



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

March 21, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1992, HD3**  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, 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, HD3**, which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts under certain conditions 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.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1992 HD3  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Hearing Date: 3/21/2022 Room Number: 224/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 HD3. 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

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

March 21, 2022  
1:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224  
&  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1992 HD3  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1992 HD3 that encourages the production of local compost and restores an environmental specialist IV position with the Department of Health. The Department of Agriculture supports the bill but has concerns regarding the use of food waste.

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.

Testimony in Support of HB1992 HD3

My name is Helen Cox, and I am writing on behalf of the Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a large group of Kauai residents who recognize the urgency of acting to mitigate the climate crisis. This bill will assist the transformation to a fossil fuel free island by permitting composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts, thereby sequestering carbon. Further, it establishes and appropriates funds for an important environmental health position in the solid and hazardous waste branch of the Department of Health. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

Helen Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition

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

March 17, 2022

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

The Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawai'i strongly encourages the committee to **support HB 1992, HD3**. 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, HD3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramzi Mansour".

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

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:22:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes, composting is a key. and personel needed in positions to make it happen.



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:55:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We really do not need some Apointed Idiot Tell Farmers How to Do what they have bin doing All there Lives. The peolpe are fed up with all this Stupidity in Government!!

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 11:45:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1992 HD3

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 12:14:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will help local farmers and that helps us ALL.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

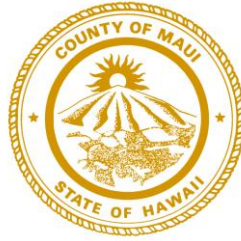
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

ROBERT SCHMIDT  
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

March 21, 2022

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:45 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1992 HD 3 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

---

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1992 HD 3** which would allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts and would restore 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.**

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

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
HB 1992 HD 3  
March 21, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

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 3.**

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

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 2:04:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Re: Hearing **HB1992 HD3 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:45 p.m., CR 224 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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 HD3!**

**This bill would develop more composting and sustainable and regenerative agriculture in Hawai'i, which would 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)

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1992, H.D. 3

**March 21, 2022**  
**1:45 p.m.**  
**Room 224 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. 3, amends Sections 205-2 and 205-4.5, HRS, to allow compost and co-composting operations in agricultural districts and appropriates an unspecified amount 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.



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 2:34:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senators:

I respectfully ask that you support HB1992.

Thank you for your courtesy and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 4:52:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Compost is no B. S. !

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 9:07:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:43:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support! All efforts at composting, especially in agricultural districts, need to be supported and encouraged--as this bill does. Mahalo! Tom

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:00:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doug Kroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely makes sense! Duh!! Keep mineral. nutrients, in our soil not in the ocean. We need all the good soil we can get. We all know we need to grow more food on the islands. Why would we not do everything we can to keep our soils healthy! Also all fertitalizer is shipped in! Why not naturally produce all we can! Duh!!

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:08:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL! Composting is an important factor in regenerative agriculture, that helps build soils and sequester carbon, ALL OF WICH WE MUST DO TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS!

We must remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally -zoned districts.

ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS COMPOSTING SHOULD BE SUPPORTED! Making compost from food waste, instead of dumping it in landfills, not only can be used to help farmers enrich the soil, without the use of petroleum based soil ammendment products, it also is very important in reducing methane emmissions in landfills.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:21:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support this bill because making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere. It just makes sense.

Mahalo

Noel Bobilin

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 1:45:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT HB1992 HD3 because 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 the climate crisis. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

Also, efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Mahalo for your STRONG SUPPORT!

Tadia Rice



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:33:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Racquel Segato-Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a Hawai'i resident deeply concerned about the climate crisis. 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 the climate crisis. Making compost not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. When food waste is put in landfills it produces methane. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts. Mahalo!

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 8:17:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 the climate crisis. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Ryan Christopher

Honokaa HI

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:19:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1992.This will facilitate 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 also increasing crop yields. This will help Hawaii to achieve their sustainability goals.

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa, Hawaii

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:32:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AEN committee members,

I am strongly in favor of Bill HB1992 that encourages the process of composting on local farms and appropriates funds to hire an Environmental Health Specialist IV to oversee the program. Composting can help reduce farm costs (less need for fertilizers, pesticides and other soil amendments), the soil retains more water, produce is healthier in better soil and composting encourages the forming of small businesses.

For all these reasons I urge you to support Bill HB1992 HD3.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:45 pm

**In support of HB1992 HD3**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee members of AEN;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **support of HB1992 HD3** which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts under certain conditions.

