



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2532 SD1
RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 2/20/2020 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) agrees that composting is a
3 great option for organics management and landfill diversion, and offers comment on SB2532
4 SD1. The bill proposes to exempt “artisan scale” composting facilities from Department
5 regulations, provided that they do not pose a vector, dust, or odor problem as determined by the
6 Department, and meet other limitations. “Artisan scale” composting facilities are defined as
7 receiving an average of one cubic yard per month, non-pathogenic organic materials at a site
8 controlled and owned by the waste generator with the finished compost applied and controlled by
9 the same waste generator.

10 The Department prefers to address small composting operations through the
11 Department’s solid waste regulations, however, if the Legislature chooses to codify this
12 exemption, we ask the Legislature to consider the following recommendations: (1) Exempt
13 artisan-scale operations from only composting permitting requirements under HRS 342H and
14 related rules. If the facility is not to produce nuisance conditions, such as dust, the remaining
15 applicable Department regulations should remain enforceable. In addition, the Department
16 regulates the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program.
17 Composting facilities have federally regulated Standard Industrial Classification codes in
18 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and are required to obtain NPDES permits for industrial storm water
19 discharges. NPDES permits are also required for composting facilities that have point source

1 effluent discharges to State surface waters. Therefore, exemption of state regulations regarding
2 NPDES permitting will not absolve the composters' responsibility of complying with federal
3 NPDES permitting requirements, and the implication in the bill that it will be removed. (2)
4 Require artisan composters to maintain records. Being that there is no permitting or notification
5 requirements for these types of facilities, the Department will only become aware of their
6 existence through complaints. Documentation that these facilities only accept one cubic yard of
7 waste per month, does not maintain waste for more than three years, or only accept non-
8 pathogenic waste would be necessary, and is the only reasonable means to determine whether
9 these composters are complying with these requirements. (3) Define non-pathogenic organic
10 materials for clarity. Non-pathogenic organic materials should be defined as green waste or yard
11 trimmings, agricultural plant materials, vegetable and fruit waste, coffee grounds and tea leaves.
12 (4) Placement of this proposed statutory language should be codified in HRS chapter 342H rather
13 than chapter 225P.

14 **Offered Amendments:**

15 “~~§225P-~~ 342H-4.5 **Artisan-scale composting program.** There is established within the
16 department of health a class of artisan-scale composting operations that are sited on land zoned
17 industrial or agricultural and are exempt from department of health compost permitting
18 requirements ~~rules~~; provided that such operations do not produce vectors, dust, or odors that
19 unreasonably impact neighbors of the operation, as determined by the department; provided
20 further that no waste accepted remains on-site for more than thirty-six months. No more than
21 one exempt facility specified in this section shall be located on geographically continuous land
22 owned or operated by the same person. Sufficient bulking agent shall be used to provide proper
23 aeration and control leachate migration. ~~For these facilities, precipitation, surface water, and~~
24 ~~groundwater that has come in contact with yard trimmings or the resultant product is not~~
25 ~~considered leachate if it is managed within the site and is allowed to enter a surface waterbody or~~
26 ~~a conveyance to a surface waterbody; provided that it does not cause a violation of state water~~
27 ~~quality standards.~~ In order to maintain the compost permitting exemption, artisan composters
28 shall maintain documentation that they are complying with this section. Documentation shall

1 include but is not limited to the amount and type of waste accepted, and when and where the
2 finished compost is land-applied. Artisan composters shall make records available for
3 department review upon request.

4 For the purposes of this section, “artisan scale” means a composting operation that
5 accepts, measured on a monthly average, no more than one cubic yard of green waste or yard
6 trimmings; agricultural plant materials; vegetable and fruit waste; or coffee grounds and tea
7 leaves per month ~~non-pathogenic organic materials~~, at a site controlled and owned by the waste
8 generator with the finished compost applied and controlled on-site by the same waste generator.”

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Thursday, February 20, 2020

Senate Bill 2532 SD1
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Baker; Vice Chair Chang; and Members of the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in support of SB2532 SD1 Relating to Composting, which establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from Department of Health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawai'i's landfills. The Party supports this bill because it will reduce solid waste and improve the environment. It allows our island farmers to utilize backyard composting on agricultural-zoned land where otherwise composting would only be allowed on industrial-zoned land causing organic waste to needlessly be disposed of in municipal landfills.

Organic materials such as paper, food, food contaminated paper, natural fiber textiles and green waste together constitute the largest single component of Hawai'i's waste stream. They are also the sole source of methane generated in our landfills, making them the primary target for diversion as the state seeks to meet its waste reduction goals and combat climate change.

As a class of waste, organics are among the easiest items to capture and one of the few that can be readily converted into high value end products in state. Through a process known as composting, discarded organics are turned into soil amendments that can greatly improve the capacity of Hawai'i's soils to capture carbon from the atmosphere, reduce the amount of water needed to grow crops and prevent the need for herbicides and fertilizers that are typically derived from fossil fuels and shipped to Hawai'i at significant carbon cost.

As municipalities across the U.S. take decisive action to reap the many benefits of composting, Hawai'i residents are held back by outdated state regulations that treat diverting and processing organic waste as an industrial activity. SB2532 SD1 aligns Hawai'i with the national trend towards easing restrictions on composting by specifically acknowledging the benefits of small-scale composting efforts that are clearly not industrial in nature and by allowing them to take place on farms.

Passage of SB 2532 SD1, will pave the way for the development of a statewide distribution system best suited to serve the needs of farmers and rural communities. This approach provides the least impactful and most productive means for diverting

organics from Hawai'i's landfills and increasing the capacity of Hawai'i's soils to capture carbon.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote favorably on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:24:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for Hawaii Forest Stewards	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

I urge your strong support for this bill to enable small and distributed composting facilities.

I and my network of small farmers and restoration volunteers on the Big Island have long commiserated on the perpetual need for high quality compost produced in local batches. I know several individuals who have attempted to navigate the bureaucratic commercial permitting process to provide this product to no avail. The idea of buying imported product also grates on us as we have all the raw ingredients to make high quality compost right here in our own backyards! Diverting valuable 'green waste' from our 'waste stream' is also a vital necessity.

You can help simplify and solve this conundrum. Please make it easier for us to do our jobs on the lands and in the soils we want to enrich....with lots of local compost, potentially our island's own "black gold"!

Mahalo!

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:15:58 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Stone	Testifying for Zero Waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am a mother and resident of Kona, Hawai'i. I am also a coordinator for a grassroots citizen's group called Zero Waste Big Island where we try to empower individuals to reduce their personal waste through education, advocacy and support.

We are very much in support of SB2532. As you probably know, composting is a way we can combat climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil. When put into the landfill, organics release methane which is a much more powerful greenhouse gas resulting in further warming of our planet. Composting is climate change action that everyone can do! Organics (including paper) take up over half of the discards sent to the landfill on Hawai'i.

We recently did a workshop on the basics of backyard composting in Kona. We found that many people are living in a condo, apartment, or situation where backyard composting is not an option for them. Having small scale community composting operations will solve this problem and allow everyone to have access to this simple way of malama 'aina.

It will also make waste diversion from events a bigger possibility. As we can collect compost and then transport to the nearest community facility.

A larger central commercial composting facility can take care of bioplastics and other hard to compost items. But, this is not the end all solution. How silly it would be to truck our food scraps 2 hours to be composted when it can be taken in and processed by a neighbor.

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am a mother and resident of Kona, Hawai'i. I am also a coordinator for a grassroots citizen's group called Zero Waste Big Island where we try to empower individuals to reduce their personal waste through education, advocacy and support.

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A larger central commercial composting facility can take care of bioplastics and other hard to compost items. But, this is not the end all solution. How silly it would be to truck our food scraps 2 hours to be composted when it can be taken in and processed by a neighbor.

Please pass SB2532, which is the future of waste management on our islands (especially as more and more vendors are switching over to compostable packaging). Mahalo nui loa.

Please pass SB2532, which is the future of waste management on our islands (especially as more and more vendors are switching over to compostable packaging). Mahalo nui loa.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:30:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauai Trainer	Testifying for Momilani Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I support SB2532 SD1. I am a farmer, teacher, counselor, parent, and wife. I would like to also bring up that we need more schools, hospitals, and colleges also starting up composting systems to divert food waste away from the landfills and towards sustainable agricultural inputs. We need to radically change the way our society disposes of important resources, especially resources that are good for ecosystems. Please pass this bill.

Kau'i Trainer, Hilo

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:36:18 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 5:00:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kiefer Hermann	Testifying for Aina Design	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB 2532 because the farmers, schools, businesses and all people of Hawai'i that use compost or have to deal with a biproduct that is green, brown, or food waste, will benefit from this bill as well as the local economy. Personally the nonprofit I started, Aina Design, and many others I know of, would gain immense momentum from this bill in our goals to be a part of the future zero waste system that in Hawaii. In order to reduce our negative impacts on the environment in Hawaii, the laws for diverting our green and food waste streams towards a more sustainable option, like compost systems that recycle nutrients and biomass for further uses while also reducing our total waste, must be passed. The current option (H-POWER) has an incinerator as its main component, and moisture content is not favored in this system, food waste commonly has some percentage of moisture content. Overall this bill has no cons, only pros. Thank you for reading! Aloha

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:52:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Elkjer	Testifying for Sustainable Island Products	Support	No

Comments:

We support SB2532 to establish small scale compost facilities exempt from DOH regulations. We believe that composting is a crucial part to waste stream diversion and should be encouraged statewide. SB2532 aligns with both the Aloha + Challenge and Zero Waste initiatives throughout our state, as such, we are in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Elkjer

Director of Market Segment Growth

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:59:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackie Orsa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is difficult for so many residents on the island to compost unless they are fortunate enough to have land or space to do so in their home. Allowing consumers to compost to small-scale farmers would take away one of the steps that keep people from composting. We need to make composting more accesible to residents if we are ever going to make a change in the amount of waste that we produce.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:16:45 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:20:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Alcoseba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In order to reach our Sustainable Development Goals, we must support any initiatives to increase the amount of composting being done on the islands. The food waste thrown away is a precious resource that can be used in agriculture, horticulture, and erosion control. We currently purchase some of these things from elsewhere, so to be able to produce it locally will benefit everybody. We have the potential to grow most of our food locally, and we need a good composting system in order to achieve this food independence. Food waste is one of the largest sources of methane in our landfills, and diverting this food waste can help reduce thousands of residents' carbon emissions. Adding compost to our soil increases its efficiency for carbon sequestration, so not only are we reducing the amount of waste produced but we are also increasing the amount of carbon we sequester. We must make it easy for residents to compost and have an available facility for people to give their green waste, it is long overdue. Please support this composting initiative, it is good for Hawaii, good for the people, good for the environment.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:26:53 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello! I'm a resident of Honoka'a and lament the mass quantities of landscape waste that I see being dumped at our transfer station. While I do my own composting at home, many people clearly do not. Having easy access to compost sites for yard and kitchen waste at locations around the island prevents these materials from ending up in the landfill PLUS it creates a valuable commodity, commonly called "black gold" by gardeners. This rich, nutrient dense soil amendment can help grow food for the residents of this island. Allowing for artisinal composting is a win all around. Please support SB 2532!

Aloha,

Kris Bordessa

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:29:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

aloha,

as i testified last reading, this bill has good intentions and is overall a good bill. however, it needs to be amended to insure that invasive species and toxins aren't brought onto ag lands.

as a person in the landscaping industry in Kona for over 30 years, and having seen the desparation of landscapers for disposing of their often-toxic green waste including paying to dispose of it on ag lands, it concerns me that this could become more of a money-maker for ag land owners, diminishing the need and desire to compost as the number one goal.

This is not a "what if" scenario. As i said, i personally know landscapers who have offered to or who are already paying owners and lease-holders of ag lands to dispose of their green waste. that waste includes little fire ants, coqui frogs, landscape chemicals including highly toxic turf chemicals used to control difficult and increasing pests.

please insure that this well-intentioned bill won't become a Trojan horse for more misery for farmers, our 'aina and communities who want to see thriving organic agriculture and a food--producing industry that can say "toxin-free" about their products, including the compost they produce and sell.

mahalo for considering my views on this important topic.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

owner - Keauhou Gardens and Irrigation

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:45:17 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katy Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Absolutely everywhere we can, we need to reduce landfill waste and promote compost for individuals and industry. There is simply no reason in 2020 with the impending climate crisis we are not composting everything and reducing consumption of non compostable matter.

Katy Benjamin

Hilo, HI

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:46:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:58:24 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2532 for many reasons. Firstly, it is not economical to ship all compostable back and forth across our large island. Secondly, The main site for composting in Hilo, may not even take all compostable items. In this case it would be much more effective to have multiple small composting sites that would end up taking all materials. Lastly, Most people will only participate in this composting program if it is easy and accesible. Given the current status of our waste managemtn on island, neither of these are necessarily true for existing programs. By opening up to multiple composting facilities/sites, it will give more people accesibility and make it easier to properly dispose of their compostable waste. I think it would be a huge step in our states commitment to be green, if SB2532 was passed.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:59:39 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Wilkie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:17:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerry Rott	Testifying for Lavaman Triathlon	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the owner and Race Director for the Lavaman Triathlon on The Big Island. With over 1800 athletes, 700 volunteers & approximately 2500 spectators, a lot of material is generate which could end up in the landfill if we are unable to divert it to more environmentally friendly resources. We have made a committment to move forward towards a Zero Waste Event over the next 3 years and have spent a lot of times researching ways to accomplish this. With the dwindling recycling options we have on the Big Island, composting is probably the most effective and environmentally friendly way to deal with much of our waste, including food and compostable goods. Without a commercial facility on The Big Island, we will need to rely on smaller individual compastable facilities and we strongly urge support of Senate Bill 2532 in order to enable these facilities to be able to use and sell their compostable goods. We feel that if we work together with these facilities, some of the large producers of compostable goods such as large scale sporting events can greatly reduce their footprint on our environment.

Please pass SB 2532 in order to help accomplish this goal.

Gerry L. Rott, Race Director

Lavaman Triathlon

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:27:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth Weatherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please advance this very important Bill for the sake of all Hawaii nei, its land and people and future.

Thank you for your service

Elizabeth Weatherford

farmer, Puna District, Hawaii Island

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:53:50 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keana Madden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a busy mother of two, I do what I can to reduce my family's impact on the environment. Our recent decision to move towards a more plant-based diet, leaves us generating more vegetable scraps than ever before which, because I am not set-up to compost at home, leaves us sending more and more organic materials to the landfill where I know they will wreak havoc by taking up space and creating methane.

SB 2532 would allow others who live in my community and do have the time to setup small scale composting operations that could accept organic wastes from busy families like mine. Given the opportunity to sort out my organic scraps, including waste paper, and turn them into a community composting center, I would gladly do so.

Please pass SB2532 so that this kind of system can be put in place and people like me can do more to help the environment.

Thank you,

Keana Madden

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:29:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackie Prell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2532 for many reasons. One, it's a practical solution to a practical problem: What to do with compostable goods, something we all generate every day. Two, it helps with eliminating trash that would otherwise go to the landfill. Three, it makes legal, a practice every smart farmer is already doing. I own a farm and cafe, and we compost our food scraps.

Please pass this bill to encourage others to do the same.

Jackie Prell

owner, Sweet Cane Cafe

Hilo, HI

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:48:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seraphina Prell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2532. Composting is important because less things end up in the landfill that way. People should compost in Hawaii because they can cultivate a relationship with the soil and Earth that way. Studies have shown that touching the soil is good for our health. This bill will promote better relations between people and nature.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:53:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT DUERR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support composting. I compost our own organic waste and that of a bed and breakfast. I use lawn and landscape trimming for the carbon component. Compost is very helpful to the garden that I grow. I can also compost compostable paper and plastic. There is no odor. I have been doing this for 20 years.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:55:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emi Soga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Farmers' ability to compost more waste into a valuable product will make a large beneficial impact on our islands! Especially being able to receive restaurant food waste! Great idea turning our waste into treasure!

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:11:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill would help us revitalize our soils and encourage small food farms to thrive. Artisanal composting would support our islands food sufficiency goals. Please pass this bill. We are long past time for our people to be able to compost. It is late and politics must bend to the urgency of climate situation. This bill can help islanders adapt to runaway climate change. Please help

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 5:52:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dena Sedar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When I lived in Seattle, WA, I loved the fact that I was able to compost my food waste at my apartment building. Hawaii Island would benefit so much by providing residents the opportunity to compost their food waste, especially those of us who are not in situations where we can do it where we live. This bill would help make Hawaii Island a better place and it would divert waste from the landfills, which is an important consideration given the fact that we can no longer recycle most things on Hawaii Island.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 6:10:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Lestarjette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in **support** of SB2532 “Relating to Composting.” As you know, there are currently no avenues for small-scale compostors to operate within the current regulations. SB2532 is an important first step in correcting this grave oversight. Small-scale composting is essential for effective and sustainable waste management on our islands. It also empowers citizens to work together to affect change within their own communities, encourage positive economic growth for local businesses, create jobs, and protect the future of our islands. In this way, ordinary people become stakeholders in the stewardship of our land, allowing the spirit of aloha ‘Ā• ina to flourish. It is my sincere hope that this bill will be passed as soon as possible, so that Hawai‘i can join the hundreds of other jurisdictions around the world that have faced these same challenges and allowed small-scale composting to be part of the solution. Mahalo nui loa!

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:36:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Artisan-scale composting program. According to Drawdown.org a research study headed by Paul Hawken, a leading climate change mitigation scientist, composting ranks #60 in the list of the TOP 100 solutions to drawdown carbon. If every household, school classroom, hospital ward, police station - basically if everyone composted one cubic yard, the amount of methane reduced will be significant. I support this Bill.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:43:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Heiser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our food and green waste can be utilized to make compost and dirt so needed on the West side. We need composting facilities across the island to make it feasible for everyone to benefit. Offering this only in Oahu would have zero impact on the other side of the island. Big island farmers can then benefit across the island from being able to accept scraps and sell compost back in their communities.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:56:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As I read through the testimony from SB2532 from the last hearing, I was touched by the number of farmers and business owners in support of the bill. Not only would this bill make it easier for residents to divert organic waste from the landfill, but it would also be good for business and the farm community. Composting of organic waste is one of the most important things we can do to divert waste from Hawai'i island landfills. Unfortunately, we are still throwing large amounts of waste into the landfill because of outdated permitting laws and overreaching DOH regulations that keep us from doing what is best for 'Äēina.

I encourage you to please consider this bill as it was originally submitted. Not the watered down DOH amended version that redefined "Artisan scale" in a manner the completely undermines the entire intention of the bill, which is to be able to take compostable material from one location and have it composted in another. The intention of this bill was to allow farmers and other entities to become part of a small-scale distributed composting network.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:28:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Plerce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must increase our capacity for composting.

What an opportunity to reduce waste, increase soil and continue to keep our resources here at home.

The GreenWaste facility is such a resource in Hilo, I think it is sufficient grounds to develop not only a Hilo composting site, but to support additional sites around the island.

Thank you. Such an important consideration and what an opportunity of the community.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:37:36 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Norton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please allow many smaller composting facilities to be built around the islands. This will make composting less fossil fuel intensive and worth it for more people. Diverting organic waste will reduce landfill methane production and allow us to cycle more waste back into soil and stored soil carbon, more soil available to grow trees near communities. It is a crucial component for dealing with the climate and environmental crises

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:54:47 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:22:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Muskopf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is a need for as much reusable diversion from our rapidly filling landfills as possible.

We need to be wise about the process these diversions go through and make them accessible to the population.

This plan is a good first step however I do support amendments that would take into consideration some of the Department of Health concerns.

At this time the DOH regulations regarding the disposal and composting of food/green waste is too restrictive and overburdens our landfill resources without taking into consideration other possible solutions.

Please find a way for us to safely compost locally and continue to rebuild our soils in a responsible manner.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:27:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to whom this may concern,

Compost adds to soil life. Soil life sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Sequestering carbon from the atmosphere is NEEDED in order for the human race to survive. Dramatic sounding yes, true yes. On the light hearted side composting facilities throughout our islands would be an incredibly convenient and logical way to deal with green waste. My family composts in our backyard and it is an amazing and quite easy thing to do. You mix carbon (brown stuff like dead leaves or wood chips) with nitrogen (green stuff like food or grass clippings) it gets hot and steamy, all the insects are in heaven and have a party and then VOILA... the best soil amendment you could have... for free! Healthy soil SEQUESTERS CARBON!!! Meanwhile we've kept all of that potential METHANE which is a very strong greenhouse gas OUT OF THE LANDFIL...very basic, yet we are not doing it yet. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL for the joy and beauty of Hawai'i and the keiki o ka ainas future here. As a mother of a 1 and 2 year old ANY BILL TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE is not only heroic it is absolutely necessary ..like yesterday.. or 10 years ago. Please pass this bill TODAY.. it's long overdue and will be of tremendous benefit to Hawai'i and the planet.

Mahalo nui loa,

Emily (mother of Luola 2, and Poseidon 1)

808 557 9164

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:12:40 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:00:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cathy lam	Testifying for zero waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

With current situation of landfill reaching or exceed capacity, this bill would help the many ways each person can be part of the solution. Having many small farmers around various location would means less traffic on the road, and not large semi truck running all around the island. It will be less wear and tear on the road, and the compost is most likely is used locally in the vicinity as well.

Any effort to reduce waste stream going to landfill must be an option to discuss and to at least give it a trial run.

SB-2532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:44:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Olsson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: