



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2407 HD1
RELATING TO STATEWIDE COMPOSTING**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/26/2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department agrees that composting is a great option for organics
5 management and landfill diversion and supports this bill. The bill in its current form (1) requires
6 the Department to adopt or amend rules to establish a classification system for composting
7 facilities or operations for the purposes of regulating them for health purposes; and (2) allows
8 composting and co-composting in the agricultural district. The bill does not provide any
9 resources with which the Department is to do the work of administrative rulemaking.

10 The Department agrees that the Solid Waste regulations should be updated. In order to
11 update the administrative rules, the Department requests the creation of a Program Specialist
12 position in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch to focus on administrative rulemaking efforts
13 and appropriation to fund the position. This position can also be used to update rules for the other
14 programs within the Branch. Drafting and adopting administrative rules is highly technical work
15 and it typically takes more than one year to complete the revision of a rule chapter. The Solid
16 Waste Section does not have any staff positions allocated for this type of work and would find it
17 difficult to update the regulations with its current resources.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



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Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
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Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 26, 2020
TIME: 12pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: HB2407 HD1 Relating to Statewide Composting

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA supports statewide waste management solutions. Responsibly managing compostable material here in Hawaii can have environmental and agricultural benefits. In counties that do not use waste to energy technology composting can also help divert waste from landfills. Updating the Department of Health's rules on composting can create a regulatory framework for composting that is better suited to the current needs of our state.

There are many different types of composting and there are new developments being made in compostable materials all the time. This measure is an important step in create a more diverse waste management system for Hawaii. We encourage you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:32:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leane Horton	Changing Tides Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leane Darling Horton and I support the passing of HB2407. There are two extremes for composting currently in Hawaii: 1- not at all, where the food goes into the landfill or to be burned at HPower. 2- large scale commercial facilities where the soil production is not high quality, contains plastics and weed seeds not useful to farmers.

Small Farmers and Hawaii NEED a middle ground, where small scale composting permits are available and will allow small organization to produce quality soil. This quality soil will go to small farmers where they will grow quality produce. LOCAL produce. This will enable Hawaii to be a more sustainable islands and be self-dependent in our food source.

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

Please pass this Bill and allow composting to save our islands.

Thank you.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:14:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and committee members. My name is Jennifer Milholen, and I work as the waste reduction coordinator for KÅ• kua Hawai'i Foundation, a local environmental non-profit promoting school gardens, local agriculture, waste reduction, and resource conservation. We are in strong support of HB2407 requiring the regulatory reform of the co-composting permitting process. Diverting methane-generating food scraps away from our landfills through various composting methods is the number one land-based strategy for carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change. Encouraging composting of green waste (landscape trimmings) and food scraps along with compostable products, coffee grounds, brewery grain, and more, can divert 100s of thousands of tons away from strained landfills and incinerators. Currently there is only a single permit process for anyone wishing to accept food scraps for composting, no matter the size and risk potential of the operation. A single farmer wishing to have two small compost piles made from local restaurants' food scraps has to fill out the same permit, and meet the same burdens, as an industrial-scale composting facility receiving an entire island's-worth of materials (hundreds of thousands of tons).

The current permit requirements are sized appropriately for a mega facility, but create an onerous barrier for any smaller operations. For example, anyone wishing to be approved for accepting any amount of food scraps for composting has to do so on an impervious surface (cement pad, for example), which would cost more than \$10,000 dollars, design and engineer a leachate management system, as well as pay staff to complete a permit application requiring over a hundred hours to complete (another several thousand dollars). This application procedure, which was pursued to create two standard composting piles to divert food scraps from a conference, took our staff 8 months to navigate and ended up being 200 pages long. No small operations wishing to divert organics from landfills, while creating an urgently needed soil amendment for Hawai'i, are likely to undertake this process. The unintended consequence of an unreasonable permitting process is the operation of facilities with zero oversight, because those that might have complied with registration and monitoring are deterred.

Our concern is that DOH, while fulfilling the important function of protecting public and environmental health, perceives food waste composting at any volumes as inherently dangerous. This is our biggest hurdle to overcome. The creation of compost is a

science and an art, but not one that is particularly complicated. Anyone following basic steps of processing and maintenance for a composting recipe can create an operation free of odor, pests, noise and dust as well as a product free of pathogens and safe for use. This is the same formula that has been practiced for thousands of years.

The specific tiers set forth in this bill do not have to be set in stone. What is essential, though, for Hawai'i to be able to move forward with this crucial resource management strategy is the reform of regulation that equates level of risk (low to high volumes of food scraps) with level of application and capital burden, and expands food waste composting to ALL AG-zoned land, including AG-I. The tiered system provides DOH with the ability to track and monitor through registration all of the various small to mid-scale operations, who are also providing proof of effective management and pathogen testing, while scaling the permitting process down so it is accessible and reasonable for anyone but the largest operations. This would allow for appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This lets us diversify solutions to Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and will offer compost access in rural areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

Mahalo for your support and passage of this bill. Please let us know if you have any questions about this issue.

Jennifer Milholen

Nicole Chatterson
Executive Director
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E: oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com



HB 2407: Support
Hearing: Feb 26, 2020 12:00 PM
House Committee on Finance

February 25, 2020

Dear Chair Luke and Finance Committee Members,

Zero Waste O'ahu strongly supports HB 2407, which requires an update to the Department of Health composting rules and a re-evaluation of the limiting approach used to permit composters. This system currently places all food waste composters (regardless of size) in a risk-category that requires them to become permitted as "solid waste management facility"—a process which is inaccessible to most small operations.

From 2013-2016 the *Zero Food Waste Hui*, a group of over 50 local organizations, convened to support the growth of food waste composting projects in Hawai'i. Through these convenings it became clear that folks were held back from pursuing projects by the same issue: the Dept. of Health application and permitting requirements. A local farm processing small amounts of food waste from their neighbors would be treated as the same as a municipal scale composting facility. Small operators do not have the scale, impact, or risk level of an industrial solid waste management and it is to the detriment of our community to hold them to the same standards as one. By inhibiting local compost operations, we are sending more food waste to landfills and the incinerator on O'ahu—resulting in increased greenhouse gas emissions.

I will share a short narrative of the implications of requiring a small operation to apply for a solid waste management permit. A member of our team was recruited by the State of Hawai'i Host Committee for the United Nations World Conservation Congress (the largest gathering of its kind, which held in Honolulu in 2016) to a divert food waste from the event to a well-managed local farm. The farm was required to apply to become a solid waste management facility to carry out this short-term project. The application took over 8 months, 200 pages, and still did not receive authorization in time for us to divert the food waste because of a lack of staff to review the permit. It also required the farm to move their compost pile onto a concrete pad—an unnecessary and expensive improvement for an operation of their size to temporarily accept food waste. Hawai'i advocated to host this conference and stated we would make create a low-impact, sustainable event. Instead of delivering on this, our own permitting structure got in the way.

The data is clear that 1) food waste is an issue (the average household wastes 40% of purchased food and waste audits show food waste is about 30% for most institutions), 2) food waste

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creates more greenhouse gases when landfilled or burned than when composted, and 3) local compost can avoid imports of fertilizers and help us build up our local soil health and agriculture.

Alongside the myriad of other reasons that HB 2407 is a good idea, this bill aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have been adopted as a guiding framework by the state of Hawai'i through the Aloha + Challenge.

- SDG 9=Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation
- SDG 11=Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption
- SDG 13 = Climate Action
- SDG 15 = Life on Land

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NCh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Chatterson
Executive Director, Zero Waste O'ahu

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 8:28:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Lieu	Zero Waste Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:35:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melody Euaparadorn	Zero Waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and fellow members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Melody Euaparadorn and I am co-coordinator with the community group Zero Waste Big Island. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2407, relating to composting. I am full in support of HB 2407.

At my daughter's school at Ha'aheo Elementary on Hawai'i Island, our school community has taken various initiatives to become zero waste. We would like the ability to compost our food and paper waste in our school garden without having to endure a lengthy and costly process with the Department of Health to become a "Solid Waste Management Facility." Having a multi-tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities would alleviate this issue and allow our school to make a significant impact on waste diversion.

Throughout the year, Zero Waste Big Island hosts zero waste stations at festivals and events around the island. Current DOH regulations do not allow us to take compost we collect at these events to be taken off-site to an agricultural farm to be composted. This is quite unfortunate because 55% of what enters our Hawai'i island waste stream is organics and paper. If we want to make significant strides in waste diversion, these DOH regulations needs to be changed.

Allowing composting and co-composting in agricultural districts would also play a significant role for our island residents. Currently we do have a single commercial composting facility slated to come online at the end of 2020. The issue is that our island is quite large. It does not make economical and environmental sense to truck all our food and paper waste for the entire island to one single location. It would be much more convenient for residents to drop off their compost at farms with small-scale operations in their own neighborhood.

Please vote to pass this bill so we can close the the nutrient cycle and put wasted food to good use! Mahalo for for your time and energy in considering this bill.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:38:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
liz clark	Community Compost Movement, North Shore	Support	No

Comments:

Composting helps us return nutrients to our soils and remove food waste from the landfills. Foodwaste becomes gold when used as compost. We are wasting this precious resource! Plus, when thrown to into landfills, compost produces methane which has four times the atmospheric warming effect of carbon dioxide. It makes so much sense to divert food waste and green waste and put it back into our soils and land! This is a big step toward closing the loop on our trash system!

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

The issues that HB 2407 addresses are:

1. Currently all entities processing food waste in Hawai'i need to apply to become a "Solid Waste Management Facility" through the Dept. of Health. This process can take up to 8 months at cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is appropriate for large, composting facilities but is not feasible (or reasonable) for small community-scale operations.
2. HB 2407 asks Dept. of Health to create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This lets us diversify solutions to Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and will offer compost access in rural areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:38:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerry Ross	Kupa'a Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am an organic farmer on MAui and have been creating our own compost from foodwasate on Maui for over 10 years. We currently divert over 40 tons a year of foodwaste and create highquality compost that powers our 4 acre farm. We use a low input approach meaning we rely heavily on compost to keep our modest farm healthy and feed the community high quality nutritious fruit and vegetables. The state of Hawaii desperately needs to pass this bill: almost every other state in the US have vigorous support for composting and diversion of food waste from the landfill. These are states that have lots of room to expand landfills yet they have realize the value of diverting organic waste and making it available to farmers and the community as a whole. The state of Massachusetts recently realized their goal of diverting 1,000,000 tons a year of organic waste while improving agriculture and providing an enhanced income stream for farmers willing to add ompost to their portfolio. It is time for Hawaii to get with the program and ban organic waste from our landfills and encourage it to be turned into a valuable resource as we push to increase local food production.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:15:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 1:43:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keone Kealoha	Kanu Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Composting is one of the most sustainable things things that can be done; nature's recycling system. There is much talk about self-sufficiency and sustainable food production, however, it simply is not possible if we do not have localize composting properly addressed. In traditional farming, plant based food production requires healthy, nutrified soil to grow the crops. Healthy soil is created from composting. In more recent decades we have found chemical alternatives to amend soils but these are all imported inputs. To build a localize food system we must localize our inputs. We urge your support of this important bill seeking to address this challenge.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 3:01:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hiromichi	Business	Support	No

Comments:

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:22:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanna Rose	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

As an isolated island, our inherent resources are finite -- and it is our responsibility as residents of this land to take care of it as best we can. Food waste is an enormous issue (making up almost a third of our total waste) but half of the problem is how we manage it. Instead of leaving organic matter to rot in landfills (creating atmosphere-devastating methane) or burning it for energy (and wasting all of its vital nutrients), we could be transforming food 'waste' into soil-remediating compost. While composting systems on a large scale are complicated to execute, small-scale decentralized composting systems connect and benefit local communities in a multitude of ways. To allow and encourage community-driven composting would reduce food waste, contribute to soil regeneration and nutrient restoration, and ultimately yield healthier edible produce from our gardens. By permitting residents, schools and organizations to actively participate in the process of creating compost, our community can collaborate efficiently in building a more sustainable and cooperative local food system.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 5:10:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's shrink the amount of material that goes into our landfills by composting food waste and then using the compost to build healthier soils. Doing this will both sequester carbon and reduce the release of methane gas.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:40:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and committee members,

I fully SUPPORT HB2407.

Please pass this important bill out of your committee, and give Hawaii this opportunity to make the environmentally-best use of much of its waste.

Sincerely,

Kim Jorgensen

Waikiki

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:38:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke,

Thank you so much for having this important bill heard in your committee.

I fully support composting!!

