



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to H.B. 2648, H.D. 2
RELATING TO FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL**

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND
TECHNOLOGY

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 22, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown investigative costs for studies needed to evaluate impacted
2 waste stream and adequacy of infrastructure.

3 **Department Testimony:** With the removal of the waste diversion requirement and basis for
4 advisory committee, the Department respectfully opposes this bill as it now similar to existing
5 statute, and therefore unnecessary.

6 The bill provides for an advisory committee to evaluate existing systems, recommend
7 additional infrastructure and resources, estimate associated costs, and review revenue streams to
8 remove food waste from the municipal solid waste stream. Similarly, HRS 342G-22 and 342G-
9 25 require the counties to assemble advisory committees to oversee the development of county
10 solid waste management plans, which includes an evaluation of existing capacity and future
11 needs, program implementation, and funding. In each of the counties' current plans, food waste
12 is addressed in conjunction with other waste streams. In addition, these plans are required by
13 statute to be updated every ten years, in which case, we anticipate plan updates within the next
14 two to three years.

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

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 16-68

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Economic
Development, Environment and Technology
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection and Health
State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Baker, and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 2648, H.D.2 Relating to Food Waste

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services (ENV) opposes House Bill 2648, H.D.2. We support the intent of the bill, which is to reduce food waste and remove it from the waste stream. We support the Federal Environmental Protection Agency approach which is focused on reducing this waste by better food management practices, which this bill does not address. We believe that with more attention to this initiative for better food management practices, it will reduce food in the waste stream and perhaps eliminate the development of additional infrastructure to handle food waste which remains in the waste stream.

There are some inaccuracies that we ask be addressed. For the City and County of Honolulu, the processing of food waste does not reduce the efficiency at H-POWER, and we disagree that alternative processes would reduce costs. For example, an additional collection process would definitely increase costs. Further, we are unclear of the benefit of yet another advisory committee when the issues regarding food waste are already clearly addressed at the federal and local levels.

We believe the bill and the proposed advisory committee is duplicative and unnecessary as the responsibilities currently exist within the counties, and are best served at the county level. This bill should be deferred.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina".

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



George K. Costa
Director

Nadine Nakamura
Managing Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

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**Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
and The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Tuesday, March 22th, 2016
Conference Room 229
10:00 a.m.**

IN SUPPORT OF HB 2648 RELATING TO FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL

Chairs Wakai, Baker, Vice Chairs Slom, Kidani, and members of the committees,

The County of Kauai supports HB 2648, which targets the elimination of food waste from the solid waste disposal stream, with a suggested amendment:

Kauai County recognizes the numerous benefits of removing food waste from our landfills in Hawaii. Food waste in landfills gives rise to numerous management challenges including methane release, increased leachate, odors, and wildlife impacts. By capturing food waste prior to disposal, valuable nutrients can be recovered for use in local agriculture, and biogas can be captured for electricity production or transportation fuel. Finally, a system that eliminates disposal of food waste also reduces the wasting of food altogether, making more food available for donation throughout the State.

Suggested amendment: The current version of the bill establishes 2025 as the target date for eliminating food waste disposal from the waste stream. We suggest that the bill be amended to establish 2022 as the target year. It is our view that the earlier deadline is reasonable and achievable, whereas the later deadline is far enough out that it may be more difficult to get focused efforts from all the parties involved, and may needlessly delay the substantial potential benefits of this effort.

Sincerely,

Ben Sullivan
Energy and Sustainability Coordinator
Office of Economic Development
County of Kauai



735 Bishop Street, Suite 424
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 800-7500
hawaiigreengrowth.org

Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.

Steering Committee

Deanna Spooner
June Matsumoto
Matt Lynch
Mark Fox
Mike Hamnett
Piia Aarma
Pono Shim
Scott Enright
Scott Seu
Ulalia Woodside
William J. Aila Jr.

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB2648 HD2 Relating to Food Waste Disposal Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology & Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health 22 March 2016, 10:00am, Room 229

Aloha Chairs Wakai & Baker, Vice Chairs Slom & Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports the intent of HB2648 HD2 to establish a phased reduction of food waste in the municipal solid waste stream and an advisory committee to evaluate solid waste infrastructure needs. Hawai'i Green Growth defers to implementation comments from the Department of Health and counties.

As an island state, solid waste management is a critical issue for Hawai'i. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture, food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream and accounts for 25% of all materials sent to our landfills. Establishing a phased reduction of food waste can have significant benefits to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment through increased efficiency and a reduced waste-stream. Joint state, county and private partner action is critical to achieving the 70% solid waste reduction goal by 2030 outlined in the *Aloha+ Challenge*, and long-term discussion and recommendations are needed.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR 69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to achieve six sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resources, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, and green jobs and education. Statewide HGG public-private partners are identifying shared measures to track progress and provide accountability with the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, while developing an annual policy and action agenda to advance Hawai'i's shared 2030 sustainability goals.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* has been recognized nationally and internationally by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership as a model for locally appropriate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals. With the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted by Hawai'i in September 2016, this legislative session is an important opportunity for Hawai'i to showcase leadership on sustainable development, conservation and resilience.

As a diverse public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth supports the intent of HB2028 HD2 to help drive joint action and implementation on the *Aloha+ Challenge* solid waste reduction goal.



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
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Telephone : 808-533-1292

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

TO: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2016
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: HB2648, HD2
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 appreciates that the Committee on Finance deleted portions of this bill that would have mandated a "zero food waste goal" for any food processor that generated over one ton annually. This provision is extremely premature and would not be possible to implement at this time. No county in Hawaii has a commercial composting facility and food waste diversion system for composing post-consumer food waste. **After speaking to many of our members we have learned that they donate all food that is still edible to the needy through the Food Bank and similar operations. Food that is not longer edible by humans is donated to pig farmers for feed. This is a cost friendly option for retailers and it also helps to bring down the cost of local pork.** The current system appears to be working well. The last thing anyone wants to see is a mandate that reduces the food industry's ability to donate food to those in need and/or could cause the price of local pork to increase.

HFIA is willing to participate in discussions and collaborate with the state and the proposed advisory committee to explore options for waste distribution systems and potential implementation methods. Because restaurants and retail grocers will be directly impacted, we request that the bill be amended to include **four representatives from the food industry.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito
on behalf of
Covanta Energy**

DATE: March 21, 2016

TO: Senator Glenn Wakai
Chair, Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Submitted Via EETestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **H.B. 2648, H.D. 2 – Relating to Food Waste Disposal**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Baker, and Members of the Joint Committees:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Covanta Energy, the operator of the HPOWER facility, in **opposition** to H.B. 2648, H.D. 2. This measure establishes an advisory committee to evaluate solid waste infrastructure and resources necessary to support a food waste disposal reduction program. The stated goal of the committee is to eliminate food waste from the municipal solid waste stream by 2025.

Covanta generally supports diverting food waste from landfills. Because food waste degrades relatively quickly, some of the methane generated from decomposition is released prior to installation of landfill gas collection systems. As a result, food waste is a significant source of landfills methane emissions.

Domestically, the White House announced a Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions two years ago that specifically targeted diverting food wastes from landfills. States like Vermont, Connecticut, California, and Massachusetts have all adopted policies aimed at increasing food waste diversion.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
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(808) 539-0840

However, we have concerns that the reason for an advisory committee, as stated in the preamble, is that processing food waste at HPOWER is inefficient. Contrary to the language in the preamble, HPOWER was specifically designed to handle and process municipal solid waste – municipal solid waste includes wet waste, and wet waste includes food waste. Although HPOWER does not currently take commercial food waste, the facility manages residential food waste. To clarify further, Waste-to-Energy, the technology employed at HPOWER, can efficiently and effectively manage food waste and is recognized internationally for its ability to do so.

Covanta also opposes this study because it assumes the conclusion that food waste should be diverted from HPOWER, rather than truly studying the best way to manage food waste. Sending food waste to HPOWER and converting it to energy has been a proven way to manage food waste.

HPOWER generates about 6% of Oahu's electricity. Technologies like HPOWER have been recognized by the US EPA and the European Union as a greenhouse gas mitigation technology. This greenhouse mitigation is achieved by displacing grid connected fossil-fuel fired electricity, recovering metals from the waste stream for recycling, and most importantly, by avoiding landfill emissions of methane. Each ton of waste, which includes food waste, processed at HPOWER reduces a ton of greenhouse gasses from being generated.

Given the differences between counties in dealing with waste, this is a local issue with unique issues in each county. Anaerobic digestion, composting and waste to energy projects are all methods that can be used to avoid methane landfill emissions, and the counties should be left to manage this issue. This bill interferes with the county process, but fails to state a rational basis for doing so.

Finally, Covanta objects to the establishing an advisory committee because of the committee composition. While the bill states that the reason for the committee is to discuss the efficiency of HPOWER, it does not specifically include a representative who is familiar with HPOWER's operations (either from the City & County of Honolulu or Covanta).

For the above reasons, we believe that a study at this time is unwarranted and respectfully request that this measure be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to this measure.



Executive Officers:
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John Erickson, Young's Market Company – Vice Chair
Bob Stout, Times Supermarkets – Secretary/Treasurer
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

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TO: COMMITTEE ON CONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

TO: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2016
TIME: 10:00AM
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: HB2648, HD2
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 appreciates that the Committee on Finance deleted portions of this bill that would have mandated a “zero food waste goal” for any food processor that generated over one ton annually. This provision is extremely premature and would not be possible to implement at this time. No county in Hawaii has a commercial composting facility and food waste diversion system for composing post-consumer food waste. **After speaking to many of our members we have learned that they donate all food that is still edible to the needy through the Food Bank and similar operations. Food that is not longer edible by humans is donated to pig farmers for feed. This is a cost friendly option for retailers and it also helps to bring down the cost of local pork.** The current system appears to be working well. The last thing anyone wants to see is a mandate that reduces the food industry’s ability to donate food to those in need and/or could cause the price of local pork to increase.

HFIA is willing to participate in discussions and collaborate with the state and the proposed advisory committee to explore options for waste distribution systems and potential implementation methods. Because restaurants and retail grocers will be directly impacted, we request that the bill be amended to include **four representatives from the food industry.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 2648 HD2 Relating to Commercial Organic Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the EET/CPH Committees

Position: Support

Hearing: 3/22/16 10:00am, Rm 229

Dear Chairs Wakai, Baker, Vice Chairs Slom, Kidani and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 2648 HD2, relating to commercial organic waste diversion. The sole component of this bill is now an advisory committee on the infrastructure and funding needs in order to meet food waste diversion goals. While I absolutely support the need for findings on the capacity and systems necessary to divert food waste away from landfilling and incineration, I believe that this bill would be far more effective if the diversion goals of 100 tonnes per year by commercial food waste generators by 2020 were put back into the language, along with clear definitions of “food waste” and exemptions.

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. Even in the absence of mandates, there are multiple entrepreneurs across the State seeking to build food waste diversion infrastructure, because they see it for what it is - a resource to be utilized not wasted. 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 (and Hawaii Revised Statutes 342G) 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 of 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 support 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 HD2, 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 HD2 alongside the Surfrider Foundation and Rise Above Plastics coalition.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Milholen
Styrophobia

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 11:55 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: zacharyhitchcock1963@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Mar 22, 2016 10:00AM

HB2648

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for EET/CPH on Mar 22, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

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 In Support of HB2648 Dear Committttee Members, When something as practical and logical as developing programs to reduce, reuse and recycle solid food waste is presented, then we must act swiftly and methodically to take advantage of this opportunity and this rich resource. Please, in support of HB 2648, appropriate funds to set up an advisory council to develop a solid food waste program. I believe the rest of the Country is catching on to these very logical systems. Let's be at the forefront and lead our nation into a more Practical and Sustainable future. Thank you for your service. Sincerely, Zachary Hitchcock Chair, Surfrider Oahu 808-222-6960

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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