

SB-2519

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Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 2, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2519, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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

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 Senate Bill No. 2519, relating to waste diversion through the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the purpose of protecting our environment. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2519, and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2519, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the agribusiness development corporation to

enter into contracts with private businesses to remove select municipal solid waste, glass, and food and green waste from the waste stream for use in other business sectors, including agriculture, construction, and energy production. 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 Senate Bill No. 2519 provides for waste diversion through the Agribusiness Development Corporation which will benefit the agricultural industry and the environment through solid waste, glass, and 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

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