis spalluto	Haiku aina permaculture initiative	Support	No

Comments: Conversion of food waste into fertilizer for ag use is fundamental and critical. I support this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** davidsonorganics@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ian Davidson	Bio-logical Capital	Support	No

Comments: As an emerging agricultural business in Hawaii, Bio-logical Capital sees huge potential value in this program to help bring our fertility costs down and increase the sustainability of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** derek.lindes@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Derek Lindes	LoNo Enterprises	Support	No

Comments: Cycling the nutrients from our foodwaste into organic compost for our crops is the oldest and most practical survival practice for our species. As farmers, compost is the most primary and important part of our endeavor. To grow healthy food, good soil and organic matter are needed. Our topsoils here, and almost everywhere, have been bulldozed, eroded, and sprayed with chemicals until they are completely gone and/or ruined. The other side of the coin is that we throw away so much food in our society and it's clogging up our landfills. Most of the waste is food-waste and it's really not waste, it's prime farming material! Cycling the foodwaste into organic compost will mitigate landfill overuse and make organic farming here viable and a thriving business. Our isolated island needs to feed itself in order to not be dependent on foreign interests. The first thing I ever do when I move into a house is start a compost pile for my kitchen scraps and that's what we should be doing as Mauians. Mahalo

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kpurdyavelino@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mailani22@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rene Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** neil.vonhof@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:07 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kapunafarms@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miki'ala Pua'a-Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:11 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** carl@votecampagna.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. I support this measure. This pilot program will be designed to scale up state wide to divert any organic waste stream into a nutrient cycle for farming. Maui island alone dumps 27,000 tons of food waste into its landfill every year. If this bill passes, we be able to stop burying all that methane producing organic matter and make fertilizer.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:20 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kristenmartinek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Martinek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** evernw@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. It is progress toward the state's sustainability goals and just makes good sense!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:31 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kimo1246@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:46 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support funding this pilot program. We soon will have thousands of acres on Maui that will need large quantities of compost to restore the soils. It's sinful to waste these nutrient rich food scraps. In Washington State, all homes have a compost bit that recycles food waste, soiled paper like pizza boxes and yard waste. It has dramatically reduced the amount of garbage in the garbage can. Maui can show the rest of the islands how to be more creative with our food wastes and create an industry to put people to work and restore the soil with organic matter. Mahalo

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ealoi@hawaii.edu  
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**HB2586**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Aloii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** orion3cruz@gmail.com  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Orion Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** touch2know@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

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Submitted on: 2/9/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Yunker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Love the concept. Let's utilize the food waste we already produce to make useful fertilizer. An island community cannot ignore it's position in the middle of the ocean, many miles and days away from the Mainland. Please support measures that make this island self-sustainable and efficient -- particularly in the ways and means of producing food!

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**Cc:** bambusdean@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, this is an important waste stream diversion which supports our larger goal of sustainability by up-cycling food waste into valuable compost. please vote this into affect ! mahalo

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** natalie@nataliebrownphotography.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the nutrient cycling bill because it is the smart, right thing to do. We can't afford to be dumping 27,000 tons of food into landfills, furthering methane production to the detriment of the climate. We CAN turn that food into reusable compost. Just with a few tweaks to how we run things we can make a HUGE positive difference on Maui. Make the obvious choice and support this bill. Thank you!

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:34 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** taragrace808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tara Grace	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this bill. MAHALO. Very important pilot program. Way overdue.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:46 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** deshayne@deshayne.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Creating natural agriculture nutrients on Hawaii will cut dependence on imported chemical fertilizers. This will increase our self sustainability and curb chemical fertilizer runoffs that pollute our drinking water sources. I support this bill for the development of recycled natural nutrient composts.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:33 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to support HB2586 because it really makes sense. We could be better stewards of what we have to work with on this island if we implemented practices that reclaim instead of waste.

Thank you,

Stephanie Costantino

808-870-8463

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:32 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ohialani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katie Romanchuk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB2586 which allows a recycling compost facility in Maui, to help revitalize soil for the health of the land and people. This would prevent runoff problems of harmful nutrients to the ocean such as too much nitrogen. I would definitely contribute to this facility and use the compost for my organic farm in Haiku. It would be terrific to have a place where we could get locally sourced compost. We have the green waste facility which is great but it is not food grade. Thank you for voting for this for our island!

