



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Written
Testimony
Only**

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2648
RELATING TO FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 11, 2016
Time: 8:30am

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown recycling costs for select organic material generators, and
2 investigative costs for studies needed to evaluate impacted waste stream and adequacy of
3 infrastructure.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department offers the following comments:

5 Section 2, as written, is ambiguous and does not seem to follow the intent of the bill as
6 described in Section 1. For example, the bill requires organic material generated by the specified
7 businesses to send their organic material to a recycling facility, and does not differentiate
8 between product and waste. Therefore, the bill does not allow for product sale or reuse. In
9 addition, definitions are needed, at a minimum, for the listed businesses, recycling and organic
10 material.

11 Section 3 provides for an advisory committee to evaluate the sufficiency of existing
12 systems, and recommend infrastructure and resources needed to remove all food waste from the
13 municipal solid waste stream. It should be noted that such a goal would require management of
14 food waste that are also special waste, such as foreign waste and diseased mass carcass disposal,
15 where other health and safety concerns need to be addressed. Evaluating a system to remove all
16 food waste can be done, but will require more specific data on existing conditions, which is
17 beyond the scope of the counties' waste characterization studies, and will require data gathering
18 from generating sources as well as at the disposal facilities. For cost comparison basis, we

1 understand that the City and County of Honolulu has estimated around \$200,000 to update their
2 latest waste characterization report for two disposal locations. At this time, we believe that a
3 food waste composition study may be prudent at each of the municipal solid waste disposal
4 facilities (there are nine) as well as from select points of generation. This data gathering cost
5 estimate does not include the full evaluation of the data after collection.

6 The Solid Waste Surcharge portion of the Environmental Management Special Fund
7 currently does not have money to pay for committee member expenses and data gathering.
8 Unless an appropriation is granted, we will not have the adequate information to perform the
9 requested analysis.

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

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Feb. 10, 2016

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Strong Support for HB 2648 (Relating to Commercial Organic Waste)

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters, I am writing in strong support of HB 2648, a bill we helped write to reduce commercial organic waste. This legislation guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities and will help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint.

At a time when homelessness and hunger is on the rise, it's hard to conceive that food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream, making up 25% of all materials sent to our landfills (according to the EPA and USDA). The EPA has established a hierarchy of food waste disposal methods and calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below: source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change. Incinerating wet food waste is also a waste of energy.

Reducing GHG emissions in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitment of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025. By donating safe and healthy food to a food bank, we can help feed Hawaii's hungry and address the 1 in 7 households that are food insecure. Along with Surfrider, the RAP Coalition and many other groups, we ask you to support HB 2648. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager





Aloha Chair Lee & the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

RE: HB 2648: In Strong Support

Thursday, February 11, 2016

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

I am writing on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter in support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. Legislation that guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities is necessary to help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint. The City and County of Honolulu already has a successful program model from Ordinance 96-20 requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed, while reducing disposal cost burdens on businesses. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill and clean air burdens.

Food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The EPA's established hierarchy of food waste disposal methods calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 percent times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change. Effectively reducing GHG emission in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitments of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025, and supporting local Agriculture through building healthy soils. More efforts to feed Hawai'i's hungry versus our landfills and incinerators can help address the one in seven households in the State of Hawai'i that are food insecure, by donating safe and healthy food to a food bank or food rescue organization.

Surfrider Oahu is always concerned with the burden of waste that our culture of consumption has on our environment and are strong proponents of methods of reduction that also include value added products as end results. Converting food waste State-wide into natural soil amendments will benefit multiple sectors of our economy and lifestyles in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration on this important topic.

Cheers,

Rafael Bergstrom

Surfrider Oahu Chapter Coordinator

**Testimony in Support of HB2648
For Hearing on Wednesday February 10th, 2016 at 8:30AM**

Aloha e Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

This testimony is in support of HB2648. My name is Doorae Shin and I am the Waste Reduction Coordinator for the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation. In my previous position at the University of Hawai'i as the Student Sustainability Coordinator, I worked closely with Sodexo representatives on the Mānoa campus, and they divert all pre-consumer food waste to EcoFeed and the organic student farm with no issues. As a large corporation providing food for over ten thousand people every day, Sodexo was proud of their efforts to find a new home for their food waste.

