



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB2532  
RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR KAIALI'I KAHELE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: 2/7/2020

Room Number: 224

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, however, respectfully opposes  
4 SB2532. 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. “Artisan scale” composting facilities are defined as three different types of  
7 composters: (1) receives less than 1,000 pounds of organic material per week on average; (2)  
8 composts on property under the control of the waste generator; or (3) composts less than 3,000  
9 cubic yards of yard trimmings.

10 The Department’s concern over composting operations are not limited to vector, dust, and  
11 odors, but also fire potential, nutrient loading, water pollution, and the quality of the finished  
12 compost (stability, pathogens and other contaminants). We note that there are no proposed  
13 restrictions on the compost’s use or distribution. By exempting these facilities from the  
14 Department’s regulations, we lose the ability to evaluate the potential impact of the operation  
15 and require appropriate controls that are protective of human health and the environment.

16 This bill assumes that the listed categories of “artisan scale” will not create a health and  
17 environmental concern, when in fact, the proposed categories are too broad to reach that

1 conclusion. For example, organic material is not defined nor is there a discussion on the type or  
2 size of composting operation for a waste generator. Organic material may include treated  
3 lumber, sewage sludge, and fats, oils, and grease. Waste generators may include large  
4 landowners with multiple property locations.

5 Sewage sludge and other pathogen-containing waste (such as animal waste) may contain  
6 pathogenic bacteria, viruses, protozoa, or helminths. If not properly treated through the  
7 composting operation, these types of waste could be a source of pathogenic contamination. The  
8 proper treatment of sewage sludge for land application is covered under the Department's  
9 Chapter 11-62, Hawaii Administrative Rules. Public health and safety would be compromised if  
10 these regulations were exempt.

11 We recognize that not all regulations may be suitable to all types of composting  
12 operations. Therefore, the Department already has a tiered solid waste permitting program for  
13 relatively small composting facilities that only composts less than 3,000 tons of yard trimmings  
14 per year. For this type of operation, the facility receives its solid waste permit after 30 days of  
15 submission of a complete application provided that the operation is in conformance with the  
16 requirements already listed in the regulations. This type of regulatory oversight of small, low-  
17 impact operations is preferred over full exemptions such that the Department is notified of its  
18 existence and still has an opportunity to evaluate its operations.

19 The Department also regulates the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
20 (NPDES) permit program. Composting facilities have federally regulated Standard Industrial  
21 Classification codes in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and are required to obtain NPDES permits for  
22 industrial storm water discharges. Also, NPDES permits are required for composting facilities  
23 that have point source effluent discharges to State surface waters. Therefore, exemption of state  
24 regulations regarding NPDES permitting will not absolve the composters' responsibility of  
25 complying with federal NPDES permitting requirements.

26 For these reasons, we oppose this measure.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:43:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dyson Chee	Testifying for Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:48:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pat gegen	Testifying for Zero Waste Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Support Composting - Decrease global climate change.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:43:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
melissa snyder	Testifying for Stellar Gardens LLC	Support	No

Comments:

As a small scale farm, we fully support this bill. This would allow us to receive green waste, create and sell compost and most importantly give us and our neighbors agency over keeping pesticides out of our precious soil. Please pass this bill!

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:25:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessie Castle	Testifying for Seeger Institute at Eden Farms Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Our farms ability to strive for sustainability and the overarching goal of island sustainability depends on this approval.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:49:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helmut Klauer	Testifying for A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:51:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Navarra	Testifying for Zero Waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

I am a coordinator of a zero waste group on the Big island. We focus on community building, education and advocacy to reduce our island's waste footprint. Conducting zero waste events is one of our most important educational platforms, but doing these events is hindered by Department of Health regulations that make it illegal to take food waste and other compostable products offsite of where they were collected. This bill would remove those restrictions and allow us to more easily use zero waste events as an educational platform without breaking the law.

A waste composition study for our island presented in Hawai'i County's Integrated Solid Waste Plan (update) revealed that ~40% of our waste is composed of organic waste that could be diverted and composted on an island were we have little soil. This bill would encourage and facilitate more organic waste to be diverted from the landfill. Many people do not have the time, set up, or knowledge to do composting themselves. Small scale composting will be an important component of diverting organic waste from the landfill. Although Hawaii island is scheduled to open a composting facility this year, it is located in one location on the island, and there is currently know plan on how to collect and transport putrescible waste to this facility. It does not make sense to transport putrescible organic waste from Kona (were a lot of organic waste is generated) to the opposite side of the island. Artisanal scale composting would be the answer to divert this waste from the landfill and make the soil available to farmers.

This bill is really a know brainer for Hawai'i. Every county in the state is dealing with staggering rates of waste and getting organics out of the landfill is the logical first step in addressing our waste problem. This bill would make diverting organic waste from the waste stream easier for residents and commercial businesses.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:03:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pavel Yushin	Testifying for OrganicHawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Composting has always been at the root of regenerative farming and agriculture. We've consistently found plastic contamination of compost made in Industrial zoned facilities in Honolulu. Even in expensive compost labeled as OMRI certified (organic).

We believe that AG zones and the farmers themselves would do a better job at quality control of composting. AG zoned land should definitely be allowed to participate in commercial composting.

Please support SB2532.

Mahalo,

*P.S. Yushin*  
*Founder*  
OrganicHawaii.org

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:16:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am a resident and mother in Kona, also a coordinator of Zero Waste Big Island, a grassroots organization empowering individuals to reduce their personal waste.

Since we know the lowest hanging fruit in reducing food/green waste sent to the landfill is through composting, in January 2020 we held a workshop on backyard composting for beginners. Several people in attendance lived in condos, apartments or places that a compost heap was not possible for them so they were currently throwing all their food scraps into the trash, even though they really wanted to be able to divert that waste and compost it.

Passing SB2532 (in addition to a building a centralized commercial facility on Hawai'i Island) will empower local communities to create neighborhood compost programs without the emissions associated with trucking it over saddle road, it will empower farmers, and create another revenue source for them. It will also empower large community events to be able to offer zero waste sorting stations, and places to bring and process the large amount of compostable materials those events create.

It is also extremely important to mention that sequestering carbon in soil is one of the most effective ways an individual/community can combat climate change. I, as well as the grassroots organization I am apart of, support this bill. Mahalo nui loa.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:06:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB 2532 because the farmers, schools, businesses and all people of Hawai'i that use compost or have to deal with a byproduct 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**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:56:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support local, small farms.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:50:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melody Euaparadorn	Testifying for Zero Waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in Senate Bill 2532, relating to composting. I am full in support of SB 5232.

This bill has critical implications for the diversion of waste from our landfills and combating climate change. In a waste composition study conducted in 2008, it was estimated that the combination of organics and paper constituted an outstanding 52% of our waste Hawai'i island stream. Organics and paper do not belong in our landfill as it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. We could easily be composting this waste at artisan-scale composting facilities located all through our island.

We do have a commercial compost facility being built on our island at the moment, but the problem is that our island is quite large. It does not make economical and environmental sense to truck all our food and paper waste for the entire island to one single location. It would be much more convenient for residents to drop off their compost at farms with small-scale operations in their own neighborhood.

Having artisan-scale composting facilities in each of our communities would also make it more convenient for residents to pick up finished compost. Mulch is very popular with residents here and is quickly taken within a few days from the mulching facilities when it becomes available each month. Currently there are only two locations on Hawai'i island to obtain mulch, so many residents have to inconveniently drive long distances.

Composting can also fight climate change! More than twice as much carbon is stored in the Earth's soil as is stored in all living vegetation and the atmosphere combined. Composting increases the formation of stable carbon that remains bound to the soil for long periods of time. By composting our food and other organics, rather than throwing them away, we can close the nutrient cycle, put wasted food to good use, and mitigate climate change.

Mahalo for your time and energy in considering this bill.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Friday, February 7, 2020

Senate Bill 2532  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele; Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran; and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment; and Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in strong support of SB 2532 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 Environmental Caucus 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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii at significant carbon cost.

As municipalities across the U.S. take decisive action to reap the many benefits of composting, Hawaii residents are held back by outdated state regulations that treat diverting and processing organic waste as an industrial activity. SB2532 aligns Hawaii 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 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 Hawaii's landfills and increasing the capacity of Hawaii's soils to capture carbon.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote favorably on this bill that establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawai'i's landfills.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee  
At-Large Rep., Environmental Caucus



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:57:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shadi Faridi	Testifying for Cultivar Goods	Support	No

Comments:

We as humans make a lot of trash. Within this amount of trash being made by us as a species, a lot it is organic waste from food. If we have a tool, like bill SB2532 would provide, that allows us to divert as much as this organic waste we can to become an asset like compost, I don't see how there is anything that can combat this decision. Separate food/farm waste to better our gardens, our earth- this makes the most sense. Like you may know, organic waste gets trapped with trash in our landfills and they do not decompose properly. This bill will provide a safe, controlled and methodical tool in order for Hilo, and ultimately Hawai'i to be the most self-sustaining island that we need to be. For this, we support SB2532 in making us as self sustaining as we can be. Mahalo.

**TESTIMONY OF THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION, OAHU  
IN REGARD TO SB 2532, RELATING TO COMPOSTING  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, my name is Alexandra Kahn and I represent the Surfrider Foundation of Hawaii.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. Comprised of over 50,000 members and supporters at 60 chapters across the United States, Surfrider has been fighting to protect the world's oceans for over 35 years.

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii **supports** SB 2532 and provides comments. This measure requires establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawai'i's landfills.

**Food Waste in Hawaii accounts for 20% of the Total Waste Stream**

While Hawaii is typically less wasteful on average than most mainland states, a 2015 study by the University of Hawaii found that the people of Hawaii still dispose of over 237,000 tons per year of food waste, or 26% of the available food supply, per year.<sup>1</sup> According to the same study, the state spends on average \$1 billion per year managing that food waste, which works out to around \$700/person/year.<sup>2</sup> Wasted food also wastes other resources, such as arable land and water used for irrigation, both in and out of the state. Additionally, our landfill potential is limited and each landfill on each island is nearing its limit. <sup>3</sup> In a recent study to analyze the composition of Hawaii's waste, food waste-non-vegetative and food waste-vegetative comprise 20% of the overall waste stream <sup>4</sup> and food waste combined with green waste makes up one third of the total waste produced in Hawaii.

Much of this waste comes from the food service and tourism industry, such as hotels and restaurants, but also occurs at public facilities and homes. While programs are in place

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<sup>1</sup> Loke, M. K., & Leung, P. (2015). Quantifying food waste in Hawaii's food supply chain. *Waste Management & Research*, 33(12), 1076–1083. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0734242X15607427>

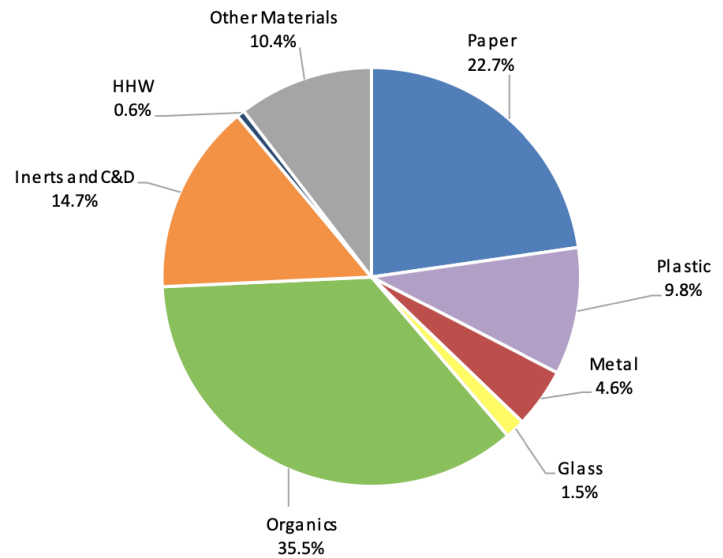
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hawaiiibusiness.com/wasted/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hawaiiipublicradio.org/post/hawai-i-island-grapples-garbage#stream/0>

[https://www.opala.org/solid\\_waste/pdfs/2017%20Waste%20Composition%20Study.pdf](https://www.opala.org/solid_waste/pdfs/2017%20Waste%20Composition%20Study.pdf)

throughout much of the state to bring hotel and restaurant food waste to pig farms as feed, which is suggested by the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy<sup>5</sup> prior to composting methods, our state does not have a large enough pig farming industry to support the amount of food waste produced. Therefore, according to the EPA, once food has been donated for human and animal consumption, the next step is compost- landfill is the last resort. This wasted food also represents an opportunity cost, in which inefficiency in food service and production leads to overcompensation for those same services, leading to more waste.

**Figure 2: Overview of Overall Waste**



### **Composting Helps Significantly Reduce Environmental Impact**

Eliminating the cost of disposing of food waste through composting will save the people of Hawaii hundreds of millions in trash disposal fees and also build a network of nutrient-rich soil producers that can be then used to grow sustainable, edible foods across the state. The EPA also lists several benefits of composting as follows:<sup>6</sup>

- Organic waste in landfills generates, methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced.
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Promotes higher yields of agricultural crops.
- Helps aid reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by improving contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils.
- Can be used to remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste in a cost effective manner.
- Provides cost savings over conventional soil, water and air pollution remediation technologies, where applicable.
- Enhances water retention in soils.
- Provides carbon sequestration.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-11/food\\_recovery\\_hierarchy\\_-\\_eng\\_high\\_res\\_v2.jpg](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-11/food_recovery_hierarchy_-_eng_high_res_v2.jpg)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting>

## **Composting Could Be Accessible for Every Person on Every Island**

While each tiered scale of composting should be given different regulations as they face different potential challenges and successes, Surfrider believes it is important to lay the foundation for the lowest tier and build from there, and this is what SB2532 will do. SB2532 can bring compost operations to residents statewide in a more convenient way, allowing for increased participation and thus create more healthy fertilizer to use on our farms and increase local food production- a goal for farmers, HIDOE, and many state officials. Allowing for multiple small scale systems will also allow for Hawaii's less densely populated areas to take part. Passing SB2532 is the first step towards making significant changes in the way DOH handles composting and this is necessary in order to handle our waste stream problems on our island, while decreasing our environmental impact brought through food waste in landfills.

However, I would suggest better clarification as to who is included in artisan -scale composting, for example, are schools and community gardens included in the exemption this would provide? If not, I think it would be wise to include them as there are currently many small operations in existence that could begin accepting outside food waste sources. These existing operations could also be utilized as a learning tool for others to follow.

We **support** SB2532 and we urge this committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

- Alexandra Kahn, Policy Coordinator for Surfrider Oahu

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 3:27:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support SB2532

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)



# Environmental Caucus

## The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 7, 2020

Re: **Bill #SB2532**

Related to: Organic Waste; Composting; Department of Health

Hearing: February 7, 2020 1:30pm

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice-Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committees,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in strong support of SB2532, which establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from Department of Health regulations in order to divert organic materials from Hawai'i's landfills.

Existing Department of Health regulations for composting are outdated and prohibitive. As we adhere to laws written over 20 years ago, the rest of the nation is moving forward with programs that ease restrictions on composting. This nationwide trend is driven by the need to take decisive action in the era of global warming. Diverting organics to compost piles significantly reduces methane production in landfills, while adding finished compost to soils improves their health and increases their capacity to capture carbon. This bill brings Hawai'i into alignment with reforms being made nationwide. Both Ohio and Guam have had success their regulations to encourage new programs.

This will further benefit farmers, economically, as there is a movement at the federal level to create carbon sequestration credits that go directly into the pockets of farmers and owners of composting operations in exchange for this valuable service they will provide. While those living in the contiguous US are primed to take advantage of these incentives as soon as they go into effect, unless the Hawai'i State legislature takes action to ease existing DOH regulations, Hawai'i farmers and composters will get left behind.



# Environmental Caucus

## The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Finally, a widespread distributed system of artisan scale composting operations represents the most effective means for capturing and processing organics with the least impact to the environment. Such operations pose no public health threat and there is no reason to hold back operators at this scale as DOH updates the regulations that govern commercial scale operations.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lana Olson

Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:28:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Just yesterday I was listening to a citizen in my district at the transfer station. He was upset that Saturdays would be greenwaste only and predicting huge lines to dump green waste on Saturday. He may be right, we shall see. One thing is for sure though, landfills are not the answer for anything and they most assuredly are not the answer for greenwaste. How many millions of dollars does it cost to make a landfill? Ours is 50% full of good soil making plant matter that will never ever breakdown and be utilized. All that plant matter mixed with toxic chemicals, it's a sin. Now here's a bill drafted by people who are addressing this problem. I suggest giving it a try. One thing for sure, doing what we're doing is not sustainable and burning it is even worse. This is the perfect solution.



**KIM COCO IWAMOTO, ESQ.**

PO Box 235191  
Honolulu, HI 96823  
[kimcoco@kimcoco.com](mailto:kimcoco@kimcoco.com)

Committees on Agriculture and Environment & Water and Land  
Friday, February 7, 2020, 1:30 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224

**Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2532 Relating to Composting**

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Kahele, Vice-Chairs Rudderman & Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees:

In order for Hawaii to meet its climate stabilization and waste reduction goals, at some point in the very near future, the counties will have to ban the disposal of organics into landfills and incinerators.

We must adopt the policies and build the infrastructure needed to process those organic materials today. The current infrastructure is woefully inadequate to handle the volume of organics that need to be diverted. Furthermore, the current DOH regulations are so prohibitive that, unless they change, we will fail to get this much needed building block in place in time.

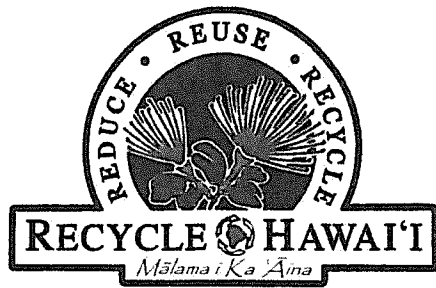
By passing SB 2532, we will lay the foundation for a distributed system of small-scale composting operations that will make diversion practical for the hundreds of thousands of small-scale, organic-waste generators.

As you may know, most of Oahu's current organic-waste stream goes to H-Power to be incinerated. Only 20% is diverted to an industrial composting site, which only accepts very limited organic materials.

I recently co-coordinated The People's Congress and we sorted compostables, from recyclables, from other waste. I discovered that our waste-diversion efforts were stymied by the limitations of the sole state-licensed composting facility: they would not accept any waste with food, no compostable "plastics", no paper plates. If this bill had already been enacted back then, our waste could have gone to a more conveniently located artisan-scale composter, making healthier soil and sequestering carbon today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter,





P.O. Box 4445 • Hilo, Hawai'i • 96720  
FEIN No. 99-0293381

**LATE**

**February 7, 2020**  
**RE: Senate Bill 2532**

On behalf of Recycle Hawaii, I want to thank the senators who helped introduce this important piece of legislation and made sure it got a hearing, most notably Senator Kai Kahele.

Recycle Hawaii is an organization with a 30-year legacy of involvement in the waste reduction arena. Throughout the entire time we've been active, originally as a volunteer organization but for much longer as a 501(c)3 non-profit, we've made an effort to educate the public as well as the state and county agencies about the importance of composting. Our message: composting is recycling. In fact of all the ways one might hope to recycle in these remote islands, composting provides the easiest, cleanest, most direct method of turning waste into valuable end products that can get used right here. Conversely, as the largest single component of the waste stream throughout the state, and the sole source of the methane generated in Hawaii's landfills, organics that do not get diverted into composting programs do a great deal of damage to our environment.

Although the tendency is to seek big answers for such big problems, the more sophisticated we become as modern day environmental stewards, the more we realize the benefits of small scale distributed solutions. SB 2532 paves the way for a simple but highly effective method for handling organic waste in a way that makes diversion simple for homeowners who do not want to compost in their backyards while making the rich soil amendments composting generates more accessible to the farmers and gardeners who will use them.

Considering the invaluable service farmers and home gardeners provide as they increase our local food supply and increase the capacity of Hawaii's soils to remove atmospheric carbon, your vote in support of SB2532 represents one of the more important things you as legislator could do to advance Hawaii's sustainability goals this session.

Kristine Kubat  
President  
Recycle Hawaii

**Testimony of Kristine Kubat**

**RE: SB 2532**

**February 7, 2020**

Aloha,

My name is Kristine Kubat. I am a grandmother, a mother, a lifelong environmental and social justice activist. . . and a criminal.

