

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

FEBRAURY 23, 2022

10:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2955
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Chairpersons Dela Cruz 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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
SENATE BILL NO. 2955

**February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 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, 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.

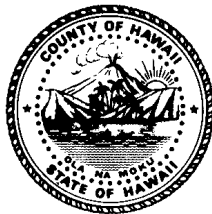
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 22, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 2955, RELATING TO COMPOST
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:05am

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2955. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to the department of agriculture to reestablish and implement a compost reimbursement pilot program to assist farmers and ranchers in the State with affordable compost material.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Agriculture, food waste is the second largest component that enters a waste stream and accounts for twenty-five per cent of all materials sent to landfills. 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.

Applying compost and organic matter to soil sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, forming the largest land-based carbon sink, and mitigates climate change by effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Food waste diversion will help move the State toward the Aloha+ Challenge commitment of seventy per cent waste stream reduction by 2025.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:30:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

Compost reimbursement is an excellent strategy to enrich our constantly depleted soils. Highly support this help for our farmers.



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 DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the 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 the intent of SB2955 and provides comments** relevant to providing 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 supporting bills [SB3004](#) and [SB2288](#) which both establish a permanent program.

The success of the pilot program is clearly demonstrated by the diverse adoption and use, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Vincent Mina", written over a light blue circular stamp.



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

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2955
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 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 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 Hawai'i. 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 Hawai'i'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.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:10:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

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: SB2955 **RELATING TO COMPOSTING.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate 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** this bill. Composting food waste instead of dumping it in the landfill helps reduce methane emissions that exacerbate climate warming.

The bill should be amended to make this composting reimbursement program permanent, by striking the words "three-year" from page 2, line 14.

Please pass this bill with the above-proposed amendment or else pass SB3004, which has a permanent program.

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:22:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy & Zeb Jones	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Senate Ways & Means Committee Members:

As growers, we submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2955, which would effectively continue providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost. Composting not only improves soil health and increases drought resistance, but also reduces the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. In 2019 and 2020, the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture successfully implemented a compost reimbursement pilot program and provided \$300,000 to Hawai`i's farm, landscape and turf operations in shared costs associated with purchasing compost. We agree that SB2955 can spur increased demand for locally produced agricultural supplies – like compost and supports Hawai`i's farmers' efforts toward more sustainable agricultural practices.

However, we would ideally like to see this program adopted on a more permanent basis—funding permitting.

For these above reasons, we urge your honorable committee to please pass SB2955 out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB2955.

Warm aloha,

Nancy & Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC



Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 10:05 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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 gasses 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: 2/22/2022 9:21:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB2955

The Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to support SB2955 relating to a 3 year compost reimbursement program. Please support SB2955.

Mahalo,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Co-Chair GPH Susan Roberts Emery



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 22, 2022

Subject: **In support of SB2955 Relating to Composting**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Senate Members of the WAM Committee,

We stand in support of SB2955 establishing a compost reimbursement program and program manager because the benefits of compost are undeniable and numerous: organic waste reduction, reduced burden on landfills, improvement of our agricultural soils, and reduced toxic fertilizer use.

The concept of composting is not a new one; it is an ancient technology that Native Hawaiians and peoples around the world have practiced for thousands of years. Pits used for compost would allow households to compost their own waste and enrich the soil. But today people have come to rely on synthetic fertilizers that eventually runoff into our oceans and streams, creating deadzones that kill our marine life. When our home is surrounded by water, this fact is especially alarming and concerning for all our marine life prevalent in our waters. Supporting, encouraging, and incentivizing the use of compost through a bill like **SB2955** could effectively increase the accessibility of this extremely valuable resource.

By increasing the access and demand for compost, other efforts to divert food waste and other organic materials from the landfill could fall into place also. Compost can be used in many markets, from agronomic, horticultural, urban/suburban landscaping, forestry, to bioremediation. This bill would be supporting a diverse set of actors in Hawai'i's economy.

Especially with ambitious goals set by the Aloha+ Challenge of doubling local food production by 2030 or Act 175 requiring 30% of school foods to be local, meeting these goals will be dependent on the quality of our soils, which are the foundation to agriculture. The increased accessibility to compost resulting from this bill would increase the quality of soil and its ability to produce nutritious foods to meet our local food production goals.

To ensure the benefits are incurred for our local economy, we are requesting that **SB2955** be **amended** to specify beyond just reimbursements for compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State, but that the

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

compost have been created in the state as well. This bill begins with concerns of food waste, yet reimbursing farmers, ranchers, and landscapers for compost imported from outside of the state will not have any effect on Hawai'i's food waste issues, which stand somewhere around 1.43 million pounds of food wasted per day, and does not fully address our food security.

This bill will not only help to support our farmers, ranchers, and landscapers, but the future of Hawai'i's local food capabilities and food security. Therefore, **we are in full support of SB2955.**

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

LATE

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:32:50 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2955

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:16:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2955.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:19:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the Dept of Ag 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.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:27:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:47:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2955.

Mahalo,

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:57:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Creating and supporting local composters is a great way for Hawaii to reduce our reliance on imported fertilizer and repurposes food waste that would otherwise go into the landfill. It keeps the nutrients cycling in our food system.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:54:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Composting diverts more than half of our waste from dumps and provides rich healthy fertilizers to our farmers. It's a win-win proposal.

Mahalo.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:15:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:31:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2955.

Efforts to expand composting 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.

On December 14, 2021 Civil Beat posted an article entitled, "The Proposed Sites for Oahu's New Landfill Would Threaten Drinking Water, Officials Say"

On January 9th, 2020 Hawaii Public Radio posted an article entitled, "Hawaii Island Has Decades of Landfill Space but Still Faces Challenges When Dealing With Its Waste"

We as a state need to work on moving to a lower waste society with better programs for our future generations. Appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture for a pilot program so that farmers and ranchers receive reimbursements will encourage better practices on a wider scale.

Composting 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With Aloha,
Ashley Lee

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:38:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michal Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2955 because it will expand composting, thereby creating material in which to grown healthy, nutritious plants. Composting will also avoid the costs of hauling waste to other locations, reduce the harmful impacts of fertilizer, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Mahalo.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David S. Case	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in India in the late 1960s serving as an Agricultural Extension Agent in the state of Gujarat. This was in the early days of the "Green Revolution", and we were in India to promote the use of chemical fertilizers to increase crop yields, and it worked! We were cautioned, however, to make sure that organic matter was also returned to the soil to maintain its structure and fertility. The soil where I served as a volunteer were very old and fertile with accumulated organic matter. Hawaiian soils are very young and not far removed from their volcanic origins, which makes it even more important to increase their organic matter while minimizing the use of expensive, imported chemical fertilizers. Composting, properly done, is among the best ways to do that. This bill is an important step in that direction. I hope the Finance Committee will support it.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:56:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherryl Royce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:12:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this composting bill - please pass! Mahalo, JW

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:42:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:48:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support because this serves as a mechanism to increase demand for locally produced agricultural inputs and supports farmer transitions towards sustainable agriculture

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:04:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:52:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support --compost should be generated locally.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:34:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear WAM members,

I strongly support SB2955 which establishes a three-year compost reimbursement program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers. Hawaii needs to strongly encourage composting programs to divert green waste from landfills to farmlands where this waste can be used to reduce CO2 and methane emissions (greenhouse gases). Additionally, compost reduces farmers' costs for fertilizer and pesticides by producing healthier soil and thus healthier plants. Finally, support for composting encourages small local businesses.

Please support all the composting bills this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:46:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Testifying for Growing Together Edible Landscaping	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

As owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and owner of a small 5.5 acre farm, we fully support SB2955. A 3 year pilot compost reimbursement program would substantially help with local food production and help farmers financially. Compost helps build soil health and provides a foundation for all plants to thrive. Please support this bill and help Hawaii grow its compost programs. There is so much opportunity to grow this organization by building better composting facilities and preventing tons of food waste from landfills while producing quality compost and helping farmers boost local food production.

Mahalo,

Drew Wilkinson

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:29:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:39:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair and Committee,

I support SB2955 Any time we try to expand our composting programs on farm or from public waste recycling programs is a good thing because diverting household waste can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create nutritious soil supplement for healthy, nutritious plants.

In nature there is no such thing as waste, there is only nutrients being recycled. Composting programs reflect this natural process and we get 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 gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

The only problem with the bill is there is only 1 year funding for personal.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Efforts to expand composting 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 gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:29:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My ohana of farmers and I all strongly support SB2955 and urge you to pass this bill.

A compost reimbursement program would benefit everybody by reducing food waste and methane emissions from our overflowing landfills as well as reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and retaining the water in our soil which obviously improves the overall health. This is what we need to grow the good local food we all want!

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:44:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emmaleah Stauber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2955

A compost reimbursement program would benefit everybody by reducing food waste and methane emissions from our overflowing landfills as well as reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and retaining the water in our soil which obviously improves the overall health. This is what we need to grow the good local food we all want!

Please pass bill SB2955.

LATE

SB-2955

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:15:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and hope it encourages demand for locally-produced compost to get our compost infrastructure going!