What this bill is asking for is a gradual process to compost large quantities of food waste. The greatest contributors to our local stream of food waste would be given an outlet to breathe new life into the food waste that is today treated as trash. Composting food waste is part of our kuleana to reuse and recycle the waste that we create as a state, and composting in general is a truly amazing way to heal our soil and provide healthy food for local food production, whether it is for large-scale farms or for casual gardeners.

On the island, we already have a very effective method of creating compost through the City & County's green waste program. Hawaiian Earth Products turns green waste into healthy, valuable compost for the island, and the source of this green waste is in branches, dried leaves and other plant matter. Using these practices with food waste on top of currently accepted green waste will create even more nutrient-dense compost because of the myriad nutrients available in the fruit and vegetable scraps that are today just burned for energy and could be used to lower our carbon footprint and maximize our positive environmental impact as a state.

Though H-Power can burn food waste for energy, because food waste is very wet, it makes for an inefficient process. Additionally, H-Power's process release carbon dioxide into our atmosphere whereas creating compost from food waste can actively sequester carbon from the atmosphere. So you can see that our current management of food waste contributes to climate change while food waste composting mitigates climate change.

Part of my work includes teaching Kahala Elementary School children how to compost food waste from their cafeteria with classic, worm and bookish composting methods. These 3rd graders are enthusiastic about compost and realizing the value and benefit of recycling food waste in this way. In my own home, I compost all my food waste and it creates a huge reduction in the amount of trash I need to throw into my gray bin. Though these efforts in classrooms and at home are empowering and eco-friendly, it is just a sample of the kind of impact that large-scale composting of commercial food waste will have on our waste management system not to mention our local food production efforts.

Additionally, this bill provides direct implementation of the State of Hawai'i's Aloha+ challenge that all of Hawai'i's mayors and former Governor Abercrombie signed in 2014 that included a goal for 70% waste reduction that the State of Hawai'i committed to in 2014 through the Aloha+ challenge.

With dozens of cities such as San Francisco, Portland, New York, and Seattle already having successful compost services for residents, this bill would be a really integral step in this direction.



Executive Officers:
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores - Chairperson
John Erickson, Young's Market Company - Vice Chair
Bob Stout, Times Supermarkets - Secretary/Treasurer
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
Honolulu, HI 96813
Fax: 808-791-0702
Telephone: 808-533-1292

TO:
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2016
TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: HB2648

Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA supports the overall intent of this measure. The creation of a solid waste infrastructure advisory committee is a crucial first step in further reducing food waste. However, we have concerns with section 2, which reads:

SECTION 2. A commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center that generates source separated organic material and is located within twenty miles of a recycling facility that can accept that material, shall ensure that that those materials are recycled if the projected annual volume of source separated organic material is:

- (1) One hundred or more tons per year beginning in 2018;
- (2) Fifty or more tons per year beginning in 2020; and
- (3) Ten or more tons per year beginning in 2022.

While we understand the need to establish weights and standards, we believe it is premature to include section 2 prior to the creation of a solid waste infrastructure advisory committee. We

suggest focusing on first creating an advisory committee through this bill then, based upon the committee's recommendations, determining further action.

HFIA would be willing to participate in discussions and work with the state and the proposed advisory committee to explore options for waste distribution systems and to determine potential implementation methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:33 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: psgegen@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen	Zero Waste Kauai	Support	No

Comments: Food Waste and other organics create methane when they are anaerobically broken down (like in a landfill). Food should first be eaten by humans, then by animals, then any residuals need to be either put toward composting (which ultimately allows the soil to absorb more carbon and help the environment) or used as a feedstock for an anaerobic digestion system. This is how you manage materials in an environmentally friendly manner!