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tampaltin@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Representatives, My name is Tamara Paltin and I am in strong support of this bill. We need creative, well thought out solutions like these to divert waste that can be beneficially used from our landfills. We live in an island state and it is critical we learn to not only reduce our waste stream and stop importing petroleum based fertilizers that are not good for our marine resources. This pilot program will be designed to scale up state wide and has been in the works for the last three years. This is the type of leadership our state desperately needs to help our ecosystems, residents and farmers. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Tamara

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:06 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alohalways@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This would help Maui move in a direction towards more sustainability!  
Please support this bill. We have wasted enough already!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** llyerly7@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Lyerly	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Your Honors: Please support this important bill supporting critical sustainable agriculture. Our aina needs this direction if we are to create and maintain our soils. The islands are at an important turning point in regards to our sustainability. Please give these knowledgeable farmers a good chance to give back to us our so important good food source. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Linda Lyerly. 25 Puakukui Pl. #4, Lahaina, HI. 96761

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ihemphi@live.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:41 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** stella.i.caban@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stella Caban	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:51 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** haydn.huntley@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Haydn Huntley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm looking forward to examining and hopefully using the results of this nutrient recycling pilot project. Mahalo!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:38 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** maummartha@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha E. Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB2586 because it will use wasted food and use it to create energy, instead of burying it in the dump.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:58 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** robert@electricpoweron.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Boudreaux	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a struggling farmer in East Maui I am married to the soil. Making sure proper amounts of the best nutrients are constantly added to the soil is paramount. Having a continual fertilizer source made from biomass that is wastefully disposed of would be an incredible boon to the farmers of Maui and should be implemented state wide. Please pass this urgently needed bill and let's get this program rolling!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 6:38 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** pferrorob@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phyllis Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the President of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, Haleakala Chapter I support having a pilot nutrient recycling center on Maui. We have spent the last 3 years advocating for regional nutrient cycling to create high grade, locally sourced compost and fertility amendments for farming. Basically this bill will demonstrate the effectiveness of diverting food waste and other organic waste streams into a system that creates fertilizer to be used by farmers. This pilot program will be designed to scale up state wide, to divert any organic waste stream into a nutrient cycle for farming. Maui island alone dumps 27,000 tons of food waste into its landfill every year. If this bill passes, we can stop burying all that methane producing organic matter and make fertilizer !

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:15 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** luellacrutcher@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Luella Nohea Crutcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill, because nutrient cycling creates high grade, locally sourced compost and fertilizer - using food waste and other organic waste -- instead of dumping tons of food waste into land fills every year. We are also not burying all the methane producing organic matter and we are making fertilizer. Not having to depend on off-island assistance and becoming more independent. This also saves money  
Mahalo for your time and consideration, Luella Nohea Crutcher

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:42 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** 333cory@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha legislators, Please support this pilot program for regional nutrient cycling to create high grade, locally sourced compost and fertility amendments for farming. We can demonstrate the effectiveness of diverting food waste and other organic waste streams into a system that creates fertilizer to be used by farmers. This pilot program will be designed to scale up state wide, to divert any organic waste stream into a nutrient cycle for farming. Maui island alone dumps 27,000 tons of food waste into its landfill every year. If this bill passes, we can stop burying all that methane producing organic matter and make fertilizer ! mahalo, Cory H.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** den@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Hennig	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill appropriates \$1M for a pilot program on Maui to demonstrate the effectiveness of diverting food waste and other organic waste streams into a system that creates fertilizer to be used by farmers. Food waste is a critical issue with a serious impact on the planet. Composting is a great way to reduce waste and help the environment. When you compost, you save all the plant matter (such as lettuce ends, orange peels, etc.) and other organic matter (think eggshells, food-soiled cardboard) from going into the trash/landfill. This organic matter is then collected and broken down by microorganisms, which are found naturally in soil. The end result is a fiber-rich material called humus which can be used as all-natural, organic fertilizer for gardens or farms. We don't have to reinvent composting as an alternative to burying it in our landfills. We only have to look to San Francisco's successful system that has been in place for many years. Let's learn from their experience.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:32 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ariannafeinberg@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB2586 to create a pilot program of nutrient cycling on Maui that can potentially be replicated on the other islands if proven effective. Currently green waste and compost is a problem, filling the landfill and creating greenhouse gases. Instead we should turn this into affordable and locally source compost for food production and erosion reduction. Additionally in the transition from cane fields to diversified agriculture we need to most smartly source soil nutrients. Please pass HB2586 to help Hawaii move in a more regenerative trajectory.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:15 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Honorable Committee Members, HB 2586 makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui. It would promote nutrient cycling, fostering agricultural production by building soil health and fertility. A regional nutrient cycling center, particularly on Maui Island, would promote environmental, economic and social benefits for the State along with food and energy security for Hawai'i residents. Upwards of 27 thousand tons of food waste (54 million pounds) is dumped into the Maui landfill every year. We can return these nutrients to the earth using best practices in a safe and healthful way. Instead of having this huge quantity of food waste making methane inside our landfill, it can be cycled back into our soils to grow more food. In 2012 Maui County was fined \$380,000 for violations of the clean air act, due to excessive methane emissions. The county was then required by the EPA to spend \$5.1 million to collect and store these emissions. This bill aims to reduce the emissions by preventing a major source of the pollution from entering the landfill in the first place. First we must pilot the program to work out any difficulties we may have. Once the pilot is finished, Hawaii can begin to build a state wide network of regional nutrient cycling, which will increase our food security and reduce our impact on the environment. We appreciate your support for this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future. Respectfully Submitted, Simon Russell  
Farmer Hali'imaile Maui

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sunnysavage@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:31 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** noelanilove@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noelani Love	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:02 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** devin.fredericksen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
devin fredericksen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Being born and raised on Maui, I watched the island get trashed from single use plastic bags. Everywhere you drove, plastic bags littered the roads. Then after returning home to Maui from college, I observed that the landscape is noticeably, visually different. The people came together to support banning the use of single use plastic bags. Now, we the people have an opportunity again to help transform Maui's environment. This food waste diversion program will be very beneficial to so many communities. The town of Arcata I was living in during college implemented a pilot program to divert food waste for compost and energy production purposes. I strongly suggest that this pilot program for Maui contain a research component to study the feasibility of anaerobic digestion or different methods of creating electricity from the food waste. Please find this link: <http://www.hwma.net/food-waste>, for more information. In addition to diverting food waste from the landfill, we would also be honoring the Sacredness of the aina. For too long, have we as a society conducted business disregarding the 'aina, the environment as sacred. It is time for a remembrance of this 'aina as sacred for it sustains all life, humans and beyond. We would be honoring our ancestors who helped care for the land so we can use it now. And we would also honor the future keiki by restoring and rehabilitating the land for the future. Please, may you help to support our Maui ohana by helping to divert food waste from the landfill. Mahalo

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:22 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** terez.amato@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:04 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ziggybball13@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Ziegler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have seen city/county composting in action both in san diego (oceanside) and santa cruz, ca. All residents and business have a third can: Trash, Recycle, Compost! The compost consists of plant property trimmings as well as food waste. Oceanside has a great system where you can go to the compost facility and fill up your truck for 10 bucks if you are a county resident. They also make it available in truck loads to whoever is in need. So I have seen it in action on the small scale and I believe Maui residents are more in tune with their soil and have a great need to recycle food waste and plant materials in order to reach the goal of becoming a sustainable agricultural environment. There is so much waste that can be repurposed. The less waste the better!

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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 11, 2016  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2586  
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2586, which makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui and requires the Department to report on the efficacy of the pilot project. The Department supports the intent of the bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

The Department lacks the scientific capability for implementing the complete composting process and distribution. This could be a project that a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources could collaborate on with the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**Cc:** milholen.jennifer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2586 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
vicki levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this pilot project to demonstrate the viability of diverting food waste into compostibles for our farming community.

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**HB2586**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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