

**SB 350**

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**JANUARY 30, 2017  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 350  
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 350, which makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui and requires the Department to report on the efficacy of the pilot project. The Department supports the intent of the bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

The Department lacks the scientific capability for implementing the complete composting process and distribution. This could be a collaborative project in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 350, RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**DATE:** Monday, January 30, 2017 **TIME:** 1:15 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 224

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Andrew Goff, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following technical comments on this bill, the purpose of which is to establish a nutrient cycling pilot program on Maui.

We note that although the bill refers to a nutrient cycling program, the bill does not clearly establish such a program. We also note that the bill refers to a panel to be selected by the Department of Agriculture, but does not include a mechanism for appointing panel members, a description of criteria for panel members, or a description of the duties of the panel.

To resolve these concerns, we recommend amending the bill at page 4, lines 1-3, with wording similar to the following:

“There is established a nutrient cycling pilot program on the island of Maui, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. The board of agriculture shall establish a panel, consisting of three members with expertise in agriculture and knowledge of nutrient cycling, to advise the department of agriculture regarding the program. The nutrient cycling program:”

The Department of the Attorney General would be happy to review any other proposed language. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

January 30, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 350**  
RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Room 224  
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 SB350**, 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](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](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](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.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** ablukens@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Lukens	Hawaii Center for Food Safety	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support local production, people, & 'āina over toxic profit.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** pamelaboyar@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** neil.vonhof@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mpshaw10@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:37 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** ambrosejs@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Training the next generation of farmers is critical to any farming future here in Hawai'i. Regenerative agriculture requires ongoing and diverse fertility strategies. Manufacturing bio-char, effective microorganisms, compost and other necessary soil fertility amendments is crucial.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:42 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** jsimpliciano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james simpliciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:58 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** nataliejeanf@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

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Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
natalie Forster	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a farmer I believe the basis of what this bill is trying to do is one of the most important steps we can take on the islands to insure better local food production and food sovereignty. It is true many food producers rely on imports from elsewhere to fertilize and add nutrients to their crops which can be costly and also sends our resources (money) out of our economy instead of circulating in our local economy.. We have the resources and the capability to produce food ourselves here in Hawaii. To be able to be more fully self sufficient when it comes to creating healthy soils that can create healthy crops and long term health of our aina is crucial to the future of farming and our health and the health of our local economy.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:49 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** lynhowe1946@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

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Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:33 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** keolalani.koaloha@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
keolalani koaloha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:22 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** jen.mather@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** jacmnelson3@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

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Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacob Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This program will help lower farmer production costs by creating large amounts of affordable certified organic compost and other soil amendments. Essentially this is a fertilizer factory that will have a teaching element to it, that will educate farmers and agriculturalists how to create their fertility on farm. This program will help Maui's transition from sugar cane to the family farming model many want to see. We are asking the legislature to appropriate \$2M to the HDOA for the purposes of a regional nutrient cycling center for Maui Island. This is part of our 5 point strategy to make sustainable farming an affordable career choice for our next generation, see here: <https://hfuuhi.org/about/5-point-strategy/>

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** woofay2004@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
devin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think that recycling nutrients is a great idea. There is so much waste going to the landfill. On an island we can harness those resources to increase our food security and production which will lead to better health and economic growth.

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 7:05 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** jahniappleseed@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:24 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** hokuokekai50@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:23 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** sunnysavage@gmail.com  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:23 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** patriciablair@msn.com  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:50 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** maui.hot@gmail.com  
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**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Henderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 4:57 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** bmurphy420@mail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

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Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB350 RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING. Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** bioniclove@gmail.com  
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Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
adrian blackhurst	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This is good for Hawaii!

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 3:32 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mary@mauivortex.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB350 RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING. Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** jennymaliahudson@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jenny hudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB350 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB350**

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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