

**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**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**

**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

Chairpersons Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3004. 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.





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FEBRUARY 9, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3004**  
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 3004**, 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 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.



**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 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 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-3004**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:47:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Life of the Land supports this measure.

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:32:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Senate,

As the owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and a small scale farm, I fully support SB3004. This bill will aid in helping achieve food security by providing reimbursement for one of the key elements to helping plants and trees grow. Compost is a vital part of every landscape and farm planting. Please recognize the financial challenges farmers endure and heavily consider passing this bill to help work towards better distribution of compost into our landscapes and farms.

Thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

Owner and Operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:04:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members, as a long time Hawaii resident and educator in our schools. have been composting for over 10 yrs and I cannot imagine a better positive solution for food waste! I strongly urge the passing of this Bill. Thank you!

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:35:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lucas McKinnon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The benefits of composting include 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. Local farmers and landowners are severely impacted by the lack of available compost, and local households are unwillingly exacerbating the unnecessary use of landfills. It is illogical, wasteful, and economically disastrous to not create incentive and longterm solutions to bring these two streams together into a mutually beneficial circular system.

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:39:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Another late to the party initiative.

There should ALREADY be community composting facilities on each island and ahupuaa.

Since it will take FOREVER for our government to establish community composting facilities, THIS proposed legislation is the right step to take NOW!

I strongly support this proposed legislation.



**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:13:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:39:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - I fully support this bill that 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. Mahalo, Karen

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:30:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3004.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:59:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of SB3004 Relating to Composting. Why desecrate our Islands with expanding landfills with material that could be used in growing our soils and agricultural economic capital? Composting is an integral step in revitalizing soils and returning to the land the nutrients extracted from it for our agricultural products. It is imperative we construct effective legal and social structures that guide public action towards this crucial goal. Investing in a composting infrastructure is a key step in that direction.

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. 3004

**February 9, 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. 3004 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.

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:31:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I greatly support the intent of this bill, but as with a lot of these environmental, climate, and agricultural bills, SB3004 needs amending to better prioritize and benefit Hawaii. Please make sure this and all bills involved with purchasing, subsidizing, or incentivizing are first and foremost made to benefit Hawaii's small businesses, workers, farmers, families, and 'āina.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:01:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Vince Kana`i Dodge	Testifying for `Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

Writing and strong support of SB3004.

Aloha Nui!

Vince Dodge



**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:53:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of this bill, which will empower our local food system and make it more sustainable. #FixOurFoodSystem



**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

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

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 1:00 p.m.

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

HAPA supports Sb3004, 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.

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



*Restore the Commons*

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SENATE BILL 3004 – RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Position: Support

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

SB 3004 provides 50% reimbursement for compost purchases, but please specify that the compost to be reimbursed is the compost production we are supporting with Hawaii funding as a mandate for reducing our waste stream by recycling to our soils in the Hawaii soil health program.

Composting is a critical need in the movement toward stopping climate change, as it provides a major impetus to sequestering atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHG) for range lands, farmlands, and forests. Composting is a deliberate act being supported as an active part of county waste treatment and applications, apart from landfilling or incineration. Planning for effective diversion and transformation of organic waste into the general improvement of soil health is supported in other legislative initiatives. Cultivating a composting program represents a major investment challenge, not only in constructing facilities but in distributing composted materials and assuring proper integration with soil. It must be integrated with any reimbursement scheme to ensure a proper return on our taxpayer dollars.

Its extreme importance must be strongly emphasized, as the generation of GHGs is worsening the survivability of plants and animals adapted to the climate we have known as “normal”, which see changing before our eyes. Transformational changes like this must go hand-in-hand with our experience of climate extremes and disruptions. This is an urgent and life-saving step forward to a new normal. The re-integration of composted materials into land management of rangeland and forest, particularly, will present social and economic challenges we have only begun to explore.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

Charley Ice, Hoa'āina; and co-chair of the Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Hawaii Democratic Party

**Building the new normal with People and Land: Food Security Health Care Public Banking  
Regenerating Soils Cutting Waste Eliminating GHG emissions**

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:17:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in support

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:22:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3004 it would not only help to create more organic fertilizer vs chemical products but also help to make use of food waste and allow farmers who participate in the program an avenue to receive reimbursement that would, in turn, help them with day to day costs and allow them to be able to grow more organic food crops which would ultimately create Safer Food Sustainability for us all.

Mahalo,

Makanoe Hufana

**SB-3004**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:43:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee members,

I support SB3004 because it would not only help to create more organic fertilizer vs chemical products that are harmful to our 'Āina but also help to make use of food waste and allow farmers who participate in the program an avenue to receive reimbursement that would in turn help them with day to day costs and allow them to be able to grow more organic food crops which would ultimately create a Safer Food Sustainability for us all.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in Support of SB3004

Me ke Aloha,

Kapua Medeiros

Aloha 'Āina Advocate