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Testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Support

Hearing: 2/11/16 8:30am, Rm 325

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. Legislation that guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities is necessary to help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint. The City and County of Honolulu already has a successful program model from Ordinance 96-20 requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed, while reducing disposal cost burdens on businesses. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill and clean air burdens.

Food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The EPA's established hierarchy of food waste disposal methods calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 percent times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change.

Effectively reducing GHG emission in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitments of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025, and supporting local Agriculture through building healthy soils. More efforts to feed Hawai'i's hungry versus our landfills and incinerators can help address the one in

seven households in the State of Hawai‘i that are food insecure, by donating safe and healthy food to a food bank or food rescue organization.

As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State’s waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader among the several states for environmental protection and green policy initiatives.

I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Milholen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:46 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mklynch@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Lynch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please don't let our food waste to go to landfill; instead let's feed people, compost or perhaps even make energy instead

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:53 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: reemelin@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Spencer Reemelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

My name is Grant Schaefer and I am writing in support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. Legislation that guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities is necessary to help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint. The City and County of Honolulu already has a successful program model from Ordinance 96-20 requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed, while reducing disposal cost burdens on businesses. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill and clean air burdens.

Food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The EPA's established hierarchy of food waste disposal methods calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 percent times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change.

Effectively reducing GHG emission in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitments of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025, and supporting local Agriculture through building healthy soils. More efforts to feed Hawaii's hungry versus our landfills and incinerators can help address the one in seven households in the State of Hawai'i that are food insecure, by donating safe and healthy food to a food bank or food rescue organization.

On a more personal note, I believe that any means to improve our treatment of the planet and our ecosystem is vital as we progress as a society. I have only moved to Hawai'i recently and within the time that I have spent here, with learning about the native people and also a general knowledge about our treatment of the environment from a global standpoint, I have a strong belief that we owe it to those who came before us and those who will come after us to take care

of this world we live in. Things such as what sources of energy we invest in, how much plastic we use, or, in this case, what we do to dispose of our organic waste, are all controllable aspects of our life that we can absolutely manage to make a huge impact on our planet. It has to start at this level of legislation though, for a waterfall starts with only a single drop of water.

As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills, our impact on our home and our land, and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader among the several states for environmental protection and green policy initiatives.

I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:17 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: cpicardo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caterine Picardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislature, I support this bill. It is long overdue, it is the pono thing to do. Aloha, Caterine Picardo

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Testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. Legislation that guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities is necessary to help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint. The City and County of Honolulu already has a successful program model from Ordinance 96-20 requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed, while reducing disposal cost burdens on businesses. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill and clean air burdens.

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Effectively reducing GHG emission in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitments of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025, and supporting local Agriculture through building healthy soils. More efforts to

feed Hawaii's hungry versus our landfills and incinerators can help address the one in seven households in the State of Hawai'i that are food insecure, by donating safe and healthy food to a food bank or food rescue organization.

As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader in the country for environmental protection and green policy initiatives.

I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

Kaily Wakefield
William S. Richardson School of Law
JD Candidate, Class of 2017

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

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As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader among the several states for environmental protection and green policy initiatives.

I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

Jhana Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:49 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: nikki2244@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Chatterson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee Position: Support Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members, I am writing in strong support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. For the past 3 years, I have managed a U.S. EPA supported Clean Air and Climate Change project focusing on food waste reduction. Our project team has worked with institutions such as UH, KCC, and the Department of Education to recognize and support their food waste reduction efforts. Time and again, one of the top requests from our partners has been access to food waste diversion infrastructure. As part of my work on this topic I have also facilitated several stakeholder meetings of groups interested in and working on food waste reduction. The same ask has been generated from these meetings--can we create a system to reduce and repurpose food waste. Several business have attended our meetings with solutions to deal with food waste in a productive manner, but a lack of feedstock as most of it is currently being incinerated and landfilled. Food waste is a multi-faceted issue, and the true answers lies in reducing the amount of waste we initially generate (source reduction). However, even with the best source reduction efforts, will likely never eliminate waste and we need holistic method of dealing with it. We know that landfilled food waste contributes to climate change by creating methane, a greenhouse gas with significantly more global warming potential than carbon dioxide. In an age of limited and dwindling natural resources, food waste represents the unnecessary use of the water, energy, land and other inputs (including fossil fuel derived soil amendments and pesticides) that went into producing the wasted food. In Hawaii, 13.8% of our population is food insecure (Feeding America 2013), which serves to highlight the huge social justice implication in disposing of edible food. The national climate is ripe with action on this topic, and we have many great examples to pull from. We have seen several states and municipalities (the county of Honolulu, San Francisco, Austin, Vermont, Massachusetts, to name a few) implement successful food waste reduction legislation. The EU has been taking remarkable measures to reduce their FW footprint for several years, most recently with France's bill to prohibit supermarkets from disposing of any food and instead donating it. In the states, the USDA and the US EPA have announced a joint commitment to reduce national food wastage by 50% by 2030.

In Hawaii, we have committed to reduce our waste stream by 70% by 2030 through the Aloha + Challenge. Looking at EPA and USDA numbers, food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills. This means in order to meet our 70% reduce goal Hawaii must address this large piece of the pie. The main opposition to food waste diversion mandates in Hawaii is the lack of infrastructure to deal with increased food waste capture. However, business are here and they are ready. In the past few years at least two food waste market studies have been completed. The stopping point with both has been that Hawaii doesn't divert food waste on a large scale, so there isn't sufficient feedstock to ensure operations. Diverting food waste will provide the long awaited incentive to encourage the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii. This can be seen with the City and County of Honolulu's ordinance requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed in Honolulu. Furthermore, in lieu of other market players Ecofeed has the capacity to accept municipal food waste. While determined and forward thinking groups like Aloha Harvest are already diverting some of edible food waste and the City & County of Honolulu already has a successful program (which this bill is modeled off of, Ordinance 96-20), we are falling drastically short of our mark. Instead of being harnessed as a food for the hungry, carbon-sequestering soil input through composting, or being turned into energy through anaerobic digestion, most of our food waste is being tossed or incinerated. As the EPA hierarchy of food waste disposal demonstrates--landfilling and incineration are at the bottom of the list, below source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils. They are bottom rung because they extract the least worth from these valuable resources. However, Hawaii nearly exclusively utilizes the bottom rung methods. As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader in social and environmental health. We have the local model of the City and County of Honolulu's food waste diversion program to learn from. We are fortunate to have an in-state pilot program to guide our way. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill burdens and social justice impacts associated with improperly allocated food waste. This bill could help reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported soil amendments. And Hawaii would be doing our part to contribute to international health by addressing our local contributions to global climate change. I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition. With Aloha, Nicole Chatterson Education Chair, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter Program Manager, Kupu Co-Director, Wild Kids Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:03 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: pulelehua23@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

Dear Committee Chairs and Committee members,

HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste is an important piece of legislation and I hope you will support it. By providing incentives to encourage the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint.

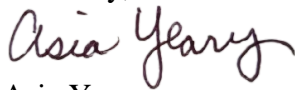
EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes source reduction, then feeding hungry people, then feeding hungry animals, then industrial uses, then composting and finally landfill and incineration as a last resort to disposal. Nationally, food waste accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills, according to EPA and USDA, and Hawaii is not the exception. Please consider the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy's prioritization of actions and this alarming statistic regarding food waste when you vote on HB2648.

When food waste is sent to our landfills, it rots and produces methane. Not only does this contribute to climate change, but it wastes a valuable resource. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost provides local farmers with resource to improve soil health and reduce the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Please support HB 2648 because it makes sense. Food is a valuable resource we should not waste!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Asia Yeary".

