

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMPOSTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the
2 United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States
3 Department of Agriculture, food waste is the second largest
4 component that enters a waste stream and accounts for
5 twenty-five per cent of all materials sent to landfills.
6 Recycling food waste into compost has environmental benefits,
7 such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance,
8 and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and
9 pesticides. Furthermore, applying compost and organic matter to
10 soil sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, forming the largest
11 land-based carbon sink, and mitigates climate change by
12 effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The legislature
13 believes that food waste diversion will help move the State
14 toward the Aloha+ Challenge commitment of seventy per cent waste
15 stream reduction by 2025.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to the
17 department of agriculture to establish and implement a compost



1 reimbursement program to assist farmers, ranchers, and
2 landscapers in the State with affordable compost material
3 comprising green waste and food waste.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§141- Compost reimbursement program. (a) The
8 department of agriculture shall establish and implement a
9 compost reimbursement program to assist farmers, ranchers, and
10 landscapers in meeting the costs of acquiring compost purchased
11 from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler
12 licensed to do business in the State.

13 (b) Applications for cost reimbursements shall be
14 submitted on a form furnished by the department of agriculture
15 and shall be filed with accompanying documentation of the costs
16 of purchasing compost pursuant to subsection (c); provided that:

17 (1) The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the
18 State and its officers, agents, and employees from all
19 claims arising out of or resulting from the compost
20 purchased; and



1 (2) The department may request an applicant to provide
2 necessary information for the purposes of verifying
3 the size or sale weight, as applicable, and amount of
4 compost purchased.

5 (c) Documentation of compost costs, requested by the
6 department of agriculture, shall be filed for compost purchased
7 within the fiscal year immediately preceding the filing and be
8 effective for compost costs incurred.

9 (d) Funds shall be dispersed upon approval on an annual
10 basis by the department of agriculture to the farmer, rancher,
11 or landscaper for fifty per cent of the costs incurred for the
12 purchase of the compost.

13 (e) The department of agriculture shall aggregate the
14 total reimbursement applications pursuant to this section and
15 divide and distribute the available moneys on a first come,
16 first served basis; provided that no single farmer, rancher, or
17 landscaper shall receive a reimbursement total of more than
18 \$50,000 per year.

19 (f) There is established within the department of
20 agriculture a compost reimbursement program manager position,
21 which shall be a full-time, temporary position exempt from



1 chapters 76 and 89. The compost reimbursement program manager
2 shall possess a requisite level of knowledge and expertise in
3 the area of program management necessary to carry out the duties
4 of the position. The compost reimbursement program manager
5 shall:

6 (1) Facilitate the division and distribution of available
7 costs for reimbursement; and

8 (2) Manage the day-to-day coordination of the compost
9 reimbursement program.

10 The compost reimbursement program manager shall receive a salary
11 not to exceed \$ per year.

12 (g) As used in this section, "compost" means a product of
13 a process in which organic materials are biologically decomposed
14 under controlled conditions to produce a stable humus-like mulch
15 or soil amendment. The composting process includes but is not
16 limited to receipt of materials, primary processing,
17 decomposition activities, and final processing for sale and
18 marketing. Compostable materials shall include pre- and
19 post-consumer food waste, waste from animal food processing
20 operations, green waste, crop residues, and waste from vegetable
21 food processing operations and similar materials."



SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the department of agriculture to develop and implement a compost reimbursement program; provided that the department of agriculture may expend:

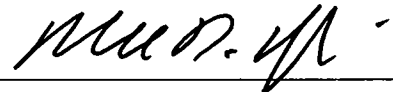
(1) \$ to establish one full-time program manager position for the compost reimbursement program; and

(2) \$ for program and administrative costs.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

INTRODUCED BY:



By Request



S.B. NO. 2280

Report Title:

HDOA; Compost Reimbursement; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture to provide reimbursements to farmers, ranchers, and landscapers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State. Establishes a compost reimbursement program manager position. Appropriates moneys.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

