

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:30:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kelsey Amos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This is a wonderful support for farmers who work to improve soil health. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:07:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Support

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:35:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Karen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2955.

Crop production can be enhanced with compost and cover crop practices. I support SB2955 as it will financially aid farmers who practice in sustainable, enhanced soil practices (i.e. composting, cover crops). Farmers function on a shoestring budget so the financial assistance would pay for itself in the resulting crop production.

Please support SB2955.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:41:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anne Borman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We fully support this bill as it will improve the local agriculture.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:48:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sharlene Gee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill. I support all efforts to reduce and recycle food waste and to utilize compost. We personally compost green waste on our land and kitchen scraps. On the mainland progressive cities require separating and recycling food waste/compost. More and more cities are implementing this. Recycling food waste into compost has environmental benefits, such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:25:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support and **#fixourfoodsystem.**

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:14:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rivah Winter | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, which will help to empower Hawaii's food system.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:26:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Symonds | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Soil health is our health! #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:33:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lisa DeSantis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2955.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:00:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gerry Ross | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Compost is essential for local agriculture and I support the intent of this bill. However the compost industry in Hawaii is far behind demand. Quality compist is virtually nonexistent on Maui and we have to make all that we use and thus we cannot be reimbursed. Funds would be better spent encouraging the compist industry at this point in time.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:53:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maureen Datta | Testifying for Adaptations Inc | Support | No |

Comments:

This bill is crucial for farmers. Please support its passage.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:38:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kane M | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Composting is very important, not only for farmers to have access to quality, nutrient dense soil to grow food in, but also to keep a non-renewable resource out of landfill. I support this bill to help farmers have more access to compost. As a private citizen, I currently pay out of my own pocket to have our compostable material hauled away and given to the farmers. If we are to save landfill and a non-renewable resource critical for the survival of our people, composting needs to be a statewide solution.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:07:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dylan Ramos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and AEN Committee Members,

I support this bill for Hawaii's farmers, families, and 'āina. In conjunction with bills supporting farm-to-table programs, healthy soils, and sustainable agriculture, SB2955 can advance public, ecological, and even economic health.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:51:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| lauren bell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem

This bill will help provide our food providers with more support for the beneficial work they do for our community.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:17:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

i support this

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:00:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Robert Bence | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha i suport SB2955 for composting Mahalo

SB-2955

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:08:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sharon Shields | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem I support reimbersments for farmers to support them in using certified compost!! This is very important for food quality in our community.



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

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2955
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, 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 supports SB 2955, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State. It also establishes a temporary compost reimbursement pilot program manager position.

HFB strongly supports the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawaii. Many of our farms add compost made off-site as well as utilize short-term fallow between crop cycles to increase organic content in their soils. HFB recognizes and supports the diversion of discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. The benefits of this and of composting are well-known.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawaii's farmers. Land, water, labor, taxes, transportation, utilities, inputs, invasive species, and food safety regulations are all costs of doing business that often results in our farmers just being able to break even. HFB supports this initiative that could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. This is another mechanism that can help locally produced goods compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2955

February 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO COMPOSTING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2955 requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers for up to 50% on purchases of compost from certified vendors, provided that no single farmer or rancher can receive more than \$50,000 per year. This bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 for 1.00 temporary Program Manager position, program administrative costs, and reimbursements.

B&F notes that 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.



Officers

Vincent Mina
State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President
HFUU

Maureen Datta
Secretary
HFUU

Reba Lopez
HFUU Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert,
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

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

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 Hawai'ian islands. **HFUU strongly supports the intent of SB2955** to provide cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost.

During 2019 and 2020 the compost reimbursement pilot program provided over \$300,000 in funding to farmers large and small, organic and conventional, as well as landscape and turf operations, as cost-share for purchasing compost. **HFUU would like a compost reimbursement program re-established and made permanent**, either by removing pilot language from SB2955 or scheduling hearings for and supporting bills [SB3004](#) and [SB2288](#) which both establish a permanent program.

The success of the pilot program is clearly demonstrated by it's wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:24:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Reba Lopez | Testifying for Birds With Arms Farms | Support | No |

Comments:

As president of the Haleakala Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, and a family farmer at Birds with Arms Farms, I would like to testify in support of this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:37:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tierra Bartolotti | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Senators,

My name is Tierra Bartolotti, as a previous HFUU member, I stand in full support for proposed bill SB2955 relating to composting. On Maui, Kaua'i, & Hawai'i County especially, this cost-reimbursement pilot program for composting, will help to alleviate the financial burden for many local farmers whom already integrate & utilize composting into their soil management practices. Investing in the health of our soils is essential to ensure the longevity of our environment & local agricultural production. Composting is specifically important for increasing organic matter, improving soil structure, microbial activity, and nutrient holding capacity. I greatly appreciate that this bill has been introduced.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:15:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Steven Whaley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support!



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2955

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 1:00 p.m.

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

HAPA strongly supports SB2955, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State and establishes a temporary compost reimbursement pilot program manager position.

HAPA supports efforts to expand composting, which can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.

Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Composting 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 SB2955.

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

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:39:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Havilah Mills | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We must fund and support efforts that move our islands toward greater food security and sustainability. Programs like these will have a dramatic impact on our farmers and their ability to continue growing healthy, nutrient-dense foods for our island communities.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:42:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jessica | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in support of SB2955. Compost is an important organic input for farmers in Hawai‘i who wish to use regenerative practices that help maintain the health of our natural resources. It also has the potential to serve as a local industry, bolstering and diversifying Hawai‘i's economy while reducing dependency on imported amendments for farmers. Please vote in favor of this legislation.

Mahalo,

Jess

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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 2, 2022
1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2955
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Chairpersons Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2955. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State; establishes a temporary compost reimbursement pilot program manager position; requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds. The Department supports this bill and offers comments.

The Department successfully administered a similar program in 2019-2021 and would implement the same controls to ensure the proper disbursement of funds for this program. In order to maximize funds available for reimbursement, the program will be administered by existing staff and the establishment of a temporary compost reimbursement pilot program manager position is not necessary. The previous program was popular with the agriculture sector and would assist farmers and ranchers with compost costs.



As such, the Department supports this measure, provided it does not impact the Department's priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:11:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lauren Nelson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As isolated as we are geographically in Hawai'i, we are in desperate need for greater resource-recycling to allow us to capture the resources we have available on our islands. I support SB2955 as it is essential for a sustainable future of food in Hawai'i.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:18:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of SB2955.

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State. Establishes a temporary compost reimbursement pilot program manager position. Requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature. Appropriates these funds.

Support SB2955.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:10:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lauryn Rego | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2955. If the first years of the pandemic have shown us anything, it is that we need to take much swifter actions when it comes to supporting our local farmers, food producers, diverse and circular economies. Locally produced compost is a win-win. This is the time to put some support behind this industry, to reduce our dependence on imported inputs, increase agricultural yields, reduce harmful runoff, and keep organic material out of the landfill. This is one of the multiple measures that need to be prioritized on the topic of compost. Unfortunately, people don't march in the street for composting bills, so without a groundswell of people power, they keep getting overlooked. Especially when they involve appropriations. Now is the time for the State of Hawaii to put a couple more eggs in our agricultural basket.

Mahalo,

Lauryn Rego

[Feeding Hawaii](#)

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:35:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| joann sarubbi md | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

#FIXOURFOODSYSTEM