



STATE OF HAWAII  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0256  
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: 2/14/2023 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 supports HB0256 to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes  
5 (HRS) Section 342G-1 to include two new definitions for "biodegradable" and "organic waste;"  
6 amend HRS Section 342G-26(c) to identify specific measures to divert organic waste produced  
7 within the counties; require the counties to incorporate these organic waste diversion  
8 requirements into their respective integrated solid waste management plans; and provide funding  
9 to the counties to implement this new requirement in their planning efforts.

10 The Department respectfully requests that a new subaccount project fund be established  
11 in the Environmental Management Special Fund and appropriations to reimburse the counties for  
12 incorporating organic waste diversion measures into their integrated solid waste management  
13 plans be deposited into the subaccount. In accordance with HRS Section 342G-24, counties shall  
14 submit revised integrated solid waste management plans to the Department every ten years.  
15 Counties that just updated their integrated solid waste management plans will not need to submit  
16 their next update to the Department for several years. For example, the County of Kaua'i  
17 completed its revised integrated solid waste management plan in 2021 and will not update their  
18 current plan until 2031. Creating a subaccount project fund will preserve the appropriated funds  
19 until it is necessary to reimburse the counties.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

21 **Offered Amendments:** None



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of  
Leah Laramee  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
9:10 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 256  
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

House Bill 256 requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year. Appropriates funds to reimburse the counties for incorporation of the new requirement into their plan revisions. **The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this bill.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Food loss and waste is estimated to be roughly one third of the food intended for human consumption in the United States. When food ends up in landfills, it generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The Commission recognizes the importance of diverting organic waste to alternative processing such as composting to reduce the generation of methane and highlights the additional need to address food waste. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a report in 2021 on the environmental impacts of food waste. EPA estimated that each year, U.S. food loss and waste equals the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 42 coal-fired power plants. The report also highlights the benefits of preventing food loss and waste in terms of agricultural land, blue water, fertilizer, and energy. Reducing and preventing food waste can increase food security, foster productivity and economic efficiency, promote resource and energy conservation, and address climate change, which in turn, could also decrease climate change-related shocks to the supply chain.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB256**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 9:10 p.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran and Members of the Committee,

We support HB256 which requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year.

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HAPA fully supports efforts across the board to reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture and efforts such as HB256 are part of the solution. Bills like HB256 are how we establish a sustainable, profitable and regenerative agriculture system for Hawai'i while improving our land management practices.

By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

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

Please support HB256.

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



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

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: **HB 256 – RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 256. This measure requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year and it appropriates funds to reimburse the counties for incorporation of the new requirement into their plan revisions.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform plank on the environment provides that its members are to “protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of] the Hawai'i State Constitution.” [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.democrats.org/our-platform)

Organic waste is any material that comes from either a plant or an animal and can be decomposed by microorganisms (biodegradable) into carbon dioxide, methane, and simple organic molecules, or consists of the remains, residues, or waste products of any organism.

Organic Waste Management increases the structure, texture, air circulation, and water holding capacity of the soil, its storage, maintenance, and use are easier than dung manure, it is free from pathogens, toxic elements, and weed seeds, and earthworm manure reduces the loss of nutrients. Compost and fertilizer is a much better use of organic waste than to dispose of it in a landfill where it only produces dangerous methane gas.

Requiring each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year and appropriating funds to reimburse the counties for incorporation of the new requirement into their plan revisions are consistent with the state and counties' duties under the Public



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 14, 2023

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Trust Doctrine under Article XI, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, and the DPH Platform environmental plank to restore, preserve, and protect our native ecosystem.

Please support and pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

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



To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, the Honorable Vice Chair Elle Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

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

Re: **Hearing HB256 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.**

Hearing: Tuesday February 14, 2023, 9:10 a.m., room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

**The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB256!**

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This bill would require each county to plan to divert all organic waste from larger facilities from their landfills. Organic waste is any material that comes from a plant or animal, including green waste, food waste, food-soiled paper that is acceptable for food storage, and untreated and unpainted wood waste. Organic waste in a landfill can produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is 80 times worse than carbon dioxide for the climate.

This bill would help Hawai'i reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and meet its decarbonization goals.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo! Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



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Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB256.**

This bill will have a significant contribution to the health and sustainability of our state, and ultimately support the state's existing agricultural industry. This bill encourages a shift from traditional landfills to composting and other methods of waste reduction and diversion.

HFUU believes that composting and other methods are viable strategies to reduce the overall amount of waste generated in Hawaii, and provide an key input for locally-made soil amendments. By incorporating a plan for diverting organic waste and allocating funds to reimburse counties for its integration, Hawaii will be able to begin making a significant dent in our organic waste stream.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipō Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:10:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Organic waste produces methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. By allowing organic waste into our landfills we are adding to the climate crisis when we could be turning it into compost to enrich our soils that will actually sequester carbon and add other multiple benefits, such as reducing the need for non organic, fossil fuel based amendments and herbicides. Strong support for this positive action



**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:16:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:57:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:58:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you for supporting legislation that will address our serious solid waste issues.

Mahalo

Matt

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:51:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support HB256 which requires each county to incorporate a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year into the next integrated solid waste management plan revision.

Thank. you for your attention and courtesy

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:05:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tula roderick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha honorable chairs and committee members,

As someone who cares deeply about the environment and sustainability, I wholeheartedly support Bill 256. By requiring each county to develop a plan to divert all organic waste, this bill will help to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and promote the use of more environmentally-friendly methods of waste management. Additionally, the provision of funds to reimburse counties for incorporating this requirement into their plans will help to ensure that these plans are developed and implemented in a timely and effective manner. Overall, I believe that this bill represents an important step towards creating a more sustainable future for Hawaiian communities and our planet.

- Tulabelle Roderick

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:47:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

Mahalo Rep. Cochran, Gates, Perruso and others for introducing and/or supporting this important bill.

As you know and already support diverting organic solid waste helps solve several problems among them - the lack of space for more landfill and the need to reduce our emissions. It's something we can do here in Hawaii.

This bill to integrate organic waster diversion into planning is the critical first step.

It's important to me to support all efforts to benefit our climate and I am a strong supporter of HB256.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:14:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB256**

**Support**

Waste management plans need to divert organic waste produced.

Organic waste contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Diversion and to other options such as composting support healthier soils to increase carbon sequestration and water retention for increased ecosystem protection.

Keith Neal

Waimea

**HB-256**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:25:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Chatterson	Zero Waste Oahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for considering this bill to reduce the burden of organic waste on our climate, landfills, and waste incinerators.