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Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 5, 2018
10:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2025 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2025 HD1 SD1 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.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 5, 2018 — 10:30 a.m. — Room 211

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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 SD 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 this committee's 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:47:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheri sunabe	Testifying for Kainalu Elementary	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sheri Sunabe. I am the principal of Kainalu Elementary School in Kailua, Hawaii. We are members of the Windward Zero Waste School Hui. In the school year 2016-2017, Kainalu collected and processed nearly 15 tons of food waste with composting and vermicomposting technologies. Composting is easy, natural, safe and fun. The compost created enhanced our gardens and landscaping. Surplus was sold to the public and earned \$2700 in revenue to support our program. This would not have been possible without the efforts of our volunteer coordinator and assistants.

Our students are truly becoming stewards of our land. They are taking responsibility in sorting their food at lunch and assisting with the composting and harvesting process. This is a community process that involves our teachers, parents, and community in sharing their mana'o about caring for our a'ina. Students participate in our Garden, A'ina Is nutritional lessons, recycling, verimicasting, and composting. Documentation of these efforts have been videotaped by our students and are available for viewing on our school website.

I strongly support this Bill because I know that all schools will reap the phenomenal benefits of waste reduction. Please support this Bill.

Good Morning Chair Dela Cruz & members of the Senate WAM Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2025, regarding development of a working group to explore & develop a grant program to institute composting programs in Hawaii public schools. I write today representing Windward Zero Waste Schools, an organization committed to resource recovery, diversion of food & organic materials from the solid waste stream, and applied environmental education in our schools. I would like to urge your support of this bill.

Our organization operates daily in three windward Oahu schools. Data collected from the 2017 calendar year show that food waste recovery from our 3 campuses topped out at 63,490 pounds, or 31.75 tons. In the first two months of 2018 alone, these same three schools collected & processed over 12,000 pounds. Food waste is collected & composted (or vermicomposted) on-site, producing spectacular soil amendments that are utilized by the school as well as sold to the public & ag communities- creating a money stream back into the school for garden education opportunities. If we extrapolate this 2017 data out, conservatively, even to only Oahu elementary schools- numbering 118- the diversion from our solid waste stream would come in at close to *7.5 million pounds*. That's 7.5mill pounds less waste bagged in plastic, 7.5mill pounds less transported via diesel trucks, 7.5mill less waste sitting in landfills. Each. Year.

Students take an active role in separating food waste, preparing worm bedding for vermicast bins, caring for worms, & harvesting, sifting and screening the final products. They build model compost piles, learn about invertebrate and antimicrobial populations, biologic life cycles, and utilize soil amendments in their individual class garden plots. I would like to submit to the committee a photo that may help demonstrate how meaningful these programs are to our keiki; with only 2 days' notice ahead of spring break, every single student (over 1000 students in all) took time to write or draw a "testimonial" of their support for their Zero Waste program. This photo shows just a handful; in all, the stack of testimonials is several inches thick. The testimonies were turned into the House FIN committee in support of another bill we have been supporting (SB2928) & are available for viewing via Chair Sylvia Luke's office.

