



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

Date: 01/30/2018
Time: 08:30 AM
Location: 325
Committee: House Energy & Environmental
Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2025 RELATING TO RESOURCE RECOVERY.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in Department of Education schools. Establishes a composting grant pilot project working group. Requires report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports HB 2025, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved budget. While many schools already have composting projects with external funders or community support, grants may assist other schools in establishing a program.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:32:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
8:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2025, RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Good morning, 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 House Bill No. 2025, relating to a Composting Pilot Project for DOE schools and establishing a Composting Working Group to report to the Regular Session 2019 20 days before the commencement of the Regular Systems. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No 2025, and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2025, 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. It also establishes a composting grant pilot project working group. Requires report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds no later than 20 days prior to convening the 2020 Regular Session. 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 House Bill No. 2025 provides for a Composting Pilot Project in DOE schools, which will benefit the 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, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 1:50:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:52:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lindsey whitcomb		Support	No

Comments:

HB2025

Aloha,

My name is Lindsey Whitcomb and I am writing in support of HB2025. My experience with this topic is via my work at Kailua area elementary schools as part of the Windward Zero Waste Hui, where all food waste for breakfast and lunch is composted daily. For the calendar year of 2017, our hui successfully diverted 30 tons of food waste from three schools & processed the waste on site.

In addition to the importance of reducing the amount of methane-producing waste being compiled in waste sites, the learning opportunities for students involved are numerous and varied. All students separating their food waste from non-compostable rubbish are learning about important aspects of reducing their personal environmental footprint. Students assisting with waste separation learn important fundamentals of data collection, reinforcement of math skills, and basics of the biology and chemistry involved in food decomposition. Above all of this, endless opportunities exist for teachers of students of all ages to incorporate either composting or gardening lessons into their curriculum. I hope for your support in this endeavor.

I appreciate your time in hearing my comments.

Mahalo,
Lindsey Whitcomb

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:08:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:54:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalani Matsumura		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the intent of this bill and back up testimony from others on the financial, environmental, and educational benefits of school composting programs. I recommend that funding be allocated to provide a paid half-time staff member in each participating school to oversee the composting program and develop educational programs for the students and community. The program would also benefit from a paid, full-time coordinator position.

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:08:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:49:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Marshman		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:36:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:07:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mindy Jaffe	Windward Zero Waste School Hui	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:26:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons		Support	No

Comments:

It is critical to educate our keiki regarding responsible and ecological practices to ensure sustainability goals for the State.

HB-2025

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:46:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anastasia	The Institute for Human Services	Support	No

Comments: