



LATE

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

January 28, 2017

## Support for SB 350

HFUU Board of  
Directors

Executive Committee

Vincent Mina  
President  
HFUU

Ray Maki  
Vice-President  
HFUU

Anny Bruch  
Secretary  
HFUU

Karen Reid  
Treasurer  
HFUU

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Mikala Minn  
Hāna

James Simpliciano  
Mauna Kahalawai

Steve Sakala  
Kona

Greg Smith  
Ka'u

Clarence Baber  
Kohala

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

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 350.

SB 350 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.

Mahalo,  
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President

**LATE**

**AEN Testimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** yoshitol@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments: It is vital that we develop ways to manage our waist stream better and creating a buisness that provide nutrients cycling is a step in the right direction.

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**AEN Testimony**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:37 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** courtneybruch808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Bruch	GMO Free Maui	Support	No

Comments:

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**AEN Testimony**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:54 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** robert@hawaiisustainable.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Bence	Hawai'i Sustainable Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments: As a small family farm in Kula we support the bill for nutrient recycling on the island of Maui.

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*Kakalina Farms*



*"Grown with Love"*

January 30, 2017 1:30 PM

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawai'i State Senate

Testimony in Support of SB 350

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I urge your support of SB 350, which establishes a pilot project to process food and organic waste in a nutrient cycling center to supply farmers with low-cost fertilizer.

The pilot project has the unique double purpose of 1) addressing the public works need of sustainable waste disposal methods with 2) farmer needs to obtain low-cost fertilizer to grow crops.

It is a project that will help provide support for Hawai'i to move forward to reach its sustainable goal of doubling food production.

Thank you very much.

*Thomas R. Grande*  
Thomas Grande

**AEN Testimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** chris@mentzel.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** bestb002@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to relieve some of the burden on local farmers. Mahalo

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**AEN Testimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:48 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** harriet@passengerplanet.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Our health can never be any better than the soil where our food grows. This bill will improve soil - and therefore human - health. Without this bill our medical expenditures will keep going up.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:54 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** gerry.dameron8@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Please support new nutrient recycling programs on all the islands to support - and report on - progress with locally sourced, locally developed, non-chemical soil regeneration strategies. We need local soil building resources to ramp up these important practices. If we are to achieve the 100% increase in local, healthy, and sustainable food production that Governor Ige is calling for, new and expanded nutrient programs will be essential and highly beneficial. Mahalo for supporting the measure. As a local citizen active in the local food movement, and a board member of the Mauna Kahalawai chapter of the HFUU, I applaud Mike Gabbard and the other sponsors of the bill for understanding where we need to go.

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**AEN Testimony**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:36 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** courtneybruch808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:33 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** ariannafeinberg@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senator Gabbard Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment SB 350 RELATED TO NITROGEN CYCLING Monday, January 30th, 2017 1:15 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 224 By Arianna Feinberg Aloha Senators on the Agriculture and Environment Committee, Thank you for hearing this important measure. I am a born and raised Maui resident and a graduate of Columbia University where I majored in Sustainable Development. I am testifying in strong support of SB 350 Related to Nitrogen Cycling. This legislation would create a pilot program on Maui of regional nutrient cycling centers. Food waste is currently filling up our landfill and releasing the greenhouse gas methane. This waste can be turned into a resource if properly turned into compost. Currently, many homeowners, farmers, landscapers and backyard gardeners buy expensive fertilizer imported from the mainland. These imported fertilizers contribute to climate change through the greenhouse gasses emitted in their transport as well as their production if they're artificial fertilizers. Maui County residents will greatly benefit if there is a larger and cheaper source of locally produced fertilizer. Although the program starts on Maui, it will aim to be designed in a way that can be replicated throughout the state. Before the 2019 legislative session, the Department of Agriculture will report the "operational and economic efficacy of the regional nutrient cycling center pilot project." This report will allow you to gauge the success of this program and determine if it shall be continued or expanded to benefit more islands. Please pass and fund SB 350 so Hawaii can benefit from nutrient cycling. Mahalo, Arianna Feinberg

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:54 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** paul@paularinaga.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM  
**Attachments:** Testimony for SB350.docx

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:06 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** raphiell@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**AEN Testimony**

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:18 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** akamaimom@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Having had experience with nutrient cycling efforts and seeing how effective they are on a small scale level, it is really exciting to see the state begin to support this direction in agriculture that will build topsoil and reclaim the vitality and natural fertility of the soil. We wish Maui full success with this effort and hope that it helps to guide the way for healthy local food production. Kilauea, Kauai

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 1:05 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** ELITEHAWAII@AOL.COM  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DONNIE BECKER	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 1:43 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** poqqoppoqqop@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure is a step forward in working toward feeding ourselves in Hawaii. Please pass it. Thank you.

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 5:24 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** sarapattonmaui@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017  
Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Patton	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this Nutrient Cycling Pilot Program on Maui. One of the factors that drives up the cost of Agriculture locally is the cost of importing fertilizer and other inputs. The work that they are doing creating these inputs locally such as compost, can help to relieve some of the burden on local farmers.

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 7:17 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** kristenmartinek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

**Comments:**

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**AEN Testimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 7:26 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** lavaboy458@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

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**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerry Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I fully support SB 350. I am commercial organic farmer on Maui and our farm has been producing food for people for over 35 years. In that time we have weaned ourselves off of chemical imported fertilizers and have reduced our fertilizer use (now all organic) by over 80%. How? We collect over 50 tons of foodwaste a year from restaurants on Maui and make top notch compost which serves to regenerate and enliven our soil, increase water and nutrient retention capacity and diverts significant organic waste from the landfill. Hawaii should be a leader in diverting organic waste and turning it into agricultural amendments. This bill is sorely needed. Massachusetts for example has banned the disposal of organic waste in landfills and has worked with farmers and compost companies to educate and train these people on enhanced compost production and application. As an island state we need to do this. If I could spend less time making compost I could spend more time growing food which is win-win for everybody.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Vital to support waste management here in Hawaii and developing a business to achieve that and provide amendments to farmers is worth supporting

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**AEN Testimony**

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 9:02 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** scott@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017  
Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Successful transition from sugar to diversified crops depends on rebuilding the soil through nutrient recycling.

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** oneifbylandenv@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott lacasse	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support the nutrient program. It is instrumental in healing our agricultural lands. Please appropriate the funds. Mahalo

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** citizens4ahealthiermaui@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Paselk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the nutrient recycling pilot project on Maui which will help farmers reduce fertilizer input costs, save on landfill costs, educate the public and farmers on better practices, and get us closer to food sustainability. As a member of HFUU for two years I trust their expertise and constant education for sustainable practices to make this an efficient and viable enterprise. I'm sure a lot of volunteer support will go into making this a success as well. As it is no-one growing organic on Maui can use the current Eko compost because of the treatment plant sludge added and its' reputation of causing staf infections.

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**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** sd3@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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