



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0895
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION**

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:** HB0895 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 342G to
5 update the State's integrated solid waste management (ISWM) priorities by establishing
6 benchmarks for organic waste diversion and updating the State's solid waste stream reduction
7 goals. In addition, HB0895 directs counties to incorporate organic waste diversion goals into
8 their ISWM plans, and funding is appropriated to the counties to implement this new organic
9 waste diversion requirement.

10 The Department supports establishing benchmarks for organic waste diversion and
11 incorporating organic waste diversion goals into county ISWM plans and continues to focus on
12 achieving solid waste stream reduction goals. In late-October 2022, the Department executed a
13 contract to update the State ISWM plan. As part of the procurement and contract process, the
14 State identified eight specific solid waste stream discussion topics to be addressed in the ISWM
15 plan update. The Department's contractor is tasked with developing a problem statement
16 centered around each solid waste stream discussion topic, performing a comparative analysis that
17 examines statutory and/or programmatic approaches that other states take to address similar solid
18 waste stream issues, and highlighting potential solutions to address organic waste while
19 considering the State's unique demographic and economic variables. The assembled task force
20 that will be assisting the Department with the State ISWM Plan update will use the information

1 provided by the Department’s contractor to address the solid waste stream topic. One of the
2 identified solid waste stream discussion topics is organic waste. The Department will explore
3 adopting the goals outlined in HB0895 as part of the State ISWM Plan update and consult with
4 its partners in the respective counties regarding the feasibility of achieving the organic waste
5 diversion goals outlined in HB0895. The Department estimates that its ISWM plan update will
6 be completed in 2024.

7 The Department respectfully requests revising the proposed definition of “organic waste”
8 to prevent contaminants of concern from infiltrating compost. Specifically, it would be beneficial
9 to keep treated and painted wood out of compost.

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 ISWM plans be deposited into the
13 subaccount. In accordance with HRS Section 342G-24, counties shall submit revised ISWM
14 plans to the Department every ten years. Counties that just updated their ISWM plans will not
15 need to submit their next update to the Department for several years. For example, the County of
16 Kaua‘i completed its revised ISWM plan in 2021 and will not update their current plan until
17 2031. Creating a subaccount project fund will preserve the appropriated funds until it is
18 necessary to reimburse the counties.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20 **Offered Amendments:** “Organic waste” means any material that is compostable and comes
21 from either a plant or an animal. The term includes:

- 22 (1) Green waste;
- 23 (2) Food waste;
- 24 (3) Food-soiled paper used in food storage; and
- 25 (4) Untreated and u[~~U~~npainted wood waste.”

26 Additions appear as underlined, and deletions appear as strikeouts.



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

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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 895
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION

House Bill 895 updates the State's integrated solid waste management goals and priorities to include organic waste diversion. Requires and appropriates moneys for the counties to incorporate organic waste diversion into the counties' integrated solid waste management plans. **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 CO₂ 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.



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 895 – 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 895. This measure updates the State's integrated solid waste management goals and priorities to include organic waste diversion and requires and appropriates moneys for the counties to incorporate organic waste diversion into the counties' integrated solid waste management plans.

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 \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](#)

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 are much better uses of organic waste than to dispose of organic waste in landfills where only dangerous methane gas produced.

Updating the State's integrated solid waste management goals and priorities to include organic waste diversion and requiring and appropriating moneys for the counties to incorporate organic waste diversion into the counties' integrated solid waste management plans are consistent with the state and counties' duties under the Public 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.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 14, 2023

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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

HB-895

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:39:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	West Maui Green Cycle, Zero Waste Maui	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

I am the owner of West Maui Green Cycle Compost Facility in west Maui and the founder and program manager of our School Food Waste Diversion Program on Maui. I am in full support of HB895

This bill is crucial for organics waste diversion in Hawaii. On Maui, have a landfill where all of our organic waste is currently going. The volume of food waste, which could be an incredible resource, not only for composting, but also for feeding pigs and other animals, is instead being sent to the landfill where it is creating harmful greenhouse gasses, meanwhile we are importing sub-par compost from the continent for our agricultural operations. The large producers, namely hotels, supermarkets, and medium to large sized elementary schools, are producing an exorbitant amount of waste. It is not uncommon for hotels in Wailea and Ka'anapali to produce 1000lbs of food waste per day, per hotel, and mid sized elementary schools (600-700 students) to produce between 300 and 500lbs per day, per school. This is madness. If there are diversion opportunities near these locations, diversion should be mandatory. Unfortunately, some businesses need to have mandates in order to "do the right thing," and throwing valuable resources into a hole in the ground in the middle of an island should no longer be an option. It's 2023, it's definitely time to hold these large producers accountable for the waste they produce.

We are fortunate in Hawaii to be able to learn and evolve from SB 1383, the organics waste diversion mandate in California, that was passed in 2016 and fully implemented in 2022. I am personally in active contact with several of the organizations who were responsible for the rollout of the mandate, and we are able to learn from their experiences in order to plan a much more efficient implementation in Hawaii. We have to start somewhere, and these timelines are honestly not very aggressive at all, and completely manageable. It is either legislation that encourages infrastructure, or infrastructure that encourages legislation, and in this field, it is usually the former. When compost businesses know we can count on feedstock, we are able to justify expansion. And in some cases, we can do it quickly. For example, my compost facility is prepared to double our capacity within 3 months should this bill pass. Please support HB895.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Owner, West Maui Green Cycle



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 HB895 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION.**

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 HB895!

This bill would require updating the State's integrated solid waste management goals and objectives to include organic waste diversion. It would appropriate funding for the counties to incorporate organic waste diversion 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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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 strongly supports HB895.**

Incorporating organic waste diversion into the counties' plans is an important and necessary step for Hawaii to reach its sustainability goals.

Organic waste, including food waste, can be used to create valuable agricultural inputs such as compost. This is a great way to reduce the amount of waste that reaches landfills, and divert for productive use a key input for the agricultural industry. We believe that the benefits of organic waste diversion, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, local economic development, and improving water and soil quality, greatly outweigh the costs of implementing and enforcing the necessary regulations. HB895 will help Hawaii lower its environmental footprint while encouraging economic growth. For these reasons, the Hawaii Farmers Union United strongly supports HB895 and urges swift passage of this important legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-895

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:23:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB895. It does not make any sense to continue landfilling organic waste which then produces climate-altering methane with risks of fire and explosions. The decades-long underground fire at the closed Kealakehe landfill in Kona is a good example of the hazards of this method of disposal of organic waste.

HB-895

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:49:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Committee members. Mahalo for hearing this important bill that establishes new State diversion goals and requirements for compostable organic materials. I stand in support of this measure. Removing compostable feedstocks from each County's waste streams prior to disposal is logical and essential to slow the rapid progression to maxed out landfills and the contentious siting of new ones. Waste-to-energy is a costly and polluting solution, leaving source reduction and diversion to bioconversion infrastructure the right move for Hawai'i. The timeline of this measure allows the necessary infrastructure and diversion strategies to continue developing and effectively manage diverted organics through composting and other bioconversion systems by the law's effective date.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Milholen - Composting & Diversion Strategist - U.S. Composting Council Member

Senate District 12 & House District 24

HB-895

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:25:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.