

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 WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1992, H.D. 3

**April 8, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Room 211 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.



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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Room Number: 211/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 offers comments on HB1992 HD3. This bill proposes
- 5 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 WAYS AND MEANS**

**APRIL 8, 2022  
10:30 A.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1992 HD3  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Chairperson Dela Cruz 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 unpermitted composting operations and composting of food waste.

Although the intent to encourage composting on small and medium scale operations is appreciated, the potential lack of adequate composting procedures may be detrimental to appropriately eliminate invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle or the little fire ant. We support the implementation of permitting procedures for small and large composting operations by the Department of Health to ensure mitigation of adverse impacts from invasive pests that are attracted to inadequately processed compost.

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



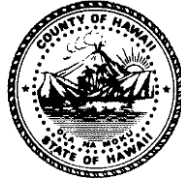
State. The rapid onset of the pandemic and the sudden reduction in supply of food waste created a severe shortage of food waste that critically impaired the ability of small hog farms in remote and rural communities to sustain their operations. The Department is concerned that encouraging or requiring 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

April 7, 2022

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Thank you for scheduling a hearing for this bill in your Committee.

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 mitigate 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

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

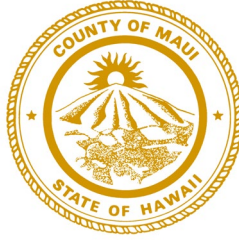
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

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

April 6, 2022

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1992 HD 3 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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Mahalo nui loa for scheduling this bill for hearing in the Ways and Means Committee. 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 restores a regulatory position within the Department of Health.

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.**

**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.**



TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
HB 1992 HD 3  
April 8, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

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. However, we would still support the bill if this provision was removed.

**We respectfully urge this committee to pass HB1992 HD 3.**

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

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TROY TANIGAWA, ACTING COUNTY ENGINEER

MICHAEL H. TRESLER, ACTING DEPUTY COUNTY ENGINEER



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

### Testimony of Allison Fraley

Solid Waste Program Coordinator  
County of Kaua'i  
Department of Public Works

Before the  
**Senate Ways and Means Committee**  
Friday, April 8, 2022 10:30 AM  
In Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**House Bill 1992 HD3**  
**Relating to the Environment**

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works submits testimony **in support** of House Bill 1992 HD3 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 State Department of Health (DOH).

As the municipal solid waste managers for Kaua'i, our department fully supports composting and co-composting facilities on Kaua'i and throughout the State. These facilities sequester carbon, create nutrient rich natural material, and have the potential to significantly reduce material going to landfills. Here on Kaua'i we are rapidly approaching the end of life of our only landfill and are facing closure and re-siting. Expanding composting opportunities is a viable way to extend landfill life.

We also support hiring DOH Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch staff to support their work in managing this program, but if this position was not made available, the County of Kaua'i still supports the bill and the positive impacts it will have on our State.

We respectfully ask that this committee **pass** House Bill 1992 HD3.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 8:17:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

Hearing: Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m., CR 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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 permit more composting and sustainable and regenerative agriculture 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** under certain conditions, and it appropriates funds for a position at the DOH to assist in implementation.

**Please pass this important bill to help farmers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:13:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<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:

Support composting which helps eliminate GHG and improves soil for more productive growing and helps sequester carbon. Allowing in agriculture districts makes sense - where there is an abundance of green waste that can be kept out of the landfill and made into a product that is used by the farmers. Regulations and oversight can eliminate any concerns about safety.



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:30 am

**In support of HB1992 HD3**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

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



## Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hearing: Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:30 p.m., Conference Room 211, 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, HD3. This measure would permit composting and co-composting operations in agricultural districts, under certain conditions. This bill would also appropriate funds to establish 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.

We believe this bill to be highly beneficial; accordingly, we respectfully request that this bill be passed by your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

*Melodie Aduja and*

*Alan B. Burdick*

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



Date: April, 8th 2022

**To:** The Honorable Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

**From:** Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

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

Tuesday April 5th, 2022 pm, by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for scheduling a hearing for HB1992 HD3. We are in **strong support** of this bill which permits composting on agricultural land and appropriates funds to DOH to hire additional personnel to handle permitting of compost facilities. Diversion of organic waste from landfilling and incineration is a logical and low hanging fruit starting point to make better use of our resources. As local agriculture ramps up our need to utilize organic matter is vital to create soil amendments. Likewise, when organic waste is landfilled, it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas; but when composted carbon is sequestered in the soil and will help in the mitigation of climate change.

Hawaii is in dire need to update permitting requirements to remove barriers preventing facility operators from processing and composting organic waste. Lengthy wait times for permit approval due to lack of staff in DOH has also been a major stumbling block preventing proper usage of this resource. HB1992 HD3 is a simple first step in reforming our policies and providing personnel for DOH. I urge the WAM committee to please pass this bill!

Mahalo nui loa,

Jennifer Navarra  
Coordinator  
Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

*Zero Waste Hawai'i Island (ZWHI), is a community group whose mission is to promote equitable waste reduction through education, advocacy and system (re)design.*

**Zero Waste Hawai'i Island** • PO Box 1773, Hilo, HI 96721  
808.657.5972 • zerowastebigisland@gmail.com

**LATE**

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 10:55:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<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 Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your support for 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. For the last two years over ninety-five percent (over 40,000 tons per year) 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 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. 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.

In addition, there has been a critique of composting in general, and although this bill simply allows for composting in Ag zoned areas and is not meant to discuss the merits of composting itself, I feel it needs to be addressed. Food waste makes up 26% of our entire waste stream, with green waste comprising more than 30%, and our single use compostables stream (especially during covid) adding another 5% to the entire waste stream. All of these things are compostable



in a proper composting facility, meaning over 60% of everything that is currently being landfilled in Maui county could be turned into compost. As composters, we follow the EPA food waste hierarchy, which always puts food for animals above food waste for composting. The critique of "composting takes food waste from the pig farmers" is erroneous for several reasons: #1 there is PLENTY of food waste to go around. There is enough to feed all the pigs and feed the permitted composting facilities at the same time (currently only West Maui Green Cycle is permitted to accept food waste on Maui). #2 Composting can deal with all the food waste that pigs cannot eat, which includes a lot of the post consumer waste from restaurants, schools and hotels. And #3, composters strive to work WITH the pig farmers, and with the proper collection infrastructure, we can actually collect more food to distribute to both the pig farmers and use it for composting, maximizing food waste diversion overall. We need all the solutions, and it is entirely possible to work together to make sure all of our community's needs are met.

Please support composting as an Agricultural Zoned activity. This legislative process is the only way to change this designation. The entire future of agriculture and sustainability in Maui county is counting on you all to make this incredibly important change (no pressure :D )

Mahalo nui loa,

Gretchen Losano

Owner, West Maui Green Cycle



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)

April 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 supports the intent of 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 your continued support of Hawai'i agriculture.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 12:20:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Esera Vegas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Request a similar pathway to composting for residential zones.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 5:45:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha house committe members,

I am writing this testimony to support HB1992. Good composting are necessary to support local food production, community's health&well-begin and mitigate climate change. The way we manage food waste is not sustainable in many ways. Please vote yes to give communities food security and healthy soil. Mahalo nui for your help. Hideki

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 6:05:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear WAM Chair Delacruz and 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

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 7:26:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Composting is needed to improve our soils and a composting expert in the DOH will help make the composting better. Please support.

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:48:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
stephanie frazier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to help protect our environment.

thank you,

stephanie frazier

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:53:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
heidi kreul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

mahalo



**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 7:59:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important legislation. Mahalo

HB 1992 HD 3 TESTIMONY

**LATE**

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing on April 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.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

**LATE**

**HB-1992-HD-3**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 1:18:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members. Mahalo for scheduling this important bill for decision making. Officially listing composting as a recognized activity in AG districts is an important step in facilitating the large-scale diversion of organics from our landfills and incinerator, while building Hawai'i's capacity for generating rich, vibrant, vital soils. Mahalo, and please pass this measure.

Jennifer Milholen