

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**WENDY L. GADY**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
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**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE**

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM & AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 2935  
RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards and  
Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2935,  
which appropriates money to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)  
for the creation of a composting program at Pulehunui on Maui.

ADC supports the establishment of a composting program because it  
provides a range of environmental benefits that include strengthening  
sustainable, local food production by using locally generated food waste and  
other organic materials to create compost, reducing trash in landfills, water  
conservation, and promoting soil health by increasing the nutrient content and

biodiversity of microbes in the soil. Healthy soil is the bedrock for sustainable agriculture and a composting program offers a possible solution for reducing waste by converting it into a valuable soil amendment.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-2935**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:52:54 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for composting program!

We need to get organics out of the landfills to mitigate creation of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and for beneficial reuse as soil.

Please pass this bill!



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February 13, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2935**  
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2935**, which appropriates moneys to the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the creation of a composting program.

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

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

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



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

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

February 12.2024

To: Chairs Decoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and honorable members of the Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **Support of SB2935**

Hawaii Food+ Policy is in **support of bill HB2935**, establishing a composting program with the agribusiness development program in Pulehunui, Maui. This program will pave a more sustainable path for Maui and the other islands alike. Similarly, this program will strengthen not only the agricultural sector within Hawai'i, but strengthen community members, businesses and other stakeholders. Composting is a valuable option for recycling municipal solid waste that can save thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions leaking from landfills but it can also be used to regenerate soils and agricultural lands. Not passing this bill and avoiding deploying a valuable process and program to the state will be a missed opportunity for the local environment, education, society, and resource management.

Food+Policy kindly asks that you **pass bill SB2935**.

Mahalo for your time,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**SB-2935**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 4:16:56 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of [SB2935](#). Thank you.

**SB-2935**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:06:59 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

**RELATING TO COMPOSTING.**

Appropriates moneys to the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the creation of a composting program. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.