

SB 2138

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 2138
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2138, 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.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:45 pm

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

SB 2138 – RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2138, 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. SB 2138 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 SB 2138.



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

February 2, 2016

Support for SB 2138

HFUU Board of
Directors

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable WLA Committee members,

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 2138.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
HFUU

SB 2138 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.

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 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.

Pamela Boyer
Oahu

Alika Atay
Mauna Kahalawai

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.

Phyllis Robinson
Haleakala

First we must pilot the program to work out any difficulties we may have. Once the pilot is finished, we 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.

Mikala Minn
Hana

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Nate Hayward
Kohala

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

Kyle Studer
East Hawai'i

Steve Sakala
Kona

Mahalo,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: suellen@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:05:29 AM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: I support the effort to rebuild our depleted soil as an integral part of a sustainable food future for Maui

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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PO Box 240848
Honolulu, HI 96824
www.hawaiifoodpolicycouncil.org

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

February 3, 2016, 2:45PM

Conference Room 224

Subject: **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2138, Relating to Nutrient Cycling**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2138, 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 SB2138 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
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dave@digestionperfection.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:10:44 AM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Klein, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am all for nutrient recycling and the application of non-toxic nutrient by-product fertilizers on Maui to remediate toxic sugar cane and pineapple ag lands and to establish new organic farmlands.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kristenmartinek@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:57:38 PM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Martinek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: pogqoppogqop@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:50:57 PM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. It is crucial for the agricultural well-being of Maui and Hawaii. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:38:45 PM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:45:42 PM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2138 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:50:00 AM

SB2138

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable WLA Committee members, Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 2138. SB 2138 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, we 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. Me ke aloha pumehana, Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Legislative Committee Chairman

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