Asia Yeary
Hawaii Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:50 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: elia94eb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIA BRUNO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2648

Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

2/10/2016

Elena Farden
Honolulu, HI
e/ lenafarden@gmail.com

Aloha mai to the Chairs and Members of the EEP Committee:

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit testimony.

I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 2648 that calls for the removal of food waste in the municipal solid waste stream and creates an advisory committee to investigate existing solid waste management infrastructure and resources necessary to support a successful food waste disposal reduction program.

Passage of this bill not only aligns with the State's Aloha+ Challenge Goal Four of waste reduction, lessens the environmental impact on our landfills and can help feed Hawai'i's one in seven food insecure households – this action can boost our State's economy.

According to a 2014 report on the State of Composting in the U.S., composting – part of the action supporting food waste diversion – creates:

- **An entire new industry** - Businesses who use compost and compost-based products for green infrastructure support a new made-in-America or locally-made industry sector;
- **Higher wages for workers** - Per hour wage range at composting facilities can range from \$16 to \$20;
- **More jobs** – For every 1 million tons of organic material composted produces approximately 1,400 new full-time jobs;
- **Stability** – Composting represents place-based products that cannot be outsourced abroad.

Better and smarter ways of managing our food waste is a win for our environment, our economy and empowerment of our communities. I strongly urge your support to pass HB 2648.

Mahalo,



Elena K. Farden

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:29 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: zacharyhitchcock@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Hitchcock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Zachary Hitchcock Chair, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter 1533 Artesian Way Honolulu, HI 96822 808-222-6960 HB2648 Hearing Thursday, February 11, 2016 rm 325 Energy and Environment Protection Committee Dear Members of the Energy and Environment Committee, I strongly support HB2648 and establishing a committee to initialize a program to deal with solid food waste disposal. I have grown much food for myself and others and the value of solid food waste for composting, and the fertilizer it provides, is invaluable. If we let solid food waste go to landfill or HPower, we are neglecting a valuable and useful resource. Please, take this first step to set up an advisory committee. Hawaii is one of the best environments to compost and re energize our soils with this rich resource. Thank you for this open minded approach to our environment and food security. Sincerely, Zachary Hitchcock Chair, Surfrider Oahu 808-222-6960

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Testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EEP Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Lowen, and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 2648, relating to commercial organic waste. Legislation that guarantees feedstock for potential composting or clean energy facilities is necessary to help fill the infrastructure gap in the State's food waste processing capacity. By providing incentive that encourages the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint. The City and County of Honolulu already has a successful program model from Ordinance 96-20 requiring large food waste producers to recycle their food waste, that has spurred new economic opportunities for EcoFeed, while reducing disposal cost burdens on businesses. This food waste reduction model would benefit every county by drastically reducing the landfill and clean air burdens.

Food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The EPA's established hierarchy of food waste disposal methods calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 percent times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change.

Effectively reducing GHG emission in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitments of 70% waste stream reduction by

2025, and supporting local Agriculture through building healthy soils. More efforts to feed Hawaii's hungry versus our landfills and incinerators can help address the one in seven households in the State of Hawai'i that are food insecure, by donating safe and healthy food to a food bank or food rescue organization.

As you consider the merits of HB 2648, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader among the several states for environmental protection and green policy initiatives.

I support HB 2648 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

Summer P. Maunaloa

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2648 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

Dear Members of the Legislature,

HB 2648 relating to commercial organic waste is important and I hope you will support this bill. By providing incentives to encourage the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii, this law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint.

EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes source reduction, then feeding hungry people, then feeding hungry animals, then industrial uses, then composting and finally landfill and incineration as a last resort to disposal. When food waste is sent to our landfills, it rots and produces methane. Not only does this contribute to climate change, but it wastes a valuable resource. Recycling food waste and turning it into compost provides local farmers with resource to improve soil health and reduce the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Please support HB 2648. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonas Vibell

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: natalie.mckinney@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie McKinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:25 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: tanyakmt@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2648

Submitted on: 2/11/2016
Testimony for EEP on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tanya torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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