

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AND AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT**

February 5, 2015
3:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

SENATE BILL NO. 320
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Chairpersons Ruderman and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 320. This measure seeks to allow composting within the Agricultural District on lands with Land Study Bureau Overall Productivity Ratings of "A" and "B". A variety of organic solid wastes may be composted but does not appear to include sewage sludge (biosolids) from wastewater treatment facilities. The application of compost is not to be considered a "Solid Waste Management Facility" by the Department of Health. The Department of Agriculture supports composting as a soil amendment where more organic content is desired, however we defer to the Department of Health and the counties with respect to their statutes, ordinances, rules, and permits governing composting activities

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041
DEPT. WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov • CITY WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



GEORGE I. ATTA, FAICP
DIRECTOR

ARTHUR D. CHALLACOMBE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard, Ruderman, and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 320
Relating to Agricultural Districts

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** Senate Bill No. 320, which would permit composting in the agricultural district without a State Special Use Permit.

We recognize that composting helps achieve several environmental goals, including diversion of waste streams away from our landfills, preventing the release of methane (a potent greenhouse gas that would otherwise occur due to anaerobic decomposition in landfills), improving soil fertility, and contributing to the State's progress toward achieving its waste reduction goal. At the same time, the DPP is aware that, if not conducted at an appropriate location or in the proper manner, composting could pose environmental problems to surface and groundwater, air borne emissions and dust, and noise. Our zoning code has measures in place to evaluate the benefits and impacts of proposed composting operations on the community through its Conditional Use Permit process.

The DPP is supportive of this recycling proposal and recommends that this Bill be passed out of committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George I. Atta".

George I. Atta, Director
Department of Planning and Permitting

GIA:BA
cc: LUPD

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: brittany.mauieko@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:02:13 AM
Attachments: [SB320 EKO Testimony.docx](#)

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Smart	Maui EKO Systems, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

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ZERO WASTE CAMPAIGN MAUI

IF YOU'RE NOT FOR ZERO WASTE, HOW MUCH WASTE ARE YOU FOR?

<http://www.zerowastemaui.net> ... (808) 283 8167 ... info@zerowastemaui.net

February 3, 2015

To: Members of Senate Committee On Energy And The Environment and Senate Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Committee Members:

We are writing to request your support for SB320 which will permits composting operations in agricultural districts throughout Hawaii.

We believe that composting is a natural process which is beneficial to agriculture in almost every respect. Composting creates new soil, diverts valuable organic materials from landfilling and is appropriate for operations ranging from backyard vegetable gardens to plantation scale farming.

As you may know, compostable organic materials include green waste, yard debris, wood materials, biosolids, food and food processing by-products, manure and agricultural residues, land clearing debris, used paper, and mixed municipal organic waste. If our support of SB320 is successful all of these materials, over time, can be diverted from landfill disposal.

Here on Maui we have a long history of supporting both commercial and personal composting operations. Our largest project, managed by EKO Compost is responsible for diverting over 17% of our waste stream. The resulting benefits include production of value – added compost and other products, jobs and increased tax revenues.

Please join us in support of SB320.

Mahalo,

Jeff Stark
Zero Waste Campaign Maui
www.zerowastemaui.net

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Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:58:40 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments: While composting is not specifically forbidden on Ag lands, it is not listed as an approved use. This oversight must be corrected as a simple housekeeping measure. Composting and fertilizing crops with composted materials has been a basic, time-tested agricultural technique for more than 1,000 years. Here in Hawaii, with imported inputs (fertilizers) so expensive that many farmers are forced out of business, it is a way that we can increase soil productivity, grow healthy food, and help make farming more viable, while keeping more money in-State instead of paying mainland fertilizer companies. This bill is a no-brainer. Please support your local farmer and support this bill which, incidentally, costs the State \$0 to implement!

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:08:42 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Atay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:21:12 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and hope that you do as well, Mahalo, Ms. Barbara Barry

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:01:50 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: In general I am strongly supportive of this bill, because composting is an important way to recycle waste material and improve the soil. I have one reservation: The last sentence of SB320 is overly broad: "Land application of uncomposted organic solid waste shall not be considered an approved solid waste management activity." I believe the intent was that raw animal waste, food scraps, etc. not be used directly on the soil. However, there is no reason why green or yard waste or nontreated wood chips or shavings could not be applied directly to the soil. Use of these materials as mulch or soil amendment is a common practice in sustainable agriculture and poses no danger to community health. I recommend that the final sentence of (23) be amended to read: "Land application of uncomposted food scraps and animal manures shall not be considered an approved solid waste management activity." Thank you for considering this amendment.

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SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Lynn Moulton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:05:22 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Smart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB320. Mahalo.

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SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Turner	Individual	Support	No

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:07:02 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:52:38 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Aloii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:32:40 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:32:47 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Ewbank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Yes! I'm very excited to persuade and provide STRONG testimony for this Composting on Ag Lands bill! This is a step towards regional composting and successful projects managed by those who use the end product. Long gone are the issues of concern. Our experimental phase is over, we have the skill sets and the advisors to do this correctly. Farmers take responsibility for their efforts, they have the most to gain. This is a clear step towards self sustainability. One great project will lead to another. I believe this whole heartedly. Thank you for your time, attention and support. Sincerely, Faith Ewbank

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:27:06 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faye L Wallace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:37:19 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Land	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:40:15 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james simpliciano	HFUU, HTF	Support	No

Comments: As a Farmer tending to our fields everyday and leaving the property. we are vulnerable to Agricultural Theft, vandalism, and trespassers. I know because I am a victim of these issues. I believe agriculture in Hawaii will be the next leading economic leader next to agritourism. We must be able to allow us as a farmer to live on the land we farm leased land on. By allowing this bill to pass would help in the increase to production and economic viability to our island agricultural business.

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Cc: kapulena@gmail.com
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Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 6:05:01 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Worchel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My neighbors and I are strongly opposed to this bill. We are farmers and ranchers in Honokaa, Hi. Composting that takes green waste from sites outside the site to be composted will result in the spread of the little Hawaii Fire Ant. This has already happened at the Hilo County Green Waste Composting site and will happen at any site where green waste from other areas is composted. This compost will then be sold/distributed to areas throughout not only Hawaii Island but potentially all the islands. The result will be an environmental nightmare. The fire ant is not just a pest. It can be fatal to cattle, horses, pets and other animals and potentially fatal to children. Farm workers will be exposed to the nests of ants which reside in trees and shrubs. Organic farmers will be put out of business as there is no organic compounds capable of controlling this ant. While it is no longer possible to rid Hawaii Island of the pest, the spread can be slowed with ant baits. There will be no control if this bill is passed. Please stop all composting that takes green waste from outside the composting site!

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Cc: olindaorganicfarm@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:24:15 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:53:43 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly King	Pacific Biodiesel Technologies	Support	No

Comments: This measure is critical to the future of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii. Please support SB320 so composting operations can find suitable sites for this important operation. Mahalo, Kelly King, VP Pacific Biodiesel Technologies

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:18:20 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lars Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:07:45 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Dilberto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:35:54 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Wille	Hawaii County Council Dist 9	Support	Yes

Comments: As the Councilmember for Hawaii County District 9 and the Chair of the Council's Agriculture, Water, Energy Sustainability Committee, I strongly support this legislation which would allow commercial composting in agriculturally zoned land. I do not see the need to limit this operation to AG land in the subclasses of A and B, rather composting should be allowed in all of the Ag zone subclasses. As the County of Hawaii moves forward on its zero waste initiatives, composting is of paramount importance and it is critical that these operations be allowed in ag zoned lands. Thank you, Margaret Wille

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SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly urge you to support this bill. Mahalo!

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SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:09:55 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mercy Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:35:37 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this measure. Composting is one of the most important practices for a farmer can implement to restore degraded soils. Absurdly NRCS standards and practices do not allow mulch to be developed on site and they must be brought in from outside the farm. Sustainable agriculture incorporates the growing of mulch crops into fallow field rotations. We have large tracts of ag land that are in need of significant soil improvement. Allowing composting and composting facilities on farm will reduce the costs of improving these lands, allow us to use the tremendous amount of onsite biomass available to replenish our soils and move us in a more sustainable direction for best management practices in agriculture. Mahalo.

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Cc: pfierorob@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 7:37:25 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phyllis Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: robyn.c.smith@maine.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 7:53:06 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robyn smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: tl_huth@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:37:44 PM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Huth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB320 to amend the legislation allowing commercial compost facilities on agricultural lands. Composting is a vital and necessary link in the food production. It closes the loop on the nutrient cycle returning natural, organic nutrients to the soil and reducing green waste. This reduces farmers' dependence on supplemental fertilizers while improving crop yield and reducing water consumption. I am happy to see this section added to the bill. I hope you will give this bill your full support.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: progressive.conservation@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:25:28 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Eisen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Composting, using best management practices, is an important and beneficial agricultural technique that needs to be a permitted use on appropriately-designated agricultural lands. Mahalo,

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB320 on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:05:04 AM

SB320

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 5, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong Support. This is an important componant to Agriculture crop production. Farmers need this.

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