

**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**

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Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 751 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

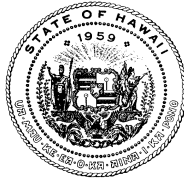
House Bill 751 HD2 establishes statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion. Requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert certain organic waste generated within the county in alignment with established state benchmarks and appropriates funds.

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) **supports** this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request. The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multijurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties.

When food ends up in landfills, it generates methane a greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. On Oahu, food waste goes to H-Power and does not end up in a landfill generating methane. However, the Neighbor Islands lack waste to energy facilities. Diversion of organic waste to alternative processing such as composting will reduce the generation of methane and highlights the additional need to address food waste.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a report in 2021 on the environmental impacts of food waste. EPA estimated that each year, U.S. food loss and waste equals the annual CO2 emissions of 42 coal-fired power plants. The report also highlights the benefits of preventing food loss and waste in terms of agricultural land, blue water, fertilizer, and energy. Reducing and preventing food waste can increase food security, foster productivity and economic efficiency, promote resource and energy conservation, and address climate change, which in turn, could also decrease climate change-related shocks to the supply chain.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB0751 HD2
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.**

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 11, 2025; 3:00 p.m.; Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure would impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 executive budget request for the Department of Health (Department) by an undetermined
3 amount. The Department therefore requests that this measure be considered as a vehicle to
4 provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined
5 in the Governors executive budget request.

6 **Department Position:** The Department opposes this measure and offers the following
7 comments.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division Solid and Hazardous Waste
9 Branch (EMD-SHWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

10 This measure proposes to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 342G to:
11 (1) require organic waste generators to divert "material" to any department-approved facility
12 within 20 miles by specific dates for specified generators that generated specified amounts of
13 organic waste per year, ultimately leading to a landfill and co-generation plant ban; (2) define
14 "organic waste" to include "compostable food packaging;" (3) require each county to

1 incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert
2 organic waste within the county in alignment with the aforementioned requirements
3 established by this measure; and (4) appropriate general funds.

4 While the proposed amendments in this measure offer conflicting information
5 (Section 2, specifies a landfill and co-generation plant ban for organic waste by 2040, while
6 Section 4, states that it is a goal to divert organic waste from landfills and waste-to-energy
7 facilities by 2040), we understand from House Standing Committee Report 604 that the intent of
8 this measure is to require organic waste diversion. While organic waste generators are required
9 to divert “material to any department-approved facility,” (Page2, Line 9), we understand that it
10 is intended to mean organic waste is to be primarily diverted to composting facilities, as some
11 other technologies, such as anaerobic digestors, gasification units, or biodiesel plants may also
12 be co-generation plants. With this understanding, the Department opposes this measure for
13 the following reasons:

14 First, the mandate of diverting compostable food packaging away from landfills and
15 co-generation plants, and directing them to composting facilities is premature. As discussed in
16 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s study, “Emerging Issues in Food Waste Management,
17 Persistent Chemical Contaminants¹,” August 2021, much more information is needed to better
18 understand the contaminant level of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in food
19 packaging and in the fate and transport of PFAS. This data needs to be obtained and fully
20 understood before the State mandates that food packaging be composted and land applied.
21 The Department is currently conducting a study evaluating PFAS concentrations and risks in
22 compost made from select compostable food containers and food crops grown in compost
23 generated with these compostable food containers. This ongoing study is intended to help the
24 Department begin to evaluate the potential human health risks from compost that may contain

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/emerging-issues-in-food-waste-management-persistent-chemical-contaminants.pdf>

1 PFAS found in foodservice ware. In addition, there is little data on PFAS in food packaging,
2 despite laws prohibiting the intentional addition of PFAS to certain containers (wraps, liners,
3 plates, food boats, and pizza boxes). Costly testing will be required of the composting industry
4 to demonstrate that the finished compost does not contain PFAS at concentrations that pose a
5 threat to public health. Until we can further evaluate the potential risks of food packaging,
6 compostable food packaging should not be included in the mandate.

7 Second, limiting the waste management technology to primarily composting appears
8 restrictive. Typical composting operations take a lot of space, and with the increasing
9 restrictions to site any solid waste management facility, other technologies should remain as
10 options. Anaerobic digestors can often manage larger amounts of waste, including liquid waste,
11 such as fats, oils, and grease, on a smaller footprint, while generating biogas. The solids portion
12 of the digestate will likely be composted, but at smaller volumes. Additionally, the allowance of
13 other technologies will allow greater flexibility in offering landfill diversion options, especially if
14 siting becomes an issue. There are also instances where incineration or waste-to-energy may be
15 the preferred option to manage waste quickly and safely. For example, air-curtain incinerators
16 have been utilized to quickly manage coconut rhinoceros beetle infested green waste. Similarly,
17 green waste generated from a PFAS contaminated remediation site was directed to the
18 HPOWER facility rather than to a composting operation.

19 Third, the responsibility of ensuring adequate composting operations to prepare for the
20 landfill ban by 2040 will ultimately fall on the counties. While the language for the first few
21 stages of implementation of this measure only applies if there are composting operations
22 within 20 miles of a generator, that requirement will become critical in 2040 if no alternative
23 for composting is available. According to the current measure, the counties are expected to
24 ensure that organic waste composters are available within 20 miles of an organic waste
25 generator, which means many counties will require multiple operations, regardless of whether
26 the operation is profitable or not. The unspecified general fund appropriation should be

1 directed to the establishment of new composting operations and the expansion of existing
2 operations to allow for the volume of material that will be needed to achieve the goals set in
3 this measure. We anticipate that this cost would be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceed
4 the two years provided for in this measure.

5 Fourth, the Department estimates that it will be cost-prohibitive and resource intensive
6 to identify and quantify the amount of organic waste generated by organic waste generators.
7 The Department would be required to conduct waste characterization studies of every organic
8 waste generator and regularly track tonnages of every organic waste generator to measure
9 solid waste reductions and to determine which generator the measure applies. While the
10 committee report suggests that the waste hauler or the receiving processing facility can
11 calculate the diversion rate, this may not be true. In order to calculate diversion rates, one
12 would first need to know how much waste is being generated. The hauler does not weigh the
13 loads received from each generator, especially when collecting from a collection route. They
14 would only know the weight of the load transported to a end location. The hauler would also
15 not know other destinations and quantities that a generator may be sending organic waste to.
16 For example, fats, oils, and grease could go to a biodiesel plant, while meat scraps could go to a
17 rendering plant, vegetable waste to a piggery, and green waste to a composter.

18 If the Legislature does not wish for the Department to strictly enforce organic waste
19 generators to participate in the early stages of the program, the Legislature could place the
20 responsibility of measuring organic waste generation on the generators potentially covered by
21 this program. This would include the initial measurement to determine the generator's
22 eligibility status and ongoing measurement for eligible facilities to quantify the reduction of
23 solid waste produced prior to landfilling. This option of self-reporting by organic waste
24 generators will reduce the financial burden on the State, but will still require added positions
25 and funding for the Department to identify, track and monitor incoming reports from organic
26 waste generators and to oversee development of organic waste diversion facilities.

1 Finally, a full organic waste landfill ban, although well-intentioned, may too burdensome
2 on the counties to the point of being impossible to implement and enforce. Examples for this
3 include: (1) organic waste from residential settings where it would be difficult to impossible to
4 visually inspect the contribution from each resident; and (2) instances when the waste is
5 already commingled and is not appropriate to completely sort, such as following a flood event,
6 or from a remediation site that involves clearing and grubbing (e.g., grass covering over
7 chlordane-contaminated soil, where chlordane is a common termiticide that was used
8 throughout the islands). Recognizing this, the Department effectively has a green waste ban
9 specified in section 11-58.1-65, Hawaii Administrative Rules, requiring diversion of 75% of all
10 commercially generated green waste and 50% of all residential green waste from landfilling,
11 although we believe that the counties achieve greater rates of diversion than is specified.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



MAKAKILO/KAPOLEI/HONOKAI HALE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 34

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO DIVERT WASTE FROM LANDFILLS, INCLUDING RECYCLING TO
CREATE FUEL AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

Whereas, the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 ("Board") is a citizens' advisory board whose purpose is to "increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of government" per the City and County of Honolulu's Neighborhood Plan of 2008; and

Whereas, every community in Hawai'i deserves a "clean and healthful environment" as guaranteed by the Hawaii State Constitution (Article XI, Section 9; In re Maui Elec. Co., 2017 Haw.); and

Whereas, in 2021, the total waste generated on O'ahu was 1,692,840 tons, with significant portions being recycled or diverted through various waste-to-energy initiatives, but still a substantial portion of waste ended up in landfills, including Construction and Demolition landfilling, general material recycling, and the H-Power Ash and Residuals; and

Whereas, nearly all landfilling, waste-to-energy processing, and recycling of O'ahu's waste occurs in West O'ahu at the City-owned Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) in Kahe Valley, adjacent to the Honokai Hale and Makakilo communities, and the City-owned H-POWER facility near Kapolei, where waste, including Construction and Demolition materials, passes through Makakilo, Kapolei, and Honokai Hale before being landfilled at WGSL or transported to PVT Land Company, Ltd. in Nānākuli; and

Whereas, the State of Hawaii has made significant strides in addressing climate change, including the declaration of a climate emergency in 2021, and the adoption of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2045, and the adoption of Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to explore decarbonization pathways, including sustainable fuel production; and

Whereas, Hawaii's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels continues to pose challenges to energy security, economic growth, and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, leading to the exploration of alternatives such as sustainable aviation fuel, renewable gas, and waste diversion through recycling as fuel; and

Whereas, the state's current waste disposal practices, particularly landfilling, have been associated with harmful public health risks, including respiratory, neurological, and gastrointestinal issues for nearby communities, as well as environmental hazards from landfill gases like hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), which are linked to serious health problems; and

Whereas, studies have shown that communities within a 3.1-mile radius of landfills, including the PVT landfill and Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill in West Oahu, are potentially exposed to harmful pollutants, which have been linked to lung cancer, respiratory illnesses, and other health issues; and

Whereas, the residents within the Nanakuli Census tracts (15003009608 & 15003940002), in which PVT landfill resides, suffer 10 years less in their life expectancy than the state average (U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, Center for Disease Control, US Department of Health, 2020); and

Whereas, to mitigate these risks and improve the quality of life for residents, it is essential to adopt measures that promote waste diversion from landfills, including the recycling of waste materials into renewable fuels, which aligns with the state's decarbonization goals and reduces dependence on imported petroleum; and

Whereas, the City and County of Honolulu executed a contract with Covanta to evaluate and pursue recycling a portion of the ash, which may significantly reduce the amount of ash disposed at the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill; and

Whereas, the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling & Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF), currently under development in Kapolei, Hawaii, will serve as a waste recycling facility for local solid-organic wastes, including construction and demolition (C&D) debris, which will be sorted into recyclable and unrecyclable materials, with organic C&D waste components such as lumber, cardboard, fabric, and plastic film converted to energy using a fluidized-bed gasification system to self-power the facility, while inorganic C&D waste, including concrete and window glass, will be recycled into building materials, and landscaping waste, greenwaste from invasive species eradication, and wildfire prevention projects will also be converted to energy, with the resulting ash, along with other local nutrient-containing wastes, formulated into organic and potash fertilizers for use in Hawaii, all of which is expected to reduce waste sent to landfills on O'ahu by half, with ongoing efforts to innovate further; and

Whereas, the adoption of renewable energy practices, such as recycling waste as fuel and producing sustainable aviation fuel locally, would not only improve environmental health but also stimulate local job creation and investment in clean energy infrastructure, contributing to Hawaii's energy independence and long-term sustainability; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 supports efforts to divert waste from landfills, including recycling to create fuel and construction materials; and be it

Resolved, that the board supports the efforts of the City and County of Honolulu to recycle H-Power Ash for use in construction materials safely, and further supports the safe diversion of waste materials to the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling & Fertilizer Facility for recycling, including the creation of fuel; and be it

Resolved, the board supports efforts to divert waste from landfills, including recycling initiatives, provided that these efforts are implemented in a manner that minimizes and mitigates any negative effects on public health and safety; and be it

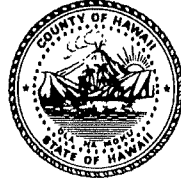
Resolved, the board supports the intent of bills [SB1220 \(2025\)](#) Relating to Renewable Gas Tariff and [HB976 \(2025\)](#) Relating to Renewable Fuel, and [SB764/HB750 \(2025\)](#) Relating to the Environment; and

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Council Members, Area Legislators, and all Neighborhood Boards.

Adopted by the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 at its February 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, 8-0-0 (**Aye**: Dudley, Ferreira, Khan, Lidstone, Moon, Singleton, Taala, Paris; **Nay**: None; **Abstain**: None)

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

William V. Brillhante Jr.
Managing Director



Wesley R. Segawa
Director

Craig Kawaguchi
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov

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March 11, 2025

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Opposition of House Bill (HB) 751 HD1 Relating to Organic Waste Diversion, which establishes statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion. Requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert certain organic waste generated within the county in alignment with established state benchmarks.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (DEM) respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to HB 751 HD1, which mandates the diversion of organic waste from landfills and incineration. While we share the bill's laudable goal of reducing waste and increasing diversion, the bill presents significant challenges that render its current form impractical for Hawai'i County.

- 1. Inadequate Infrastructure and Permitting:** Hawai'i Island lacks the necessary commercial composting infrastructure to process the increased volume of organic waste mandated by this bill. Moreover, the development of new composting facilities faces substantial hurdles due to stringent permitting requirements from the Hawai'i State Department of Health.
- 2. Disruption of Existing Beneficial Use:** A significant portion of food waste from restaurants and grocery stores is currently utilized by local pig farmers, providing a valuable resource for both waste management and local food production. This bill's mandates could disrupt this beneficial system, forcing businesses and farmers to seek more costly and potentially less effective alternatives.
- 3. Unfunded Mandates:** While the bill allocates funds for updating the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, it fails to provide adequate funding for the critical infrastructure, outreach, education, and enforcement necessary for successful implementation. This leaves Hawai'i County to bear the substantial financial burden of developing new processing facilities, hiring enforcement personnel, and educating the public and businesses on the new requirements.
- 4. Existing Green Waste Surplus:** Hawai'i County currently grapples with a surplus of green waste, exceeding 3,000 cubic yards per month. Introducing additional organic material without a viable

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

market or processing capacity will exacerbate this challenge and potentially strain existing waste management systems.

5. **Burden on Businesses and Residents:** Compliance with this bill will necessitate significant changes to waste management practices for restaurants, grocery stores, apartment complexes, and even single-family homes. Without adequate education and sufficient enforcement resources, businesses and residents will face difficulties in complying, potentially leading to increased disposal costs and the risk of penalties.

Recommendations:

To address these concerns, DEM urges the committee to:

- **Invest in Composting Infrastructure:** Prioritize funding for the development of commercial composting facilities on Hawai'i Island.
- **Streamline Permitting:** Simplify the permitting process for composting facilities to encourage their establishment.
- **Provide Adequate Funding:** Ensure sufficient funding for county implementation, including infrastructure development, outreach, education, and enforcement.
- **Explore Market Solutions:** Investigate and develop viable markets for the increased volume of organic waste.
- **Phased Implementation:** Consider a phased implementation approach to allow for gradual adjustments and infrastructure development.

By addressing these concerns, the committee can ensure that organic waste diversion efforts in Hawai'i County are successful, sustainable, and beneficial to both the environment and the local economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,


Craig Kawaguchi
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

cc: Mayor Kimo Alameda
Gene Quiamas, Acting Hawai'i County Solid Waste Division Chief
Tanya Buckley, Acting Hawai'i County Recycling Coordinator



**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment &
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs**

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB751, HD2

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at: 3:00 p.m.; Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) we submit this testimony in strong support of HB751, HD2.

Organic waste takes up valuable space in our landfills where it produces potent greenhouse gases that threaten our fragile ecosystems and coastal communities. An estimated 50% of our landfill waste is organic matter which produces methane at a rate of about one ton of CO₂eq per ton of waste.¹

Diverting waste is an opportunity to recover and recycle valuable resources including minerals and other important nutrients, and return carbon to our soils. Diverting this waste from the landfill is a critical step towards the carbon neutral and circular economy that can sustain our keiki for generations.

Moving forward with waste diversion now will pay dividends in the extension of our landfill lifespans and in the production of composts and fertilizers to support our farmers and bring us a step closer to food sovereignty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

1

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2020-01-09/hawaii-island-has-decades-of-landfill-space-but-still-faces-challenges-in-dealing-with-its-waste>

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 10:01:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kauai has a landfill crisis. Incineration is not the responsible economic or environment response. All the islands only have limited capacity to accommodate additional landfills. Responsible management of organic waste, the greatest emitter of methane in our landfills, is a critical part of long term waste management. HB751 with the diversion of organic waste can significantly reduce landfill waste, increase composting, reduce harmful greenhouse gases and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we can generate valuable compost. This action could divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill. Strong support for HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:24:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai‘i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai‘i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i Reef and Ocean Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill's intent to remove organic waste from landfills! This measure is critical because:

1. **organic waste takes up precious space in landfills** and
2. **organic waste** in landfills **produces methane, a climate-heating greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide** over a twenty year horizon!

The bill is reasonable in calling for each county to plan for future diversion of organic waste (food, green waste, compostable food packaging, and untreated wood waste) in their next integrated solid waste management plan.

Please pass this bill!

Climate Protectors Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:45:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Richards, and Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am the Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. We are writing today to offer our support for HB751 HD2. This is truly a great bill for Hawai'i we all win with this one! HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2. The Green Party of Hawai'i, thanks each of you, for your Yes Vote on HB751 HD2.

Sincerley,

Susan RobertsEmery
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo



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Kaipo Kekona
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Anabella Bruch
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Maureen Datta
Secretary

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Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
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Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards & Chang, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB751.**

HB751 aims to transform Hawaii's approach to organic waste management by establishing clear statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion. This bill presents a constructive opportunity for Hawaii to address historical challenges in waste management and to move towards a more sustainable, circular economy. By setting progressive diversion benchmarks and focusing initially on large-scale food waste generators, this legislation allows both infrastructure and communities to adapt efficiently, leading to a full landfill ban on organic waste by 2035.

For Hawaii's agricultural community, the successful implementation of HB751 will deliver significant benefits. By diverting organic waste for composting, local farmers gain access to high-quality compost, which enhances soil fertility, retains moisture, and reduces the dependency on expensive imported fertilizers. Farmers will benefit from economic opportunities through the development of small and mid-scale composting enterprises, crucial to a decentralized and resilient agricultural network. It is essential that county and state governments provide the necessary support, including funding, technical assistance programs, and potential incentives like tax credits or grants to facilitate on-farm composting and the creation of community composting hubs. Through these strategic efforts, Hawaii can sustainably manage organic waste while supporting its farming communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 6:56:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Support of House Bill 751****

Aloha e nā Luna o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years, bearing witness to the ebb and flow of our island’s ecological vitality and the stewardship required to sustain it. It is with profound conviction that I offer this testimony in unequivocal support of House Bill 751, an Act Relating to Organic Waste. This legislation confronts a pressing challenge—our state’s failure to meet longstanding waste reduction goals—while charting a visionary path toward a more sustainable Hawaii through ambitious benchmarks for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion.

The legislature’s findings lay bare a disquieting reality: the mandates set in 1991 to halve our solid waste stream by 2000 remain unmet, and the Aloha+ Challenge’s goal of a seventy percent reduction by 2030 hangs in precarious balance. HB 751 addresses this inertia head-on, embedding statutory goals to reduce the solid waste stream by forty percent by 2027 and seventy percent by 2035, with a landmark ban on organic waste in landfills and co-generation plants by 2040. These targets are not aspirational platitudes; they are a clarion call to action, grounded in the recognition that our current trajectory is antithetical to the principles of mālama ‘āina—caring for the land—that have guided Native Hawaiians for generations.

As a resident of Kahalu‘u, I have seen the precipitous accumulation of waste strain our island’s finite resources, a burden that disproportionately disenfranchises rural and Indigenous communities reliant on healthy ecosystems. HB 751’s tiered approach—beginning with major organic waste generators like wholesalers and hotels by 2027, extending to restaurants and health facilities by 2030, and culminating with multifamily complexes and single-family residences—offers a structured, equitable framework to reverse this tide. By mandating counties to integrate organic waste diversion plans into their solid waste management revisions, the bill ensures localized accountability while aligning with state benchmarks, a synergy that promises both efficacy and adaptability.

The cultural and environmental stakes of this measure are inseparable. Organic waste—green waste, food scraps, untreated wood—holds potential as a resource, not a liability. Through composting and bioconversion, we can return these materials to the ‘āina, enriching our soils and reducing reliance on imported fertilizers. This aligns with ancestral practices of resource cycling,

a wisdom HB 751 revives through modern policy. Moreover, by diverting organic waste from landfills, we mitigate methane emissions—a potent greenhouse gas—safeguarding our climate and the delicate balance of our marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The appropriation of funds for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 underscores the legislature's commitment to implementation, empowering the Department of Health to shepherd this transformation. Yet, the true measure of HB 751's success lies in its execution. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill with urgency, ensuring that resources and oversight match its ambition. To falter now is to perpetuate a legacy of wastefulness; to act is to honor our kuleana to future generations, forging a Hawaii where abundance, not excess, defines our relationship with the land.

Me ka ha'aha'a a me ke aloha,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:54:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 1:43:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 1:45:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 2:09:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annalise Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 6:59:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB751. Organic "waste" is actually organic "treasure" that can be utilized in various beneficial ways if we get over our misguided habit of disposing of it in ways that cause serious problems.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:14:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.Eliel,Kapaa

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:38:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB751 Which establishes statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion. Requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert certain organic waste generated within the county in alignment with established state benchmarks.

Mahalo,
Theresa Thompson

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:54:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:02:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB751 HD2, which will will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants. Also, the responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

Thank you

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:31:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of long term waste management for Hawai‘i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:52:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Heithaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:47:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as a farmer and long time composter. The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:34:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:06:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:04:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chairs and Committee Members,

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change, and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Marcia Kemble
Makiki

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:25:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB751 HD2 which establishes statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion and requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert certain organic waste.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 7:53:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 751 I have seen very positive results from organic waste diversion being done by local families. Community members have been amazed by the reduction in the amount they were sending to the landfill each week. It is a total Win Win because fabulous compost is produced which improves the soil and enables continually healthier and larger harvests. I humbly ask you to support HB751. Mahalo.

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa, Hawaii

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:04:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:43:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

Mahalo,

Emily Gambino

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:38:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:47:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Chang and Members of the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, and Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards, iii, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please vote for HB 751 HD 2 which, to my understanding, would reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:19:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai‘i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:25:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainability is a must for an island state! The organic waste is a valuable resource as is landfill space. Lets use it wisely. While you are at it, research what Halifax Nova Scotia does with their solid waste and lets improve our waste management

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:09:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

Mahalo,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:22:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:18:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure which is a common-sense, cost-effective approach to sustainability for our island home. It will promote the health of our land, water, and people and has the promise of much cost savings for the future.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:04:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support HB751 HD2 because I believe that we need to do whatever we can to create a more sustainable waste management. I would like to have universal municipal recycling and composting and do believe we need to fast track this as soon as possible. Please do what you can to pass this bill and to empower the counties to implement its objectives. Mahalo.

HB-751-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:19:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is in a landfill crisis and has been for most of my 30 years of life. We also do not produce enough of our own food. Many houses and yards had the topsoil scraped off when they were built, and a lot of agg land was subjected to plantation monocropping and been depleted. This bill could help alleviate the landfills and rejuvenate our soil. ALSO, organic waste management NEEDS to be managed with biosecurity in mind! Particularly the coconut rhinoceros beetle, which breed in mulch piles. I support this bill, but PLEASE include practical management of CRB in its implementation.

The responsible management of organic waste is a critical part of our long term waste management for Hawai'i. Our islands only have so much capacity and land mass to accommodate additional landfills and their environmental impacts.

HB751 will reduce landfill waste, increase composting, address climate change and support regenerative agriculture. By diverting organic material from landfills we save this resource and generate valuable compost. This can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.

Please support HB751 HD2.