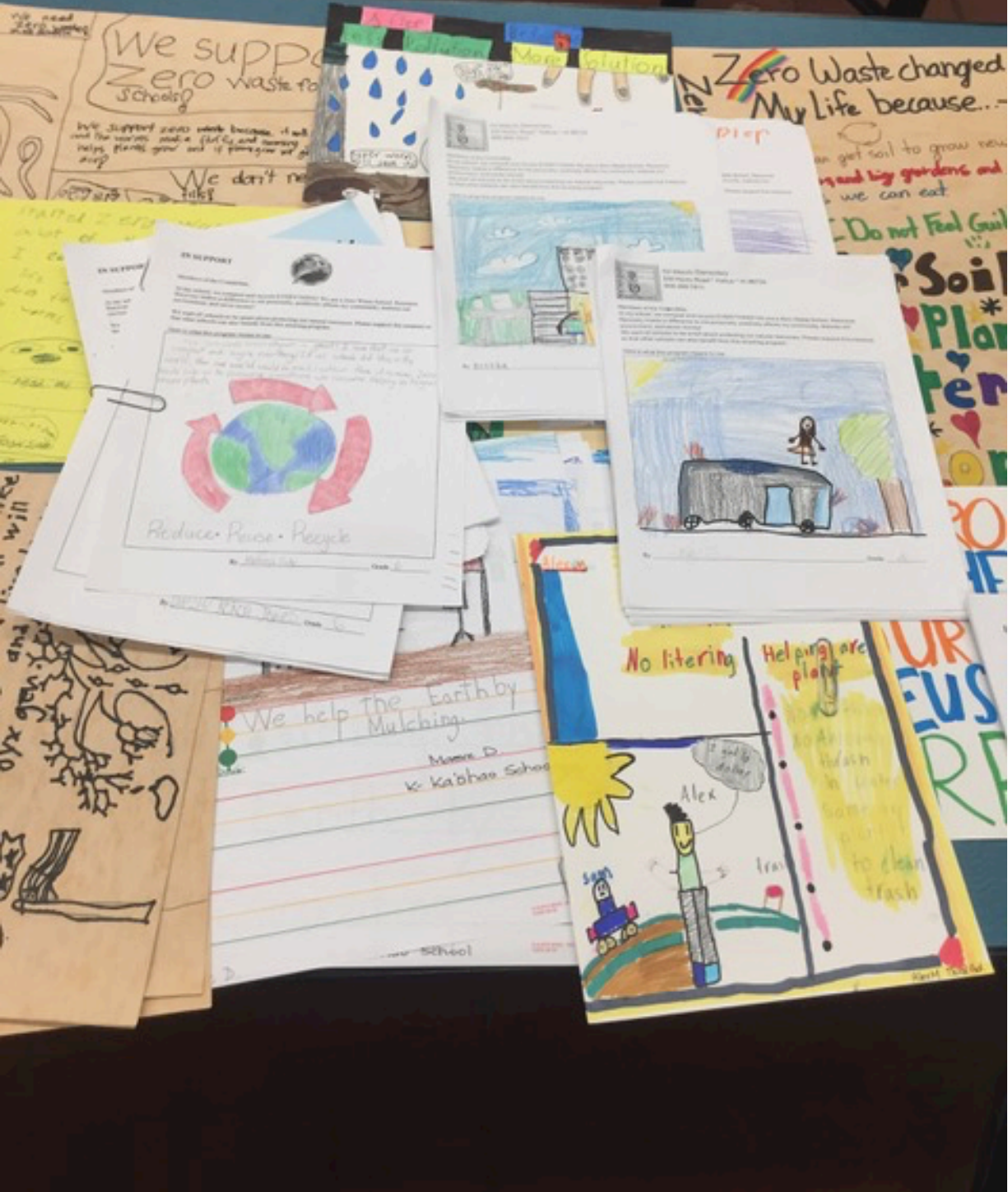
Every day, I think about how to most effectively make an impact in my community. It is my kuleana. We are responsible for managing the waste, food, pollution & energy crises that we have been handed & are effectively handing down to our keiki. While it certainly will require an effort by the majority, one conclusion that I have come to is that we need to educate first, & we need to prioritize the highest points of consumption in order to maximize our influence. Our schools and our

keiki need more programs like this one, and I hope for your support so we can demonstrate the effectiveness of our waste diversion program.

I am aware that making ends meet in an economy & community with a constrained budget is no small task. While I am certain that there are many deserving entities and projects that need funding this year, I am pleading with you to invest in waste diversion & resource recovery; pleading with you to invest in our future and our environment and our local food production and our air quality and our keiki.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Lindsey Whitcomb



We support Zero waste for Schools?

We support zero waste because it will save the water, reduce plastic and burning things, plants grow and if you grow it you eat it.

We don't need...

Zero Waste changed My Life because...

...get soil to grow new veg and big gardens and we can eat

Do not Feel Guilt

Soil

Plan

Pen

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

No littering

Helping are play

UR EVS RE

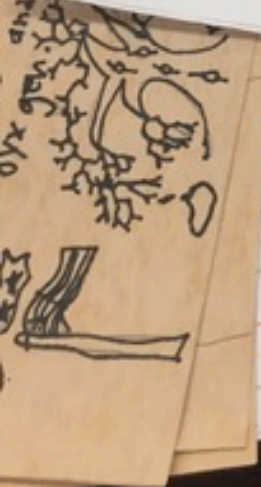
We help The Earth by Mulching

Mamre D K. Kabhaa School

Alex

Helping are play

Helping are play to clean trash



School

April 2020

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:53:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Paulo	Testifying for Kainalu Elementary	Support	No

Comments:

All schools should participate in composting.

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:30:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Ed H. Noh	Testifying for Ka'ohao School	Support	No

Comments:

To the members of the committee:

I am the School Director of Ka'ohao School. We have been involved with this composting program for the past five years. It has been an AMAZING program that introduces real, hands-on learning opportunities. It is a great experience that I believe every school students should be able to be a part of. The benefits have only been positive and we MUST replicate this in other schools.

Dr. Ed H. Noh

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 6:54:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2025 HD1 SD1** 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 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2025 HD1 SD1, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 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 a report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds, effective 7/1/2050.

Regarding **EDUCATION**, the DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations." (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-314 (2016)).

Further, the DPH Platform states, "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the

responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-86 (2016)).

Finally, the DPH Platform promotes solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents. (Platform of DPH, P. 3, Lines 115-116 (2016)).

Given that **HB2025 HD1 SD1** 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 a report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds, effective 7/1/2050, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:29:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Toole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sarah Toole, my address is 1128 Ala Napunani St. 96818, and I am a political science student at UH Manoa.

I support this bill.

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 10:44:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa DeLong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kailua Intermediate has an organic garden and has partnered with the Windward Zero Waste School Hui to create compost and vermicompost as part of our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math initiative to prepare students for careers, college, and citizenship. We are in strong support of this work and plans for other schools to partner to join this exciting journey.

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:40:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:02:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Parker Sawyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This amazing program should be at every public and private school in Hawaii.