

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 AGRICULTURE

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1992 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.



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).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

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

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: 2/4/2022

Room Number: 325

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. This bill
5 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 regarding
8 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 AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1992

February 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1992.

H.B. No. 1992 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 an 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:18:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglass S. Adams	Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Agriculture:

The Department of Research & Development of the County of Hawaii strongly encourages the committee to support HB1992. The bill's intent is in concurrence with our County's efforts associated with the US Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge. We were fortunate to be one of sixty regional cluster finalists (out of over 520 applicants) selected in 10 different clusters. Our efforts are focused on creating a robust agricultural economy that corrects past systemic barriers to growth that are unique to an island market, while also helping Hawaii Island respond to economic downturns due to the pandemic and natural disasters. Composting is an important aspect of our coalition's BBBRC Phase 2 application; the House's support for this bill will send a strong signal to the EDA that Hawaii takes its commitments to its small farmers and environment seriously. We appreciate that the committee has taken this measure up and strongly support the committee's recommendation for passage by the House and referral to the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Finance.

very respectfully,

Douglass S. Adams

Director, Research & Development

County of Hawaii



Hawai'i's voice for wildlife
Kō Hawai'i o nā holoholona lōhiu

**Before the House Committee on
Agriculture**

**Friday, February 4, 2022
10:00am**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

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

Conservation Council For Hawaii supports HB1992. Composting is an essential component to reducing the amount of waste that ends up in our islands limited landfills, as well as providing essential nutrient dense soils to amend our agricultural lands to support local food production for local consumption.

CCH also supports funds being appropriate to restore the environmental health IV position on the solid and hazardous waste branch. With the amount of tourism and development our islands are enduring, it is important to have adequate staff to keep up with the demands placed on the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1992.



House Committee on Agriculture

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

Friday, February 4th, 2022 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

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

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 gases that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

Please support HB1992. 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:14:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass. Mahalo

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:33:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Evan Lam	Circlepack	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to the Members of the Committee,

My name is Evan Lam, I'm a small business owner and change management professional located on the Big Island of Hawaii. My business processes cardboard and paper fiber for local use. Since starting a year and a half ago, I've worked with a network of businesses and non-profits and we've shredded over 17,000 lbs of cardboard and 90% of that went into composting.

Composting is a basic competency in an agricultural society. With shifting, global political dynamics, Hawaii is one of many, many regions across the world facing rising fertilizer and food prices. Composting is one way to secure a fertilizer supply for agricultural businesses and organizations throughout the State. It is important as a hedge against inflation or lack of supply and it is another opportunity to ease the difficulty of doing business in Hawaii, especially for our food producers. Also, it is an economic development opportunity to replace the money being sent to non-Hawaii, fertilizer businesses and place those contracts and trading opportunities with Hawaii-based businesses thus adding another commodity flow to the local economy and tax-base.

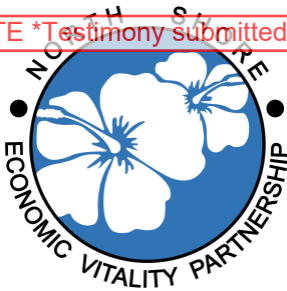
It is also a thermodynamic opportunity. It can prove a large reduction in carbon emissions, not only from the steady flow of imported fertilizers and their production, but from local waste management practices as well. Every ton of greenhouse gas emissions we can actively eliminate and prevent from existing in the first place has an impact on the children of everyone who has an address in the state of Hawaii.

Our organization supports the addition of a Department of Health position tasked with streamlining the permitting process as it is painfully long and complicated. We need more dynamic permitting which competently reflects the size and diversity of nutrient-processing operations through the whole state. I urge that specific attention is paid to the Outer Islands as they, together, comprise the most sustainable agricultural and aquacultural sectors in the state.

Finally, I hope to urge the members of every committee voting on this bill to simply recognize that without localized nutrient recycling, our entire food supply and economy faces another potential risk which could have outsized consequences. Rises in food prices are a catalyst for civil unrest and conflict throughout human history. Changing the zoning and investing in a state position to streamline the permitting process is a direct way for legislators to help avoid potential

food supply disasters and an opportunity to actively support food producers, ecosystems, the economy and the citizens of Hawaii.

Kind Regards,
Evan



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

February 3, 2022

House Committee on Agriculture
Friday February 4, 2022, 10:00 am

SUBJECT: Support for HB 1992 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:52:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Recycle Hawaii endorses HB1992. The rural transfer stations are being filled with yard waste and kitchen scraps. In North Kohala pickup trucks, full beyond capacity with green waste come in a never ending stream, all day long, 7 days a week. The idea that we are trucking this valuable resource to be buried in our landfill is difficult to understand. Why are we spending all that money to collect and transfer that nutrient rich plant matter thirty miles to be mixed with disposable diapers and other trash that will never break down? This is low hanging fruit right here. The community is 100% behind this.

Not only will the county save money by cutting back on the number of times they have to switch out the compactors, but it slows down the filling of our landfills. Food waste and soiled biodegradable materials, such as pizza boxes and paper plates can also find a place in local composting operations. As it is now, landfills have a putrid smell, that's rotting organic matter emitting methane. I'm sure everyone who works in the sanitation department would be happier if that rotting organic matter never entered the waste stream. These materials, mixed with the large amount of yard waste, would be a lot more sanitary and inoffensive and help to advance the composting process.