The crime I commit, whenever I get the chance, is to take bags like the one I have here to events and gatherings where people serve food on serveware like that I have here, and I set myself up, usually in a corner, and I take the serveware after people are done with it and I put it in the bags and make sure it doesn't go to the landfill. The stuff I collect in my bags is, more often than not, the vast majority of waste that gets generated at these events. If there are three or less bags, I take them to my home and put a piece of plywood over them and when I come back, in about a month, all I find is some gray fuzzy mold and rich brown compost. If it is more than three bags I take it to a farmer who does pretty much the same thing with pretty much the same results. When I do this, people always come up to me and thank me for breaking the law in this way. Some of those people are sitting in this very room today.

I am not alone in this criminal behavior. I have friends who do the same thing. You can think of us as the Granny Compost Ninjas. One of my friends takes a plastic bucket with her wherever she goes and she sets it out at meetings and at potlucks and at church. . . whenever and wherever there's food being served. Afterwards she takes all the food scraps and food contaminated paper she collected and takes it home and composts it.

You have heard a lot of compelling testimony today; you have heard many good reasons for why you should support SB 2532, to which I would like to add this: Please support SB2532 to lift the cloud hanging over the Granny Compost Ninjas. We are only trying to make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Mahalo.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:42:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am offering comments on SB2532. I would like this bill to include consultations with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to mitigate the spread of the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle. This invasive species inhabits the warm and moist compost piles and has spread on O'ahu in compost piles being transported from city to city. We cannot allow the spread of this species on O'ahu or on any other island. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:50:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:28:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:38:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:47:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:47:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:49:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:51:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:53:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:57:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha to all legislators

My name is Corine Chang, I was born, raised and reside on Hawaii Island as have my family for many generations. I believe in repurposing our natural resources and don't waste what nature has provided us, these gifts to sustain us since the beginning of time.

Out here in the middle of the Pacific, thousands of miles from the rest of the world, we survived, and we're still doing it today. Many of us are going back to these sustainable ways as a need to survive as costs have skyrocketed here in our Islands. We fetch and grow a lot of our own foods. Allowing farmers to compost would help the cost of their end product from rising so fast for consumers too imo.

Allowing clean compostable waste on Ag lands for use or to share, sell etc., seems to be a natural thing to do. Why dump good compostable waste at our landfills when they can be used to grow food and plants?

I am in full "SUPPORT of SB2532." I hope you all are too!

Mahalo for your time and consideration to Support SB2532.

Sincerely, Corine M Chang

Mountain View, Hawaii 96771

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:14:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! Please SUPPORT SB2532

Small scale composting operations help divert organic matter from the waste stream (and resultant greenhouse gas emissions), increases the profit potential of Hawaii's family farms as well as improves soil health locally with minimal transport. Improving soil health is a key strategy for capturing atmospheric carbon and reversing global warming. It's a win win all around.

SB2532 would make it legal for farmers to accept organic materials from their neighbors and local businesses, to sell the compost they generate on their farms, and take advantage of federal carbon sequestration incentives. It is a commonsense, rooted solution with our neighbors rather than strangers that supports the local economy and increases productivity all around.

We <3 SB2532! ;)

Mahalo for your time,

Phaethon Keeney

Honoka'a, Hawai'i

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:24:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB 2532 so Farmers can compost on their own land and distribute to and accept from neighbors. This seems so simple and right, at the small scale. It just helps with carbon sequestration as well as economic opportunity. Please pass this bill . Mahalo.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:14:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I support this bill because it support our local agriculture community and economy, diverts methane potential from landfill and allows restaurants to donate scraps to farms. State economic self-sufficiency and food sovereignty are supported through local agriculture investment.



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:23:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm testifying in strong support of SB3121, legislation to support localized small and mid-scale composting operations in Hawaii. Farms and schools are perfect places to collect and process this nutrient-rich resource that is critical for a thriving diversified agriculture system.

I urge you to support this legislation. Mahalo nui.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:20:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of proposed SB 2532 that would support small-scale, artisanal composting efforts statewide and will significantly reduce the amount of food waste / organics that end up in our landfill (and contribute to our collective green-house gas emissions). If the state of Hawai'i is truly committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 as proposed with the 2016 Hawai'i Sustainability Initiative, then we must take small steps in that direction NOW to pave the way for the future.

As a marine biologist that works along the coastline and spends many hours underwater every month surveying marine resources, I have seen first-hand the impact of climate change on our coral reefs over the past 15 years. We now know that it is vital for us to reduce our carbon emissions NOW (and into the future) if we want the next generation of keiki to see healthy, thriving coral reefs here and elsewhere around the world.

Please protect Hawai'i and planet Earth and support SB 2532, and other such initiatives that eliminate any hurdles to get us on a track towards becoming zero waste and carbon neutral.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Me ka mahalo,

Megan Lamson Leatherman, M.S.

Honalo, HI

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:51:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to wholeheartedly support this bill. A staggering 52% of our waste can be composted. This is astounding. Our landfill in Hilo is already full. We cannot add any more unnecessary pressure to our small island landfills. Please support this bill to divert organic waste from our landfill.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:51:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important bill to turn our food waste into enriched soil!

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:29:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret A Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this legislation. It is important to compost at any scale, and not discourage those who do so with excessive regulation. Aloha from Lawai!

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:39:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:07:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in support of this bill. It is one step in many that are needed to limit the amount of waste we are putting into landfills. Food waste and green matter should be composted and returned to the land to help rebuild our soil.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:11:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jodie Van Cleave	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:11:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

The importance of composting cannot be underestimated. Composting is a great opportunity to sequester carbon as well as to reduce food waste. All food waste and organic material that ends up in a landfill will decompose and release methane, a greenhouse gas. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential for the future of Hawai'i and of the world. Climate change is a threat to everyone, and composting is one of many solutions to the growing problem.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:23:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
bailey a ferguson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am highly in support of this Bill! As a barista at a local coffee house that serves 100% Kona Coffee we have a huge amount of valuable bi-product (coffee grounds) that end up in the landfill; with passing this bill we would be allowed to give these amazing nitrogen fixing component back to local farmers to use in their compost systems. It keeps hundreds of pounds of coffee groups out of the landfill every month and is a win-win for the environment. I highly support this bill and it is an important step in the right direction for creating a sustainable island. Mahalo, Bailey Ferguson

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:18:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:05:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lili Rachele Solomon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This makes it legal for farmers to accept organic materials from their neighbors and local businesses.

It makes it legal for farmers to sell the compost they generate on their farms.

It allows farmers all across Hawaii to take advantage of federal carbon sequestration incentives as they roll out.

It increases the profit potential of Hawaii's family farms.

Plus, passage of SB2532 will pave the way for the development of a distributed system of small scale composting operations which represents the least impactful and most productive means for generating the soil amendments needed to improve soil health. Improving soil health is a key strategy for capturing atmospheric carbon and reversing global warming.

I want my children and all future generations to have a safe and healthy place to live. Don't you?

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:09:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill as a logical expansion of what is already happening in neighborhoods near where I live.

It makes sense to share in the creation of

composting in regard to self-sufficiency regarding the growing of food. Please give this bill your full attention, bring it out of committee to the Senate floor

Jack Zimmerman

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:16:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am a student at the University of Hawaii, and I am a massive producer of food waste. My diet is mainly vegetables and fruits. At home I try to compost but while living in a place with 7 other roommates, it is difficult to maintain a healthy, working compost garden. By allowing this bill to pass you will allow composting to be done on a larger scale and will increase awareness about composting. It would be amazing if there was a place where I could take my compost, especially since our yard is tiny. Lastly, composting is great for the environment. When we throw away food waste in the trash can, the waste breaks down and releases carbon into the air, rather than sequestering it as burying/compost would be doing.

Thank you,

Sienna

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:51:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:57:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Aloha:**

**Food waste reduction is one of the most efficient ways to combat climate change, evaluated as solution #3 by the Drawdown project. Rotting food clogs up landfills (about 20% of Oahu landfills was food waste in 2017) and releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Composting food waste has the dual advantage to reduce pollution and to create high quality nutriment for the soil supporting healthier food production on the islands. For these reasons, I highly support this bill which allows anyone who wants to combat climate change to participate in this way.**

**Thanks for your attention**

**Severine**

**Hawaii Kai, Honolulu**



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:02:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:25:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support the proposal which "Establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawai'i's landfills." Composting is a fantastic tool to reduce our waste as well as create a valuable resource to help our own agriculture. As an island community, we need to be seeking out ways to reduce our waste and be more self-sufficient. I believe promoting and supporting composting options in our city and county will help.

Thank you.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:44:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I think that allowing more opportunities for composting would provide environmental benefits for Hawaii with minimal costs.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:56:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Let's keep compost out of our maxed out landfills! WE NEED THIS BILL! Please pass it and legalize and support what all us small farmers are already doing to help cut down on waste and improve the microbiome in the soil, mahalo nui loa!

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:47:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support bill SB2532. Artisanal composting would help our local farms and local agricultural economy.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:55:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Composting is an effective and straightforward way of diverting a huge percentage of waste that otherwise goes to the landfill, while creating a useful output. However, not everyone has the time, space, or knowledge to successfully compost household organic waste. Because I live in town and cannot have a recycling bin I have a compost pickup service- it's just a bucket that I put all my food scraps, paper, etc in and it gets picked up once a week. It is literally easier for me to divert my organic waste to composting than it is to take extra rubbish to the transfer station, and more than half of my household waste is not going to the landfill because someone is using it for compost. I think many more people would do the same if the option was more widely available. I would like more people to have the option of small-scale community composting, and I would like for farmers to be able to accept and sell the compost so that they have a source of income that encourages a valuable service. Thanks.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:11:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support SB 2532. After having worked with Hawai'i farms for the last five years, composting is one of the best win-win situations they can utilize to improve their soil, improve their agricultural production, sequester carbon, and help our community divert waste from the landfill. Through this effort, we would be making composting activities more accessible, wide-spread, and it would be used as a public education tool to showcase concepts in waste diversion/reduction, creating healthy soil, carbon sequestration, and sustainability.

Utilizing compost on our soils helps to create healthier soil ecosystems in and in turn, help to store more carbon in the soils (instead of our atmosphere). By making composting operations more accessible to the public through this process, we would be allowing more people to contribute to diverting waste from our landfill, sequestering carbon, and creating healthy soil for our yards, gardens, and farms.

Please support SB2532 so that we can include more of the public in this worthwhile effort and mimic other successful composting operations seen in other states.

Mahalo.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:21:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I moved to Hawaii ten years ago to complete my agriculture degree and decided to stay and commit my life to cultivating a more sustainable island. Small scale composting is the simplest most fundamental processes we must embrace in order to create a viable foundation for sustainability. Without small scale composting operators managing waste within their communities around the islands, the ideal of "sustainability" remains an elusive and unachievable goal. We must make accomodarions for and create avenues for small scale composters to manage waste and educate the community about how and why recycling organic waste is the most essential and important step to take on progressing toward a more efficient economic model of sustainability in Hawaii. sustainability is not possible without small scale composters.



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:44:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear legislators,

I am writing in support of SB2532, on small-scale composting operations. Composting

1. Turns a problem (organic waste disposal) into a resource (a valuable soil amendment)
2. Can help farmers - and the state as a whole - become more self-reliant and economically viable
3. Is a very low-risk process if properly managed; this is an activity that should be allowed, not prohibited, by default.

Although I support this bill, I believe that the climate change impact of composting should continue to be studied. Even well-managed aerobic composting can produce methane and nitrous oxide, so there may be trade-offs between reducing the waste stream and reducing our climate footprint.

Aloha,

Rachel

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:44:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Current system seems pretty dumb. We should be better steward to the Aina.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:33:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will be helpful in diverting waste from our SINGLE landfill, and will also help out any regenerative agriculture based economy we wish to have. Composting has been studied and shown to be a safe process in removing pathogens from organic material. Please vote in support of this bill. Mahalo to the council.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:00:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Great step forward in letting farmers do what farmers do best. It benefits everybody and will reduce the county's involvement (i.e. money) in trying to find a solution for disposing of otherwise valuable material. Let there be compost! I strongly support.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:01:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our landfill is filling up! We need to create a better means of lessening the amount of waste going into our landfills as we run out of space. 52%, organics (including paper) constitutes the largest component of what enters our waste stream on our island! SB2532 would open the door for our Hawai`i farmers to establish "artisan-scale" (small-scale composting operations) all around our island, which would make diversion of organics from our waste stream more convenient and less impactful. Farmers would then be able to sell compost generated on the farms, increasing their profit potentials.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:20:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:56:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Allowing more small composting operations throughout the state of HI will significantly reduce solid waste, encourage sustainable farming/gardening practices, and would contribute to a more self sufficient HI.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:00:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Composting food waste, the heaviest landfill contributor by weight, will be an essential tool in both the fight for climate stability and the effort to better manage resources. The resources to support this are plentiful, and often shared through University Extension agents. Please vote to make a path for residents to compost together and support SB2532.



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:43:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Navin Tagore-Erwin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii needs to update policy on composting to allow greater access for composting operations to take in food waste on a smaller scale. It is insane to me that we cannot set up community composting operations.

In the face of climate change, we need to be taking every action possible to combat emissions and manage our resources in a more sustainable manner. Composting increases soil health, diverts waste from landfill or incineration, and encourages plant growth and in turn encourages carbon sequestration. We should be encouraging composting as much as possible.

According to the 2017 Honolulu Waste Compostion Study, compostable organic waste makes up about 30% of the residential waste stream. The numbers are very similar for the rest of the state as well. 30% of our waste is a valuable resource that we are should be taking advantage of. This is a huge opportunity for us to make the best use of the resources that are at our fingertips.

Mahalo

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:52:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:27:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please SUPPORT SB2532 it is an important bill the will pave the wave for a greener, sustainable and healthier Hawai'i Nei.

Did you know?

- Composting not only diverts food and paper waste from our landfill, but it also can help fightclimate change!

- Food waste that decomposes in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Landfills have become the third largest source of human-caused greenhouse gases in the United States.

- More than twice as much carbon is stored in the Earth's soil as is stored in all living vegetation and the atmosphere combined. Composting increases the formation of stable carbon that remains bound to the soil for long periods of time.

- Applying organic matter to soils is one of the most effective ways to divert CO2 from the atmosphere and convert it into organic carbon in soils.

Mahalo for you time, consideration and support on this bill for a healthier and sustainable Hawai'i.



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:53:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:



Nicole Chatterson  
Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu  
[oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com)  
808.561.7730

February 6, 2020

Re: Testimony in Support (with comments) for SB 2532

Aloha e Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard and Members of both the Water and Land and Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committees:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, I am from Mānoa and serve as a Co-Founder and Executive Director of Zero Waste O‘ahu—a community-based organization working to support a waste-free future for Hawai‘i. I am writing in **support (with comments) on SB 2532**, which creates a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from DOH regulations to divert organic materials from Hawai‘i’s landfills.

The data is clear that 1) food waste is an issue (the average household wastes 40% of purchased food and local waste audits place food waste around 30% for most instructions), 2) food waste creates more greenhouse gases when landfilled or burned than when composted, and 3) local compost can avoid imports of fertilizers and help us build up our local soil health.

This bill is a good step towards creating the composting infrastructure we need in Hawai‘i. We also recognize the need for a more comprehensive overhaul of the Dept. Of Health permitting and application structure. We will need more regulatory tiers than just 1) an exempted artisanal composting category and 2) the existing solid waste management facility permit.

Many farms and community-driven compost projects that are operating, despite regulatory barriers, already have the capacity to accept more than the proposed artisanal limit in this bill. Simultaneously, they will operate at nowhere near the scale, impact, or risk level of an industrial facility (which is the only other permitting option for these small generators under the structure of this bill). I will share a short narrative of the implications of requiring a small operation to apply for a solid waste management permit.

Our team was recruited by the State of Hawai‘i Host Committee to divert the food waste from the multi-day World Conservation Congress (held in 2016 in Honolulu) to a well-managed local



farm. We were required to apply to become a waste management facility by the Department of Health to carry out this project. The application took over 8 months, 200 pages, and still did not receive authorization in time for us to divert the food waste because of a lack of staff to review the permit. Hawai‘i had made a promise to our international guests that would make this event as sustainable as possible—instead our own permitting structure got in the way. That level of application rigor makes sense for a large operation, but it does not make sense for a small to mid-size project that is also not artisanal.

Alongside the myriad of other reasons that SB 2532 is a good idea, this issue also aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have been adopted as a guiding framework by the Hawai‘i State Senate.

- SDG 9=Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation
- SDG 11=Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption
- SDG 13 = Climate Action
- SDG 15 = Life on Land

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:50:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2532 because it is both practical and very much needed in our journey to sustainability. Mahalo, Henri Etta Schmitz, Paauilo 96776



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:35:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Composting is a must. Especially given the passage of Bill 40 we need composting facilities. Compositing facilities would also aid in Hawaii achieving its energy independence goals.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:56:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Candace C Casper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

we really need this on Hawaii! In Ka'u we are not allowed to take compost to the Transfer Station. We need a way to get composting going on a big scale here.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:34:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:38:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a recent advocate for the zero waste/sustainability /composting lifestyle. I have decided to make this new life decision due to the climate change in our world. Australia was recently on fire killing thousands of native animals and land, pollution is at its most high today. As I was exploring sustainability lifestyles, I wanted to find a place where i could either donate my food waste, or compost to places that need it more than me. Here in Hawaii we don't have these opportunities to donate or even learn more about composting. We have a few places here and there, but where I reside (Ewa Beach) we don't have these options unless we go to near farms such as Kunia, or Waianae. We need to have the ability to have more accessible locations for all residents to drop off their food waste so that it can go back into the lands rather than the landfills. I work at a restaurant and each day there is food waste that goes straight to the trash cans to rot and not be put to use, if we had a composting location near by that could benefit all the restaurants near me. Let's have more composting locations to prevent more pollution.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:05:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:11:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:43:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaitlyn P Jacobs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting would make such a difference in Hawai'i's waste management system, both for the land and for the economy. If we could divert a large portion of our trash to an efficient composting system, not only could we save room in the landfills, but we could return nutrients to the soil. Healthy soil then goes on to retain more water, decreasing runoff into the ocean and bringing pollutants with it. Our landfills are also getting so full with the excessive trash production; on Hawai'i island, the landfill in Hilo has been nearing full for years. We can dramatically reduce this issue with composting.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:57:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James H. Casper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure. It is time to allow farmers to accept organic materials from their neighbors and local businesses. It will ease the amount of compostable materials currently being thrown out and can only help improve soil health across our state. It is a win-win deal.



**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:00:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tenaiya Brookfield	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB2532**

Establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations.

My name is Tenaiya Brookfield writing in strong **support** of SB2532 and offer explanations below.

**State Laws on Composting are Outdated**

I live in an apartment building with a community garden less than 5 min away. However, because of outdated laws on composting, I'm not allowed to compost my food waste at that garden. Only those who own their own land with a garden, or have large food businesses are allowed to compost. Shouldn't everyone be not only allowed but encouraged to compost?

Back in 1997, Honolulu passed the first mandatory food waste recycling ordinance in the country for large food businesses. 23 years later, Hawaii has a lot of catching up to do. There are more than 90 cities in the US that not only allow all residents to compost at various sized facilities, but have even dopted curbside food waste recycling collection programs to encourage composting further.

**Food Waste is a Wasted Resource**

Food waste is invaluable when it comes to making nutrient rich soil. Throwing it in the trash means that it will end up in H-power or a landfill. Due to high moisture content of food waste, it diminishes the efficiency of H-power. If it's sent to the landfill it doesn't turn to soil, instead it's enclosed in a tomb and creates methane gas, greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Our current westside landfill has 7 years left before it's full. Oahu's Recycling division's report shows that some 35% of trash collected is organic material, and the majority of which is food waste. In an island where land is a finite resource, we should find ways to reduce our waste to avoid using more land and more resources.

**Mahalo for your time!**

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:01:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I strongly support SB2532. All of Hawai'i needs better solutions to waste management, and the need is felt only more acutely since losing our recycling services. With more ways to make compost, we can divert a huge amount of waste from the landfill while also generating useful material. It's a way to turn a problem into a superpower!

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 8:17:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:31:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 3:15:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Krista Joan Donaldson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support composting to prevent waste in our landfill and the creation of healthy soil instead.