

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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 AND AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 14, 2018
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2025 HD1
RELATING TO RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Chairperson Kidani, Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2025 HD1 that seeks to authorize the Department of Education to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in schools. The Department of Agriculture supports the general concepts expressed in this bill but has concerns about the commitment of resources from the Department of Agriculture and our Farm-to-School Program.

We note that the Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-School Program (Section 141-11) is assigned the responsibility to "provide oversight of the composting grant pilot project." It is not clear what duties and responsibilities are expected from our Farm-to-School Program which already is fully committed to its statutory responsibilities. The Department needs to determine the extent the pilot project activities can be integrated with but not supplant the purposes of the Farm-to-School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
and

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 2:45 pm

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Debora Halbert

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2025 HD1 – RELATING TO RESOURCE RECOVERY

Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kahele and Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2025 HD1.

Composting is an environmentally safe and useful way to deal with the appropriate type of materials. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) would be pleased to be part of the Composting Grant Pilot Project Working Group as outlined in the bill. CTAHR has useful experience in the science of composting, including training and demonstrations in composting at the UHM/CTAHR Urban Garden Center in Pearl City.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2025 HD1.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 2:45PM Conference Room 229

In SUPPORT of HB 2025 HD1 Relating to Resource Recovery

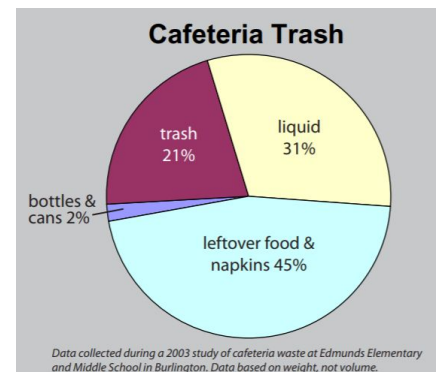
Aloha Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kahele and Riviere, and members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports HB 2025 HD1**, which authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in DOE schools, implementing a working group and reports to the Legislature.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect agricultural lands and promote local food production.

We are at an utmost reliance on the mainland, with 90% of our local foods being imported¹. On the contrary, 80% of local production is exported. We must act on these alarming statistics now, and this bill is one mechanism with which to do so.

We need policy to encourage, support, and protect our students, allowing them to engage in agricultural practices within their own schools. We should promote a sense of responsibility in younger generations through education in waste life cycle analyses and how to mitigate potential harmful impacts on human health and the environment. Students are willing to make changes in the way they dispose of food as long as the system is implemented and children can understand their contribution to fertile soil and the growth of quality food. DOE needs funding for the continuity of this movement.



¹ <https://mauimagazine.net/empty-isles/>

We are committed to supporting efforts in food sustainability across the islands. HB 2025 HD1 contributes to these efforts. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i fully supports this necessary measure that invests in food security and sustainability throughout the islands for generations to come.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:02:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jennifer Milholen | Testifying for Kokua Hawaii Foundation | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Kā• kua 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 'Ā€INA In Schools, 3R's School Recycling, Kā• kua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kā• kua 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 'Ā€INA In Schools composting curricula, and coordination with the DOE and other governmental, private, and non-profit partners.

Kā• kua Hawai'i Foundation strongly supports HB2025 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 Kā• kua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grant Program and the Hawai'i Youth Sustainability Challenge. Schools such as Kaohao (Lanikai ES), Kaelepulu Elementary School, Hawaii Baptist Academy, Kainalu Elementary, and Sunset Beach Elementary Schools are some examples of schools that have implemented on-campus composting programs - diverting over 70,000 lbs of resources away from costly disposal in less than a year. Much more support is needed to develop and grow composting initiatives at schools statewide, multiplying this impact.
2. With DOE support and school commitments, 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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

My name is Wendy Rosen. I have have been working and volunteering in school gardens since 2004. Composting is an integral component of growing food and our keiki need to know it's importance and how to do it. Not only does composting enhance the beauty of our school grounds and the production of our gardens, it teaches our keiki how to contribute to the sustainablilty of our islands. All schools need a compoting program!!!

HB2025

Kailua Intermediate student testimony

I Support HB2O25,

Name:Mia Ajolo, Grade:7

I Support HB2025

I support HB2025.

Tiana Kong

grade 7

I support HB2025

Name:Maya Jalomo

Grade:7

I support HB2025

Alana Wesly

7th Grade

I support HB2025

Haley McDowell

Grade 7

I support HB2025

Keawe Aspelund

Grade 8

I support HB2025. I have been active in school gardens since grade K

Kylie Redican

Grade 8

I support HB2025

Devan Erle, grade 8

I support HB2025. Compost helps our plants grow and reduces waste. It helps support and make a cleaner environment, as well as educate us on gardening.

