

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**MARCH 13, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2573 SD1
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING**

Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2573 SD1 which requests an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui and requires the Department to report on the efficacy of the pilot project to the 2020 Legislature. The Department supports the intent of the bill provided that it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department lacks the scientific capability and expertise to implement waste stream capture, evaluating composting processes, undertaking and prioritizing research, and operationalizing the findings. This could be a project that a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources could collaborate on with agricultural stakeholder groups such as the Hawaii Farmers Union United or the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-2573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:54:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 13, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2573, SD 1
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau provides comments SB 2573, SD 1, appropriating funds for a nutrient recycling program on Maui.

HFB strongly supports the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawaii. Many of our farms add compost made off site as well as utilize short term fallow between crop cycles to increase organic content in their soils. Federal programs such as EQIP from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) provide funds to offset costs to farmers who voluntarily implement these programs. Here are links to NRCS standards. Farmers implementing these practices will qualify for federal cost share using the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program.

Composting facility

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/HI/317_PI_Standard.pdf

Nutrient management

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/HI/590_PI_Standard.pdf

Farmers need to determine practices that work for them. For example a farmer may institute short term cover crops and this practice too qualifies for cost share using EQIP. The standard that needs to be followed is:

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/HI/340_PI_Standard.pdf

There are various funding mechanisms available that should be considered and incorporated to reach the ultimate goal as envisioned in this measure.

HFB will be happy to continue conversations in this matter. USDA-NRCS has a wealth of information and is a valuable resource. One of the mission goals of Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, parent organization of the various Soil and Water Conservation Districts (HACD) that partners with NRCS is the delivery of these services. HACD funding will enhance the capacity of the organization to deliver federal funding opportunities to our farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:31:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:13:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Kinslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: