



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/20/2017

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Agriculture and Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1577, HD1 RELATING TO COMPOSTING.

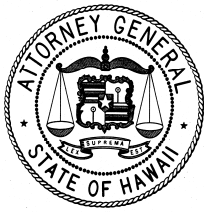
Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in DOE schools. Establishes a composting grant pilot project working group. Requires report to legislature. Appropriates funds. (HB1577 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1577 HD1 to create a composting pilot project in Hawaii public schools. Together with our farm-to-school and "green" efforts, this measure will foster student learning and positive social practices integral to sustainable living in our world today.

The Department looks forward to partnering with the Department of Agriculture on this pilot project.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1577 HD1.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1577, H.D. 1, RELATING TO COMPOSTING.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Monday, March 20, 2017 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Melissa Kolonie, Deputy Attorney General, or
Margaret S. Ahn, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish composting grant pilot projects in Department of Education schools. This bill also establishes a “composting grant pilot project working group” (Working Group) within the Department of Agriculture and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to issue grants pursuant to the recommendations of the Working Group.

Section 2(b) of this bill on page 3, lines 18-20, and page 4, lines 1-4, provides that the members of the Working Group shall include the “chair of the senate committee on education,” the “chair of the house of representatives committee on education,” the “chair of the senate committee on agriculture and environment,” and the “chair of the house of representatives committee on energy and environmental protection.” The inclusion of legislators in a working group that will perform executive functions might be challenged as a violation of the constitutional separation of powers doctrine. The Working Group’s functions specified in this bill include, “[i]n conjunction with the department health, develop guidelines and provide oversight for campus composting,” and “issue grants to schools pursuant to this section.” These would likely constitute executive functions. We therefore recommend this bill be amended to provide for appointments from lists provided by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

House of Representatives. The President and the Speaker could internally consult with the relevant committee chairs in assembling their lists.

Section 2(a) of this bill on page 3, lines 4-6, provides that the Department of Agriculture shall issue grants pursuant to the recommendation of the Working Group. Article VII, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides, “[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law.” This bill does not include any standards for making the grants, and without such standards, the Department of Agriculture cannot make the administrative grants intended by this bill. We therefore recommend this bill be amended to insert standards for making these grants.

For clarification purposes, we also recommend the following amendments:

1. Section 2(c)(4) of this bill on page 5, line 6, provides that the Working Group shall “[i]ssue grants to schools pursuant to this section.” To be consistent with the bill’s provision that the Department of Agriculture shall issue the grants pursuant to the recommendation of the Working Group (discussed above), this paragraph should be amended to provide that the Working Group shall “Make recommendations to the department of agriculture regarding the issuance of grants to schools pursuant to this section.”

2. Section 2(b)(11) of this bill on page 4, line 7, provides that the Kokua Hawaii Foundation shall be a member of the Working Group. This line should be amended to instead reference, “a representative from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation.”

We respectfully recommend that this bill be amended as set forth above to avoid potential constitutional challenges and for clarification purposes.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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 EDUCATION & AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 20, 2017
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1557 HD1
RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

Chairpersons Kidani and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1577 HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to establish on-site campus composting pilot projects in the Department of Education (DOE) schools, and the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) issuing grants pursuant to recommendation of the composting grant pilot project working group. The Department offers comments on this measure.

HDOA acknowledges the importance of increasing soil health with nutrient cycling as a low-cost alternative to imported soil amendments, which increases productivity while decreasing input costs to producers. Funding such a pilot project in DOE is an opportunity to invest in articulating legal requirements of campus composting activities while collaborating on effective policy to safely guide on-site composting projects. However, as HDOA does not possess composting subject matter expertise or administrative capacity to execute effective campus composting projects, HDOA respectfully defers the administration of this DOE Campus Composting measure to either DOE or University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR) to administer. The Department is willing to participate in its advisory role on the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1577 HD1
COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION & AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 20, 2017, 3:00pm, Room 229

Aloha Representatives,

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our programs include 'ĀINA In Schools, 3R's School Recycling, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grants, and Plastic Free Hawai'i. In the last 13 years, we have supported several island schools in reducing, diverting, and recycling all types of waste through mini-grants, recycling drives, teachers' trainings, distribution of our 'ĀINA In Schools composting curricula, and coordination with the DOE and other governmental, private, and non-profit partners.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation strongly supports HB1577 HD1. Key reasons for our support of this bill are:

- 1) We have seen a marked increase in on-campus composting education and efforts statewide through the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grant Program and the Hawai'i Youth Sustainability Challenge. Schools such as Lanikai Public Charter School and Sunset Beach Elementary Schools are two examples of schools that have implemented on-campus composting programs. Much more support is needed to develop and grow composting initiatives at schools statewide.
- 2) The potential for the DOE to cut its disposal pickup frequency and tipping fees by 50%, resulting in an estimated 7-9 million fewer pounds of wet, organic waste and paper entering Hawai'i's landfills and incinerator(s).
- 3) Governor Ige, as well as the Aloha+ Challenge, have called for doubling local food production by 2020. For this to work, students have to be engaged early to learn about building soil through composting and utilizing organic resources.
- 4) The Aloha+ Challenge calls for reducing the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent by 2030 through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods. This goal, signed by the Governor, four county Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners across the state, has no hope of being achieved unless the largest producers of waste, like DOE, are addressed.
- 5) On-site composting systems and programs provide a much-needed opportunity for students to practice diverting resources to their highest and best use and watching as they are transformed into "black gold" to support their school gardens.
- 6) The requirement for DOH to participate in the working group ensures that schools, and those responsible for public health, can together create an appropriately-sized set of regulations and safety measures that allow food grown on campus to be sold to benefit the school, because they have been confirmed as pathogen free.
- 7) The introduction of composting systems on campus provides science and math curriculum opportunities to meet national standards.

In addition, we strongly encourage the addition of administrative funding to this bill to administer a grant program. The Dept. of Agriculture Farm to School program already has no budget to conduct their own program, and this would amount to an unfunded mandate for DOA in spite of its broad support across the constituents and the state agencies.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.





O'ahu
Chapter

**House Bill 1577: Relating to Composting
In Strong Support**

Hearing Date: Monday, March 20th 2017

Hearing Time: 3:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 229

Committee: Education/Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chairs Kidani & Gabbard and members of the committees,

I am writing on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter in strong support of HB 1577 relating to composting pilot projects in the Department of Education (DOE).

One of Surfrider Oahu's most innovative and successful program is the Ocean Friendly Gardens (OFG) initiative and the Surfblitz program. Our members and volunteers have engaged in landscape revitalization by understanding the connection of health soils and at home food production to the future health of our nearshore ecosystems and oceans. In the past 3 years we have built more than 20 OFG's around Oahu following a program directive of CPR – Conservation, Permeability, and Retention. These concepts are the foundation of having healthy watersheds. In designing landscapes under this umbrella of sustainability we have come to realize the high value of composting to amend our soils. By transferring nutrients from our food waste to the soils we are creating a closed loop system in which natural processes are used to amend the soil that provides us food.

This program has engaged home owners, but because we are using the power of a volunteer network we are also engaging keiki in the program. At each of our garden builds we have workshops where the youth are engaged in the process of creating healthy soils, a living landscape, and a food sources at home. This early childhood education is a living laboratory with immense educational potential.

Already on Oahu, schools have shown a model of progress in diverting food waste into composting systems that are then in turn used to have mini-agriculture systems on campus. While traditional systems of classroom education still have a place, hands-on experience shows much higher learning retention and engagement possibilities. Farming and agricultural systems in particular have the potential to cross multiple disciplines of study in one living classroom. Students are connected to biology, botany, chemistry, mathematics, economics, engineering, resource management, cultural knowledge, and team work all in one space.

Our food waste problem is one that could be considered tragic considering the amount of people going without. Nearly 30% of all consumer food is wasted – going to landfills or incinerators which are not part of a closed loop that maximizes the potential for a regenerative economy.

This program would have the potential for the DOE to cut its disposal pickup frequency and tipping fees by 50%, resulting in an estimated 7-9 million fewer pounds of wet, organic waste and paper entering Hawaii's landfills and incinerator(s). Governor Ige, as well as the Aloha+ Challenge, have called for doubling local food production by 2020. For this to work, students have to be engaged early to learn about building soil through composting and utilizing organic resources. The Aloha+ Challenge calls for reducing the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent by 2030 through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods. This goal, signed by the Governor, four county Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners across the state, has no hope of being achieved unless the largest sources of waste, like DOE, are addressed.

Surfrider is very excited about the possibilities of introducing these systems to schools. Healthy soils are great filters for stormwater runoff and a future generation versed in growing their own food will lead to a more stable economy with less reliance on imported materials.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Bergstrom', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation



Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture & Environment

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety strongly supports: HB1577

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the committees:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Director for the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 820,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 11,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

I am writing in strong support of HB1577, relating to composting pilot projects in the Department of Education (DOE). As an environmental and human health advocacy group, we support these composting pilot projects for several reasons:

1) Composting plays an integral role in food and agricultural sustainability by adding valuable nutrients to the soil. Many of Hawai'i's soils are currently degraded, but we have the opportunity to reverse that trend. Often taken for granted, healthy soils provide numerous benefits including: reduced sediment, erosion and dust; increased freshwater retention; improved water quality; reduced salinity; improved plant health and crop yields; a reduced need for synthetic inputs; and sequestered carbon dioxide. Following decades of soil nutrient depletion, re-introducing nutrients by transferring composted food waste would create a closed-loop system in which natural processes are used to amend the soil that provides us healthy, nutrient dense food.

2) This project will engage our keiki in the food system fostering an ethic of mālama 'āina from a young age. Children participating in these composting programs will get first-hand experience in caring for and building soil. O'ahu already has schools participating in programs that divert food waste into compost that feeds their school gardens. Expanding these hands-on concepts to schools with more traditional systems of indoor classroom learning environments would only serve to enhance learning retention and engagement possibilities, especially for inner city youth. Farming and agricultural systems are indeed a living classroom and would facilitate a

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20003
T: 202-547-9359 F: 202-547-9429

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
T: 415-826-2770 F: 415-826-0507

PACIFIC NORTHWEST OFFICE

917 SW Oak Street, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97205
T: 971-271-7372 F: 971-271-7374

HAWAI'I OFFICE

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2107
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808-681-7688

office@centerforfoodsafety.org

centerforfoodsafety.org

deeper connection of our keiki to the food that sustains them. Students would be learning a variety of subjects including biology, botany, chemistry, math, economics, engineering, resource management, and cultural studies/anthropology, all while working as a team.

3) The proposed composting pilot projects makes economic and environmental sense. Increased on-campus composting could play a critical role in reducing food waste in Hawai'i, where statistics show that nearly 30% of all consumer food is wasted, likely contributing to global greenhouse gas emissions. This program would also have the potential for the DOE to cut its disposal pickup frequency and tipping fees by an estimated 50%, resulting in between 7-9 million fewer pounds of wet, organic waste and paper entering Hawai'i's landfills and incinerators. Congruent with calls from Governor Ige and the Aloha+ Challenge to double local food production by 2020 and reduce solid waste streams by 2030, this program would engage students from an early age in the food system to ensure these goals are met.

The implementation of a composting pilot program is an important step toward Hawai'i's food security and climate security.

Thank you the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Ashley Lukens, PhD
Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:58 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mindyolvera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM*

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melinda Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:34 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: angkpix@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM*

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANGELA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 3:27 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM*

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Council Woman Sue Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDU Testimony

From: Lindsey Whitcomb <alohawhitcombs@me.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:57 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: HB1577
Attachments: Elementary School Garden Programs Enhance Science Education for All Learners.pdf; ATT00001.htm; ZWSSummary-Feb.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Submission of written testimony pertaining to **HB1577**
EDU/AEN committee hearing 3/20/2017 3:00pm

Aloha Senators,

I am writing to express my strong support of HB1577 to implement a pilot program for composting food waste on Oahu schools. This bill is an important step forward in both improving the quality and capability of our aina to increase production of locally sourced food, and an imperative step in improving and modernizing the education we provide our keiki.

I run a school composting program at Ka'elepulu Elementary in Kailua. Although we are the smallest public school on the windward side, so far this year, at our school alone we have composted over 10,000 pounds of food waste, simply by separating wet organics from non-compostable materials at breakfast and lunch services. That is 10,000 fewer pounds of waste that had to be bagged in plastic and dumped; 10,000 fewer pounds that had to be hauled to a waste repository; 10,000 fewer pounds of wet organic material creating methane in our landfills. Methane, as a greenhouse gas, is at least 28 times more harmful to our atmosphere than carbon dioxide. (more info: <https://www.epa.gov/lmop/basic-information-about-landfill-gas>) Please take a moment to view the following video showcasing our Zero Waste Hui leader, Mindy Jaffe, at our flagship school, Lanikai Elementary in Windward Oahu:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/5ymnjivrc2b7vam/ZeroWaste_FINAL3_3.mp4?dl=0

The attached pdf article also discusses, in greater detail, the real & potential pathways in which school-led sustainability programs, including student roles in school composting & garden lessons, improve education outcomes in a variety of subjects. Also attached is the February summary of our Zero Waste efforts at three Kailua area schools.

For further information regarding the potential educational benefits offered by on-site school composting programs, as well as benefits of the often-paired school gardens, please review some of the following examples of primary and review literature I've collected:

<https://sustainability.water.ca.gov/documents/18/3334069/Waste%20Wise%20School%20Programs%20in%20Australia.pdf>

http://www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/pdf/Ozer_gardens-3.pdf

As far as real-time & local impact is concerned, in our program at Lanikai Elementary we have found that students have become leaders in the responsibility of returning "waste" as pure, organic compost, vermicast and garden inputs to sustain the aina in which they live. Students ages five to twelve have embraced that composting leftover food that would otherwise add to the landfill has great value and can be recycled, can be

reused and we can reduce our carbon footprint simply by rescuing the food. They have been the policing mechanism at home, teaching their parents and elders how to achieve food security simply by composting the leftover food.

Mahalo for your time & support,

Lindsey Whitcomb

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:53 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha, Chairs Gabbard, Kidani, and committee members. Thank you for taking the time and initiative to hear this bill. I apologize for the late testimony, as there were repeated problems with online submission. Throughout the legislative process we have seen tremendous support from stakeholders and across all of the effected agencies. These supporters recognize the enormous potential from creating composting programs in HIDOE schools. Composting is typically viewed as a sweet, do-gooder action taken on in backyards, but it is actually a powerful tool in managing our heavy, wet organic wastes currently being thrown away and to expose students as early as possible to resource conservation, building healthy soils, and growing local food. If Hawaii is truly invested in local agriculture and creating more farmers, then we have to support programs that encourage students to love building soil and growing their own food from an early age. Beyond utilizing composting as project based learning, and meeting numerous national learning standards, there are practical advantages to facilitating composting programs across the HIDOE. The HIDOE spends 3.85 million annually on waste hauling and disposal. Much of this budget is from heavy tipping fees (heavy, wet waste) and the need for daily pickup (rotting food). Once school composting was widespread, the HIDOE could revisit contracts and reduce their pickup days and see lower tipping costs. We estimate that by needing just 1-2 days fewer pickups could save the HIDOE over \$500,000 a year. If every HIDOE school diverted its organic waste, we are looking at close to 10 million fewer pounds a year of organic waste entering our waste stream, instead diverted to building healthy soils and young farmers. The Dept. of Agriculture Farm to School program is a good place for this program, but they do not have the staff or budget to properly administer and could amount to an unfunded mandate. Please consider including some administrative funding so that they can properly implement this program. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Jennifer Milholen Waste Reduction Coordinator Kokua Hawaii Foundation

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: What a great way to include our keiki in the food system and foster malama aina from a young age! Plus, this program would help divert food waste back into a closed-loop system, reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. It makes total sense for our food and for our climate! Please support! Aloha

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1577 on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM

HB1577

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for EDU/AEN on Mar 20, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberts Leinau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 1) The potential for the DOE to cut its disposal pickup frequency and tipping fees by 50%, resulting in an estimated 7-9 million fewer pounds of wet, organic waste and paper entering Hawaii's landfills and incinerator(s). 2) Governor Ige, as well as the Aloha+ Challenge, have called for doubling local food production by 2020. For this to work, students have to be engaged early to learn about building soil through composting and utilizing organic resources. 3) The Aloha+ Challenge calls for reducing the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent by 2030 through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods. This goal, signed by the Governor, four county Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners across the state, has no hope of being achieved unless the largest sources of waste, like DOE, are addressed. 4) On-site composting systems and programs provided a much-needed opportunity for students to practice diverting resources to their highest and best use and watching as they are transformed into "black gold" to support their school gardens. 5) The requirement for DOH to participate in the working group ensures that schools, and those responsible for public health, can together create an appropriately-sized set of regulations and safety measures that allow food grown on campus to be sold to benefit the school, because they have been confirmed as pathogen free. 6) The introduction of composting systems on campus provide science and math curriculum opportunities to meet national standards. 7) For Hawaii to ever achieve food security, we will have to continue growing new farmers. In-school composting programs expose 10s of thousands of students to the excitement and necessity of building healthy soils and growing local foods.

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