



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1526 HD1
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 3/1/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HB1526 HD1 to amend Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes (HRS) Section 342G-1 to include two new definitions for "biodegradable" and "organic
6 waste;" amend HRS Section 342G-26(c) to identify specific measures to divert organic waste
7 produced within the counties; require the counties to incorporate these organic waste diversion
8 requirements into their respective integrated solid waste management plans; and provide funding
9 to the counties to implement this new requirement in their planning efforts.

10 Given that some counties will not be required to update their integrated solid waste
11 management plans for several years into the future in accordance with HRS Section 342G-24,
12 and the proposed bill identifies payment to the counties by reimbursement, the Department
13 respectfully requests that the appropriations to implement this measure be allocated into a new
14 project fund to be established specific for the implementation of this measure, which may take
15 several years to complete.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1526, H.D. 1

March 1, 2022
12:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1526, H.D. 1, amends Section 324G-26, HRS, to require each county to incorporate a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a minimum amount of organic waste, to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH), into its Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) and appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to DOH to reimburse counties for the incorporation of the new requirement into their ISWMP revisions.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

I am writing on behalf of Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of engaged citizens concerned about the climate crisis. Recognizing the urgency needed to address climate change, we support HB 1526 HD1 Relating to Organic Waste. We need to get organic waste out of our landfills and assisting in carbon sequestration not adding to the problem. This is both doable and essential! Mahalo for your support.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:48:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB1526 HD1 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1526 HD1** because it would help Hawai'i lead in mitigating the climate emergency.

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for ourselves, our keiki and succeeding generations. **Hawai'i must decarbonize in this decade in order to lead and help mitigate the climate emergency!**

This bill requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year. The bill appropriates funds to reimburse the counties for incorporation of the new requirement into their plan revisions.

This bill will help mitigate the climate emergency because removing organic waste from landfills will help reduce emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is approximately thirty times more harmful to the warming climate than carbon dioxide!

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Officers

Vincent Mina
State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President
HFUU

Maureen Datta
Secretary
HFUU

Reba Lopez
HFUU Treasurer

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Dash Kuhr
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Steve Lund
Puna, Hawai'i

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K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux
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Bobby Pahia
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Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian islands. **HFUU strongly supports HB1526** to require organic waste diversion plans and standards within each county.

Diverting organic materials from our solid waste stream would provide a steady supply of input material for the production of quality compost in each county. Incentive programs for compost use, like that of HB1528, will continue to expand the demand for compost as an agricultural input. By reducing organic materials in landfills, which produce methane gas, HB1526 also advances progress towards climate change mitigation. These reasons also underpin HFUU's support and call for the implementation of regional compost sites within agricultural districts in each county.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 28, 2022

Subject: In support of HB1526

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the FIN Committee,

We are in full support of HB1526. Reducing food loss could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 5%, decrease water use by about 13%, reduce nutrient loss from fertilizers by 15%, and reduce biodiversity loss by up to 33% according to a [report](#) by environmental, nutrition, and medical professionals from around the world. Even more so, food waste is just a single component of the organic matter like landscaping/pruning waste and food-soiled papers that we are wasting.

The trash can always seems to be the first option for food waste, yard clippings, wood waste, and more that still contain so many nutrients. Our own City and County of Honolulu Waimānalo Landfill [website](#) warns that, “Landfills have a limited life span. Please join us in our efforts to reduce the use of the landfill by utilizing other options for waste disposal provided in this site.” HB1526 provides us with the opportunity to utilize organic waste instead of dumping it into our limited space-landfills.

On Hawai'i island, the Pu'uana'hulu Landfill is expected to operate well past its lifespan of 30 years, partly due to Hawai'i County diverting organic green waste from the landfill for the past decade. The same [article](#) states that almost 40,000 tons of waste are diverted each year to be made into beneficial soil amendments like mulch. HB1526 can provide us with a win-win situation where nutrient dense organic waste is kept from rotting and producing greenhouse gas emissions in our landfills and instead be converted to beneficial soil amendments that could enrich our agriculture sector.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

The City is already looking for a new site for a landfill. Unless we want our keiki to grow up next to another landfill, we should start diverting organic waste that has potential benefits to be turned into nutrients or compost for use afterwards. **We strongly support HB1526.**

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

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House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1526 HD1

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 12:30 a.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1526 HD1 which will require each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert by 1/1/2025 all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a minimum amount of organic waste per year.

HAPA fully supports efforts across the board to reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Bills like HB1526 HD1 are part of the solution to establishing a sustainable, profitable and regenerative agriculture system for Hawai'i while improving our land management practices. Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

For counties like Kaua'i, increased diversion of all waste from their landfill is critical and urgent. With the Kekaha Landfill once again nearing its capacity, the county of Kaua'i is scrambling for solutions to avoid a potential garbage disaster. The support from the legislature can assist the county in achieving diversion goals for organic waste.

Please support HB1526 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:06:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

#fixourfoodsystem

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:04:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Organic waste is a valuable resource, which becomes a hazardous contaminant when added to landfills. Managed properly it can build healthy soil and store carbon. In the landfill, it takes up space and produces methane gas, which can ignite and cause underground fires that burn for decades, as is occurring in Kona. I support HB1526 to require all counties to make a plan for dealing with organic waste.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 5:14:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support