



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1992 HD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/23/2022

Room Number: 308/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 of Health offers comments on HB1992 HD2. This
5 bill proposes to 1) allow composting and co-composting in agricultural districts and 2) restore an
6 Environmental Specialist IV position to the Department's Solid and Hazardous Water Branch.
- 7 The Department defers to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and Department
8 of Agriculture regarding allowable activities in agricultural districts.
- 9 The Department supports the restoration of an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) IV to the
10 Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch. However, because the EHS IV position was deleted by
11 Act 9, SLH 2020, we ask that the Legislature authorize the addition of a permanent EHS IV
12 position and funding in the budget bill. The position that was lost was an inspector and
13 enforcement officer providing compliance inspections, investigations, and regulatory
14 enforcement of alternative waste facilities such as composters and recyclers, as well as transfer
15 stations, convenience centers, and household hazardous waste collection events. Other functions
16 were complaint investigations, which included illegal dumping, as well as outreach education,
17 research into emerging contaminants or innovative technologies, and other special projects. We
18 anticipate that this new replacement position will be providing similar duties.

- 1 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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. 1992, H.D. 2

February 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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

House Bill No. 1992, H.D. 2, amends Sections 205-2 and 205-4.5, HRS, to allow compost and co-composting operations in agricultural districts and appropriates \$55,200 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health for 1.00 full-time equivalent Environmental Specialist IV position in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch.

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

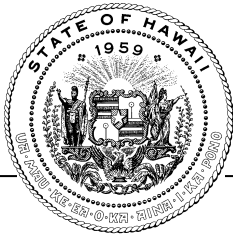
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

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.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
in consideration of
HB 1992, HD 2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development **supports** HB 1992, HD 2 which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts. The measure also establishes and appropriates funds for an environmental health specialist IV position to the solid and hazardous waste branch of the Department of Health.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, through the State’s Sustainability Coordinator, participated in the [State’s Plastic Source Reduction Working Group](#) in 2020. Among many other recommendations, the recommendation to “Accelerate Composting” is included in the Working Group’s report on page 9.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development further recommends the need to “Accelerate Regional Composting Statewide” as one of its 262 Recommended Actions included on page 101 within the [Hawai’i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#)—the State’s official climate and sustainability strategic action plan for the 2020-2030 Decade of Action in accordance with [Hawai’i Revised Statutes §226-65](#).

The State’s Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force which is attached to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development recently received a presentation on the importance of composting in relation to climate change mitigation, greenhouse gas sequestration, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The transition from current waste management, landfilling, and food waste practices to composting practices statewide can also assist the state’s transition from certain greenhouse gas sources to greenhouse gas sinks.

Regionalized and community-based composting can build healthier food systems, reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions, create healthier soils, reduce transportation burden, pilot compostable container decomposition, improve local waste diversion rates, promote a circular economy, and reduce large infrastructure costs; which are all important outcomes to make progress toward achieving an equitable, climate resilient, and sustainable future for Hawai’i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 23, 2022
2:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1992 HD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1992 HD2 that encourages the production of local compost and restores an environmental specialist IV position with the Department of Health. The Department of Agriculture has concerns.

The Department of Agriculture requests the proposed amendment of Section 205-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes be amended to directly prevent the spread of invasive species such as coconut rhinoceros beetles, little fire ants, noxious weeds, and plant pathogens such as coffee leaf rust and rapid ohia death by all tiered and exempt composting and co-composting operations. These invasive species may be spread by the transport of material that incorporates known infested material that may not have been treated properly during the composting process. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management shares this concern and has detailed requirements to prevent the spread of invasive species in their green waste diversion program. The Department of Agriculture recommends that operations which process their own green waste which do not require permits from the Department of Health shall use finished composting for on-premises use to minimize the potential spread of



invasive species. The finished compost product should be for on-site use only and not for distribution.

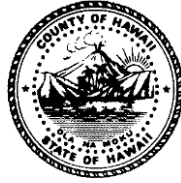
Furthermore, food waste that is a byproduct of food services from small businesses, restaurants, and resorts is a valuable food resource for swine operations across the State. The rapid onset of the pandemic and the sudden reduction in the supply of food waste created a severe shortage of food waste to sustain small hogs farms in remote and rural communities. The Department is concerned that encouraging or requiring composting of this food waste may create a shortage of food resources for hogs especially in underserved rural communities and conflict with existing county waste recycling programs such as Honolulu's food waste recycling ordinance (Section 9-3.5, ROH).

The department defers to the Department of Health about the full-time environmental health specialist IV position.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 22, 2022

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Chair Luke and Committee Members,

The Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawai'i strongly encourages the committee to support HB 1992, HD2. The bill's intent is in concurrence with our County's efforts associated with the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The County of Hawai'i was fortunate to be one of 60 regional cluster finalists (out of more than 520 applicants) selected in 10 different clusters. Our efforts are focused on creating a strong agricultural economy that corrects past systemic barriers to growth that are unique to an island market, while also helping Hawai'i Island respond to economic downturns due to the pandemic and natural disasters.

Composting is a robust means to abate climate change, save valuable landfill space, support local farmers/ agriculture, and build resilience for our island home, especially in light of the recent supply chain issues we are currently experiencing. We must support our farmers to enable them to lessen our dependence on food shipped from outside the State of Hawai'i. This ever-increasing volatility in the supply chain can be mitigated in part by supporting our farmers through increasing composting through this legislation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HB 1992, HD2.

Sincerely,

Ramzi Mansour
Director, Department of Environmental Management
County of Hawai'i

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

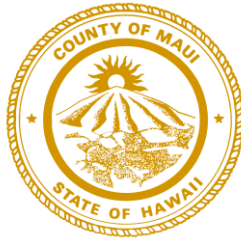
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

February 22, 2022

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
COUNTY OF MAUI, MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1992 HD 2 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Finance

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1992 HD 2** which would allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts and restores a regulatory position within the Department of Health.

Compost is an agricultural product and its production should be allowed as an agricultural activity. Along with agriculture, farming, fishing, and hunting, currently activities such as “wind-generated energy,” “biofuel production,” “solar energy facilities,” “wind machines and wind farms,” “geothermal resources exploration and ...development,” “hydroelectric facilities,” and “construction and operation of wireless communications antennas” are allowable in agriculturally-zoned districts; but not the composting of greenwaste and organic materials. **This bill would simply allow for composting to be added to the list of allowable activities on agricultural land.**

The County of Maui is facing urgent and significant challenges in siting a new municipal compost facility due to these land-use restrictions. Rezoning and permitting of the agricultural lands will take up to seven or more years. Allowing for composting and co-composting on these agricultural lands would enable the county to start permitting and building a new compost facility within a few years, diverting tens of thousands of tons of green and organic waste and providing a needed resource to the community. **Allowing for composting on agricultural lands will help to boost Maui’s local economy and agricultural production, while enabling the counties and community to recycle their organic wastes.**

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
HB 1992 HD 1
February 14, 2022
Page 2 of 2

Regarding concerns about composting and invasive species transfer between regions, this bill would strengthen the counties' ability to establish regional composting facilities to mitigate intra-island transport of greenwaste. **Passage of this bill would promote more effective invasive species control if composting was allowed as an activity in agricultural districts and regional composting was pursued.**

Changing the zoning allowance will not change the requirements for Department of Health regulations; instead, it will simply allow for composting and co-composting on agriculturally-zoned lands. Composting is a highly regulated activity for significant public health and environmental concerns, and requires a great deal of oversight and application of stringent regulations.

Therefore, **we also support additional staff for the Department of Health Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch which will provide increased oversight of small-scale as well as municipal-scale composting programs.**

We respectfully urge this committee to pass HB1992 HD 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1992, HD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:30 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau provides comments on HB 1992, HD2, which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts and appropriates funds to restore an environmental health specialist IV position to the solid and hazardous waste branch of the department of health.

HFB recognizes and supports the diversion of discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. We support well-managed and appropriately sited composting efforts that produce a valuable resource for farmers and others. The benefits of compost are well-known; among other things, it can improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle nutrients, and mitigate the impact of droughts.

However, because there are potential hazards and threats to public health, the environment, agriculture, and our rural communities from *unregulated* composting operations, HFB feels strongly that *no commercial composting facility or operation* should be exempt from DOH regulatory oversight, appropriate restrictions, inspection, and control. The smaller size of an operation does not eliminate the valid concerns regarding public health and it certainly does not prevent the spread of destructive invasive species such as Little Fire Ants and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

While we support composting, we defer to the expertise of the Hawai'i Department of Health and Department of Agriculture regarding the appropriate level of oversight necessary to operate a composting facility while also protecting farmers and the general

community from potential fires, the spread of pathogens, and devastating invasive species, and environmental contamination.

Thank you for considering our concerns and for your continued support of Hawai'i agriculture.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:54:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gretchen Losano	West Maui Green Cycle, Zero Waste Maui, Maui School Food Waste Composting Program	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to request your support of HB 1992, this is the most important composting bill being heard this session, as the AG zoning aspect of this bill is a baseline requirement for almost all composting facilities in Hawaii, certainly the majority of small to mid-sized operations, and all regional composting on Maui. I will elaborate more in my verbal testimony. Mahalo

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:58:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	350Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

350Hawaii supports HB1992 HD2. Composting is an important factor in regenerative agriculture that helps build soils and sequester carbon, all of which we must do more of to address climate change. Please pass this important legislation. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:35:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coaliton	Support	No

Comments:

Composting is a proven low hanging fruit to reduce GHG emission, methane in particular, and at the same time sequester carbon and create a useful product we are currently importing to improve our soils. Please give this bill your full support.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:33:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

This effort will encourage further composting operations, reducing our reliance on outside soil fertility resources by allowing for innovation in creating our own. It can also reduce costs for our farmers, supporting them further in increasing their food production for our islands.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:12:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Re: Hearing HB1992 **HD2 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke 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 SUPPORTS HB1992 HD2 with its efforts to develop more composting and sustainable and regenerative agriculture in Hawai'i to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (especially methane) and provide more healthy soil for local agriculture.

This bill would help achieve those goals by allowing composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts, and it appropriates funds for a position at the DOH to assist in implementation.

Please pass this important bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1992 HD2

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 2:30p.m. Conference Room 308

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

HAPA supports HB1992 HD2 which will permit composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts. Appropriates funds to restore an environmental health specialist IV position to the solid and hazardous waste branch of the department of health.

HAPA supports efforts to reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By expanding composting, which can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

HAPA believes that HB1992 HD2 is part of the solution to establishing a sustainable, profitable and regenerative agriculture system for Hawai'i while improving our land management practices and our environment.

Through encouraging on-site composting on agricultural lands, food producers have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

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.

Please support HB1992 HD2. 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-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:36:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1992



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

February 22, 2022

House Committee on Finance
Wednesday February 23, 2022, 2:30 pm

SUBJECT: Support for HB 1992 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full **support of HB 1992**, which would permit composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our work has expanded statewide to include a USDA GroupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) food safety training and certification program (Hawaii GroupGAP) that lowers the cost and effort of attaining Harmonized GAP certification to farms anywhere in Hawaii. As a result, we work with dozens of small farms across the state that have an interest in this matter.

Small scale composting is a strong component of regenerative agriculture that helps build soils and sequester carbon. Done properly, composting adhere's to all state and federal food safety regulations and should, at an appropriate scale, be allowed on Hawaii's small farms

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:28:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for receiving my testimony in SUPPORT of HB1992.

Monica Rott Stone

Kailua-Kona, HI

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:28:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:55:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Composting diverts more than half of our waste from dumps and provides rich healthy fertilizers to our farmers. It's a win-win proposal.

Mahalo.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:16:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:37:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1992.

Efforts to expand composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants. Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

On December 14, 2021 Civil Beat posted an article entitled, "The Proposed Sites for Oahu's New Landfill Would Threaten Drinking Water, Officials Say"

On January 9th, 2020 Hawaii Public Radio posted an article entitled, "Hawaii Island Has Decades of Landfill Space but Still Faces Challenges When Dealing With Its Waste"

We as a state need to work on moving to a lower waste society with better programs for our future generations. Appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture for a pilot program so that farmers and ranchers receive reimbursements will encourage better practices on a wider scale.

Having an Environmental Health Specialist position in the Solid Waste Branch of the Department of Health will only benefit this initiative and ensure better practices.

Composting 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With Aloha,
Ashley Lee

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:41:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michal Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1992 HD2 because it will expand composting, thereby creating material in which to grow healthy, nutritious plants. Composting will also avoid the costs of hauling waste to other locations, reduce the harmful impacts of fertilizer, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Mahalo.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:56:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support efforts to develop more composting and sustainable and regenerative agriculture in Hawai'i to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (especially methane) and provide more healthy soil for local agriculture and to keep organics out of the landfill.

This bill would help achieve those goals by allowing composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts, and it appropriates funds for a position at the DOH to assist in implementation.

Please pass this important bill!

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:07:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherryl Royce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:15:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill - please pass it! Mahalo, JW

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:03:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:55:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN members,

I strongly support HB1992HD2 which permits composting and co-composting in agricultural districts. Hawaii needs to strongly encourage composting programs to divert green waste from landfills to farmlands where this waste can be used to reduce CO2 and methane emissions (greenhouse gases). Additionally, compost reduces farmers' costs for fertilizer and pesticides by producing healthier soil and thus healthier plants. Finally, support for composting encourages small local businesses.

Please support all the composting bills this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:58:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Efforts to expand composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Composting 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.

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:12:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha FIN Chair and Committee,

I support [HB1992 HD2](#) because this is the most efficient way of dealing with waste on site. If we had archaic regulations which did not permit composting on site then we need to change those rules. Any time we try to expand our composting programs on farm this is moving our farms toward sustainability. In nature there is no such thing as waste, there is only nutrients being recycled. Composting programs reflect this natural process and we get the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost. This compost creates nutritious soil supplement for healthy, nutritious plants and improves the soil structure, their micro biome profile of the soil, increase earth worms and other beneficial organisms.

Composting 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.

Composting will reinforce in farmers the natural process of recycling nutrients and saving money and seeing waste as a resource.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:53:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1992 HD2 and urge you to pass this bill.

Composting in Hawai'i is much needed and past due.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

HB 1992 HD 2 TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Finance
Hearing on Feb. 23, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

This bill encourages carbon sequestration by allowing composting in agricultural districts, while also facilitating organic farming. Carbon sequestration complements efforts to reduce carbon emissions to mitigate climate change. We need to do both – sequester carbon and reduce carbon emissions -- if we are to avoid a global climate catastrophe. In mitigating climate change, this bill will have beneficial impacts for generations

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:23:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Please allow and encourage more composting!

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:49:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am excited to hear about HB 1992, which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts.

In my opinion, I would actually like to see Hawaii replicate California's law, which requires all residents to engage in composting. But this bill is a good start, and recognizes the need to address food waste and create a sustainable means of fertilizer and other needs for soil health.

Other incentives that composting could provide include:

Diverting up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants, avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal, as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Most importantly, composting will reduce carbon dioxide and in particular human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

Please do what you can to advance this bill. It is an important start to creating regenerative and sustainable agriculture for our state, and to help attain our goal of net negative carbon emissions as a state.

Mahalo for taking the time to listen to my concerns and for your hard work.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honolulu Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1992, HD 2 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, via Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1992. This measure would permit composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts. This bill would also appropriate funds to restore an environmental health specialist IV position to the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch of the Department of Health.

We believe that allowing composting in agricultural districts will facilitate the production of local organic material that farmers can use to improve soil health, increase drought resistance, and reduce the need for supplemental water and fertilizers while increasing crop yields, all of which are very important as we deal with the climate crisis.

Composting is a resource that has been missing as the result of an onerous permitting process which should be eliminated or reduced. Composting of food waste and green waste is the last area of waste management that needs to be addressed and made available to eliminate unnecessary landfill use.

In addition, we believe that an environmental health specialist IV position is necessary to facilitate and expedite the permitting process for small-scale composters.

In our view, this bill is highly beneficial; accordingly, we respectfully request that this bill be passed by your Committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Melodie Adyja

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 6:34:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Composting can increase soil fertility, decrease methane emissions at landfills, and promote diversified agriculture. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:07:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adam Radford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying as an individual but am the Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC). Greenwaste has been problematic on Maui for years. Illegal dumping because there's no place to go, or it's too far from home, has helped spread invasive species across our islands. Regional agricultural zoning and development of composting facilities is critical to help stem the tide of invasive species spread. I humbly ask that you please support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Adam Radford

HB-1992-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:24:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darcy Oishi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Available for questions regarding Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Testimony.