

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3004, S.D. 1

**March 22, 2022**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO COMPOSTING

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

Senate Bill No. 3004, S.D. 1, requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 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 an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for 1.00 permanent 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.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**PROTECTION**

**MARCH 22, 2022**

**9:30 A.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3004 SD1**  
**RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

Chairpersons Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3004 SD1. The bill establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program and requires an annual progress report of the program to the legislature prior to each regular session. The Department supports this bill.

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. 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 adversely impact the department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Officers**

Vincent Mina  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

Dash Kuhr  
Kohala, Hawaii'i

Drake Weinert  
East Hawaii'i

Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawaii'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawaii'i

Robert Boudreaux  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, 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 SB3004** 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.

The success of the pilot program is clearly demonstrated by the 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-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:22:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Harriet Witt	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we want to avoid polluting our land, air and water in the process of growing our food, we need this bill. Please support it. Mahalo.



**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB3004 SD1**

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 325

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

HAPA supports SB3004 SD1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the department of agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program. Requires an annual progress report of the program to the legislature prior to each regular session.

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 SB3004 SD1.

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-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:10:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Composting captures the Carbon and makes a very useful product locally to aid all gardeners.



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:00:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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

Re: Hearing SB3004 SD1 RELATING TO COMPOSTING.

Tuesday March 22, 2022, 9:30 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection!

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 STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB3004 SD1!**

This bill would establish permanently a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and fund one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position. This bill will help farmers afford the costs of purchasing compost. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills can help farmers enrich soils. Compost is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills, since organic material, especially food waste, produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing organic material from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Please pass this bill to reduce methane emissions from landfills and help enrich soils by encouraging the composting of food waste!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:58:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

My name is David Mulinix, I am the Cofounder & Statewide Community Organizer for Our Revolution Hawaii, and on behalf of our 5,000 members and supporters statewide we stand in strong support of SB3004 SD1 establishes and appropriates moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and for one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position.

We support this bill because making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Please pass SB3004.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

David Mulinix, Cofounder & Statwide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 9:30 am

**In support of SB3004 SD1**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **support of SB3004 SD1** which establishes and appropriates moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture.

Recycling food waste into compost reaps several environmental benefits, including reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers; reducing methane emissions that are generated through organic waste in landfills; promoting higher yields of agricultural crops; aiding reforestation, wetland restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts; enhancing water retention in soils; and sequestering carbon.

This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown. Methane, in particular, is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO<sub>2</sub>. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that are destabilizing our climate system. Furthermore, 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.

Efforts that promote composting should be supported. This is a great opportunity to divert tons of food waste from landfills while producing quality compost and helping farmers boost local food production. We will all benefit! Please PASS this important bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
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March 22, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3004, SD1**  
**RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, 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 3004, SD1**, which establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program.

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.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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## Energy & Climate Action Committee

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 9:30 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

SENATE BILL 3004 – RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Position: Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Cost reimbursement for acquiring compost from food waste is an important boost to a most crucial initiative that Hawaii must undertake to do its part in curtailing climate change to livable conditions. Aside from reducing all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible, sequestering atmospheric GHGs in the soil as soon as possible is the most important step Hawaii can take in reducing the ongoing 6<sup>th</sup> Mass Extinction.

Atmospheric GHG drawdown is accomplished by green foliage, but far more that the standing crop (trees, grasses, crops), it is the soil that performs the greatest sequestration function, with millions of microbes that create both immensely productive soil for Hawaii food security and remove large amounts of atmospheric carbon and nitrogen. Without this drawdown, global warming is accelerating, and we are getting farther behind by the day. Atmospheric carbon and other GHGs are the source of global warming that produce more frequent and more violent storms and flooding, longer and more severe droughts, and disastrous megafires that loom again this summer. Global warming is currently out of control, despite diplomatic pledges to fund and engage a massive effort around the planet to reverse this problem.

