



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB3121
RELATING TO STATEWIDE COMPOSTING**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: 2/10/2020 Room Number: 224

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 but does not support SB3121 in its current form. The bill in
6 its current form 1) establishes four classes of composting facilities based on the type of materials
7 accepted, and exempts Class III and Class IV composting facilities from solid waste regulations;
8 2) allows composting and co-composting in agricultural districts; 3) requires the Department to
9 adopt rules establishing a tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities; and
10 4) requires the Department to update co-composting rules by January 1, 2021, and every five
11 years thereafter. The bill does not provide any resources with which the Department is to do this
12 the work of administrative rulemaking.

13 The Department disagrees that Class III and IV composting facilities, as defined in the
14 bill, should be exempt from regulatory oversight. The Department's concern over composting
15 operations are not limited to vector, dust, and odors, but also include fire potential, water
16 pollution, and the quality of the finished compost (stability, pathogens and other contaminants).
17 The bill proposes no restrictions on the compost's use or distribution; however, such restrictions
18 can and should be implemented as necessary through the administrative rules and permitting
19 process.

1 We are especially concerned over the management of potentially pathogenic waste,
2 including dead animals, raw rendering material, and animal waste, which can be accepted by
3 Class III facilities as currently defined in the bill. If not properly treated through the composting
4 operation, these wastes could be a source of pathogenic contamination. In addition, fire potential
5 poses a risk to the safety of nearby residents. Without procedural controls, heat produced by the
6 composting process can ignite a fire in the compost pile. The open burning of the pile would
7 offset the positive environmental impacts of composting.

8 By exempting facilities in the proposed Class III and Class IV from the Department's
9 regulations and permitting authority, we would be unable to evaluate the potential impact of the
10 operation and require appropriate controls that are protective of human health and the
11 environment. With the bill in its current form, the Department would also lose the ability to
12 effectively respond to complaints involving Class III and Class IV composting facilities. In the
13 past, we have responded to complaints concerning both permitted and unpermitted greenwaste
14 composting facilities that would otherwise be exempt under the proposed legislation. In one case,
15 an unpermitted facility was under investigation by the Department based on numerous
16 complaints when a fire occurred on the property.

17 The Department recognizes that not all regulations may be suitable to all types of
18 composting operations. As such, the Department already has a tiered solid waste permitting
19 program for composting operations, that includes 1) exemptions for the disposal of agricultural
20 waste from its products processing facility on its own agricultural land, which has been extended
21 to include land application of its associated composted agricultural waste; 2) a permit by rule for
22 relatively small composting facilities that compost less than 3,000 tons of yard trimmings per
23 year and 3) a general permit with a risk-based evaluation for all other composting operations.
24 Although general permits all use the same applications form, the permit conditions in general
25 permits issued by the Solid Waste Section are specific to each facility. The general permit
26 process takes into account the type and quantity of materials, facility design, operations plan, and
27 site-specific features to determine appropriate permit conditions that focus on minimizing the
28 particular risks of a given operation. For example, given that a Class I composting facility may

1 accept the same materials as a Class II facility plus mixed solid wastes, under the current
2 permitting system, the permit for the Class I facility would already include additional
3 requirements for receiving, handling, sorting, and distributing the mixed waste compost, while
4 the Class II facility permit would not.

5 The Department agrees that the Solid Waste regulations should be updated and we
6 believe the definition of classes or tiers of composting facilities can be better handled as part of
7 the administrative rulemaking process. All composting facilities should be subject to some
8 Departmental oversight. The legislature appears to recognize this with the inclusion of the
9 requirement that Class III and IV solid waste composting facilities “register with the department
10 as required under department rules” (page 6 lines 8 to 9 and 18 to 19), even as the bill also
11 exempts these same facilities from “rules adopted by the department” (page 6 lines 10 to 11 and
12 20 to 21). In order to update the administrative rules, the Department requests the creation of a
13 Program Specialist position in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch to focus on these
14 administrative rulemaking efforts and appropriation to fund the position. This position can also
15 be used to update rules for the other programs within the Branch. Drafting and adopting
16 administrative rules is highly technical work and it typically takes more than one year to
17 complete the revision of a rule chapter. The Solid Waste Section does not have any staff
18 positions allocated for this type of work, and would find it difficult to update the regulations with
19 its current resources.