Despina Drosinos, grade 7

I support HB2025. Composting is a big part of my school.
Dane Hutchason, grade 7

I support HB2025 because it helps us reuse our food and not waste all of it. So I would like to have it so we don't waste all of our food that we do not eat. Tristan, grade 7

I don't want our food to be put in the landfill. I support HB2025.
Lahaina AhSam, grade 7

I support HB2025 because I want to see our garden become better in the future.
Kobe Sakai, grade 7

I support HB2025 because without our compost system all of our food is wasted and sent to the landfill rather than used to grow more food.
Christian Fraser, grade 7



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 229

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2025 HD 1, Relating to Resource Recovery

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 2025 HD 1, which authorizes the Department of Education to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in schools, because it aligns with our goal of reducing waste in Hawai'i.

Composting is one of the best ways for people to reduce waste. In particular, schools generate tons of food waste and turning that material into usable compost can provide nutrients to farm to school programs. Furthermore, students are proactively learning to be more conscious about their waste production, identify science and agricultural concepts, and develop an understanding of where their fruits and vegetables come from.

As Hawai'i's waste issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that address these issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:59:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| lindsey whitcomb | Testifying for Windward Zero Waste Schools | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Kidani, & Senators of the AEN & EDN committees,

I am writing to express my strong support of HB2025, and would like to briefly describe my experience with a school composting/resource recovery operation as detailed in the bill. I represent the Windward Zero Waste Schools hui, a partnership of Windward Oahu schools working cooperatively in the pursuit of waste reduction, soil restoration, and applied environmental education. All members participate annually in the U.S. EPA's Food Recovery Challenge and adhere to strict, safe, standardized operational procedures. Ka'ohao Public Charter School (formerly Lanikai Elementary), Ka'elepulu Elementary, and Kainalu Elementary make up our schools. Each school diverts many tons of noxious organic waste from the waste stream, creates innumerable cubic yards of soil rich in nutrients that retains moisture, mitigates erosion, increases biodiversity, sequesters carbon, grows great gardens, restores lawns, and teaches kids a lot about earth science. Schools make money selling their surplus compost. Plastic bag use is greatly reduced, dumpster volume is slashed, and dumpster stink (along with the flies, roaches, rats, and other pests attracted to stink) are noticeably fewer. Instead of being horrific trash factories, our schools lead the way in admirable sustainable practices that transfer into homes and neighborhoods. Ka'ohao was named #1 in the nation in the EPA Food Recovery Challenge for 2014-15. Data collected from the 2017 calendar year show that food waste recovery of the three Windward Zero Waste School Hui campuses topped out at 63,490 pounds, or 31.75 tons. Just 3 schools!

In addition to these qualities, kids at each of our schools participate in the food collection and data collection process- applied learning of math skills at its finest. They are engaged, enthusiastic, and proud of the work they are doing. And the dividends of the entire composting process provides rich soil that is used by the students in the school garden. Without prompting, teachers begin to take lessons outside of the classroom and into their garden plot- a welcome change for both the teachers and the students, especially ones who struggle with learning differences (Getting outside and playing in the dirt is the original Wiggle Seat).

This past fall, a group of Kailua Intermediate students won 1st place, nationally, for their work in investigating side effects of synthetic pesticides and subsequently their development of an organic pesticide replacement

(<http://kailuain.k12.hi.us/awards/awards.html>). They were graduates of the Zero Waste School Ka'ohao. These are the outcomes we look towards when we give appropriate sustainability models to our keiki and pair them with applied education.

I know the state is working with a limited budget, but I hope for your support in this bill. For the minimal costs incurred with instituting composting programs, the outcome & benefits are definitely exceeding in their value.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lindsey Whitcomb

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:24:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB2025 HD1**, RELATING TO RESOURCE RECOVERY

To the Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2025 HD1**, relating to Composting; DOE; Resource Recovery; Composting Pilot Project; Working Group; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2025 HD1**, and support its passage.

HB2025 HD1, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the Department of Education to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in Department of Education schools; authorizes a composting grant pilot project working group; requires report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states that "[w]e promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive-species-free compost and enhanced mulch available for our farmers, landscapers, and residents.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of

transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.” (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 115-116, P. 8, Lines 406-415, 432-433 (2016)).

Given that **HB2025 HD1** authorizes the Department of Education to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in Department of Education schools; authorizes a composting grant pilot project working group; requires report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds, all of which should benefit the DOE, agricultural industry and the environment through solid waste food recycling, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:00:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heidi Ho | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in full support of food waste recovery and composting. Not only does it divert waste from the landfills, it creates rich compstot to enrich our aina. The program teaches our keiki to be better stewards of the aina, a lifelong habit. Please pass and fund this program!

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:20:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| susan chouljian | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 2:42:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Iwamoto | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 1:11:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Composting on campus will help the DOE reduce costs, educate Hawai'i,s. Youth

about creating sustainable systems for waste,provide free fertility for school gardens and school landscaping, and provide hands on science opportunities,

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:44:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edward Yoshinaga | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:21:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jann Boxold | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:24:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregory Boxold | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 10:36:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| janice palma-glennie | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 11:29:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:38:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lydi Morgan Bernal | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to facilitate the reduction of waste, recycling of nutrients, and the provision of hands-on, real-world sustainability education for students through the development of robust composting programs in schools!