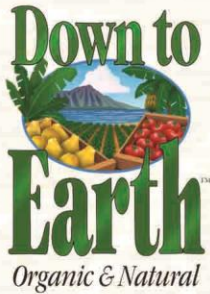
Funding is notoriously missing from this scene, and this bill is a step in the right direction to encourage the conversion of organic green and food waste to soil amendments that can make Hawaii self-sufficient in food. It is hoped that this bill will incentivize greater demand and spur market solutions to increase the potential of Hawaii land managers enrich our soils to the all-around benefit of the environment. Related bills also support the accelerated expansion of municipal waste management services, to collect and channel waste materials toward productive use.

It is essential to make the best use of local materials rather than importing materials, which carry the fossil fuel costs of transport, and to use the knowledge of local producers to create the right balance of components to match local soils, and therefore build demand and speed suppliers to serve it. We give this bill strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice & Ted Bohlen, Co-Chairs, Energy and Climate Action Committee

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



SB3004 SD1 RELATING TO COMPOST  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
March 22, 2022, 9:30am State Capitol

Aloha Rep. Nichol E. Lowen, Chair, Rep. Lisa Marten, and Committee Members.

**Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SB3004 SD1.**

*Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.*

We are strongly in support of SB3004 SD1, establishing and appropriating moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and for one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position.

Down to Earth is proud to work closely with many local farmers, and especially those that are committed to using organic and regenerative methods. We are strongly in support of this measure which will assist farmers by providing financial incentives for the use of compost. The increased use of compost on our island farms is beneficial in improving soil health, boosting carbon sequestration, reducing waste, and creating more sustainable future for food production in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs  
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager  
Down to Earth

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[www.downtoearth.org](http://www.downtoearth.org)



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

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To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protections

Re: **SB 3004 SD 1 – RELATING TO COMPOSTING**  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 325 and  
Via Videoconference  
Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protections:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SB 3004 SD 1. This measure would establish and appropriate moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and for one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position. This measure would require an annual progress report to the Legislature prior to each regular session.

Composting facilitates the production of local organic material that farmers use to improve soil health, increase drought resistance, and reduce the need for supplemental water and fertilizers while increasing crop yields, all of which are very important as we deal with the climate crisis. As per the EPA, the benefits of composting include reducing or eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers; reducing methane emissions that are generated through organic waste in landfills; promoting higher yields of agricultural crops; aiding reforestation, wetland restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts; enhancing water retention in soil; and sequestering carbon. Further, the continuation of this compost reimbursement program would greatly assist farmers in their operational cost relating to the purchase of composting material.

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 3004 SD1 as it would make the pilot compost reimbursement program permanent which would assist farmers in their operational costs relating to the purchase of composting material. In addition, the production of compost material will assist in mitigating the adverse effects of the climate crisis. Please pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

*Melodie Adajia and Alan Burdick*

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



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:57:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Who is getting reimbursed? Why is the language of this bill so vague?

As a farmer, I can neither support nor oppose this bill because all I see written, is that you are creatign a ghost job and want money for a ghost cause.

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:33:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear FIN committee members,

I strongly support SB3004 which will reimburse farmers for certain farming practices beneficial to the soil and to mitigate climate change. 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 the creation of small local businesses who transform what was previously considered "waste" into "black gold", i.e., the mineral-rich compost that plants love.

Please support all the composting bills this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:19:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in strong support

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:25:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Honorable chair and vice-chair, Senators Hashem and Perusso, as well as distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture,**

**I support the bill SB3004 SD1.**

**Composting should be a state wide tool for our island to manage its waste products.**

**Efforts to expand composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants. Composting programs 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.**

**If we are to move forward toward a growth positive agriculturally rich economy, providing healthy, fresh food to our families and communities and schools, we must include composting as part of that plan.**

**I support SB3004 SD1.**

**Thank you for this chance to testify.**

**Very sincerely,**

**D Austin**

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:28:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
luann casey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of composting & for funding to be provided for this extremely necessary activity. We need to do more to improve the soil health in order to grow better food.

Thank you, Luann Casey

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:31:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised and from this land. I'm currently a Mō'ili'ili resident. I'm writing in support SB3004 SD1.

Support this bill because:

- 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.

Support SB3004 SD1 too!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:15:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Boudreaux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passage of this bill is long overdue

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:56:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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.

Any measure to help us divert household waste from the landfill has my whole-hearted support.

Ruth Lewis

4585 Kikala RD, Kalaheo, HI 96741

808-332-5032



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:19:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing as a Kauai small farmer in SUPPORT of SB3004 SD1.

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

This effort is vitally important to Kauai which struggles continually with solid waste. Our gardeners and farmers desperately need more better compost to help grow local food.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:40:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stongly support this bill. Having a position that manages composting will facilitate less waste in landfills, less runoff polution in the ocean and help businesses thrive.

Mahalo

Noel Bobilin

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 9:07:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT.

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:36:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3004 SD1! Composting food waste as well as all organic waste, reaps several environmental benefits:

Climate Crisis: Compost reduces methane emissions that are generated through organic waste in landfills and sequesters carbon in the soil. It also aids in reforestation and wetland restoration, helping to reduce carbon and methane, further.

Agriculture/Water supply: It promotes higher yields of agricultural crops and in many cases, eliminates the need for chemical/petroleum based soil amendments, that can pollute our ground water supply. Compost enhances water retention in the soil, so less water is needed for watering. This applies to agriculture, residential and commercial properties, that need to water farms and landscape design.

Compost is a simple and cheap solution, to so many problems. Providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost is a great idea. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers, by incentivizing with a 50% match, the use of compost material.

The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win-win.

**ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS COMPOSTING SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.**

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 1:48:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB3004 SD1. Cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. Composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions. Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Mahalo, Tadia Rice

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:00:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:39:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Racquel Segato-Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a Hawai'i resident deeply concerned about the climate crisis. Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. When left in landfills food waste produces methane. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The pilot program was widely adopted, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown. Please support this bill. Mahalo!

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 8:19:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost is a great idea. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Ryan Christopher

Honokaa HI



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:39:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 3004 SD1, establishing and appropriating moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and for one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position. SB3004 SD1 requires an annual progress report to the Legislature prior to each regular session.

Recycling food waste into compost reaps several environmental benefits, including reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers; reducing methane emissions that are generated through organic waste in landfills; promoting higher yields of agricultural crops; aiding reforestation, wetland restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts; enhancing water retention in soils; and sequestering carbon.

Providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost is a great idea. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB3004 SD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Severine Busquet

Hawaii Kai

Honolulu 96825

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:20:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

I am in support of SB3004 SD1.

Efforts towards increasing composting need our support. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills.

This is especially important for Hawaii Island with our tenuous land-fill situation.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly

Volcano Village, Hawaii 96785

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 2:40:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support SB3004 SD1.

SB3004 SD1 establishes and appropriates moneys for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and for one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position. Requires an annual progress report to the Legislature prior to each regular session.

Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3004 SD1. I appreciate your time and energy to review this matter.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 3:52:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EEP Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

I support SB3004! This bill is like a companion bill (HB1992 HD3). This bill creates incentives for farmers to use compost. Composting sequesters carbon, reducing methane emissions that are generated through organic waste in landfills, it provides compost made locally (synthetic fertilizers are produced off island, relies on fossil fuels, and needs to be shipped). Using compost also creates living soils, creates better soil profiles, improves the soils microbiome and enhances water retention. Compost takes waste out of the waste stream and converts it into a resource that reduces dependency of fertilizers. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. Coupled with HB1992 and farmer inservice training in how to produce compost from on farm production of biomass it will enhance the sustainability of farms and as well as the profitability of the farms.

Providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost is a great idea. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material to improve their soil profiles and sustainability of production. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:03:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly 👍 support this bill.

Providing cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost is a great idea. This bill could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. The success of the pilot program was clearly demonstrated by the wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program. It's a win:win as composting will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate breakdown.

-- Efforts towards composting should be supported. Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on this pono bill,

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:01:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taylor Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill!

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:12:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill and how it helps preserve our 'aina!



**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:29:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's heal our soil. #fixourfoodsystem



# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

21 March 2022

To: Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Lisa Marten and the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**Re: SB3004**, Relating to Composting

I, Kahealani Acosta, testify **IN SUPPORT** of **SB3004**, relating to composting.



According to UHERO study conducted in 2015 [1], approximately 26% of food is wasted along Hawai'i's available food supply, which estimates a total loss of \$1 billion dollars of fresh consumable food annually. Food is lost all along the food chain, with greatest losses occurring at the consumer level. In 2020, Honolulu alone accounted for 400 million pounds of food waste. Consequently, Hawai'i residents lose an average of \$700 on food that goes straight to the garbage. On O'ahu, 15

percent of residential garbage is food, equating to about 435 pounds of food waste per household per year ([opala.org](http://opala.org)). This waste has the potential to become an agricultural commodity, if suited for outcomes that regenerate this waste into a valuable, nutrient-rich source material for agricultural and soil remediation strategies.

Moreover, in alignment with other agricultural bills moving through the 2022 legislative session, SB3004 would serve as a companion to SB2989, relating to a healthy soils program in Hawai'i. Soils are composed of 45% parent material, 25% air, 25% water, and 5% organic matter, in which organic matter is the sole source of energy for biological matter within the soil and is required for a healthy and well-functioning soil [2, 3].

According to the US EPA [4], compost possess the following benefits:

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**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.

- Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced.
- Compost reduces and in some cases eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Compost promotes higher yields of agricultural crops.
- Compost can help aid reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by improving contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils.
- Compost can be used to remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste in a cost effective manner.
- Compost can provide cost savings over conventional soil, water and air pollution remediation technologies, where applicable.
- Compost enhances water retention in soils.
- Compost provides carbon sequestration.

In alignment with the aloha+ challenge goal of solid waste diversion to 70% by 2030, as well as other supportive measures in the 2022 legislative session, **SB3004** is primed as an opportunity of converting food and other green waste into food for Hawai'i's soils, and ultimately a healthier and more resilient food system.

To ensure these benefits remain for our local economy, we request that **SB3004** be **amended** to specify the source of compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State, in which the compost MUST be locally produced. This bill begins with concerns of food waste, however reimbursing farmers, ranchers, and landscapers for externally sourced compost will have zero benefit on Hawai'i's food waste issues, which equates to 1.43 million pounds of food wasted per day, and does not fully address our food security if we maintain the impact of our carbon footprint by sourcing from elsewhere.

As a graduate student of indigenous cropping systems, a budding farmer, and advocate for sustainable and resilient food systems, I urge the committee to pass SB3004. On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, for considering the comments made herein.

Me ka mahalo nui (with deep gratitude),  
 Kahealani & the Food+ Interns  
 #fixourfoodsystem

#### References

[1] Matthew K Loke and PingSun Leung, "Quantifying food waste in Hawaii's food supply chain," Waste Management & Research, 2015, Vol. 33 (12) pp. 1076-1083

[2] <http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu>

[3] <https://soilhealthhawaii.org/what-is-soil-health/>

[4] <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting>

**SB-3004-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:13:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanna Norton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Composting is a key component that is missing from our institutionalized practices, necessary to start a regenerative or sustainable economy. Compost adds value in every way.....it reduces landfill waste, reduces methane emissions, improves plant growth and shade and food production, reduces dependence on imported fertilizers, captures non-renewable nutrient pools such as phosphorous, and adds soil carbon. The soil is a larger sink for carbon than the atmosphere and all plants combined, and it is carbon-poor from human meddling, unlike the atmosphere which is carbon-rich from human meddling. So it is a perfect place to start storing carbon, as fast as we can, and we can start by composting as much as we can and returning those nutrients to the soil. It's one of the most value-adding activities we can do, I believe. But the economic and legal situation around composting right now makes it difficult to make progress on this front. Please make it easier by passing this bill.

SB 3004 SD 1 TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Hearing on March 22, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

This bill encourages carbon sequestration by establishing a compost reimbursement program. Composting sequesters carbon, which complements efforts to reduce carbon emissions to mitigate climate change. We need to do both – sequester carbon and reduce carbon emissions -- if we are to avoid a global climate catastrophe. In mitigating climate change, this bill will have beneficial impacts for generations