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 the climate crisis. That is why it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

Allowing composting in agricultural districts will facilitate 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 also increasing crop yields. Composting will also reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

Please pass this important legislation. We will all benefit!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:40:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Rott Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for receiving my testimony in SUPPORT of HB1992.

I operate a sustainability consulting business and am the Waste Diversion Coordinator for Lavaman Waikoloa Triathlon. In 2019, As I was setting up compostable material collection plans for the 2020 event, I was dismayed to find out there was no permitted composting facility that could legally take and process post-consumer food waste on the island, or the entire state for that matter. A much anticipated centralized commercial composting facility on island has been stalled for years.

Digging deeper into the issue, I found many barriers for prospective compost processors. Funding shortages and lack of resources have left the regulatory agencies, like the State of Hawai'i Department of Health under-equipped to create and regulate new programs or pathways to organics recycling beyond the county-wide green-waste recycling program. Another glaring issue is that composting facilities are not permissible on agriculture-zoned land, and currently must be permitted on industrial-zoned land. Given that we live on islands with limited space, this needs to change. HB1992 provides solutions to both of these issues—allowing pathways to community composting while being able to control the important regulatory aspects of health and safety, ensuring the facilities follow proper invasive species mitigation, etc.

Through my analysis of the waste issues we have on Hawai'i Island, it is apparent that the lack of organics recycling infrastructure is a wasted opportunity in a place with very little natural soil and a large need for local food production. It also presents an opportunity to build a new system.

Outlined in the 2019 [Hawai'i County Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan](#) and a landfill composition study completed in 2008, the composition of Hawai'i Island's landfill discards is 22.4% paper and 33.1% organics, meaning *over half* of the landfill's discards are compostable materials and therefore viable to be successfully diverted.

As you may know, organic materials in landfills release methane, a greenhouse gas much more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. However, when organic materials are properly composted into soil, it actually draws down carbon from the atmosphere, making it a valuable tool in addressing global warming and climate change.

As it turns out, the stalled large centralized facility may actually work out in our favor here on Hawai'i Island. Small scale composting is a strong component of regenerative agriculture that helps build soils and sequester carbon. Given the size of Hawai'i Island and the environmental costs of transporting organic waste, a robust *network* of composting facilities coupled with a considerable investment into infrastructure and market development, is a holistic response that will stimulate economic growth, encourage entrepreneurship and and foster circular systems.

Mahalo again legislators, for your attention to this most important issue that connects us all-- a sustainable future with healthy soil.

In Gratitude,

Monica Rott Stone

In Harmony Hawaii LLC

808-333-1211

Monica.s.stone@gmail.com



**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1992 HD3**

Monday, March 21st, 2022 1:45p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1992 HD3 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 HD3 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 HD3. 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-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:45:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1992 HD3 permitting composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts. HB1992 HD appropriates funds to restore an environmental health specialist IV position to the solid and hazardous waste branch of the department of health.

Composting is currently not a permissible activity in agricultural districts, which is a barrier for composting entities to obtain the necessary permits. Allowing composting in agricultural districts will facilitate 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 also increasing crop yields. Composting will also reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

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 the climate crisis. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB1992 HD3.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Severine Busquet

Hawaii Kai

Honolulu 96825

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:05:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:33:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1992 HD3, which permits composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts and makes it easier for small-scale farmers, husbandry producers, and green establishments to compost. The bill appropriates funds for an environmental health specialist IV position in the solid and hazardous waste branch of the Department of Health.

The bill itself stipulates that its provisions will work towards:

“The Aloha+ Challenge, which is a statewide commitment to realize the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, including the goals of seventy per cent waste reduction before disposal and doubling of local food production by 2030”, and

“The Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan, which also sets a mandate for the State to achieve full sustainability and resilience through increased food production and dramatic waste reduction via recycling and bioconversion strategies”.

Composting is an essential practice to reduce our carbon footprint. States such as California have made it mandatory for residents to recycle. Please support this bill so we in Hawaii can do our part towards a sustainable future.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my views and for your hard work.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:16:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT** for the facilitation of the production of local organic material for farmers by passing this critical composting legislation. We need to create healthy soils for local food production and eliminate the current practice of wasting this precious resource.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:24:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1992 HD3.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:27:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha AEN Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

We are in the year 2022 and Hawaiian farmers are forbidden to compost on their farms!

I support HB 1992 HD3 because its a very important bill. HB1992 represents a paradigm shift. The most dynamic and successful farms on the planet share one thing in common - their production cycles uses on farm resources to produce farm products while maintaining soil health and biodiversity. Composting (recycling farm products, roots, stems, leaves and animal dung) mimics nature. There is no waste in nature.

Agriculture as we know it uses fossil fuels to produce vegetable, animals and grains. Fossil fuels are used in defense of agriculture biocides: pesticides, herbicides, fungicides as well as fertilizers. But on closer inspection of our soils shows a disturbing picture - our soils are dead or dying, being washed away by rains and winds.

Composting brings health to the soil and improves the microbiome. Living soils produce healthier and safer crops and more profits to the farmer.

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 the climate crisis. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:52:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Maki Morinoue and I support HB1992 HD3 for Composting.

We must move quickly in the direction to manage our waste and food scraps and mitigate the scientific evidence, data and research around food scrapes and compostable aterial in our tranfer stations. An opprotunity to allow our island to thrive.

Please support and pass HB1992 today

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa

96725



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:10:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gretchen Losano	Testifying for West Maui Green Cycle, Zero Waste Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1992. This is the most important bill relating to composting that has been heard in the last 2 years.

On Maui, we are in a dire situation with composting. Ninety-five percent of the island's green waste is being shredded and added to our landfill, or illegally dumped, which is both an invasive species and fire hazard. One hundred percent of our food waste and compostable food service ware is also being added to the landfill, creating toxic greenhouse gasses. These three valuable feedstocks could not only be removed from our waste stream completely, greatly extending the life of our landfill, but could be made into a valuable resource our island so desperately needs. Currently, we are unable to produce the compost that our residents and agricultural businesses on Maui so desperately need in order to create the proper growing conditions for healthy crops. Allowing for composting as an agriculture zoned activity is the first and most important step towards having county-made soil amendment products that we all need if we are ever going to reach the state wide goals for food security.

Is is very important to note that allowing composting as an ag zoned activity does not have anything to do with the Department of Health (DOH) permit requirements. To have any type of food waste composting operation, the business still has to go through the arduous (and necessary) requirements of obtaining a DOH composting permit for any and all types of feedstocks and technology. House Bill 1992 does not have any kind of negative impacts on environmental or human health and safety. The DOH current permitting process vets all angles of potential environmental and public health hazards with a fine tooth comb. Funding another position would help make the permitting process faster, but it would by no means undermine health and public safety in regards to composting. Having been through this process myself, I appreciate how much time and expertise is put into the DOH permit process. We can have total faith in them to keep our environment, our water, and our people safe from any types of hazards that could possibly result from inadequate composting operations. They would never allow for it, their expertise in all of those areas is far too great.

Please support HB1992, it is the first step towards a truly sustainable future for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Owner

West Maui Green Cycle

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:19:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and members of the AEM committee,

I am in support of HB1992 HD3 to allow composting in agriculture districts.

Local composting has come a long way and is now a well understood process and can be done following all the state health guidelines. The benefits are many and are covered in the depth and breadth of groups and individuals testifying in support for previous hearings.

Mahalo to all those who introduced and support this timely bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Honolulu

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:12:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I support HB 1992 HD3

Composting is an important factor in regenerative agriculture that helps build soils and sequester carbon. It is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly

Volcano Village, Hawaii 96785

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:00:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support this measure to better manage our landfill waste programs. Our waste on Hawai'i island is increasing since recycling has been cut and the carbon footprint has increased hauling it all to Kona,

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 the climate crisis. Therefore, it is important that we remove barriers to allow for composting and co-composting in agriculturally-zoned districts.

-- Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:51:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1992 HD3.

Healthy soils are the key to growing healthy food and composting is the key to closing the waste cycle.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:05:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this Bill HB 1992 HD3 to support soil growth on this island. It's really a no brainer in a world almost completely depleted of soil, but especially on an island of lava rock. This does also support countering climate changes and I'll let other's more erudite testimony serve to enlighten those points.

Thank you for supporting this bill.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

---

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: **HB 1992, HD 3 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224, via Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1992 HD3. This measure would permit composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts, under certain conditions. This bill would also appropriate funds for 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 Adaja and Alan Burdick*

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:05:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taylor Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill!

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:11:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what's pono for our island home. Thank you!

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:51:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committe,

My name is David Mulinix, I am the Cofounder & Statewide Community Organizer for Our Revolution Hawaii and behalf of our 5,000 members and supporters statewide we stand in strong support of HB1992 HD3 that permits 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.

Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Please vote in support of HB1992.

Mahalo for your kinda attention,

David Mulinix, Cofounder & Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:02:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill