



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0964 SD1  
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 2/25/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

2 **Department Testimony:** Sections 2 and 3: The Department of Health agrees that composting is  
3 a great option for organics management and landfill diversion, and respectfully opposes Sections  
4 2 and 3 of SB964SD1 as currently written, and offers amendments. The bill proposes to exempt  
5 “artisan scale” composting facilities from Department regulations, provided that they do not pose  
6 a vector, dust, or odor problem as determined by the Department. “Artisan scale” composting  
7 facilities are defined as three different types of composters: (1) receives, the greater of, less than  
8 1,000 pounds or less than one cubic yard of organic material per week on average; (2) composts  
9 on property under the control of the waste generator; or (3) composts less than 3,000 cubic yards  
10 of yard trimmings.

11 The Department is concerned with a blanket exemption of all DOH rules as their purpose  
12 is to protect human health and the environment. Although we understand the need to eliminate  
13 the burden imposed by certain rules/requirements, eliminating compliance with all DOH rules  
14 could compromise public health and welfare.

15 The Department’s concern over composting operations are not limited to vector, dust, and  
16 odors, but also fire potential, nutrient loading, water pollution, and the quality of the finished  
17 compost (stability, pathogens and other contaminants). We note that there are no proposed  
18 restrictions on the compost’s use or distribution. By exempting these facilities from the

1 Department's regulations, we lose the ability to evaluate the potential impact of the operation  
2 and require appropriate controls that are protective of human health and the environment.

3 This bill assumes that the listed categories of "artisan scale" will not create a health and  
4 environmental concern, when in fact, the proposed categories are too broad to reach that  
5 conclusion. For example, organic material is not defined nor is there a discussion on the type or  
6 size of composting operation for a waste generator. Organic material may include treated lumber,  
7 sewage sludge, and fats, oils, and grease. Waste generators may include large landowners with  
8 multiple property locations.

9 Sewage sludge and other pathogen-containing waste (such as animal waste) may contain  
10 pathogenic bacteria, viruses, protozoa, or helminths. If not properly treated through the  
11 composting operation, these types of waste could be a source of pathogenic contamination. The  
12 proper treatment of sewage sludge for land application is covered under the Department's  
13 Chapter 11-62, Hawaii Administrative Rules. Public health and safety would be compromised if  
14 these regulations were exempt.

15 We recognize that not all regulations may be suitable to all types of composting  
16 operations. Therefore, the Department already has a tiered solid waste permitting program for  
17 relatively small composting facilities that only composts less than 3,000 tons of yard trimmings  
18 per year. For this type of operation, the facility receives its solid waste permit after 30 days of  
19 submission of a complete application provided that the operation is in conformance with the  
20 requirements already listed in the regulations. This type of regulatory oversight of small, low  
21 impact operations is preferred over full exemptions such that the Department is notified of its  
22 existence and still has an opportunity to evaluate its operations.

23 The Department also regulates the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
24 (NPDES) permit program. Composting facilities have federally regulated Standard Industrial  
25 Classification codes in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and are required to obtain NPDES permits for  
26 industrial storm water discharges. Also, NPDES permits are required for composting facilities  
27 that have point source effluent discharges to State surface waters. Therefore, exemption of state

1 regulations regarding NPDES permitting will not absolve the composters' responsibility of  
2 complying with federal NPDES permitting requirements.

3         The Department prefers to address small composting operations through the  
4 Department's solid waste regulations, however, if the Legislature chooses to codify this  
5 exemption, we ask the Legislature to consider the following recommendations: (1) Exempt  
6 artisan-scale operations from only composting permitting requirements under HRS 342H and  
7 related rules. If the facility is not to produce nuisance conditions, such as dust, the remaining  
8 applicable Department regulations should remain enforceable. In addition, composting facilities  
9 must comply with federal NPDES permitting requirements. (2) Remove requirements that will  
10 be difficult to enforce, such as determining what is an unreasonable impact to neighbors. (3)  
11 Require artisan composters to maintain records. Being that there is no permitting or notification  
12 requirements for these types of facilities, the Department will only become aware of their  
13 existence through complaints. Documentation that these facilities are operating within the  
14 defined exemption is the only reasonable means to determine whether these composters meet the  
15 exemption requirements, when a complaint is received. (4) Limit the amount of time waste can  
16 remain on-site from thirty six months to twelve months to ensure waste is composted and not just  
17 dumped. (5) Allow acceptance of only specified non-pathogenic organic materials including  
18 green waste or yard trimmings, agricultural plant materials, vegetable and fruit waste, coffee  
19 grounds and tea leaves. (6) Placement of this proposed statutory language should be codified in  
20 HRS chapter 342H rather than chapter 225P. Proposed amendments are offered at the end of the  
21 testimony.

22 Section 5: It is the Department's understanding from Section 1 of the bill and from the last  
23 committee report that the main purpose of Section 5 of this bill is to exclude composting facilities  
24 from the buffer zone requirement in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 342H-52. However,  
25 the proposed language instead proposes to apply the buffer requirement to all solid waste  
26 management facilities that were not previously included, such as recycling/processing facilities,  
27 transfer stations, and medical and foreign waste treatment facilities. HRS Section 342H-52  
28 requires a "waste or disposal facility including a municipal solid waste landfill unit, any

1 component of a municipal solid waste landfill unit, a construction and demolition landfill unit, or  
2 any component of a construction and demolition landfill unit,” establish “a buffer zone of no less  
3 than one-half mile around the waste or disposal facility”. The Department has concluded that a  
4 “waste or disposal facility” is a landfill, and other types of solid waste facilities are excluded  
5 given this language in the section itself, the insertion of the buffer zone requirement in Part IV of  
6 HRS Chapter 342H that applies to municipal solid waste landfill criteria, and the definition of  
7 “facility” in HRS Section 342H-51 to include “...land used for the disposal of solid waste.”  
8 Therefore, composting facilities are already excluded from the buffer zone requirement. If the  
9 Legislature’s intent is solely to ensure that composting facilities are excluded from the buffer  
10 zone requirement, then the Department recommends deletion of the definition of “disposal  
11 facility.” With the deletion of “disposal facility,” then the revision to the “food waste”  
12 definition in Section 4, is no longer necessary and should be deleted. Proposed amendments  
13 with this understanding is provided at the end of the testimony.

14 Lastly, the Department supports the the reinstatement of the Department’s permitting  
15 authority over federal municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills, as the removal of the  
16 Department’s authority places the state in potential non-compliance of 40 Code of Federal  
17 Regulations (CFR), Part 239, Subpart C “Requirements for Adequate Permit Programs.” 40  
18 CFR Part 239, Section 6, “Permitting requirements,” state, “...(d) The state shall have the  
19 authority to collect all information necessary to issue permits that are adequate to ensure  
20 compliance with the relevant 40 CFR part 257, subpart B or 40 CFR part 258 federal revised  
21 criteria.” Further, 40 CFR 239.13, “Criteria and procedures for withdrawal of determination of  
22 adequacy,” states, “(a) The Regional Administrator [of the U.S. Environmental Protection  
23 Agency] may initiate withdrawal of a determination of adequacy when the Regional  
24 Administrator has reason to believe that: (1) A state no longer has an adequate permit program;  
25 or (2) The state no longer has adequate authority to administer and enforce an approved program  
26 in accordance with this part.” The loss of a federal approved program will no longer afford other  
27 MSW landfills in the State, which are currently all owned by the Counties, the ability to design,

1 operate, close, and monitor their landfill using alternative designs or methods to the federal  
2 standard that could be more suitable for local site conditions and more cost-effective.

3 **Offered Amendments:**

4 Section 2: The proposed language is removed from HRS 225P, and HRS Section 342H -  
5 4.5 is amended to read as follows:

6 “~~§225P-1~~ **342H-4.5 Artisan-scale composting operations.** ~~[There is established within the~~  
7 ~~department a class of a]~~Artisan-scale composting operations that are sited on land zoned  
8 industrial or agricultural ~~[and are]~~shall be exempt from department of health compost permitting  
9 requirements ~~[rules; provided that these operations do not produce vectors, dust, or odors that~~  
10 ~~unreasonably impact neighbors of the operation, as determined by the department],~~  
11 ~~[and]~~provided that no waste accepted remains on-site for more than ~~[thirty-six]~~ twelve months.  
12 No more than one exempt facility specified in this section may be located on geographically  
13 contiguous land owned or operated by the same person. ~~[Sufficient bulking agent shall be used~~  
14 ~~to provide proper aeration and control leachate migration. For these facilities, precipitation,~~  
15 ~~surface water, and groundwater that have come in contact with yard trimmings or the resultant~~  
16 ~~product shall not be considered leachate if it is managed within the site, is allowed to enter a~~  
17 ~~surface waterbody, and does not cause a violation of state water quality standards.]~~ In order to  
18 maintain the compost permitting exemption, an artisan scale composting operation shall maintain  
19 documentation that the operation is in compliance with this section. Documentation shall  
20 include but is not limited to the amount and type of waste accepted, the date at which the waste  
21 was accepted at the artisan-scale composting operation, and when and where the finished  
22 compost is land-applied within the artisan-scale composting site. All artisan-scale composting  
23 operations shall make records available for the department to review upon request.

24 For the purposes of this section, “artisan scale composting operation” means a facility  
25 that accepts, measured on a monthly average, no more than one cubic yard of green waste or  
26 yard trimmings; agricultural plant materials; vegetable and fruit waste; or coffee grounds and tea  
27 leaves per month, and have no more than twelve cubic yards of material being composted at any

1 given time at a site controlled and owned by the waste generator with the finished compost  
2 applied and controlled on-site by the same waste generator.”

3 Section 3: Delete all language as the proposed artisan composting language is moved  
4 from HRS chapter 225P to HRS chapter 342H and definitions are incorporated or exist in the  
5 destination chapter.

6 Section 5: Section 342H-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

7 “**§342H-52 Prohibitions; buffer zones.** (a) No person, including any federal agency, the State,  
8 or any county, shall construct, operate, modify, expand, or close a municipal solid waste landfill  
9 unit, or any component of a municipal solid waste landfill unit, without first obtaining a permit  
10 from the director. All permits for municipal solid waste landfill units shall be subject to any  
11 terms and conditions that the director determines are necessary to protect human health or the  
12 environment.

13 (b) No person, including the State or any county, shall construct, modify, or expand a  
14 [~~waste or~~] disposal facility including a municipal solid waste landfill unit, any component of a  
15 municipal solid waste landfill unit, a construction and demolition landfill unit, or any component  
16 of a construction and demolition landfill unit without first establishing a buffer zone of no less  
17 than one-half mile around the [~~waste or~~] disposal facility. This subsection shall not apply to the  
18 continued operation of an existing [~~waste or~~] disposal facility that is properly permitted;  
19 provided that continued operation does not require physical expansion, vertical or horizontal, of  
20 the facility requiring additional permitting review and a permit modification.

21 For the purposes of this subsection:

22 "Buffer zone" means the distance between the edge of waste or waste activity and the  
23 nearest residential, school, or hospital property line.

24 [~~"Disposal facility" means:~~

25 (1) ~~A transfer station or landfill as defined in section 340A-1;~~

1       ~~(2) An open dump as defined in section 342H-1;~~

2       ~~(3) A solid waste reduction facility or waste reduction facility as defined in section 342G-1,~~  
3       ~~except facilities designed primarily for composting organic material such as food waste and~~  
4       ~~green waste, as those terms are defined in section 342G-1, and on-site school campus food waste~~  
5       ~~composting programs;~~

6       ~~(4) A disposal facility; or~~

7       ~~(5) Any other facility for the disposal of solid waste that is required by law to obtain a~~  
8       ~~permit from the department of health.~~

9               ~~"Disposal facility" [individual, state certified, non-industrial redemption center.] excludes~~  
10       ~~recycling drop-off facilities, facilities for composting as defined in section 342G-1.~~

11               ~~"Recycling drop-off facility" means a structure or site designated for collection,~~  
12       ~~temporary storage, and small scale (low technology) segregation of recyclable materials.]"~~

13       Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021  
9:30 AM  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 964 SD1  
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 964 HD1 relating to waste management. The Department has concerns with SB 964 HD1 relating to compost. This bill seeks to support local farmers and expanding the capacity for capturing and processing organic waste, clarifies that composting facilities are excluded from buffer zone requirements that apply to solid waste landfills and defines a class of artisan-scale composting operations.

The definition of artisan scale composting creates language requiring finished compost to be applied and controlled by the waste generator. The department requests this definition to further specify that finished compost must not be distributed and remain on premises. The bill proactively restricts a facility from the inclusion of pathogenic organic material. However, Department of Health currently lacks the capability to ensure bulking agents such as green waste are free from insects, plant diseases and noxious weed seeds. Artisan scale composting that routinely use such bulking agents in their products, would now be exempt from any Health regulations that may reduce or eliminate the risks posed by composting.





The Department suggests the following clarifying amendment at Page 6 Line 9 (new language underlined) to restrict the generators ability to distribute finished product and eliminate the risk of artisan scale composting transmitting invasive species, plant pathogens and weeds to others unknowingly:

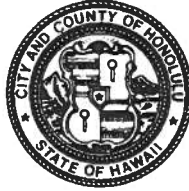
“more than three thousand cubic yards of yard trimmings per year with the finished compost applied and contained on-site by the same waste generator.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



WESLEY T. YOKOYAMA, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL O'KEEFE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 21-36

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Keohokalole:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill 964 SD 1, Relating to Waste Management**

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services ("ENV") is writing to express a serious concern that SB 964 SD 1 will adversely affect the City's daily refuse collection and disposal operations by broadening the types of disposal facilities subject to a half-mile buffer.

Currently, under Section 342H-52, no entity shall "construct, modify, or expand a disposal facility including a municipal solid waste landfill unit, any component of a municipal solid waste landfill unit, a construction and demolition landfill unit, or any component of a construction and demolition landfill unit without first establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile around the disposal facility. This subsection shall not apply to the continued operation of an existing disposal facility that is properly permitted; provided that continued operation does not require physical expansion, vertical or horizontal, of the facility requiring additional permitting review and a permit modification." SB 964 SD 1 defines Disposal facility under HRS Section 342H-52, in part, as "(1) a **transfer station** or landfill as defined in Section 340A-1..." Section 340A-1 defines a transfer station as "a supplemental transportation facility used as an adjunct to solid waste route collection vehicles, which facility may be fixed or mobile and may include recompaction of solid waste." Transfer stations and the City's convenience centers, which effectively operate as small regional transfer stations, are currently not subject to the one-half mile buffer requirement in Section 342H-52. SB 964 SD 1 would change that.

Effect on Transfer Stations & Convenience Centers

To address a growing population base in many communities across Oahu and an increasing demand for refuse services, ongoing and planned projects at the City's

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jerret Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
February 23, 2021  
Page 2

Refuse Transfer Stations and Convenience Centers would increase capacity and improve public service. In addition, since the COVID-19 Emergency Proclamations were issued in March 2020 and following the island-wide expansion of the City's bulky appointment system on July 1, 2020, public demand at the City's Refuse Transfer Stations and Convenience Centers has increased significantly, even doubling at some sites. For these reasons, the projects at the City's Refuse Transfer Stations and Convenience Centers are critical to the City's ability to serve the public and insure safe and proper disposal of refuse.

Eight (8) of the City's nine (9) existing Refuse Transfer Stations and Convenience Centers are located within one-half mile of residences, schools, or hospitals as shown in the attached maps. The enactment of the Bill will prohibit future improvement and expansion of these facilities or the siting of new facilities to meet existing and future public demand. By their very nature, and as indicated in their title, Convenience Centers are intended to provide convenient and accessible locations for the public to dispose of refuse and must be in the communities.

The following planned projects may be impacted if this bill becomes law:

- Waianae residents requested improved service and an expansion of the Waianae Convenience Center, which is consistently backed up due to heavy demand. As a result, Waianae, Nanakuli, Makaha and Maili residents are experiencing temporary closures because the site reaches capacity and must close until full bins are removed and replaced with an empty bin. Often, drivers returning with empty bins are further delayed by heavy Waianae traffic. To help mitigate this problem a trash compactor, which would increase storage capacity, is in the planning stage. If the Bill becomes law, these improvements will be prohibited.
- A new Waipahu Convenience Center to supplement the existing center on Waipahu Depot Road is in the planning stage. The existing center's footprint is too small to address the existing high demand and causes traffic backup along Waipahu Depot Road and onto Farrington Highway. A larger center would be constructed further down the road at the former Waipahu Incinerator facility. If this bill becomes law, the Incinerator site will not be able to be used for this purpose and there are currently no practical alternative site to better serve the Waipahu, Waipio, Pearl City and Aiea communities.

- A new Ewa Convenience Center is in the planning stage to replace the existing center near the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant. This new center would be co-located at the treatment plant and would be larger and in a location within the plant that would reduce traffic impact on Geiger Road. If the Bill becomes law, the relocation and expansion of a new center to meet the needs of a growing population base on the Ewa plain will be prohibited.
- A new second top loadout for the Kawaihoa Transfer Station on the North Shore is currently in design that would provide backup, redundancy and operational flexibility as municipal waste and green waste can be segregated at the site. If the bill becomes law, it will prohibit the construction of this loadout for the North Shore communities, including Haleiwa and Waialua.

#### Effect on Disaster Response

The passage of SB 964 SD 1 may also impact the City's ability to manage the large quantity of disaster debris generated by natural or man-made disasters. For example, Hurricane Iniki generated approximately five (5) million cubic yards of debris on the island of Kauai. Hurricane Sandy left behind an estimated six (6) million cubic yards of debris in New York, enough to fill the equivalent of four (4) Empire State buildings from top to bottom. Hurricane Katrina generated a staggering 100 million cubic yards of debris just from the metro New Orleans area. It is easy to imagine that a major hurricane on Oahu would yield significant quantities of debris. Our planning assumption, based on modeling by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, is that a category 4 hurricane would generate over 26 million cubic yards of debris.

In order for the City, State, and other stakeholders to effectively manage this vast quantity of anticipated disaster debris, we would need to establish temporary disaster debris management sites in or near the affected areas and process the debris before hauling it to a final disposal site. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, debris processing may be necessary to reduce its volume or toxicity prior to treatment or disposal. Volume reduction lessens the burden on landfill capacity and reduces the number of trucks needed to transport debris, thereby reducing transportation costs and environmental impacts. The City must be able to establish temporary sites in or near the disaster-affected areas in order to safely and responsibly manage debris.

The one-half mile buffer zone around disposal sites, which we interpret to include temporary disaster debris management sites, may make it impossible for the City to establish such sites after a disaster in many places around the island. While every

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jerret Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
February 23, 2021  
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measure should be taken to protect the public's health and the environment, we believe existing laws and regulations already require us to do so.

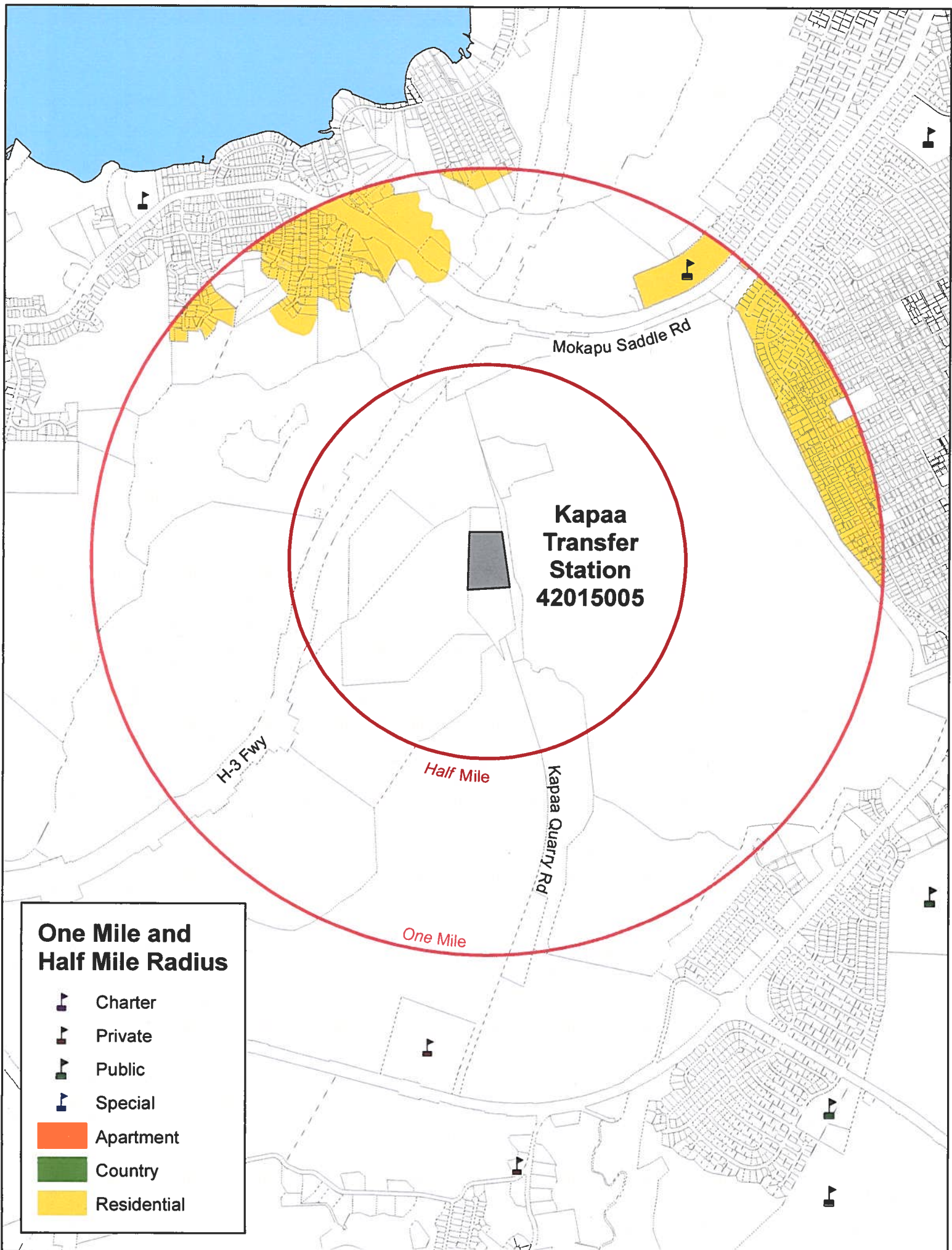
ENV respectfully requests that definition of "Disposal facility" in SB 964 SD 1 be modified to remove "transfer station" from the definition of Disposal facility, as described here: "(1) A [~~transfer station or~~] landfill as defined in Section 340A-1". This modification is needed to avoid adverse consequences that will prevent the City from providing appropriate refuse services to Oahu residents and impede the City's ability to safely and effectively manage debris in a timely manner after a disaster.

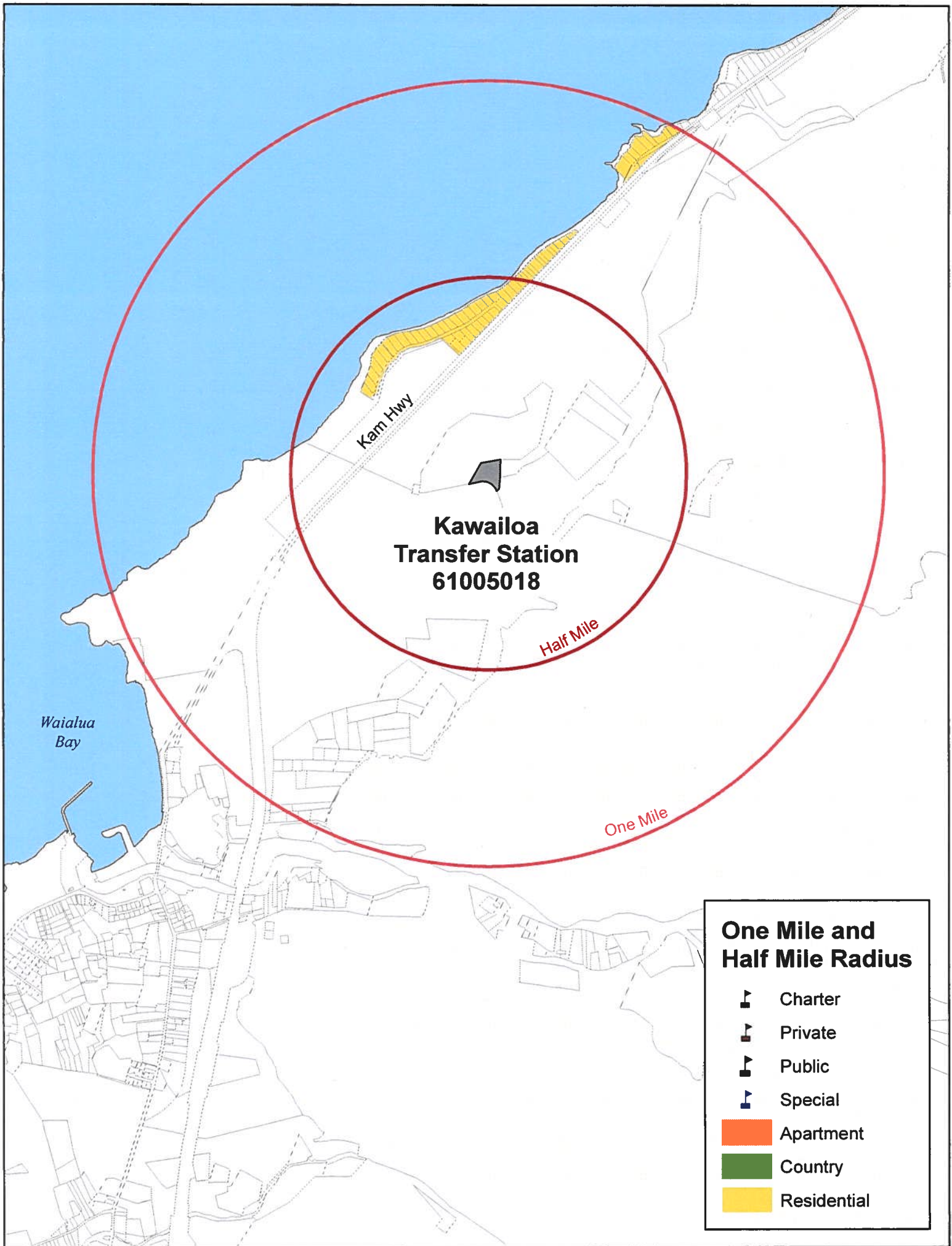
Sincerely,



Wesley T. Yokoyama, P.E.  
Director

Attachments





**Kawaiiloa  
Transfer Station  
61005018**








*Kam Hwy*

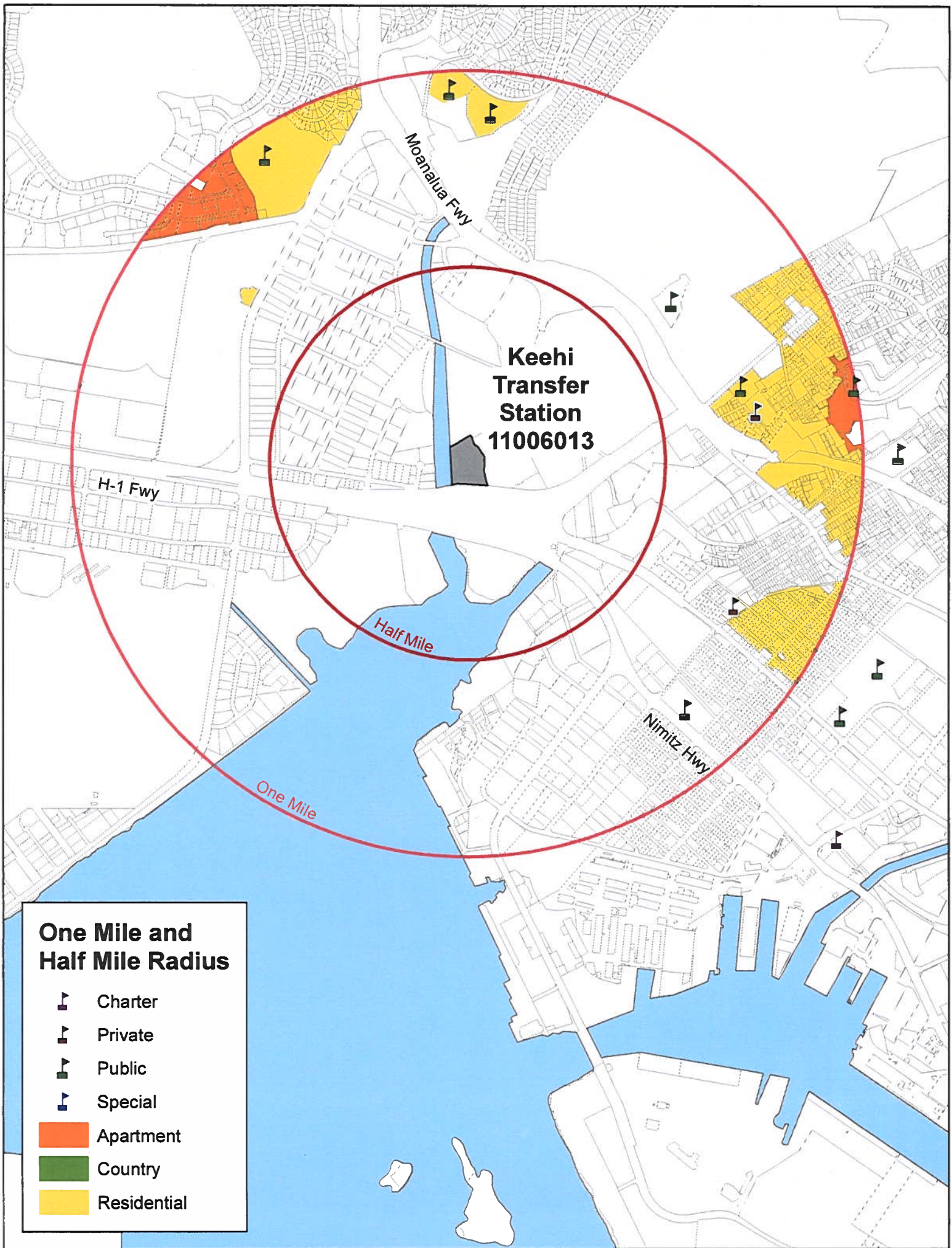
*Waialua  
Bay*

*Half Mile*

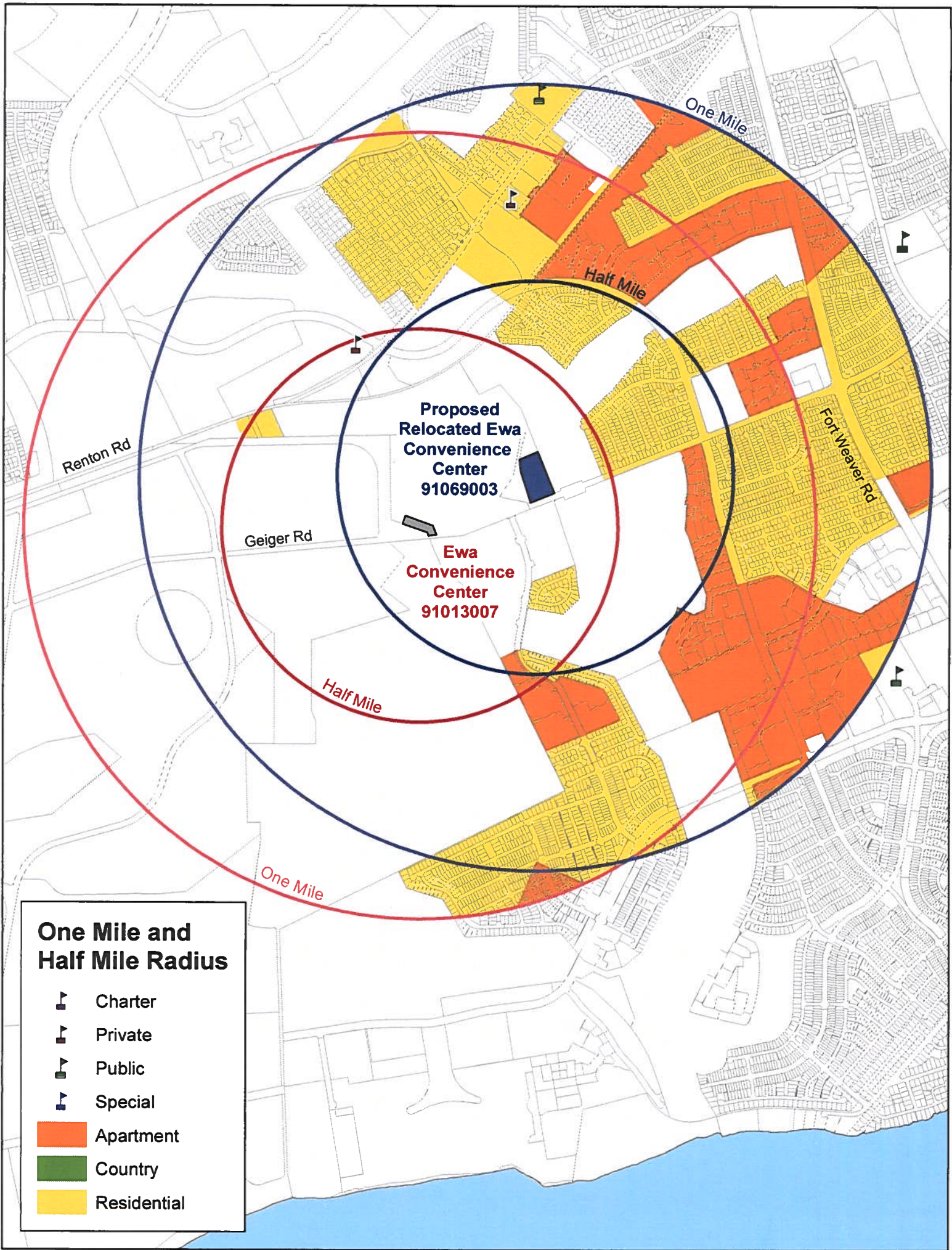
*One Mile*

**One Mile and  
Half Mile Radius**

-  Charter
-  Private
-  Public
-  Special
-  Apartment
-  Country
-  Residential







**Laie  
Convenience  
Center  
56006001**

*Kam Hwy*

*One Mile*

*Half Mile*

*Laie Bay*

**One Mile and  
Half Mile Radius**



Charter



Private



Public



Special



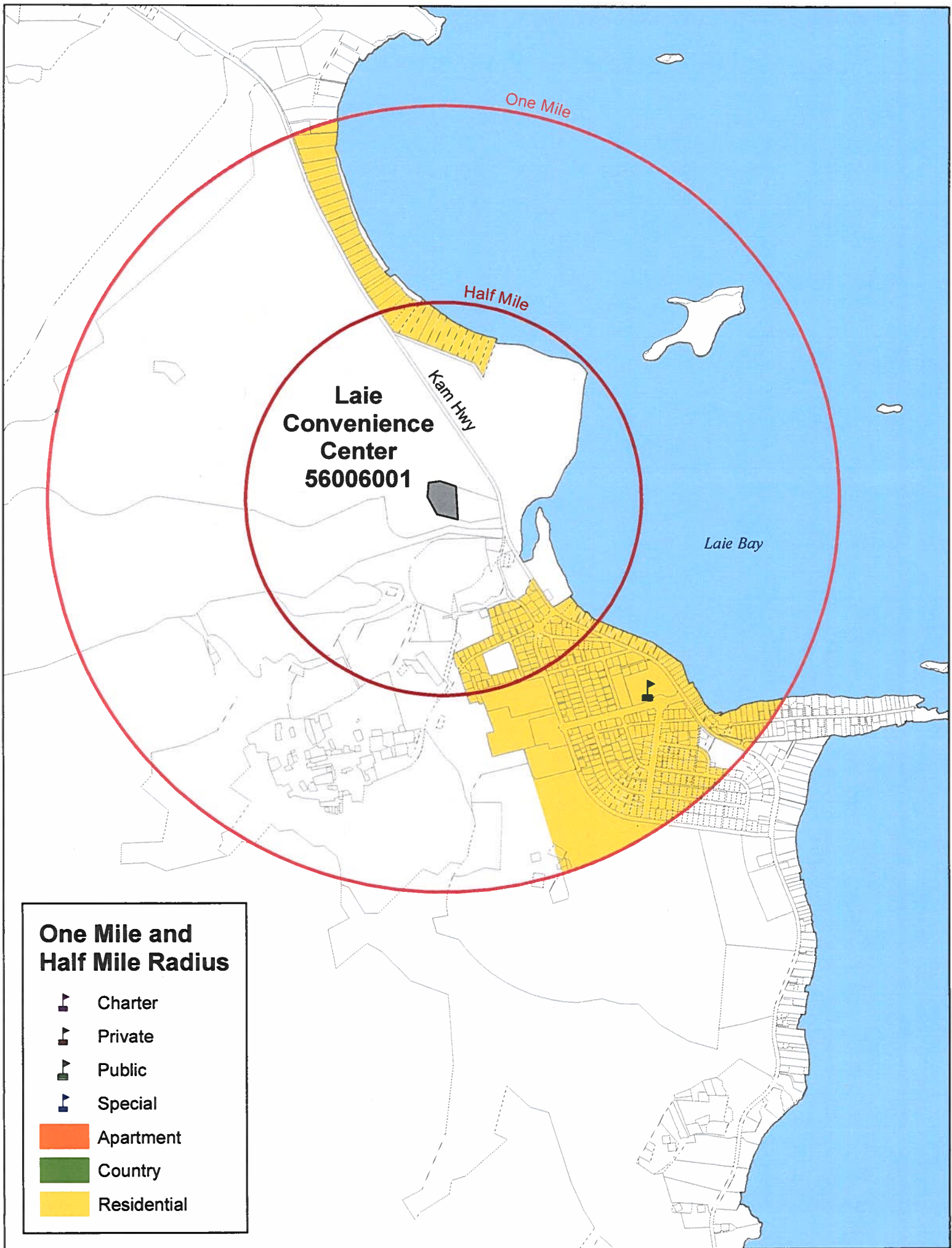
Apartment



Country



Residential



**Wahiawa  
Convenience  
Center  
71001009**

Waiikina Dr

Kamananui Rd








Half Mile

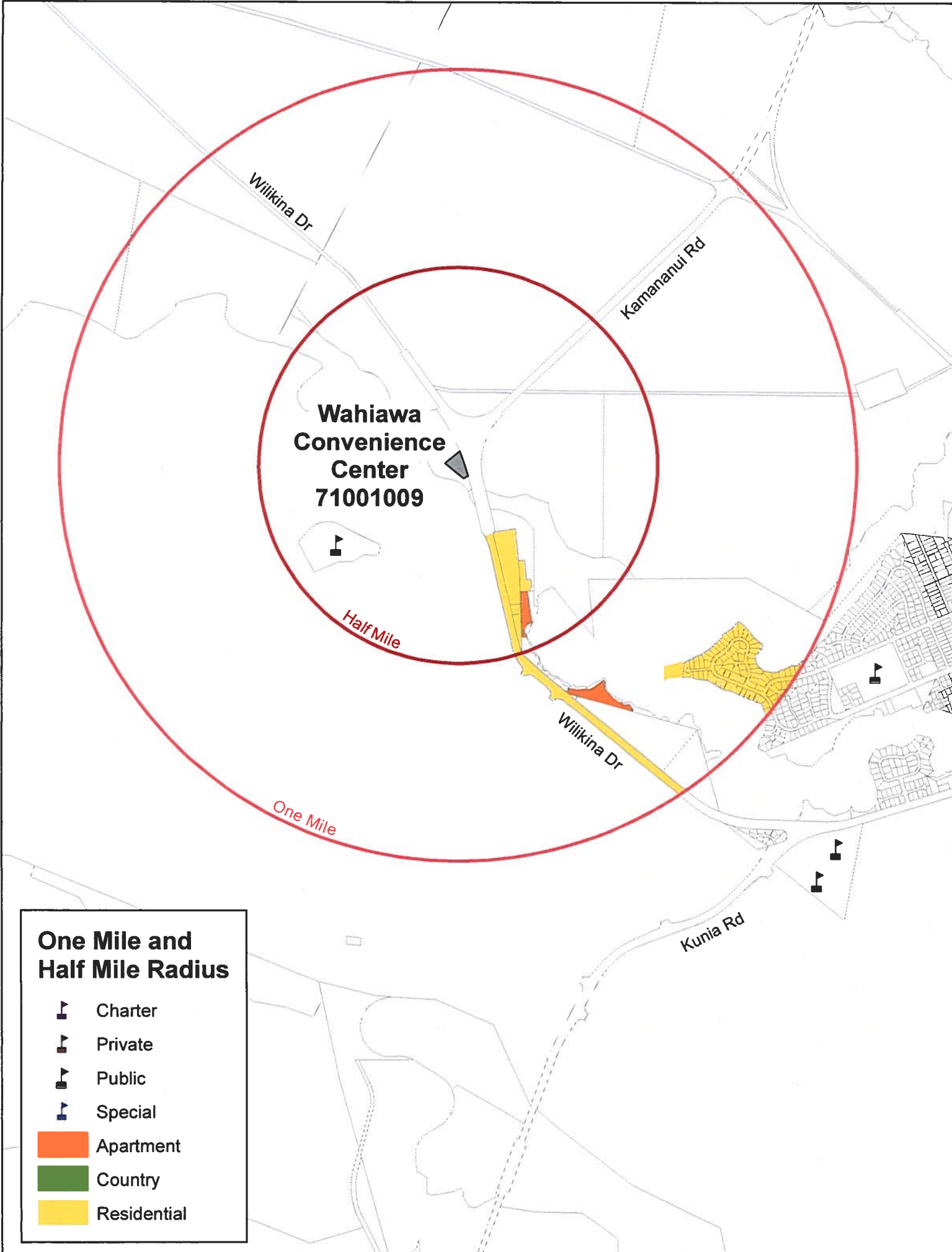
One Mile

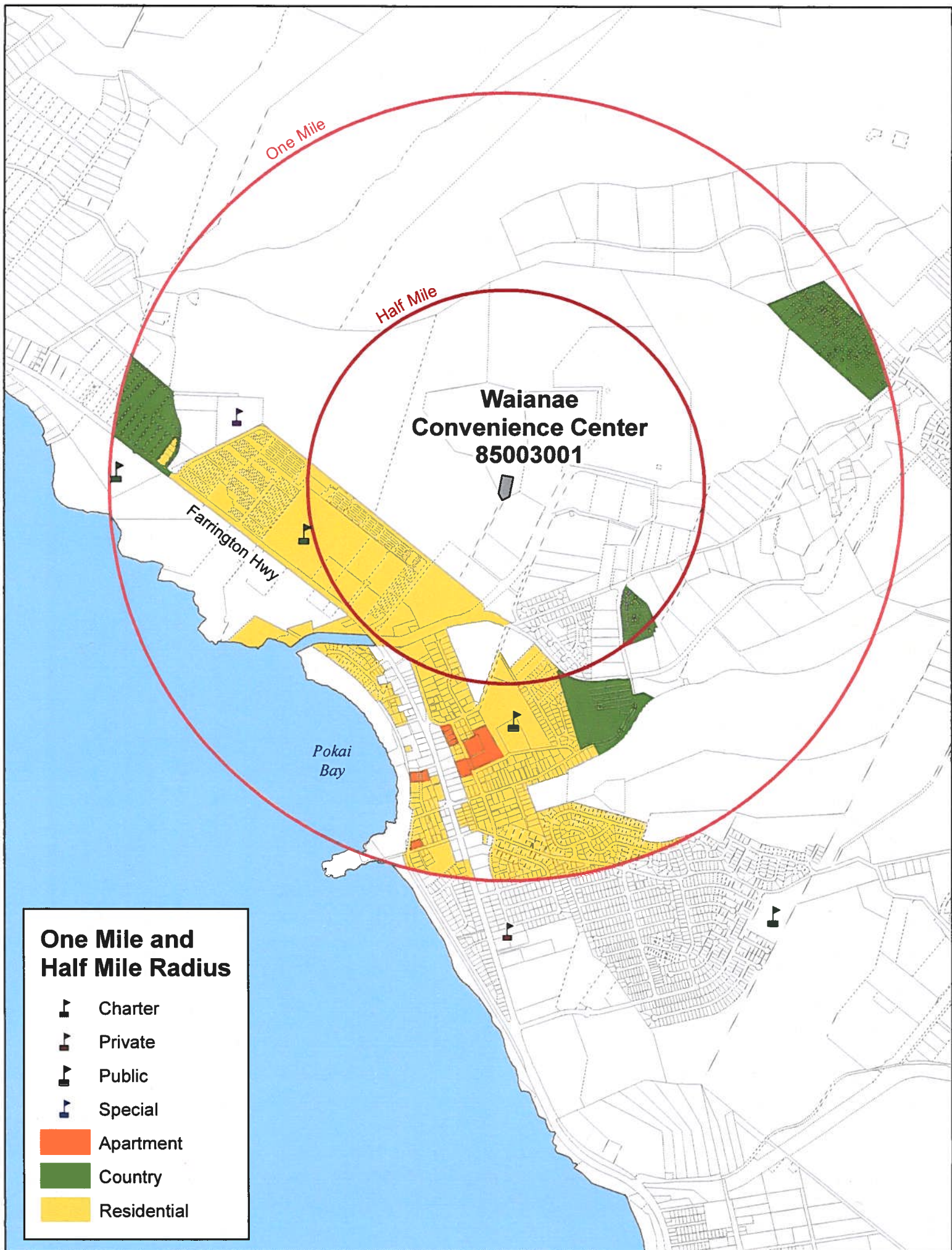
Waiikina Dr

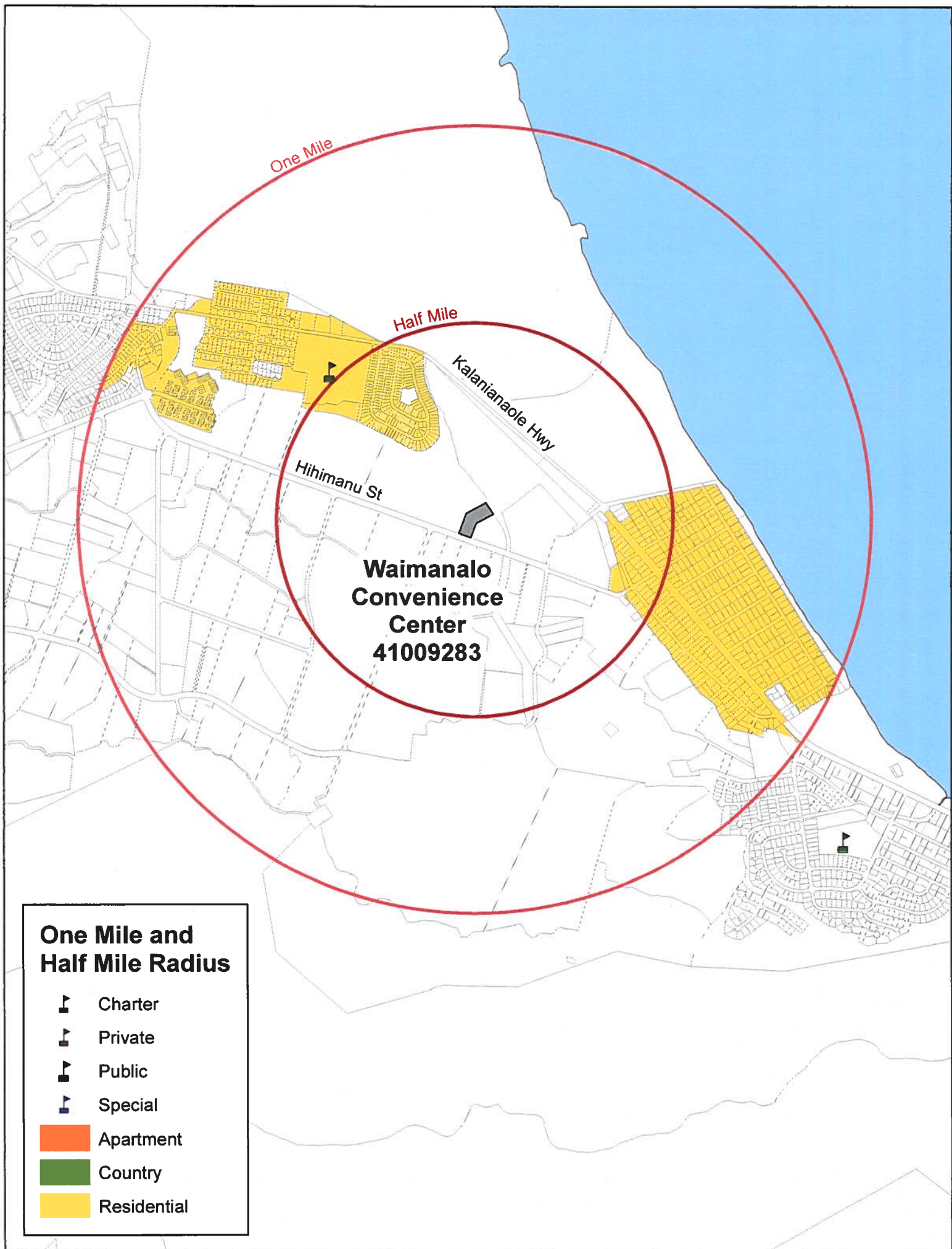
Kunia Rd

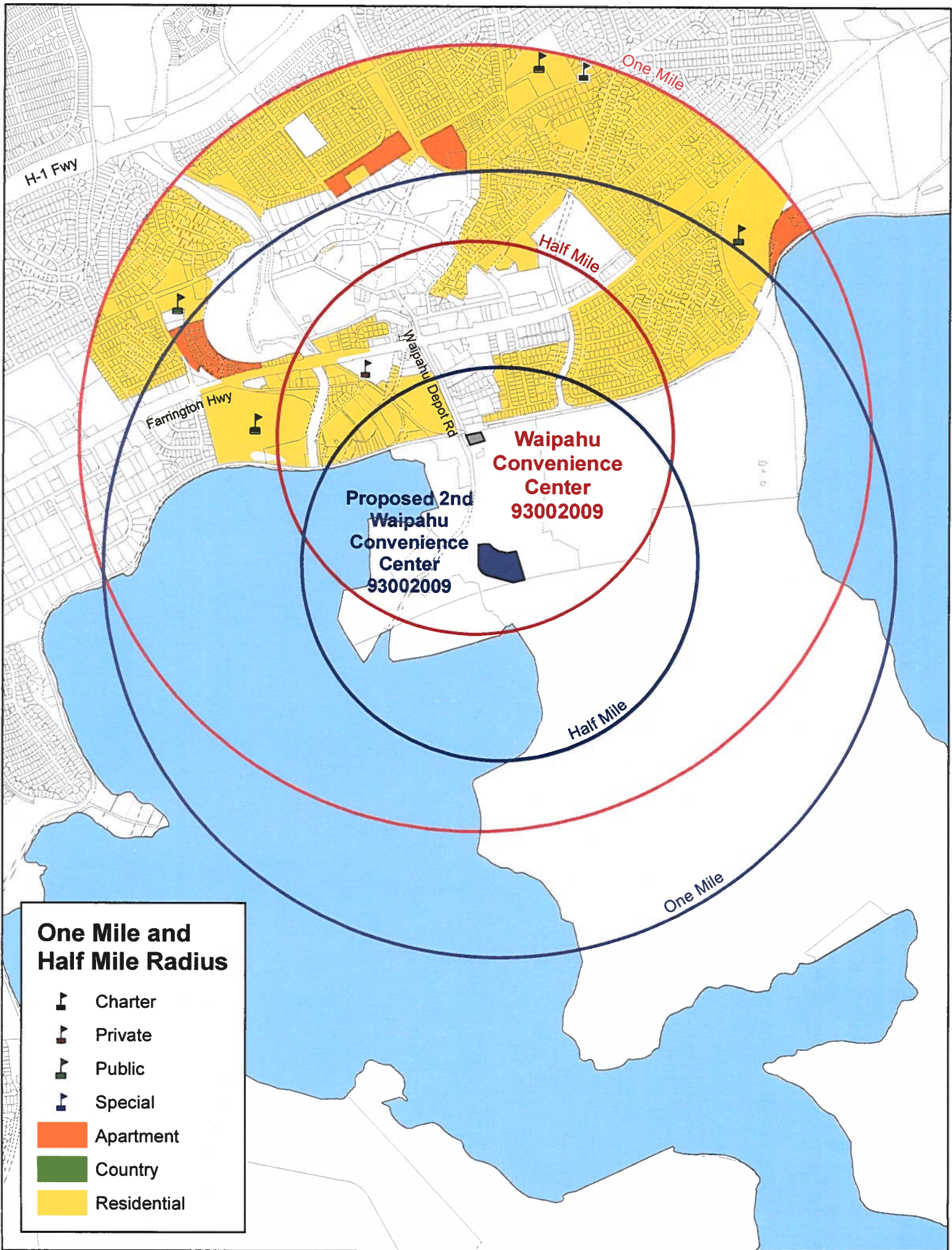
**One Mile and  
Half Mile Radius**

-  Charter
-  Private
-  Public
-  Special
-  Apartment
-  Country
-  Residential
















**One Mile and Half Mile Radius**

-  Charter
-  Private
-  Public
-  Special
-  Apartment
-  Country
-  Residential

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TROY TANIGAWA, ACTING COUNTY ENGINEER

MICHAEL H. TRESLER, ACTING DEPUTY COUNTY ENGINEER



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Testimony of Allison Fraley**  
Acting Solid Waste Chief, County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
Monday, February 25, 2021; 9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 964 SD1**  
**Relating to Waste Management**

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 964 SD1 and submits testimony **providing comments** on Section 5 which prohibits the construction, modification or expansion of a disposal facility without first establishing a one-half mile buffer zone.

We agree with the exclusion of recycling drop-off facilities and composting facilities. However, recycling drop-off facilities are not well defined in the bill. It is unclear whether the construction of a small-scale Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) sized for Kaua'i would also be excluded under this bill.

The County of Kaua'i also operates four (4) Refuse Transfer Stations permitted in accordance with Federal and State requirements. The one-half mile buffer zone would prevent the expansion of these facilities and could limit the County's ability to manage solid waste.

Similarly, this bill could affect our municipal solid waste landfill in Kekaha that has an estimated capacity of seven years. There is a limited inventory of available land that could host a waste processing facility and we are concerned that this bill would make siting a new landfill or alternate technology to landfill extremely difficult.

In the case of waste reduction facilities, the Puhi Metals Recycling Facility is the only facility on island that accepts and processes white goods, scrap metals, automobiles, and eWaste, and is located within a half-mile of residents. This facility which provides vital waste diversion activities could not expand if the bill were passed, and any lapse in the permit could prevent ongoing operations.

Solid waste management facilities are heavily regulated under Federal and State Rules, so the addition of a one-half mile buffer zone is not necessary and could produce a new public health threat associated with a reduction of waste management systems on Kaua'i.

We urge the Committees to consider the full impact Senate Bill 964 would have and thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:55:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Please support



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:13:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Dandurand	Testifying for Kauai Food Hub	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Diverting waste from our landfill will extend the life of the landfill as well as regenerate our composable waste into something useful.

# IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS

Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by IATSE Local 665  
February 22nd, 2021

**Re: S.B. 964 SD1 - RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

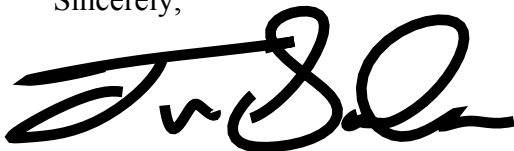
Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee,

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 665 strongly **OPPOSES SB964 SD1**. The bill proposes to roll back the Environmental Justice work done last session that established a “buffer zone” to protect our communities from waste or disposal facilities.

We stand with our members, brothers and sisters, and their ‘ohana whose quality of life and health are put needlessly at risk every day due to being in proximity to waste or disposal facilities. Our members and our neighbors should not have to suffer.

We urge you to HOLD this bill and allow Hawai'i's “buffer zone” law to stay intact. No community should suffer. Please protect the quality of life and health of our community members.

Sincerely,



Tuia'ana Scanlan  
President, IATSE Local 665



February 25, 2021

## Senate Committee on Judiciary

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DATE: February 25, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Via videoconference

RE: Testimony in support of SB964 relating to waste management

### **Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee,**

Zero Waste Big Island (ZWBI) is a community group advocating for an equitably waste-free Hawai'i. We, members of the steering committee of ZWBI, are very encouraged by the progressive conversation around composting and organics diversion.

Hawai'i Island landfill discards are 22.4% paper and 33.1% organics, meaning *over half* of the landfill's composition are compostable materials and therefore viable to be successfully diverted from the landfill (source: CoH Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Draft 2019).

We support the process of legislators finding accessible solutions for our urgent community composting needs.

Mahalo for receiving our testimony,

Zero Waste Big Island Steering Committee

Jennifer Navarra

Melody Euaparadorn

Monica Rott Stone



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

**LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625**

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

**T.G. Paris**  
President Emeritus

February 25, 2021 – 9:30 am  
Senate  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB964, SD1 - RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members:

We **OPPOSE** SB964 SD1. The bill proposes to roll back the Environmental Justice work done last session that established a “buffer zone” to protect our communities from waste or disposal facilities.

We believe it would be good policy to have landfills and waste or disposal facilities in isolated areas with appropriate zoning. Such sites on O‘ahu could include places like Kalaeloa and Campbell Industrial Park. Currently the communities in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili are suffering from a public health crisis, with a landfill only a few feet away from homes, farms, and Ulehawa stream. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and all those that suffer from landfills in their communities.

According to the Center for disease Control/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project, our members and their families within 2 miles of the current landfill in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili live **8 to 10 years less than the state average of 82 years**, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest life expectancies in the entire state. Hawaiian lives matter, so let’s take care of them and all of our communities.

We stand with our members, brothers and sisters, and their ‘ohana whose quality of life and health are put needlessly at risk every day due to being in proximity to waste or disposal facilities. Our members and our neighbors should not have to suffer. We urge you to **HOLD** this bill and allow Hawaii’s “buffer zone” law to stay intact. No community should suffer. Please protect the quality of life and health of our community members. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Joseph O'Donnell  
Business Manager/Financial-Secretary Treasurer



**INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION**  
LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

**HAWAII DIVISION:** 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
**MAUI COUNTY DIVISION:** 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
**HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**LOCAL 142**

The Thirty-First Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021

THE SENATE

**Committee on Judiciary**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Videoconference  
Thursday, February 25, 2021; 9:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 964, S.D.1  
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The ILWU Local 142 **opposes** S.B. 964, S.D.1 which proposes to roll back the Environmental Justice work done last session that established a “buffer zone” to protect our communities from waste or disposal facilities.

We stand with our members, brothers and sisters, and their ‘ohana whose quality of life and health are put needlessly at risk every day due to being in proximity to waste or disposal facilities. Our members and our neighbors should not have to suffer.

We urge you to **HOLD** this bill and allow Hawaii’s “buffer zone” law to stay intact. No community should suffer. Please protect the quality of life and health of our community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756  
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 22, 2021

Support for SB 964

SOLID WASTE AND COMPOSTING

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Hawai`i SEED strongly supports SB964

We support the multiple benefits of on-site composting. Composting can divert 54% of household waste from the landfill, while creating amazing soil nutrients for farmers to replenish their soil. There is more volume of potential compost from food scrapes, especially when restaurants participate.

Broadening the definition of food waste as an integral part of solid waste management, just like the diversion of glass, paper and cardboard. Food waste that is composted, is a valuable asset for nutrient dense soil.

Please support SB964 as an important demonstration of government leading by example and to transform our food supply.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jeri Di Pietro, President  
Hawai`i SEED  
(808) 651-1332

Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Meals; DOE; DOA

**Description:** Moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. Establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030



2/22/2021

Judiciary Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation would like to offer this testimony in support of SB964.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

This bill creates a de facto tier of exempted composting activities that would create an exemption from permitting tier. This would be a win for small operator farms, event food waste diversion, and some small schools. Food waste is a huge issue in Hawai'i, and the benefits of composting are wide-ranging and comprehensive. Composting allows us to divert our food waste, which makes up a significant portion of our waste stream locally. This valuable resource, when composted rather than landfilled or incinerated, sequesters carbon, rebuilds our soil, and contributes to our local food supply. This is a critical solution to establish increased local food security and overall resilience as a community.

One-off events and other small-scale operations currently have the burden of applying for the same permits that large composting businesses apply for, and allowing for a somewhat tiered system based upon the scale of operations is pragmatic and will promote the important practice of composting. Given the state of our climate crisis and Hawai'i's particular vulnerability to its impacts, we should ensure that the State makes it easier, not harder, for residents, schools, and organizations to participate in activities such as composting that prove so beneficial to our environment

These are just some of the reasons why we support a visitor green fee here in Hawai'i, and we thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB964, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Jacobs  
Volunteer Policy Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter



Luna O Nā Papa Alaka'i

**Pelekikena**  
Anthony Makana Paris

**Hope Pelekikena 'Ekahi**  
Randi Fernandez

**Hope Pelekikena 'Elua**  
K ā'eo Kealoha Lindsey

**Pu'ukū**  
Leilani Williams-  
Solomon

**Kākau 'Ōlelo Ho'opa'a**  
Sai Furukawa

**Kākau 'Ōlelo Palapala**  
Kamuela Werner

**Pelekikena Hala Koke**  
Yvonne 'PeeWee' Ryan

**Nā Luna Alaka'i**  
Alan Akao  
Kuni Agard  
Puamana Crabbe  
Kanani Pali  
Marlene Sai  
Bruce Wong

P.O. Box 4728  
Honolulu, HI 96812

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

*Founded in 1964  
by Lili'uokalani  
Kawānanakoa Morris*

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 25, 2021  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB964 SD1 - RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

*Aloha* Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate committee on Judiciary:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **OPPOSES** SB964 SD1. This bill in its current form needlessly endangers the health of our community members by removing protections afforded them by Hawaii's "buffer zone" law established by Act 73 (2020). At its 60th annual convention, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai'i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

*E aloha kekahi i kekahi*  
Love one another.

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill would allow waste or disposal facilities within one-half mile from the public and put at risk our community members' health.

Our club continues to stand in solidarity with all those who suffer from the negative effects of waste or disposal facilities being placed too close to communities and believe that we all should have a clean and healthy environment. We have both educated and been educated by our island communities on the health hazards and negative effects of landfills. Particularly, how Native Hawaiians have faced environmental racism given the placement of the PVT Landfill in the Wai'anae coast of O'ahu. There, more than 18,000 people who live, work, and play daily within 2 miles of the currently operating landfill, and of those, 13,000 are Native Hawaiians. Moreover, two homestead communities, Princess Kahanu and Nānākuli, are located less than 0.5 miles from the currently operating landfill.

On August 20, 2019, we stood in solidarity with Nānāikapono Hawaiian Civic



Club and hundreds of community members in opposition to the relocation of the PVT Landfill to remain in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili - a mere 750 feet from homes - at the Nānākuli and Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board meeting. On September 4, 2019 we delivered a petition of more than 5,500 signatures in opposition of the referenced PVT Landfill relocation to a special session of the Nānākuli-Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board and later to the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting. On December 16, 2019, we presented with community leader Eddie Werner of the Nānākuli Homestead on the public health crisis in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. On February 14th, we presented at a Native Hawaiian speaker series hosted by Papa Ola Lōkahi and was invited back to elaborate at another session on April 24<sup>th</sup>. These are some of the actions that we have taken, along with hundreds of community members who labor to *mālama ‘āina* and *aloha ‘ohana* – trying to stop a landfill from being placed in a community’s backyard.

The Public Health Crisis already occurring in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili will likely be exacerbated due to the evolving SARS-CoV-2 virus (abbreviated as Covid-19 *a.k.a.* Coronavirus Disease 2019) pandemic.

Our communities in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili, due to the public health crisis already occurring there, fit the criteria of being within the vulnerable populations of those that would have a higher likely hood of death due to contracting Covid-19. We must do better.

In the spirit of *lōkahi*, we continue to advocate, not just for Nānākuli and Mā‘ili, but for all communities in our beloved Hawai‘i. Let us *aloha* each other and make sure that no community should suffer from the unmitigated ill effects of waste or disposal facilities, including landfills.

Last year, SB2386 SD HD2 was signed into law as Act 73 guaranteeing a base level of protection for all future generations. Please do not undue that great work of Environmental Justice.

The Club’s mission is to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and the professional fields of enterprise.

PKHCC urges the committee to HOLD SB964 SD1. #HawaiianLivesMatter

*Me ke aloha,*  
  
A. Makana Paris  
*Pelekikena*  
president@pkhcc.org

Encl.

‘A‘ole PVT Compiled Community Petitions 5,500+ link: <https://tinyurl.com/rzx766e>



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021      Time: 9:30 a.m.      Place: Via Videoconference

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**

SB 964, SD 1 – RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.      **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, **are in support of SB 964, SD 1.**

SB 964, SD1 furthers the State's capacity in the area of waste management to improve the health of our 'āina. Now is the time to support and advance small-scale composting programs to ensure the well-being of Hawai'i, for us now and for the next generations to come.

**We urge this Committee to PASS SB 964, SD 1.** Mahalo.

*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!*



**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB964 SD1**

Thursday, February 25th, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB964 SD1, which ensures a half-mile buffer zone between any residential housing, school, or hospital and new landfill or waste operations while also broadening the definition of food waste as an integral part of solid waste management. It also establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempted from the department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawaii's landfills.

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 on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and is also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

Please support SB964.

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



# HAWAI'I LABOR COALITION

MORE THAN 65,000 AND GROWING

February 25, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Senate  
State of Hawaii

*Aloha:*

The Hawaii Labor Coalition (HLC) **OPPOSES** SB964, SD1. The bill attempts to broaden the definition of "food waste" as used in integrated solid waste management, exclude facilities designed primarily for composting organic material such as food waste and green waste, on-site school campus food waste programs, and recycling drop-off facilities from the requirement that disposal facilities shall not be constructed, modified, or expanded without first establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile from the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line, and establish a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawaii's landfills.

Last year, the 31<sup>st</sup> Hawaii State Legislature sent SB2386 SD HD2 to Governor David Ige who signed it into law as Act 73 on September 15, 2020. Last year, Hawaii took a monumental Environmental Justice step forward by providing a one-half mile "buffer zone" to protect our communities from 'opala.

The proposed amendments jeopardizes the protections afforded by the "buffer zone." The HLC is not against composting generally nor artisan-composting in specific. The HLC supports the prohibitions of 'opala in a waste or disposal facility to be within the "buffer zone" as articulated under the current law. No community should suffer the health and quality of life ill effects of being next to a waste or disposal facility.

The HLC continues to stand in solidarity with our family in Nānākuli and Mā'ili who are suffering from a public health crisis as they live next to an operating landfill that is mere feet away from homes and public spaces. Living next to waste or disposal facilities like landfills has led to the decreased quality of life and health of our neighbors.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project, our members and their families within 2 miles of the current PVT Landfill live **10 years less than the state average of 82 years**, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. Every community in Hawai'i as a matter of fairness and decency deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Constitution Article XI,



# HAWAI‘I LABOR COALITION

MORE THAN 65,000 AND GROWING

Section 9; In re Maui Elec. Co., 2017 Haw.) PVT currently operates only 750 feet from residences (Draft Environmental Impact Statement: PVT Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility - Expanded Recycling, Landfill, Grading and Renewable Energy Project). The PVT landfill also operates within two miles of Nānākuli Elementary, High and Intermediate, Nānāikapono Elementary, Ka Wai Hona Public Charter School, and Kamehameha Schools pre-school, places of worship, stores, medical clinics, and kupuna housing that over 18,000 people daily live, work, and play.

The global scientific community affirms what the community of Wai‘anae has been living through -- especially those that live, work, and play in Nānākuli -- that landfills are a health hazard (See Vrijheid M., Health effects of residence near hazardous waste landfill sites: a review of epidemiologic literature. *Environ Health Perspect*, 2000; Njoku PO, Edokpayi JN, Odiyo JO, Health and Environmental Risks of Residents Living Close to a Landfill: A Case Study of Thohoyandou Landfill, Limpopo Province, South Africa. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 2019; Waste and Human Health: Evidence and needs, World Health Organization Nov 2015).

We acknowledge that composting is both a necessary and desirable part of sustainable waste management for our islands. However, as policy and laws are crafted to support better composting, recycling, or improved waste management measures, **we must always remember to put our community’s health and safety first.**

No community should suffer like those in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili. So, we ask that you do not undue the good work done by the 31<sup>st</sup> Hawaii State Legislature. Protect our people by protecting the “buffer zone.”

*Mahalo.*



# HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

[Local996@hawaiiiteamsters.com](mailto:Local996@hawaiiiteamsters.com)

1817 Hart Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Telephone: (808) 847-6633  
Fax: (808) 842-4575

February 25, 2021  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
9:30 am

RE: OPPOSE SB964 SD1 – Relating to Waste Management

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Union, Local 996 **OPPOSES** SB964 SD1. The bill proposes to roll back the Environmental Justice work done last session that established a “buffer zone” to protect our communities from waste or disposal facilities.

We stand with our members, brothers and sisters, and their ‘ohana whose quality of life and health are put needlessly at risk every day due to being in proximity to waste or disposal facilities. Our members and our neighbors should not have to suffer.

We urge you to **HOLD** this bill and allow Hawaii’s “buffer zone” law to stay intact. No community should suffer. Please protect the quality of life and health of our community members. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Cody Sula  
Government Affairs Liaison  
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996

**WAYNE K.S. KAULULAAU**  
President/Principal Officer

**RYAN YOSHIDA**  
Secretary – Treasurer

**FREDERICK LIVA**  
Vice President

**ANTHONY “BULLY” BADAYOS**  
Recording Secretary

**WENDY NAILE**  
Trustee

**JAMES “KIMO” LAROYA JR.**  
Trustee

**WALTER FOX III**  
Trustee

**MOKU O MANOKALANIPŌ**  
THE KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

Date: February 23, 2021

To: Senate, Committee on Judiciary

From: Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
Malia Nobrega-Olivera, President  
malianob@gmail.com

Re: Re: SB964 SD1 - Relating to Waste Management

*Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:*

I'm writing on behalf of Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs which represents the four (4) Hawaiian Civic Clubs based on the island of Kaua'i.

Moku o Manokalanipō OPPOSES SB964 SD1. This bill in its current form needlessly endangers the health of our community members by removing protections afforded them by Hawaii's "buffer zone" law established by Act 73 (2020).

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill would allow waste or disposal facilities within one-half mile from the public and put at risk our community members' health.

Our members actively participated in our 60th annual convention on the island of Maui and the Association adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai'i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

Therefore, Moku o Manokalanipō respectfully urges the Committee to HOLD SB964 SD1.

The Hawaiian civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and in 1968, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs on the island of Kaua'i organized Moku o Manokalanipō, the Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

No. 2019 - 52

### **URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I AND ALL COUNTIES TO CREATE AN ADEQUATE BUFFER ZONE AROUND LANDFILLS WITH A MINIMUM BUFFER ZONE OF ONE-HALF MILE**

WHEREAS, there is an emergence of scientific studies affirming the health hazards of living and working near landfills, including studies published by the World Health Organization in 2015, and "*Living near a landfill may damage your health*" published by the International Journal of Epidemiology, Oxford University Press, in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i and the four counties lack landfill buffer zone requirements that adequately protect public health; and

WHEREAS, adequate landfill buffer zones provide minimum space of four miles and improvements, particularly trees and other vegetation, between a landfill's structures used for handling or storing waste and homes, schools, and other public places; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of residents of Nānākuli Town and the Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead, thousands of students attending Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao Public Charter School, Nānāikapono Elementary School, Nānākuli Elementary School, Nānākuli High and Intermediate School, Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center, and thousands of members of the public go to places of worship, clinics, grocery stores, restaurants, and visit their 'ohana at the Nānākuli kupuna housing, all within four miles of O'ahu's only construction and demolition landfill, the privately-owned landfill operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. (PVT Landfill); and

WHEREAS, the current buffer zone between PVT Landfill and the nearest residential units and churches is approximately 750 feet; and

WHEREAS, since the 1980s, kama'āina offered numerous oral and written testimony at Neighborhood Board meetings in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawai'i Department of Health public hearings, and community gatherings at churches voicing concerns over the adverse health impacts of living and working in close proximity to landfills in general and PVT Landfill, in specific; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i Department of Health has still not addressed the outstanding inquiries from the community related to the long-term health effects of the debris that



runs off of PVT Landfill during heavy rains, the leachate that permeates the ground, the dust particles from both PVT Landfill and its trucks that coat neighborhood houses as they drive through the community, and the gasses released by the decomposition of waste and other landfill activities, especially the cumulative and long-term health effects on those living and working within four miles of landfill; and

WHEREAS, the predominantly Native Hawaiian communities of Nānākuli Town and Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead should no longer be subject to the adverse effects of landfills; and

WHEREAS, no community in Hawai'i should be impacted by the adverse effects of landfills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welihu and the rising of Lā'au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the State of Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welihu and the rising of Lā'au Pau on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

Handwritten signature of Hailama V. K. K. Farden

---

Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President



Senate  
Committee on Judiciary

*Pō‘ahā, Pepeluali 25, 2021*  
*Via Wikiō*  
*Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina*  
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: SB964 SD1 - Relating to Waste Management

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu Karl Rhoads, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:*

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **OPPOSES** SB964 SD1. This bill in its current form needlessly endangers the health of our community members by removing protections afforded them by Hawai‘i’s “buffer zone” law established by Act 73 (2020).

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill would allow waste or disposal facilities within one-half mile from the public and put at risk our community members’ health.

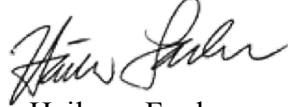
At its 60th annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai‘i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile. The Association has also adopted many resolutions that speak to the practices of *mālama ‘āina* and *aloha ‘ohana* and believes that the conversation on artisan-scale composting should occur in its own right and not coupled, unless necessary, to the Environmental Justice “buffer zone” law.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** SB964 SD1.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawaiʻi and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana ʻo*.

*Me ka ʻoia ʻi ʻo,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama Farden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "F".

Hailama Farden

*Pelekikena*

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

No. 2019 - 52

### **URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I AND ALL COUNTIES TO CREATE AN ADEQUATE BUFFER ZONE AROUND LANDFILLS WITH A MINIMUM BUFFER ZONE OF ONE-HALF MILE**

WHEREAS, there is an emergence of scientific studies affirming the health hazards of living and working near landfills, including studies published by the World Health Organization in 2015, and “*Living near a landfill may damage your health*” published by the International Journal of Epidemiology, Oxford University Press, in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i and the four counties lack landfill buffer zone requirements that adequately protect public health; and

WHEREAS, adequate landfill buffer zones provide minimum space of four miles and improvements, particularly trees and other vegetation, between a landfill’s structures used for handling or storing waste and homes, schools, and other public places; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of residents of Nānākuli Town and the Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead, thousands of students attending Ka Waihona o Ka Na‘auao Public Charter School, Nānāikapono Elementary School, Nānākuli Elementary School, Nānākuli High and Intermediate School, Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center, and thousands of members of the public go to places of worship, clinics, grocery stores, restaurants, and visit their ‘ohana at the Nānākuli kupuna housing, all within four miles of O‘ahu’s only construction and demolition landfill, the privately-owned landfill operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. (PVT Landfill); and

WHEREAS, the current buffer zone between PVT Landfill and the nearest residential units and churches is approximately 750 feet; and

WHEREAS, since the 1980s, kama‘āina offered numerous oral and written testimony at Neighborhood Board meetings in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i Department of Health public hearings, and community gatherings at churches voicing concerns over the adverse health impacts of living and working in close proximity to landfills in general and PVT Landfill, in specific; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health has still not addressed the outstanding inquiries from the community related to the long-term health effects of the debris that

runs off of PVT Landfill during heavy rains, the leachate that permeates the ground, the dust particles from both PVT Landfill and its trucks that coat neighborhood houses as they drive through the community, and the gasses released by the decomposition of waste and other landfill activities, especially the cumulative and long-term health effects on those living and working within four miles of landfill; and

WHEREAS, the predominantly Native Hawaiian communities of Nānākuli Town and Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead should no longer be subject to the adverse effects of landfills; and

WHEREAS, no community in Hawai‘i should be impacted by the adverse effects of landfills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welchu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the State of Hawai‘i and City and County of Honolulu to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welchu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

Handwritten signature of Hailama V. K. K. Farden.

---

Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President



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

February 25, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 964 SD1**  
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Via Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, 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 has concerns and respectfully offers comments on Section 2 of SB 964 SD1**, which establishes a class of waste recycling operations that would be completely *exempt* from Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) oversight and regulations. The bill would then allow these unregulated facilities on all agriculturally-zoned land.

1. HFB recognizes and supports the diversion of discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. We support well-managed and appropriately sited composting efforts that produce a valuable resource for farmers and others. The benefits of compost are well-known; among other things it can improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle nutrients, and mitigate the impact of droughts.

However, because there are potential hazards and threats to public health, the environment, agriculture, and our rural communities from *unregulated* composting operations, HFB feels strongly that *no commercial composting facility or operation* should be exempt from DOH regulatory oversight, appropriate restrictions, inspection, and control. The smaller size of an operation does not eliminate the valid concerns regarding public health and it certainly does not prevent the spread of destructive invasive species such as Little Fire Ants and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

Without HDOH authority and oversight, it is not clear whether there would be any enforceable restrictions on waste collection, the spread of pathogens, environmental pollution, or vector proliferation.

2. It is also confusing how HDOH will fulfill its obligations under a proposed new section within the chapter "HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION INITIATIVE" (HRS Chapter 225P) which may conflict with the provisions under Chapter 342G, HRS (Integrated Solid Waste Management) and Chapter 342H, HRS (Solid Waste Pollution). SB 964, SD1 will strip HDOH of all regulatory authority over these composting operations while mandating its responsibility to ascertain whether the facility is operating appropriately and within the parameters of the new law (page 5, lines 8 through 21):

*"provided that these operations do not produce vectors, dust, or odors that unreasonably impact neighbors of the operation, as determined by the department, and that no waste accepted remains on-site for more than thirty-six months. No more than one exempt facility specified in this section may be located on geographically contiguous land owned or operated by the same person. Sufficient bulking agent shall be used to provide proper aeration and control leachate migration. For these facilities, precipitation, surface water, and groundwater that have come in contact with yard trimmings or the resultant product shall not be considered leachate if it is managed within the site, is allowed to enter a surface waterbody or a conveyance to a surface waterbody, and does not cause a violation of state water quality standards."*

**While we support composting, we defer to the expertise of the Hawaii Department of Health and Department of Agriculture regarding the appropriate level of oversight necessary to operate a composting facility while also protecting farmers and the general community from potential fires, spread of pathogens and devastating invasive species, and environmental contamination.**

**It is our understanding that exemptions and discretionary processes already exist within HDOH's administrative rules that could offer less of a regulatory burden on small-scale composting operations. These rules should be reviewed and amended, if necessary, to provide relief from potentially over-burdensome and unreasonable restrictions on certain small, source and distribution-limited composting facilities.**

3. HFB sincerely appreciates the support for Hawaii farmers expressed in the bill's preamble regarding the potential economic benefits that may accrue to farmers if they are able to sell compost and use future carbon sequestration incentives. However, we respectfully request deletion of the inaccurate statement regarding the types of fertilizers most farmers currently have access to and use. All claims in the preamble should be accurate, and science and evidence-based. The statement beginning on page 2, line 19, is not:

*"The legislature further finds that the use of composted organics with their vast stores of macro-and micronutrients greatly improves the health of soils in ways that*

*protect and enhance natural systems, while imported, petroleum-based, and energy-intensive fertilizers destabilize a healthy soil microbiome.”*

It is well-established that composted organics have only about one-tenth the concentration of nutrients as synthetic or mined (bagged) fertilizers which are the main source of fertilizers for the large majority of farmers. These fertilizers, along with best agronomic practices, are the foundation of our highly productive agriculture. This would not be the case if they destabilized healthy soils.

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration and for your continued support of Hawaii agriculture.





To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 9:30am

**In support of SB964 SD1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Judiciary committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii's 6,000 members **support SB964 SD1** which addresses the urgent need to expand the State's capacity for capturing and processing the organic waste its residents and visitors generate to reduce landfill waste while supporting local farmers and the State's commitment to take effective climate action. Additionally, SB964 SD1 creates a class of artisan scale composting operations that are exempt from Department of Health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawaii's landfills and sequester atmospheric carbon.

Diverting organics to compost piles significantly reduces methane production in landfills, while adding finished compost to soils improves their health and increases their capacity to capture carbon. Sequestering carbon in soil is an effective way an individual/community can combat climate change.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:52:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair, and Members of the

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Hearing SB964 SD1– RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Thursday February 25, 2021, 9:30 a.m., by videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) says we have less than 10 years for worldwide climate action to avoid climate catastrophe. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Composting is an important strategy for mitigating the climate crisis. Using composting to divert organic matter (such as food waste and green waste) from our landfills is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially the potent GHG methane. Composting is also beneficial for restoring the health of our soils and increasing their sequestration of carbon.

SB964 SD1 would facilitate composting by broadening the definition of food waste, excluding from regulation facilities designed primarily for composting organic matter and on-campus school waste programs, and exempting "artisan scale" composting from DOH regulations.

This bill would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by increasing composting. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:44:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It has become clear that organic solid waste is an important part of our fight against climate change and this is a good part of that fight. Please pass this bill.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:47:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Absolutely!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:29:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:19:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB964. Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. That alone should be reason enough for you too to support this bill.

Thank you

Dee Green

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:22:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 964. We need to compost our organic waste. It is how we create 0 waste.



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:55:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting diverts nearly 54% of household waste from the landfill, which reduces carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions—two significant greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. Composting also creates healthy soil for healthy gardens, adding nutrients to plants.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:28:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB964 so that we can keep our healthy 'Ä• ina from being taken up by and wasted on trash!

Key points/factors to support this statement:

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

As we witness the rampant and deadly effects of climate change wreaking havoc on Texas and its people, we must do all that we can to invest in green, renewable, and sustainable practices to protect our 'Ä• ina and our people from similar disasters. A move in the pono, 'Ä• ina-forward direction by us will hopefully inspire the rest of the world to do the same. Let us lead with aloha for our 'Ä• ina!

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Jennifer Kau'i Young

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:34:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, the most significant greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich soil for more sustainable plant growth. By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of fertilizer or compost, not to mention the extreme cost or additional landfill sites.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:14:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting diverts half of our household waste from landfill and saves money on transporting it for disposal elsewhere, while creating fertilizer that can nourish the 'aina and growing food for our community. Hawai'i needs this!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:26:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Mahalo, Cory Harden

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:42:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants. By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

- Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills. Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.
- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period
- Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%)

Please SUPPORT SB964 SD1. Mahalo!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:50:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:12:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill however, I believe a wider buffer zone should be required.



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:12:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee on Judiciary,

Please support SB964 SD1.

We need to implement practical ways to reduce what we throw away into landfills and what we can compost for commercial use.

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

-By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

- Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills

-Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period

- Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%)

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:46:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bil SB 964. I support this bill because:

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Mahalo for your time,

Joanna M P Resurrection

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:56:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Brennan, N.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this testimony. We need more composting.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:10:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Please pass SB964.

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

-By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

- Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills

-Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period

- Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%)

Mahalo

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:20:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 21, 2021

Members of the Committee:

**I support SB 964 because it:**

- **Ensures a half-mile buffer zone** between any residential housing, school, or hospital and new landfill or waste operations.
- Broadens the definition of **food waste as an integral part of solid waste management.**
- Establishes a class of artisan-scale composting operations exempt from the department of health regulations to **divert organic materials from Hawaii's landfills.**
  - **Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste** from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
  - By **encouraging on-site composting**, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as **reducing costs** of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
  - Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will **reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions**, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

**Please support SB 964.**

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:10:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB964 SD1. This bill will help Farmers fight the climate crisis by using regenerative practices. Composting household waste keeps it out of the landfill and regenerates the soil our crops are grown in. Onsite composting is more efficient and can reduce the amount of fossil fuel derived fertilizers used. It also reduces the amount of methane and carbon dioxide released from the landfill into the atmosphere. Please, pass this bill. Thank you.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:31:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doris McGowan	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Yes, we want that half-mile buffer zone from waste ... this makes sense for now and the future ... we can't live with poisons and toxic gases emitted from waste ... the compost operations are needed ... thank you

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:46:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Stauber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting is a win-win. It keeps valuable materials out of the landfill, and creates a product that enhances the soil for farmers.



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:47:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB 964.

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:11:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 2:41:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi Joan here from West Hawaii supporting SB964 SD1. This bill benefits farmers and their crops. Regenerative agriculture practices help fight the climate crisis by pulling carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it in the ground.

thanks for your consideration

Joan Gannon

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:43:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
anne zellinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

-By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

- Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills

-Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period

- Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%)

thank you,

anne zellinger

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:13:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is JarraeTehani Manasas and I support SB 964 in keeping organic matter out of the landfills. This will reduce carbon dioxide and human made methane emissions that contribute to climate change. By encouraging on-site composting, avoiding costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal will be an added benefit. Mahalo for your time.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:18:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anna Mackey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii island needs to handel its own waste in a closed loop system. Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.

By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:27:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB964 SD1. We need to encourage composting to create nutritious composted garden soil, avoid the costs and polutions of hauling food waste, and keep organic matter out of landfills to reduce greenhouse gases.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:28:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Cheryl Ho. I reside in Chairman Rhoads' district.

I am in **strong favor of SB964.**

Firstly, this bill ensures Buffer Zones between new landfills and residential housing, schools, and hospitals. I have advocated for this safety provision in a situation on the Leeward Coast.

Secondly, this bill promotes separating organic solid waste from landfills. Such separation would carry multiple benefits to the community. It would enable farming operations to practice regenerative agricultural practices onsite, thereby eliminating the cost of hauling farm waste to another site for recycling or disposal.

The compost would serve to "regenerate" gardens and crops, while at the same time pulling carbon emissions in the form of **methane** from the atmosphere and sequestering it in the ground as fertilizer. **Methane** gas has potential for doing *84 % more global warming damage than carbon dioxide*, over twenty years, according to scientists.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to consider and act on the above reasons for implementing this bill.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Ho



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:02:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:45:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and JDC committee members. Mahalo for hearing this measure on the merits of decreasing waste going to landfills, supporting the generation of local soil amendment, and the development of soil health and diversity. I am writing to provide comments on the sections addressing the definition of food waste and the artisan-scale composting exemption. I do not have expertise to speak to the sections addressing buffer zones.

The section addressing “artisan-scale”composting exemptions *could* address a niche scale of composting, however there are a number of details missing on the specific types of feedstocks that could be construed as “organic materials.” I would recommend that this section be given much more detail on the types of "organic materials" or feedstocks allowed for this exemption level, such as: green waste, pre-consumer vegetative food waste, coffee grinds, spent mushroom substrate, spent grain, and other lower pathogenic organics, add requirements for windrow or in-situ curing, and pathogen testing any final product that is distributed or sold off-site to DOH's standards.

Ultimately, more accessible regulation and permitting on composting (green waste only) and co-composting (green waste plus other organics like food, coffee, manure, grain, etc.) is urgently needed. The **hundreds of thousands of tons** of food waste, alone, in our waste stream are creating dire situations for the counties who bear the exorbitant costs of managing those materials that could be diverted for much more effective use; saving hundreds of millions of dollars and preventing environmental justice abuses with new landfill siting. The current composting and co-composting system is overloaded with an abundance of caution and does not serve the public interest by making the barriers to legal compliance so challenging and labor-intensive for low-risk operations. While acknowledging that reforming composting regulations will take a lot of work, there are many existing tiered compost models across the country, so we do not need to reinvent the wheel. This issue is more pressing than many realize, and needs to be seen as a high priority, drawing on local and national expertise and energy to expedite reform.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:59:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

YES! We need to recognize the important value(s) associated with composting all sorts of bio-degradable scraps; turning "waste" into bio-dynamic "gold" for our impoverished soils.

This bill will help us solve some of our landfilling addictions at the same time. And by discerning appropriate applications of scale, from back yard to industrial operations, we involve more of the community in this laudable enterprise. It's WIN for all of us!

Please pass SB964 SD1.

Mahalo!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:39:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. It is imperative as we continue to deal with waste operations and landfills that we provide a buffer zone around housing, schools, and hospitals. It is possible with intelligent planning to accomplish this goal for the future of our islands. Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Mick, Kailua

# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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February 25, 2021, 9:30 am

Committee on Judiciary  
Senate  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB964 SD1 - RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

We **OPPOSE** SB964 SD1. This bill, if enacted, will disastrously affect the health and quality of life of our community members by allowing waste facilities next to them.

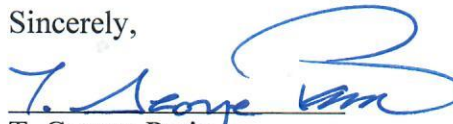
We believe it would be good policy to have waste and disposal facilities, including landfills in isolated areas with appropriate zoning. Such sites on O'ahu could include places like Kalaeloa and Campbell Industrial Park. Currently the communities in Nānākuli and Mā'ili are suffering from a public health crisis, with a landfill only a few feet away from homes, farms, and Ulehawa stream. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and all those that suffer from landfills in their communities.

According to the Center for disease Control/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project, our members and their families within 2 miles of the current landfill in Nānākuli and Mā'ili live **8 to 10 years less than the state average of 82 years**, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. As a matter of fairness, every community in Hawai'i deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Constitution Article XI, Section 9; In re Maui Elec. Co., 2017 Haw.)

The global scientific community affirms what the communities of Wai'anae have been living through -- especially those that live, work, and play in Nānākuli -- that landfills are a health hazard (*See Vrijheid M., Health effects of residence near hazardous waste landfill sites: a review of epidemiologic literature. Environ Health Perspect, 2000; Njoku PO, Edokpayi JN, Odiyo JO, Health and Environmental Risks of Residents Living Close to a Landfill: A Case Study of Thohoyandou Landfill, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Int J Environ Res Public Health, 2019; Waste and Human Health: Evidence and needs, World Health Organization Nov 2015*).

We may not have known the negative effects of landfills or other waste or disposal facilities decades ago, but now we know better and have no excuse. No community should suffer negative effects of waste or disposal facilities. Do the right thing, leave the "buffer zone" intact.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris  
Managing Director

TGP: MP

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:21:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important bill to provide community safety near landfills. It also addresses the need to support small composting businesses that will divert food waste from our landfills.

Please pass this bill.

Marion McHenry

Princeville

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:53:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

This is a powerful bill. I support it strongly!

Imua>>>

Steve parsons, Kauai Resident Wallua

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:00:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB 964. The potential of this bill will create:

- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Please support and pass SB964.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

3644 Lawaiuka Road

Lawai, HI 96765



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:38:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Thelander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the artisan composting exclusions to support and encourage organic matter composting. Not only is composting an excellent (and easy!) way to increase soil quality, but keeping it out of landfills reduces CO2 and methane. Even better, it reduces the need for imported chemical fertilizers and on-site composting means soil is improved while nothing is being hauled from one place to another.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:48:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Rhoads and JDC Members,

I am writing in support of SD964 SD1. Composting of kitchen waste must be an integral part of solid waste management, as the carbon emissions associated with the widespread disposal of such wastes to landfills are no longer acceptable if we are to achieve a low carbon future. Our household has been disposing of kitchen waste in the green city and county recycling bins for many years, but few people do this. This law would establish a practice to divert kitchen waste from landfills and artisan scale composting operations of these wastes to benefit regenerative agriculture. This is where we need to go as a state, so please pass this measure.

Sincerely, Dale Jensen

Prof. Engineer, Kailua, Oahu, HI

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:06:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the steps it takes toward making composting possible in Hawai'i. We should be composting as much waste as we can.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:31:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Collin Darrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider methods like Vetiver and Worms as part of the Solution to not fix for short term but start paving the growth for future generations.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:18:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Passing this bill is crucial.

Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants. By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost. Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills. Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period. Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%).

I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:53:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Compost is the key to the sustainable growing of food from large scale production to back yard gardens. Left over food is a resource, not waste. School composting facilities for school gardens and for local families can be an important resource. Education of families to create their own compost for climate victory gardens is also important.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:49:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Diaz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**2/22/21**

**RE: SB964 SD1**

**Aloha Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair JDC &**

**Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair**

**Senate JDC Committee Members**

**I strongly support SB 964 SD1 to broaden the definition of "food waste" in order to facilitate artisan-scale composting operations exempt from department of health regulations to divert organic materials from Hawaii's landfills. SB 964 SD1 will exclude facilities designed primarily for composting organic material such as food waste and green waste, on-site school campus food waste programs, and recycling drop-off facilities from the requirement that disposal facilities shall not be constructed, modified, or expanded without first establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile from the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line.**

**We need to use composting to divert organic matter from landfills so we can create soil for food crops, trees and landscaping plus plant more trees to reduce climate change.**

**Malama Honua,**

**Malama i ka aina...**

**Mahalo Nui Loa,**

**Lisa Diaz**

**76-223 Haoa St.**

**Kailua Kona, HI 96740**

**scidiaz@gmail.com**





# KE ONE O KĀKUHIIHEWA

O'ahu Council of the  
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

## Senate Committee on Judiciary

*Pō'ahā, Pepeluali 25, 2021*

*Via Wikiō*

*Ke Kapikala Moku'āina*

415 South Beretānia Street

### Re: SB964 SD1 - Relating to Waste Management

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.  
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF  
HONOLULU  
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-  
KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-  
MĀKAHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

LEATRICE KAUAHI-HCC OF  
HONOLULU  
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUAHALA -KING  
KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSEY" ANJO-  
PEARL HARBOR HCC  
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAII O  
KAPOLEI  
KALA HOLDEN

ALI'I PAU'UHI HCC  
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'U'LOA HCC  
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU  
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC  
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC  
JUANITA BROWN  
KAWAMOTO

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULOA HCC  
RANAE "TESSIE"  
FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
ROCKY KALUHIWA

LUALUALEI HCC  
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC  
LUANN LANKFORD-  
FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC  
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC  
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC  
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC  
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC  
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC  
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAHANU HCC  
DREANA KALILI

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC  
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC  
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA  
NOELANI DEVINCENT

HCC OF WAIALUA  
MAKALAPUA CASSON-  
FISHER

WAI'ANAE HCC  
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKIKI HCC  
DWYNN KAMAI

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO  
LOUANNA KAIO

*Aloha Luna Ho'omalua Karl Rhoads, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:*

The Ke One O Kākuhihewa **OPPOSES** SB964 SD1. This bill in its current form needlessly endangers the health of our community members by removing protections afforded them by Hawai'i's "buffer zone" law established by Act 73 (2020).

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill would allow waste or disposal facilities within one-half mile from the public and put at risk our community members' health.

At its 60th annual convention, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, for which we are a member, adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai'i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

Thus, Ke One O Kakuhihewa respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** SB964 SD1.

Ke One O Kakuhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 24 civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:40:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melvin Paris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

Don't mess with the buffer zone. Keep our people safe. Mahalo.

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:41:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

As a retired janitor, I know how 'opala can be a nuisance and cause pilikia for people. Pleaes protect the buffer zone. Keep 'opala away from our community. Mahalo and have a blessed day.

Herietta Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:43:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committee:

Please allow the "buffer zone" law enacted last year to remain in place, to ensure that future generations do not suffer the ills of waste or disposal facilities. Mahalo for your kind consideration. Have a wonderful day.

Me ke aloha,

Makana Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:58:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesse Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support any expanding composting programs in the state.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:02:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:29:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:21:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) and a lifelong resident in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in support of SB964 because we must do all we can in order to practice sustainable methods to ensure we have the cleanest home that includes how we compost.

Please support SB964.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo



**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:22:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Blickley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support!

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:39:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe Hawaii should increase municipal composting, and make it easier for people to use in individual homes and businesses. I personally would love to have easy access to composting in Kona. It would decrease waste and create more sustainable ways to fertilize soil. Additionally, more access to composting would help businesses who have switched to #7 plastic will have more ability to sustainably and correctly recycle it. This also would help decrease food waste by at least having the ability to recycle unused food instead of discarding it. Thank you.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:10:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:38:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB964.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:04:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb964 sd1

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:40:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JON BRODZIAK	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii should be supporting regenerative agriculture practices, like composting, to help fight the climate change and sea level rise. Supporting small-scale composting will reduce carbon in the atmosphere by putting more of it into the soil. Composting food and agricultural waste is one of the least costly ways to reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions from landfills. Please take action and support SB964 SD1 now for a sustainable future.

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 25, 2021  
9:30 am, Videoconference

## SB 964 SD1 - RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am in **OPPOSITION** to the intent of SB 964 SD1 that would in Section 5 exclude composting facilities as defined in section 342G-1 from the definition of "Disposal facility" and in effect exempt composting facilities from the buffer zone requirement. As a mahi 'ai myself, I am a strong proponent of composting in general, however, as a public health practitioner, I oppose the opportunity for composting facilities to be sited and operated within one-half mile of communities.

From Mā'ili, my name is Kamuela Werner. I graduated from Nānākuli High School, hold a Master of Public Health from the University of Hawai'i and am currently studying Applied Cultural Anthropology with a research focus in environmental racism against Native Hawaiians of Nānākuli-Wai'anae. In 2020, my community of Nānākuli fought hard for the passage of SB 2386 that would become Act 73—the very Act that this bill will render impotent against protecting public health from organic solid waste (including sewage sludge) exposure if passed.

Composting results in elevated concentrations of bioaerosols, particularly during agitation activities.<sup>1</sup> Bioaerosols can stay suspended in the air for prolonged periods and potentially travel long distances from their source<sup>2</sup> and as a result may pose health hazards to nearby communities with elevated exposures. There is evidence linking bioaerosol emissions from composting facilities to poor respiratory health in nearby residents.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, there is evidence that workers at compost facilities have an increased risk of developing health problems.<sup>4</sup> Though the most current systematic literature review<sup>5</sup> on this matter found insufficient evidence to provide a

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<sup>1</sup> Taha, M.P.M., Drew, G.H., Longhurst, P.J., Smith, R., Pollard, S.J.T., 2006. Bioaerosol releases from compost facilities: evaluating passive and active source terms at a green waste facility for improved risk assessments. *Atmos. Environ.* 40, 1159–1169.

<sup>2</sup> Nygard, K., Werner-Johansen, O., Ronsen, S., Caugant, D.A., Simonsen, O., Kanestrom, A., Ask, E., Ringstad, J., Odegard, R., Jensen, T., Krogh, T., Hoiby, E.A., Ragnhildstveit, E., Aaberge, I.S., Aavitsland, P., 2008. An outbreak of legionnaires disease caused by long-distance spread from an industrial air scrubber in Sarpsborg, Norway. *Clin. Infect. Dis.* 46, 61–69.

<sup>3</sup> Pearson, C., Littlewood, E., Douglas, P., Robertson, S., Gant, T. W., & Hansell, A. L. (January 01, 2015). Exposures and Health Outcomes in Relation to Bioaerosol Emissions From Composting Facilities: A Systematic Review of Occupational and Community Studies. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, part B, critical Reviews*, 18, 1, 43-69.

<sup>4</sup> Hambach, R., Droste, J., François, G., Weyler, J., Van, S. U., De, S. A., Vanoeteren, J., ... SpringerLink (Online service). (2012). Work-related health symptoms among compost facility workers: a cross-sectional study. (*Archives of public health*.)

<sup>5</sup> Robertson, S., Douglas, P., Jarvis, D., & Marczylo, E. (April 01, 2019). Bioaerosol exposure from composting facilities and health outcomes in workers and in the community: A systematic review update. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, 222, 3, 364-386.

quantitative comment on exposure risk, I believe our residents, especially the poor and politically vulnerable, should not be guinea pigs.

Lastly, the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) has never clarified that there is no risk to the public for living in proximity to compost facilities, especially within one-half mile. Further, HDOH has never reviewed the findings of independent studies which say that there is no risk to public health from compost facilities, especially to the thousands of people that live, work, and play within a one-half mile radius of current compost facility operations.

Please maintain the public health protections of Act 73 by **NOT PASSING** SB 964 SD1.

Ke aloha 'āina,

Kamuela Werner, MPH



**LATE**



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

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Thursday, February 25, 2021, 9:30 am

Senate Committee on Judiciary

SENATE BILL 964 – RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT: Eliminating buffer zones from regulating certain food waste composting

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party is pleased to join the widespread support for this measure, for which the Department of Health has adequate regulations. SB 964 not only facilitates processing food and green waste, but contributes in a most significant way to the sequestering of greenhouse gases through composting the largest single portion of the waste stream. Surprising to many, it is the underground microbes that compose the largest reservoir of carbon – not the standing crop above ground. Composting is one of the best means of moving our net emissions closer to zero.

Mahalo for providing this opportunity to address this important issue on our climate change agenda.

/s/ Charley Ice, Co-Chair of the Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:52:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roy Kadota	Testifying for Mr. K's Recycle and Redemption Center	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha, Members of the Committee,

I am Roy Kadota, owner of Mr. K's Recycle and Redemption Center in Hilo, established in 2009 as a family-owned business. Mr. K's does HI5 redemption and recycles electronics, metals, paper, and other items.

I would like to respectfully offer comment on SB 964.

Mr. K's supports the diversion of food and other useful wastes away from the landfill and to helpful re-use as compost. One of our services is recycling newsprint and office paper, which is then diverted to composting, as well as mulching and flower packing.

However, being in waste management, I am concerned that SB 964 would also exempt these composting operations from Department of Health regulations. Any operation, no matter how small, could pose a public health or environmental risk, such as contamination of runoff or groundwater, or the spread of invasive species such as Little Fire Ants.

Mahalo for hearing our concerns and for your support of sustainability, waste management and agriculture on our island.

**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:31:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear JDC Committee Members,

Our planet and humanity's existence are now in grave danger due to ongoing climate change. Scientists tell us we must take immediate steps to stop global warming. Hawaii is a huge consumer of fossil fuels, to the tune of \$5 billion of imported fuel yearly. Transitioning away from these carbon-based fuels is critical if we are to reverse the warming.

But we must also deal with the existing atmospheric carbon that results from the burning of these fuels. Because healthy soils can hold twice the carbon stocks of plants, the key to building soil carbon sequestration capacity (holding the carbon safely underground) lies in building healthy soil. Bill SD964 SD1 attempts to address this issue by improving the composting capacity in Hawaii.

Organics (food waste, yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream, and account for at least fifty per cent of the materials discarded each year (200,000 tons of food waste). Organics in landfills are the largest source of human-generated methane, a potent greenhouse gas (eighty-four times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide). This is an inefficient use of a potentially valuable "product". Aside from the possibilities of this food feeding more people or animals, it should be used --once it is composted-- on farmland and in backyard gardens for building healthy soil that then can grow healthy crops as well as sequester carbon dioxide. Diversion of waste organics from landfills into composting programs are the least costly and most direct method for the State to meet its solid waste reduction goals. Large and small composting programs can fill this need and help Hawaii reduce global warming.

Bill SB964 SD1 partially addresses the urgent need to expand the State's capacity for capturing and processing the organic waste its residents and visitors generate. Additional composting facilities can reduce landfill waste while supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs as well as the State's commitment to take effective climate action.

What seems to be preventing a diversion of this food waste from its “landfill destiny” to composting is an awkward permitting process. Most states now use a tiered compost permitting process based on the amount and composition of the food waste as well as the level of health/safety/environmental risks associated with the composting operation. Due to the health and safety issues involved, I am in agreement with the testifier who suggested that a formal team of stakeholders work out the details of each tier. I also strongly agree that there should be an educational (training) component to the permitting process, particularly because innovations in farming techniques can change rapidly and people--especially farmers and gardeners—should be kept informed. We should look for examples of successful and safe permitting processes in other states.

The benefits of a streamlined permitting process are many: more people seeking permits for composting (results in more composting facilities), more diversion of food waste to composting (results in a reduced burden on landfills), a reduced need for imported fertilizer (local farmers save money), job creation (composters, farm workers), composting school lunches (student involvement provides educational opportunities, DOE saves money on waste pickup), improved soil sequestration across the state (reduces greenhouse gases), a more sustainable Hawaii (reduces the cost of living).

Additionally, this Act creates a class of artisan-scale (smaller) composting operations that are exempt from Department of Health regulations. I support this as long as environmental and human health are not endangered.

I strongly support this bill, SB984 SD1, if the permitting details can be successfully worked out by the stakeholders. I agree with Nicole Chatterson, Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu: “Please help us build out an appropriately regulated, safe and vibrant composting ecosystem in Hawai‘i.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

**LATE**

## **SB 964 – Relating to Solid Waste Management**

Aloha Senators

My name is John Harder and I was the State Solid Waste Coordinator from 1991 to 1999 and responsible for developing the original Solid Waste regulations which you are now addressing. In addition I was Kauai County's first Solid Waste Management Coordinator and Chief of Maui County's Solid Waste Division. During my career I have overseen the design, permitting and operation of numerous landfills, recycling centers and composting facilities throughout the State. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [dumpdoctor@gmail.com](mailto:dumpdoctor@gmail.com).

While I / we strongly support the concept of modifying the existing Solid Waste regulatory structure to make it easier for local entrepreneurs help address the growing impacts of Climate Change, we do feel the current proposal could be significantly improved with a few minor amendments.

While the requirements for simplifying the regulatory oversight over simple, straight forward composting operations should be reduced, one area where continued oversight is necessary is in tracking and assessing the various operations managing our diverted resources.

Both the State Department of Health and the various County Solid Waste Divisions are tasked with coordinating and promoting waste / resource reduction activities in Hawaii, a job made difficult, if not impossible, without some knowledge the number and location of facilities involved in diversion efforts.

In addition, when assessing the need for and type of additional resources for promotion, education, possible financial incentives, the various programs charged with maximizing diversion need to be fully aware of the scope and scale of activities in their jurisdiction...

Currently there exists within the State Solid Waste Regulations (HAR Chpt 11-58.1-04(i)) the permitting authority for "Certain solid waste handling and disposal facilities of limited impact" - Permit by Rule". This section was developed to facilitate just this type of operation with minimal bureaucratic requirements and oversight.

Applicants for permit under the Permit by Rule authority must simply submit a narrative describing the proposed operations and a simple site plan, and after 30 days are automatically permitted. The only additional requirement is that the operator submit an annual report summarizing the types and volumes of material received and processed.

Currently greenwaste composting activities managing less than 3000 tons of material per year fall into this category. I would propose that the existing regulations be modified by statute to include "Artisan Scale" composting operations (which can receive foodwaste) in the Permit by rule Category. This would significantly facilitate the development and implementation of this type of operation while providing input to the State and County on their locations and volumes of material diverted.

A second recommendation would be to increase the allowable amount of materials which an Artisan Scale Composting operation can receive. Currently the proposal allows Artisan Scale composting facilities to accept up to 1,000 lbs of organic material per week (or roughly 25 tons per year) which is little more than many large back yard composting efforts. In order to make these programs viable, both in terms of operating efficiencies and their resource management

potential, I would recommend increasing the maximum allowable volumes a facility can receive to at least 250 tons per year.

**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:06:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerald Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators

Please support this bill.

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

-By encouraging on-site composting, you have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to another location for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

- Composting food waste is the least costly and most direct method for reducing methane emitted from Hawaii's landfills

-Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential eighty-four times that of carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period

- Organics (food waste and yard trimmings) constitute the largest single component of Hawaii's waste stream (over 50%)

Thank you

Jerry Riverstone

**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:31:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

Our planet and humanity's existence are now in grave danger due to ongoing climate change. Scientists tell us we must take immediate steps to stop global warming. Hawaii is a huge consumer of fossil fuels, to the tune of \$5 billion of imported fuel yearly. Transitioning away from these carbon-based fuels and sequestering carbon in plants and soil are both critical if we are to reverse the warming.

I am in strong support of HB863 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to create a forest stewardship program to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach, and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nurseries.

Trees have the ability to heal our planet. They help sequester greenhouse gases, they improve our air quality, they help rebuild soil to grow healthier plants and they preserve water. In the past Hawaii protected trees, but our forests and facilities have fallen into disrepair.

Bringing together stakeholders from the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, researchers from the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the US Dept of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service can maximize the effects trees can have on Hawaii's climate and environment. Equally as important, trees can also lift our spirits. Here's to more trees planted!

Please move forward with this plan. Support HB863.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii



**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:15:04 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Spencer Sakoda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a locally employed resident of Hilo, Hi., I would like to testify that I am in favor of SB964. I further support exempting these locations from the half-mile buffer zone from the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line. I further support that no commercial composting facility or operation should be exempt from DOH regulatory oversight, restrictions, inspection and control.

Spencer Sakoda

**LATE**

**SB-964-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 1:03:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Claire Cea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the idea that food waste should be included in composting materials. As a resident of Big Island, I view this bill as an amazing opportunity to not only reduce our waste stream, but also take advantage of composting on such an agriculturally motivated island.

I agree with SB964's exclusion of a half mile buffer between composting facilities and residences, schools, and hospitals. The point of having artisan-composting facilities is to have smaller facilities within communities to take in the waste. If you limit where these facilities can be located, then there is less likelihood of individuals driving to take advantage of the facility. If it becomes a hassle rather than a convenience then people might not utilize these composting facilities. Exempting these facilities from needing a half mile buffer can ensure that they can be located within the communities they are meant to service.

However, I respectfully disagree with the notion that these artisan composting facilities would be exempt from Dept of Health regulations. Department of Health is established to ensure the safety of our wellbeing within our community. Having a waste facility of any kind with no State regulations does not seem desirable given the diversity, and possible toxicity, of the materials that would be handled by a composting facility.