We also have to consider the amount of money the citizenry would save by having distributed composting operations. It's not just the cost of the trucks going back and forth to the transfer stations, a centralized composting operation would force the community to drive more often. We have to pay taxes to ship organic matter to a central location, then pay again to drive down and bring it all the way back to where it just came from. Having multiple local based composting operations would save money, cut down on greenhouse gas emission and provide a valuable and convenient resource for our rural districts, which after all, is where most of our agricultural operations are situated.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1992
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau provides comments on HB 1992, 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii agriculture.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Thursday, February 3, 2022

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Hon. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Hon. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: HB 1992 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Hearing: Friday, January 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Via Videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

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

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:01:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nathaniel Hogsten	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Big compost facilities here on Oahu do not compost food waste at an impactful scale because most is thrown in municipal waste bins by residents and businesses and it eventually ends up in the landfill. Considering 40% of food is wasted in developed nations like Hawaii this is a huge source of carbon emissions that is completely slipping through the cracks. Although big facilities do process green waste (yard waste) into compost using the green bins often filled by landscapers, their compost is not quality and routinely has metal nails, plastic, and rocks from the contamination inside the bins and from the inefficiencies of large scale industrial composting practices that can't be fixed. The lack of quality and contamination has been confirmed by firsthand experience and from conversations with landscapers.

There is a lack of quality in the compost for the previously mentioned reasons above and a lack of affordable compost because it is not being made on local, small scales for farmers and large scale landscapers. Local farmers are empowered by this bill because it allows them to make and use locally generated compost that could be very cheap and even free in some cases; expenses are mounting and current laws block access to basic, cheap farming practices because it's not "acceptable" legally even though the practice dates back a thousand years. Small compost companies, which I am trying to start myself, are empowered by this bill because they will have legal authority to generate compost for farmers that are not educated on the field, to source high value compost materials like food waste from residences and businesses, and to make a living by selling compost to those who need actual quality compost (farmers, gardeners, landscapers). It will connect the circle that recycles our wastes into a product that eventually ends up making food for us again. This is so because consumers that throw away waste that ends up in farmers and compost company hands will be making compost that contributes to making more food.

The only plausible opposition given to this bill may include the possibility that pathogens may propagate in a compost pile. This is only a threat when compost piles are not maintained and lack the proper materials (brown & green ingredients / carbon-to-nitrogen ratio). Proper composting is not a complex process and can be replicated incredibly easily - tightening regulation for these reasons is a misplaced concern and the practice is almost

completely safe. For a compost company like my own this will never be a problem because we will have the proper permits, education, and government oversight that will ensure safety for everyone involved. From personal experience people are disincentivized to learn or even entertain composting at a legitimate scale because it is not even technically legal in the first place. This bill will give small composting companies and local farms the legal authority to educate others and actually produce actual compost at scale using very quality sources like food waste.

Nathaniel Hogsten

Kaimuki Compost Collective

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:24:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reba Lopez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a family farmer at Birds with Arms Farms and the President of the Haleakala Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, I support this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:44:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Wolfendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is illogical to restrict or impede composting by small farmers.

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:19:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Composting is vital for Hawaii to keep organics out of the landfill where it would produce methane, and in order to be applied to land where it will sequester carbon, enhance the nutrition of the plants that grow from it, and help the soil hold water. It should be used in gardens and farms for those reasons, but even just putting it on fields with grass will both sequester the carbon in the compost and also pull carbon from the air. A win-win for everyone!

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:52:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1992. Composting should without a doubt be an allowable ag zoned activity.

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:08:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support HB1992

everyone likes composting in the abstract...but there are real life legal obsticals to making composting wide spread and economically viable. businesses and residents need to have composting facilities available near where they live + work for collection and processing of their kitchen scraps, cardboard, and paper. as a grassroots compost educator, i've seen first hand that many in the general population support, and are ready for, residential compost pick up or drop off sites. it's in our roots...from the slop man to throwing scraps around bananas please remove these obstacles so small LOCAL businesses can form to provide a solution to 50% of our landfill intake being compostable materials. hilo landfill has been "full" for the entirety of my 30+ years of life and the solution given is to truck waste 80 miles away...?????....while we live in an environment that is so easy to compost in. we are an island with finite resources. please support common sense solutions.

mahalo,

shantee brown

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:13:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorna Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill HB1992.

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:14:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lyn Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being a long term resident of Kamuela on the Big Island we understand the tremendous positive impact of composting on soil regeneration, organic agriculture and food and cardboard waste management. The lack of legitimacy supporting co-composting drastically inhibits the development of these activities which are revenue producing, job creating and imperative for our environment.

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:41:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

House Agriculture Committee Members,

I support this bill! We can all do more to reduce waste going to landfills and diverting food and green waste to composting would be great. If I can make and use my own compost (granted it's a teeny tiny backyard operation) it makes great sense to me to allow composting on agricultural lands. Frankly, it's surprising that it isn't allowed. I appreciate that there will be permitting and management to ensure safety. Great! Let's do it. I support this bill. Thank you!

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:58:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1992. A robust composting infrastructure is highly needed to combat waste, generate soil for local food production, and to address climate change.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony,

Monica Rott Stone

Kailua-Kona, HI

District 7

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:22:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

I am a resident of East Honolulu, have worked as an environmental scientist for 25 years, and managed a city-government sanctioned community compost cooperative while I lived in Washington, DC. I strongly support HB1992.

Food scraps that go to landfill generate methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. If the food scraps are incinerated, it is a waste of a precious resource that could otherwise be used to generate valuable soil amendments for residential gardens and farms to help reduce or, in some cases, eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers.

I was dismayed to learn that community composting or food waste collections were not options when I moved to Honolulu 3 years ago. Many other cities and communities across the United States have successfully implemented composting options for their residents. This is an important part of an overall carbon reduction and sustainability strategy and should definitely be a part of Hawaii's strategy.

I urge you to pass HB1992.

Mahalo nui,

Amy Kelley, Honolulu 96821

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:28:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ezikio Quintana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1992

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:44:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill that would make composting easier on agriculture lots in order to promote production of local compost.