20 **Offered Amendments:**

21 The Department requests that the requirement on page 4 lines 9 to 11 be broadened to
22 require that the Department update its Solid Waste regulations every five years thereafter,
23 allowing the Department to determine which parts of the Solid Waste regulations to focus on in
24 each update, and that the timeline for initial rule adoption be made more realistic:

25 "§342G- [~~Co-composting; rules.~~] Rules. By January 1, [~~2021,~~] 2022, and at least every
26 five years thereafter, the department shall update its rules regarding [~~co-composting~~]
27 solid waste."

1 The Department requests the creation of a Program Specialist position in the Solid and
2 Hazardous Waste Branch to focus on these administrative rulemaking efforts and appropriation
3 to fund the position.

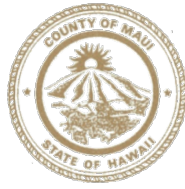
4 The Department recommends deleting the proposed definitions and requirements for
5 classes of solid waste composting facilities from the bill (page 4 line 15 to page 6 line 21). The
6 Department believes the definition and regulation of different tiers of composting facilities can
7 be better handled as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

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

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director

Kay Fukumoto
Economic Development Director



County of Maui
Office of Economic Development
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 08, 2020

TESTIMONY OF CHANA MAKALE'A DUDOIT ANE
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SB3121 RELATING TO STATEWIDE COMPOSTING.

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Russell E. Ruderman
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

RE: In **SUPPORT** for **SB3121**

The County of Maui supports SB3121 to create a tiered regulatory structure for the permitting of composting facilities, and allows composting in agricultural districts. Tiered regulations for composting are a means of enabling a beneficial activity while appropriately managing the associated public health risk. With a tiered approach, larger facilities handling more food waste and other material are required to meet more rigorous compliance standards while smaller operations, while still regulated, can operate with less of a burden. Numerous states have successfully implemented tiered regulations for composting facilities including Ohio, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Puerto Rico.

Current State DOH administrative rules for composting facilities are 'one-size fits-all' and extremely difficult for smaller operations to comply with; especially as it relates to post consumer food waste. This is extremely important as there are very few permitted food waste composting facilities in operation around the State. By making it easier for composters to receive food waste, we can reduce what is sent to our landfills and increase the production of valuable compost for agricultural use. This strategy creates a win for our farmers, businesses, taxpayers, and for the environment.

Compost benefits agriculture by reducing the need for expensive, fossil fuel based fertilizers and by improving soil health, reducing erosion, and promoting healthy plant growth. Finally, composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions over other management options including incineration, landfilling, and anaerobic digestion. Thank you for supporting the growth of composting infrastructure in Hawaii.

By supporting expanded composting, we can create a safer, lower impact, lower cost landfill operation and avoid increasing the burden that solid waste management puts on Maui taxpayers. Food waste composting also aligns with the trend in Hawaii's food service industry to switch to compostable service wear. With the development of composting infrastructure, food service businesses who switch to compostable products, can reduce their waste stream and divert a much larger portion of their post-consumer waste to compost facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chana', written in a cursive style.

Chana Makale'a Dudoit Ane
Environmental Coordinator
County of Maui
Office of Economic Development



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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

ROBBIE MELTON
DIRECTOR

Testimony of Ben Sullivan
Energy & Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Economic Development

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 10, 2020; 2:15 pm
Conference Room 224

In consideration of
Senate Bill 3121 Relating to Statewide Composting

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the committee,

The County of Kauai **supports** SB 3121 which requires the Department of Health to create a tiered regulatory structure for the permitting of composting facilities, and allows composting in agricultural districts.

Tiered regulations for composting are a means of enabling a beneficial activity while appropriately managing the associated public health risk. With a tiered approach, larger facilities handling more food waste and other material are required to meet more rigorous compliance standards while smaller operations, while still regulated, can operate with less of a burden. Numerous states have successfully implemented tiered regulations for composting facilities including Ohio, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Puerto Rico.

Current State DOH administrative rules for composting facilities are 'one-size fits-all' and extremely difficult for smaller operations to comply with. As a result, there are very few permitted food waste composting facilities in operation around the State. By making it easier for composters to receive food waste, we can reduce what is sent to our landfills and increase the production of valuable compost for agricultural use. This strategy creates a win for our farmers, businesses, taxpayers, and for the environment.

The County of Kauai is currently challenged with as little as 7 years before we run out of space at our Kekaha Landfill. Any new landfill will require careful controls and reduction of landfilled organics, especially food, in order to limit wildlife attraction, to control vectors, and to minimize odors and emissions. By supporting expanded composting, we can create a safer, lower impact, lower cost landfill operation and avoid increasing the burden that solid waste management puts on Kauai taxpayers.

Food waste composting also aligns with the trend in Hawaii's food service industry to switch to compostable service ware. With the development of composting infrastructure, food service businesses who switch to compostable products can reduce their waste stream and divert a much larger portion of their post-consumer waste to compost facilities.



Compost benefits agriculture by reducing the need for expensive, fossil fuel based fertilizers and by improving soil health, reducing erosion, and promoting healthy plant growth. Finally, composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions over other management options including incineration, landfilling, and anaerobic digestion.

Thank you for supporting the growth of composting infrastructure in Hawaii.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 6:33:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Testifying for Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:40:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:01:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kiefer Hermann	Testifying for Aina Design inc.	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 3121 because the farmers, schools, businesses and all people of Hawai'i that use compost or have to deal with a biproduct that is green, brown, or food waste, will benefit from this bill as well as the local economy. Personally the nonprofit I started, Aina Design, and many others I know of, would gain immense momentum from this bill in our goals to be a part of the future zero waste system that in Hawaii. In order to reduce our negative impacts on the environment in Hawaii, the laws for diverting our green and food waste streams towards a more sustainable option, like compost systems that recycle nutrients and biomass for further uses while also reducing our total waste, must be passed. The current option (H-POWER) has an incinerator as its main component, and moisture content is not favored in this system, food waste commonly has some percentage of moisture content. Overall this bill has no cons, only pros. Thank you for reading! Aloha

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:15:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drew Wilkinson	Testifying for Growing Together LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB3121. Foodwaste is a large problem in Hawaii. Lack of quality compost is a hinderance for farmers and the capacity to develop local food production. This bill will help play a part in developing better composting systems and produce rich fertilizer to help aid farmers with local food production. Thank you.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 10:29:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Navarra	Testifying for Zero Waste Big Island	Support	No

Comments:

I am one of the coordinators of a zero waste group on the Big island. We focus on community building, education and advocacy to reduce our island's waste footprint. A waste composition study for our island presented in Hawai'i County's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (update) revealed that ~40% of our waste is composed of organic waste that could be diverted and composted on an island were we have little soil. This bill would encourage and facilitate more organic waste to be diverted from the landfill. Every county in the state is dealing with staggering rates of waste and getting organics out of the landfill is the logical first step in addressing our waste problem. This bill would make diverting organic waste from the waste stream easier by updating an outdated permitting process and making the amount of required permitting appropriate to the scale of the composting operation. This bill will also allow for additional updates of the permitting process as Hawai'i moves towards a more sustainable future to increase food production and become less reliant upon imported food. We must also do our part to help mitigate our impact on climate change. I encourage you to please support this bill so we can build a more sustainable future in the Hawai'i islands.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:33:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Rudderman, and fellow members of the AEN 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 Senate Bill 3121, relating to composting. I am full in support of SB 3121.

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 fill out a 200+ application form with the Department of Health. 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.



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

SB 3121: Support
Hearing: Feb 10, 2020 2:15 PM
Committee on AEN

Dear Members of the Senate AEN Committee,

Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii strongly supports SB 3121 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.

SB 3121 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 and 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

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:42:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members. Our apologies for this late testimony. KĀ• kua Hawai'i Foundation is in strong support of SB3121 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 the 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 islands-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, and demonstrate a leachate management system (another several thousand dollars). This is in addition to the application procedure which took our staff 8 months to navigate and ended up being 200 pages long. No small operations wishing to divert organics from the landfills and create 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 of 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. 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.

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

KĀ• kua Hawai'i Foundation

Nicole Chatterson
Executive Director
P: 808-561-7730
E: oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com



SB 3121: Support
Hearing: Feb 10, 2020 2:15 PM
Committee on AEN

Dear Chair Gabbard and of the Senate AEN Committee,

Zero Waste O'ahu strongly supports SB 3121, 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 climate change goals to hold them to the same standards as one.

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 in the world, which held in Honolulu in 2016) to a divert food waste from the event to a well-managed local farm. The farm we were taking the food waste to 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 had made a promise to our international guests that would make this event as sustainable—instead 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 creates more greenhouse gases when landfilled or burned than when composted, and 3) local

Nicole Chatterson
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compost can avoid imports of fertilizers and help us build up our local soil health and agriculture.

Alongside the myriad of other reasons that SB 3151 is a good idea, this bill aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have been adopted as a guiding framework by the Hawai'i State Senate.

- 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

SB-3121

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 5:48:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:28:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:17:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I offer comments for SB3121. Please consult with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture on the location and safety measures for composting areas as these areas can be breeding grounds for the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle.

Betnton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:50:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Romero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:23:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danya Hakeem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm testifying in strong support of SB3121, legislation to support localized small and mid-scale composting operations in Hawaii. Farms and schools are perfect places to collect and process this nutrient-rich resource that is critical for a thriving diversified agriculture system.

I urge you to support this legislation. Mahalo nui.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:50:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill to turn food waste back into soil!!

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:26:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret A Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote yes on this bill Sen Kouchi! Your constituent from 96765!

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:06:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB3121, which should help alleviate Hawaii's landfill problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:15:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:19:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucas McSweeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:14:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sienna Santiago	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am a student at the University of Hawaii, and I am a massive producer of food waste. My diet is mainly vegetables and fruits. At home I try to compost but while living in a place with 7 other roommates, it is difficult to maintain a healthy, working compost garden. By allowing this bill to pass you will allow composting to be done on a larger scale and will increase awareness about composting. It would be amazing if there was a place where I could take my compost, especially since our yard is tiny. Lastly, composting is great for the environment. When we throw away food waste in the trash can, the waste breaks down and releases carbon into the air, rather than sequestering it as burying/compost would be doing.

Thank you,

Sienna

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:50:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tanya torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Waste is a resource and we as an isolated state should capitalize on that. Especially with the push for increased local food production and helping new farmers.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:56:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha:

Food waste reduction is one of the most efficient ways to combat climate change, evaluated as solution #3 by the Drawdown project. Rotting food clogs up landfills (about 20% of Oahu landfills was food waste in 2017) and releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Composting food waste has the dual advantage to reduce pollution and to create high quality nutriment for the soil supporting healthier food production on the islands. For these reasons, I highly support this bill.

Thanks for your attention

Severine

Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:27:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the proposal which "Requires DOH to periodically update its co-composting rules. Requires DOH to establish a multi-tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities. Allows composting and co-composting in agricultural districts." Composting is a fantastic tool to reduce our waste as well as create a valuable resource to help our own agriculture. As we live on islands, we need to be seeking out ways to reduce our waste and be more self-sufficient. Composting is one simple step we can take to help combat the climate emergency we are currently in. I believe promoting and supporting composting options in our state will help.

Thank you.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:46:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think that providing more opportunities for composting would provide significant environmental benefits to Hawai'i with minimal costs.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:56:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Composting keeps food waste out of landfills where they generate methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In addition to reducing methane emissions, composting improves contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils, enhances water retention of soils, and promotes higher yields of crops. Instead of becoming a polluter, food waste becomes a soil enhancer.

Bill SB3121 will allow small and midsize facilities, such as farms or schools, to receive the needed permit for operation. This will increase the diversity of the composting system by involving many more small operators and including frequently underserved rural areas and multi-family dwellings.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:46:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Latai Soakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:03:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Mock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB 3121. After having worked with Hawai'i farms for the last five years, composting is one of the best win-win situations they can utilize to improve their soil, improve their agricultural production and help our community divert waste from the landfill. Having a multi-tiered composting process/registration would allow composting to be accessible to all which currently it is not. Through this effort, we would be making composting activities more accessible, wide-spread, and it would be used as a public education tool to showcase concepts in waste diversion/reduction, creating healthy soil and sustainability.

Please support SB 3121 and help us make composting more accessible to the public so that we can include everyone in learning more about this important sustainability issue for our islands.

Mahalo.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:38:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Navin Tagore-Erwin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii needs to update policy on composting to allow greater access for composting operations to take in food waste on a smaller scale. It is insane to me that we seemingly cannot set up community composting operations.

In the face of climate change, we need to be taking every action possible to combat emissions and manage our resources in a more sustainable manner. Composting increases soil health, diverts waste from landfill or incineration, and encourages plant growth and in turn encourages carbon sequestration. We should be encouraging composting, not making it harder for our residents to access such programs.

Additionally, as we will eventually phase out plastics throughout the state, we will have a massive influx of bioplastics and compostable containers. We need to be proactive in addressing how to dispose of these materials and not rely on our current system of waste management.

In short, Hawaii needs this bill to pass if we are serious about sustainable resource management.

Mahalo

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:54:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina Katahara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:06:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that a compost system should be put in place in Hawaii as it is crucial for sustainability and furthering our efforts as a 'green' state. Christmas trees alone are something that could possibly be curbside collected to be composted instead of ending up in the landfill amongst non green waste materials and therefore making it hard for the breakdown and return to the earth in a positive manner. Please consider this important addition to our municipalities and for our future.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:39:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Darling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii must create municipal composting facilities. In step towards this goal please pass SB3121. Creating legislation that increases the number of composting facilities while permitting and regulating composting facilities is a necessary next step following the passage of Bill 40.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:27:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:29:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Loudermelt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:00:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jazmyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kō• kou!

I am submitting testimony from Germany as I am away from home at the moment, but see it as a priority to participate on this important bill SB3121. Short background: My family has a small farm that we are running on Maui. For my profession, I am a sustainable designer, artist and botany enthusiast. Compost and the concept itself of cycling biological nutrients are an interest of mine within all of my backgrounds. As a farmer, we need healthy soil to produce local products and create a good foundation for our trees. As a designer working within product and packaging, the ideas to have an alternative collection system in which to feed consumer products into cyclically and locally will dramatically change the ability for new alternatives to be viable and assist in this transition away from our communities' plastic dependency.

As a farmer, we have difficulty securing enough compost to feed our soil. On Maui, a lot of the past agricultural lands were historically used for monocultural crops and the soils are significantly depleted and in need of regeneration. More education and scientific research are coming out about the importance of microorganisms in the soil and generating and maintaining "living soil" for healthy communities, and this is becoming known more in mainstream platforms. From this position, I think starting with more small-scale composters and working with farms will allow quicker action and experimentation to test before any large industrial facility is built. There are many examples of cities already initiating this plan of starting small-scale as it allows diverse community solutions for composting to take root, and it also helps to onboard the public to a new system of diverting their food waste. Places such as New York, Kamikatsu (Japan), Sardinia (Italy), Mysore (India) and other local communities within India (just to name a few) have operations in place of diverting 'wet' and 'dry' waste and offering great examples for significant landfill diversion through actions like food waste separation and better, cleaner material collection.

I'd like to point out that local farmers are also a central social and cultural hub to our communities as they connect us with our environment, feed our communities and are natural places of gathering and education; for instance the growth of farmer's markets, garden workshops, school gardens, and farm to table experiences. Incorporating farms in the process as compost generators, and making it possible for them to provide the community compost, would greatly support the gardening community and schools and

families that are growing their own food. Paired with community and business awareness on minimizing food waste, composting will also assist in making the most value for the community out of the waste that is generated. Organic waste from the lawn and the dinner table are huge resources that are currently not being valued as it should be.

Taking the action we can now will help with carbon mitigation, enrich depleted soils for our agricultural industries, help tackle food waste issues, and will bring us closer to our state's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals such as 11,12,13, and 15. I hope that you consider this an important step in giving the ability for all islands of Hawai'i to take the first steps in generating this valued resource locally-generated compost can offer us.

Mahalo,

Jazmyne Geis

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:29:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Augusto Decastro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keohokalole, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB3121, which will require DOH to periodically update its co-composting rules and to establish a multi-tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities.

The more we find how landfills are limiting and damaging, the more composting makes more sense when done properly. Please update the rules.

Mahalo,

Augusto Decastro

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:33:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Basil Maurer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, I've lived in Fern Forest for the last 15 years, and seen many changes on the island in that short time, one of which is an influx of newcomers such as myself, an often seemingly blind thinning of the rainforest, an increase of traffic on the roads, along with an overwhelming increase of garbage both at the transfer stations, on highways, the beaches, and that dumped on back roads throughout my subdivision. It is clear that the situation will get worse before it gets better, and that being an island state we need to adopt measures, and ways of educating the public in order to reduce the amount of waste going to our limited landfills, as we learn to change our habits of consumerism, and resulting waste production. While we are gradually learning to shift away from these old ways one thing that could be done to greatly reduce this waste stream is to divert a large percentage of it to composting facilities and encourage small private composting sites around the island by making permits for such facilities easier to acquire, and by reducing some of the health department restrictions currently in place which keep much of this food and paper waste from being diverted, and which makes up a large percentage of the waste currently taking up space in the landfill unnecessarily. Creating a county compost collection program would also positively reduce the amount of unnecessary food and paper waste currently being added to the landfills. I have always been a proponent of composting, and building soil at home as a way of returning what the forest and Island has provided, and in the process creating a gradually increasing perpetual cycle of food productivity on my land. Encouraging composting in this way on a county scale could also encourage individuals to become more self sufficient by providing a potentially renewable source of quality soil in which to grow their own food and in the process reduce the level of dependency many have on EBT and other government welfare benefits, while also potentially creating healthier lifestyles, and a healthier population as well. It is for this reason that I support Bill SB3121, and hope that the county will listen to the publics interest and desire to adopt the mandates this bill proposes, and incorporate them into the waste management program, as has been done in the highly successfully green waste program. Yes there are bound to be some initial hurtles to overcome, and work through along the way, but I'm positive that many citizens will step up to the plate and work through them as a community and will become quickly adopted, and accepted as commonplace. I believe many people are gradually realizing the need to change our current lifestyles in regards to the waste we create and opening up to the potential solutions that have been overlooked, or avoided until now. I believe people are now beginning to see the need to make these shifts as necessary transitions, steps in the direction of a near zero waste future, as the current

path we as humans are taking on this island, and Earth in regards to waste production is not sustainable and is a disgraceful prospect to leave to our future generations. If we do not begin to take these steps we be looked back upon poorly by future generations as those who screwed up their world and left them with overwhelming environmental problems and pollution as previous generations have done to us. Mountains, and islands of garbage that will be the monuments of this era of humanity. Here we have an opportunity to make a small but substantial shift in the right direction, to continue to make changes towards a better world for us and future generations. Let's make something that we can be proud of instead of continuing to bury this shame. We can begin to be redeemed for the greedy indulgences of our lifetimes if we are willing to make small changes and sacrifices necessary to show current and future generations that we care and have their best interests at heart. Otherwise what is the point of we leave them with nothing to look forward to but stories of how the world used to be so beautiful and clean, a rich garden that would give back what we returned to it. Let's take another step in the right direction today by passing this bill. Thank you for hearing and considering my testimony. ðŸ™•

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:56:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

It would be in the best interest of our island and our state to divert unnecessary food waste/compostables from the landfills. Hawaii County in particular, is wasting energy and money hauling trash from all over the island to the only functioning landfill on the west side of the island. We can create compost instead of waste by requiring that the Dept. of Health create a a multi-tiered registration and permitting system for composting facilities that would encourage more small scale composting operations island and statewide. Local production of compost will also benefit the vital agricultural industry on the Big Island and cut down on the trash.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:23:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Joy Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a student, citizen, and steward of the land we live on. I think it's important to update composting regulations because composting is an easy, effective way for all people on island to reduce household waste and keep more material from entering the limited number of landfills on island. Composting will also keep less compostable material from entering H-POWER which in turn creates air pollution.

Composting will also help to enrich the soil of the land and encourage more plant growth. It also empowers people to feel as though they are making a difference in the world and keeps everyone accountable for the waste we create. It isn't hard to compost and it would be helpful if there were regulations for it so that everyone is on the same page and able to participate effectively.

I say this from experience as I learned how to compost in third grade and my class created a worm bin. As a child, this experience shaped my perception of how food waste breaks down and how I could manage it myself. I felt in control and responsible of the food that I was eating. I believe all children and adults should be conscious of the choices we make regarding waste and how it affects us. When food waste goes to landfills, there is a greater output of methane gas that gets trapped under piles of rubbish as the food decays. If we compost, it helps us all out. So I am in favor of this bill being passed because I think it's important.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 11:32:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Garland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 2:19:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes - just yes. It is critical that we do everything possible to 1/ reduce waste 2/ creat soil.
Thank you.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 3:49:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2131. Allowing small organizations to compost without going through a difficult permitting process will help keep food waste out of landfills and help combat the climate crisis.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 4:54:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:42:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
songfee choa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food waste in landfill produces methane and produces appx. 10% of global greengas emission. We are all aware that these greenhouse gases causes our Earth's temperature to rise. Moreover, almost all scientists agree that if the Earth increases to 2 degrees Celcius more, our Earth will start becoming inhabitable, but the unfortunate process is already happening. To this date, Antartica has reached its warmest temperature recorded. Sea level is rising not only in Hawaii, but all over the world; Many coastal cities in Indonesia, Bahamas and Bangladesh are already being affected. With the Earth facing climate emergency, it is imperative for all government officials and institutions to find measures in combating this issue. Therefore it is more than ideal for the state of Hawai'i to finally impement a food waste composting system into its infrastrucutre. We must start changing our current societal and political minds by giving the environment with equal rights as humans. Hawai'i must be the environmental protector in the United States of America because this state, more than any other state, should know the importance of protecting Mother Earth. I support SB3121 and SB 2532.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:33:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lilah Shapiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been trying to start a composting program at my high school, Waiākea High, but it is almost impossible to do so. This bill will make it so much easier for Hawai'i schools to become greener and help the fight against climate change.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:18:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need food waste composting services on O'ahu throughout Hawai'i. These small scale operations are supported by incredible groups like Zero Waste O'ahu and will enhance our collective sustainable futures. This is really important in the context of climate change and the need for better food security here in Hawai'i.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:58:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:19:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 2:15:00 PM



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

Comments:

This bill is vitally important to allow more composting in Hawaii so we can spread compost over our fields and sequester carbon in the soil. Please pass this bill to remove barriers to composting!