Composting gives a wonderful new meaning to the adage 'waste not, want not'. Let's make it happen in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 5:47:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah Bremer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

composting is a critical part of becoming carbon neutral and in responsibly managing our waster

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:03:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

By composting people divert organics from landfills. It not only saves money by removing organics from landfills but also means there is no methane escaping from the landfill and no vermin attracted there. Compost is a soil amendment which nourishes any kind of soil - whether made of clay or sand. It gets the soil to hold more water and attracts minerals while sequestering carbon in the soil. A triple win! Please support HB 2407.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:50:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerrie Littlejohn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:57:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Van Gent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support more composting facilities on Oahu! My home composting tumblers and bokashi bucket has decreased my household's waste by 40%, which means we only put out our trash bin once, maybe twice a month. People might be thinking "that's gross, doesn't it smell?" No our trash bin does not smell because the only thing allowed in it is dry, non-edible waste. All food waste is put in a bucket to be composted. Recyclables are washed before putting in the blue bin. Food composting just makes sense because the reason trash containers have to be changed so often is because they get spoiled by food waste. If there was no food waste in the trash cans, then the island would significantly be able to decrease our wastestream.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:21:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a person living on the island of Oahu, I realize that there is very little land for a very dense population that generates a lot of waste. This bill would allow us to divert 30% of our waste for composting. By creating appropriate permitting and regulations to enable small scale community based composting projects, it will allow compost access in rural areas to turn food waste back into healthy soils.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:58:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connie Cen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of Committee,

Regarding the Bill #2407, I would like to express my full support of Hawaii permitting compost management and compost access. With this implementation, families' food waste would not end up in the landfill which would further emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In fact, 40% of food purchased in households is wasted. On Oahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be composted. This compost could additionally be used in lieu of fertilizer which would then further eliminate the carbon emission of the importation of the fertilizer by airplanes.

Overall, I appreciate the meticulous efforts and time of the people involved in this testimony hearing, and I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who possesses optimism for the future.

Mahalo,

Connie

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:00:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2407

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 1:13:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In a world of finite resources, it is unbelievable that 30-40% of food is wasted in this country. Please adopt this measure so that Hawaii might decrease it's contribution to that statistic.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 6:32:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

I support HB2407 HD1. Composting allows us to reduce food waste, make soils healthier and thus absorb more CO2. By sequestering carbon, healthier soils help reduce the impacts of the climate emergency.

We should not burn our food waste in HPOWER. Let's do what nature does -- use everything as a resource. There is no such thing as waste in nature.

Please pass HB2407 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:34:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobbie Patnode	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 8:37:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 8:49:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renie Lindley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and the Finance Committee,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB204. I live on the North Shore of Oahu and appreciate all the small farmers here (me included).

We wish for the food waste be composted instead of being buried in landfills or burned in the burn facilities. It is indeed much more eco-friendly to compost food waste, and now we have the scientific research to show how to compost effectively and safely.

Please help the 'Aina by creating the permit process and regulations which can help enable small-scale, community-based composting programs do the job.

Small-scale, community-based programs are indeed always the core of any movement for change. Help them help us move to a truly sustainable Hawaii.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 8:53:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica heiman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion. Composting systems on a home and municipal level have the potential to reduce environmental hazards in our islands. It is a way to make a big impact with small changes. Personally, 2/3 of our family's garbage is green waste. I cringe every time I see this Waste go in a plastic bag and ultimately to our dumpster to be burned or put in a landfill. I have seen first hand how garbage can be turned into a useful product, rich soil, used by parks departments and purchased by consumers, while working in environmental education in seattle. Income was generated by the sale of compost to home gardeners. Home owners were encouraged to garden and a full cycle of consumption close to home, reducing environmental impacts of the food we consume. Please consider all steps necessary to encourage composting on whatever scale is possible at this time. It will make a lasting impact on our islands and for our families. Thank you very much.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:09:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Wiebe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a really important initiative for the sustainability of our island ecosystems and the health of our planet!

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:15:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane ORourke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back into healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:22:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:00:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rose Hart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha O'ahu Legislature,

I am writing to request that you create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This is necessary to diversify solutions for Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and offer compost access in rural and urban areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

I make this request because, on O'ahu alone, about **30%** of our waste stream could be diverted for composting. Further, nearly **40%** of food purchased in households is wasted. Unfortunately, there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste, crowding up our landfills and emitting greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, instead of sequestering these gases through composting and regenerative agriculture.

Limited opportunities exist to handle household compost through the Community Compost Movement, thankfully, but as a resident of Kaimuki, it is not sustainable for me to transport my household foodwaste back and forth to their single farm on North Shore. I demand access to more small-scale composting options island and state wide.

I beg you to prioritize opportunities and programs that can help us generate less waste in the first place, and, with the waste we do create, allow space to regenerate it into healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

Please consider this testimony with urgency to address our island and state's need for accessible composting.

Mahalo,

Rose Hart

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:15:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Asia Yeary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislative Committee,

Please support HB2407. Me and my family garden and compost at a very small scale to ensure we use our food scraps to create rich soil. We rely on our garden for fresh fruit and vegetables, as do many families with children in our community. Our community would like to compost at a community scale, but we have found that the DOH regulations have gotten in the way. Please create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects.

Using compost for gardening is much better for the plants, people and the environment than chemical fertilizers, it is also cheaper and allows for healthy organic gardening. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting. On average, about 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.

The U.S. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>



Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

Source Reduction

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

Feed Hungry People

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal food

Industrial Uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy.

Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

Landfill/ Incineration

Last resort to disposal

Least Preferred

In Hawaii there are currently very few places permitted to handle residential food waste. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste. Burying or burning our food waste should be our last resort, not our main option. If you support the passage of HB2407 this could change and we could better utilize our food waste. Also, burning food waste is not helpful to HPower because food waste is often very wet and does not burn well.

Composting will also help us achieve our state greenhouse gas goals. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In the first two decades after its release, methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. If we compost more, we will emit less greenhouse gasses.

The priority is to make less waste in the first place but with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers. Not only does composting help Hawaii achieve our state greenhouse gas goals, it also helps us achieve our clean energy goals by reducing the need for imported fertilizers and encouraging local food production.

Please support my family and our gardening community as well as all of the small communities across the state by supporting HB2407.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Asia and family

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:24:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Whittingham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2407 to provide regulations for small scale composting. Composting is an extremely useful way to recycle food waste into usable soil for gardens and farms. My roommates and I have a garden and we collect our food waste, but don't have a way to feasibly turn it into compost. I would love to create a small composting area for my community and this bill would allow me to do so. It doesn't make sense to me to throw away food waste that can be utilized in another way. Composting can also produce valuable soil for farmers so they no longer have to pay to import soil from the mainland. Overall this is a very important bill that can help our communities utilize this important resource rather than just throwing it away and I urge you to support HB2407.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:39:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Flumian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

1. Currently all entities processing food waste in Hawai'i need to apply to become a "Solid Waste Management Facility" through the Dept. of Health. This process can take up to 8 months at cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is appropriate for large, composting facilities but is not feasible (or reasonable) for small community-scale operations.
2. HB 2407 asks Dept. of Health to create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This lets us diversify solutions to Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and will offer compost access in rural areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 11:55:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Marriott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in FULL SUPPORT of HB2407. Please schedule a hearing on this important bill soon!

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

The issues that HB 2407 addresses are:

1. Currently all entities processing food waste in Hawai'i need to apply to become a "Solid Waste Management Facility" through the Dept. of Health. This process can take up to 8 months at cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is appropriate for large, composting facilities but is not feasible (or reasonable) for small community-scale operations.
2. HB 2407 asks Dept. of Health to create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This lets us diversify solutions to Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and will offer compost access in rural areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:25:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katherine kazlauskas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Finance Committee,

I strongly support HB2407. My household composts with North Shore Compost Movement and we produce at least 60% less trash than our neighbors. I believe composting is one of the many things we can do to combat the climate crisis. As an island, this should be a top priority because food waste in landfills takes up space and emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Composting created healthy, rich soils that can sequester carbon and make Oahu less reliant on fertilizers being shipped in. It also fosters community, which I believe is very important to the health of our islands.

Rotting food on the way to landfills and burn stations is also potentially hazardous. Composting with bokashi is proactive for communities and ecologies.

Thank you for your consideration.

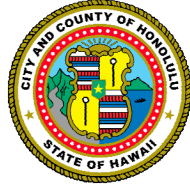
Mahalo,

Katherine Kazlauskas

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JOSHUA W. STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020, 12:00 PM

STATE OF HAWAII
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2407, HD1
A BILL RELATING TO STATEWIDE COMPOSTING**

BY,

JOSHUA STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (Resilience Office) **supports with comments** House Bill 2407, HD1, which requires the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules to establish a classification system for composting facilities and allows composting in agricultural districts.

In 2017, food waste accounted for one fifth of O'ahu's overall disposed waste. We have endorsed the statewide *Aloha+ Challenge* waste reduction goal of 70% by 2030, and finding solutions for food waste is an important part of achieving our shared goal. In addition, with the passage of Bill 40 (2019) by the Honolulu City Council, the City is committed to reducing single-use plastics in an effort to reach our solid waste management goals. More and more businesses and event organizers are looking to compost their waste, and the development of composting infrastructure can enable higher levels of waste diversion.

Amending DOH administrative rules to create tiered regulations for composting facilities enables greater opportunities for composting at all scales on island while appropriately managing the associated public health risks. By supporting expanded composting, we can increase waste diversion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and avoid increasing the burden that solid waste management puts on O'ahu's taxpayers.

Tiered composting regulations, similar to what was described in the original version of this bill, are an efficient way to safely enable more food waste composting

Chair Luke
HB2407, HD1
February 26, 2020
Page 2

operations without increasing the regulatory and enforcement burden on DOH staff. The Resilience Office provides modified language below, similar to what was provided in the original bill:

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to encourage the composting of food waste and other organics by:

(1) Requiring the department of health to update its co-composting rules by July 1, 2021; and

(2) Requiring the department of health to establish a multi-tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities based on the amount and type of feedstock processed; and

(3) Allowing composting and co-composting in agricultural districts.

Thank you for supporting the growth of composting infrastructure in Hawai'i and for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii
2909 Waiialae Avenue #19
Honolulu, HI 96826 USA
808-445-2085

LATE

HB 2407: Support
Hearing: Feb 26, 2020 12PM
Committee on FIN

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii strongly supports HB2407 and its efforts to expand the opportunity for composting across the state. As coastal defenders we realize the necessity in understanding connections from our soil to our oceans. Composting provides an opportunity for not only regenerating our soils and increasing carbon sequestration, but to increase the capacity of our island to grow food. This resilience model is imperative to things critical to our mission – specifically the reduced use of fossil-fuel based plastic products that continue to plague our island waters and the global oceans.

SCH has coordinated waste diversion programs with businesses and events around the island for almost a decade. The restrictive nature of regulation on composting that currently exists is a barrier to meaningful change. While we understand that the Department of Health is charged with the safety of our island, there is also a necessity to be nimble when sustainability opportunity arises. As plastics continue to be replaced by compostable alternatives, we should be looking for diversified mechanisms to effectively break these new materials down and produce a value-added product (nutrient rich compost) that can help regenerate our soils. The return of food waste back into our soils is also a far more restorative and circular principle than landfilling or incinerating this valuable resource.

HB 2407 will give the opportunity for a mixed-level approach to composting that doesn't restrict farmers, nonprofits, schools, or other community organizations from doing positive work. Smaller scale compost operations will open the possibilities for microgrid composting networks that require less transport and can serve localized systems. This model requires a non-uniform approach to permitting so that the burden is not the same for a small community pilot project as it would be for a large-scale industrial operation serving an entire island. Ultimately, our islands will be far more resilient by approaching systems management in this way.

Finally, we would like to add that by making composting more approachable across the board, the state will be providing a mechanism to help reach carbon neutrality goals. Healthy soils are recognized as the greatest carbon sink on earth and Hawaii has an enormous opportunity to protect its future by investing in its soil health.

With Aloha,



Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii
2909 Waiālae Avenue #19
Honolulu, HI 96826 USA
808-445-2085

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rafael Bergstrom", written in a cursive style.

Rafael Bergstrom
Executive Director
Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii
rafael@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org
808-445-2085

LATE

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:49:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Overton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My Name is Eric Overton,

My household has been recycling for over a year now and it has substantially reduced our waste. It would appear that we contribute less than a third of the waste of our neighbors. Also:

1. On O'ahu alone, about 30% of our waste stream could be diverted for composting.
2. About 40% of food purchased in households is wasted.
3. Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste.
4. Food waste in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
5. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back in to healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to import fertilizers.

Eric Overton

LATE

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 3:17:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Project Drawdown (a study by over 200 experts from 22 countries over 5 years) reports that reducing food waste is the 3rd most efficient solution of the top 100 solutions to reversing climate change. The priority is to make less waste in the first place. And, with the waste we do create we should turn it back into healthy soils. Healthy soils sequester carbon and offset the need to use and import fertilizers.

Currently there are few places permitted to handle residential food waste across Hawai'i. This means we bury or burn most of our food waste leading to additional pollution. Entities processing food waste in Hawai'i need to apply to become a "Solid Waste Management Facility" through the Department of Health (DOH). This process can take up to 8 months at cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is appropriate for large, composting facilities but is not feasible (or reasonable) for small community-scale operations.

DOH needs to create appropriate permitting and regulations that enable small-scale, community-based composting projects. This lets us diversify solutions to Hawai'i's over-abundance of food waste and will offer compost access in rural areas that will not be served by future large-scale composting facilities.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB2407 SD1.

Thanks for your attention

Severine Busquet

Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

LATE

HB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:46:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: