

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2288

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2288 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPOSTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture to provide reimbursements to farmers, ranchers, and landscapers when purchasing compost; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Pueo Orchards; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawaii Medicinal, LLC; Sunshine Farms, LLC; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Actions; Growing Together Edible Landscaping; and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that food waste contributes significantly to landfills. Recycling food waste into compost can provide significant environmental benefits, such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. This measure



supports the use of compost by establishing a compost reimbursement program to assist farmers, ranchers, and landscapers. Your Committee further finds, however, that it is important for this measure to specify that only locally-produced compost will be eligible for reimbursement.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2288 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



