

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1526 HD1
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hearing Date: 3/21/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

- 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 supports HB1526 HD1 to amend Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes (HRS) Section 342G-1 to include two new definitions for "biodegradable" and "organic
6 waste;" amend HRS Section 342G-26(c) to identify specific measures to divert organic waste
7 produced within the counties; require the counties to incorporate these organic waste diversion
8 requirements into their respective integrated solid waste management plans; and provide funding
9 to the counties to implement this new requirement in their planning efforts.

10 Given that some counties will not be required to update their integrated solid waste
11 management plans for several years into the future in accordance with HRS Section 342G-24,
12 and the proposed bill identifies payment to the counties by reimbursement, the Department
13 respectfully requests that the appropriations to implement this measure be allocated into a new
14 project fund to be established specific for the implementation of this measure, which may take
15 several years to complete.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:31:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1526 HD1



**Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment /
Senate Committee on Government Operations**

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1526 HD1

Monday, March 21st, 2022 1:10 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard/Moriwaki, Vice Chair Nishihara/Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1526 HD1 which will require each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert by 1/1/2025 all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a minimum amount of organic waste per year.

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

Bills like HB1526 HD1 are part of the solution to establishing a sustainable, profitable and regenerative agriculture system for Hawai'i while improving our land management practices. Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.

For counties like Kaua'i, increased diversion of all waste from their landfill is critical and urgent. With the Kekaha Landfill once again nearing its capacity, the county of Kaua'i is scrambling for solutions to avoid a potential garbage disaster. The support from the legislature can assist the county in achieving diversion goals for organic waste.

Please support HB1526 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1526, H.D. 1

**March 21, 2022
1:10 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1526, H.D. 1, amends Section 324G-26, HRS, to require each county to incorporate a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a minimum amount of organic waste, to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH), into its Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) and appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to DOH to reimburse counties for the incorporation of the new requirement into their ISWMP revisions.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 11:28:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Efforts to reduce landfill waste and increase composting are critical for our future. By diverting organic material from landfills, we save this resource and generate valuable compost.
- Composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create rich fertilizer for healthy, nutritious plants.
- Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture.
- For counties like Kaua'i, increased diversion of all waste from their landfill is urgent. With the Kekaha Landfill once again nearing its capacity, the county of Kaua'i is scrambling for solutions to avoid a potential garbage disaster. Support from the legislature can assist the county in achieving diversion goals for organic waste.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 12:15:16 PM

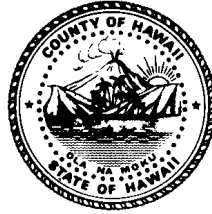
Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I also support this bill because it is good for our local farmers and the community.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 18, 2022
TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 1526 HD1, RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Governmental Operations
Monday, March 21, 2022 at 1: 10 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

I support the actions proposed in HB 1526 HD. I support add these definitions to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342G-1:

"Biodegradable" means capable of being broken down into carbon dioxide, methane, or simple organic compounds.

"Organic waste" means any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or an animal. The term includes green waste, food waste, food-soiled paper that is acceptable for food storage, and untreated and unpainted wood waste."

I support amending HRS Section 342G-26 with the following:

"(c) The recycling [and], bioconversion, and organic waste diversion component shall identify and assess the level of waste reduction the county is achieving through existing recycling and bioconversion efforts. The type and amount of solid waste that it is technically and economically feasible to recycle or alter through bioconversion. Methods to increase and improve the recycling and bioconversion efforts, including opportunities for backyard composting. Diversion of all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a minimum amount, to be determined by the department, of organic waste per year.

For the reasons stated above I urge these Committees to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 1:41:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celle Galarza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support composting efforts to reduce landfill waste and increase composting. It is definitely critical for our future in Hawai'i. By diverting organic material from landfills, we save this resource and generate valuable compost.

Sincerely, Michelle Galarza

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Senators:

I respectfully request that you support HB1526 regarding organic waste management.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 4:53:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't waste your opportunity to support this bill!

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 7:19:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Organic waste can be a heavy methane gas or it could be a valuable resource turned into compost to enrich our soil and sequester carbon. Let's figure it out and incorporate plan for organic wastes into our next SWMP

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:05:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and

The Honorable Senator Sharon Moriawaki, Chair, and the Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Government Operations

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB1526 HD1 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.**

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:10 p.m., CR 224 and by videoconference

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Moriawaki, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1526 HD** because it would help Hawai'i lead in mitigating the climate emergency.

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for ourselves, our keiki and succeeding generations. **Hawai'i must decarbonize in this decade in order to lead and help mitigate the climate emergency!**

This bill requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year. The bill appropriates funds to reimburse the counties for incorporation of the new requirement into their plan revisions.

This bill will help mitigate the climate emergency because removing organic waste from landfills will help reduce emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is approximately thirty times more harmful to the warming climate than carbon dioxide! The organic waste can be used instead to enrich our soils for growing more local food, which would also benefit the climate by avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from transporting food from far away.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:57:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:05:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

I generally am in support of HB1526 HD1, which requires each county to incorporate a plan to divert all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision.

My big caveat with this bill is the provision that says ‘7-1-2100’, which seems to be so far in the future as to be untenable and renders most of this bill moot. If this is a real deadline, I strongly suggest that this framework be drawn down to something more logical such as 2030, with measurable progress seen by each county by 2025, and I would suggest a 25 percent shift by that earlier deadline.

That being said, I strongly believe composting should be implemented as much and as soon as possible, not just in agricultural districts but in urban ones from the largest ones in Honolulu and Kailua on Oahu to smaller ones such as Lihue in Kauai and Kona on Hawaii Island. I live in one of these urban districts and would like to see more of our businesses and residential condo buildings to have a means to not only have municipal recycling that doesn’t require one to have to drive miles away, but to have compost facilities so that food waste is eliminated and we can create good, quality means to increase soil health.

Keeping organic matter out of the landfill will reduce carbon dioxide and human-made methane emissions, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and are also a critically important part of regenerative agriculture. Landfill capacities in Kauai, Kona and Hilo are becoming critical, and the ability to compost on a large-scale level will help mitigate this crisis and do more to create a zero-waste society, a win-win solution for all. Please do what you can to advance this very important bill.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my views and for your hard work.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:55:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Maki Morinoue. I am in support of HB1526 towards organic waste management.

We are a fragile island community with the resources to create a Pono closed circular waste management when we work together to manage what come in and out properly.

Please support and pass HB1626

Mahalo
Maki Morinoue
Holualoa
96725

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:17:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On Kauai, since the pandemic and closing of pig farms, much food waste is going to the landfill. With no composter of sewage sludge, that is also going to the landfill. But the landfill is almost full. Why are we allowing organics to be taken to the landfill? I hope this bill is a step in the right direction to make it easier to get organics composted!

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:59:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Thal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1526 as it will free our dumps of unnecessary food waste. The compost can be used back on the local farms to promote a positive cycle of use and reuse. Let's do this!

Mahalo,

Sherri Thal, Kea'au, HI 96749

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:55:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1526 HD1.

We must reduce landfill waste and increase composting. This will help close the wate cycle and decrease harmful greenhouse gases.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:13:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB 1526 HD1 Relating to Organic Waste. We need to get organic waste out of our landfills and assisting in carbon sequestration. This is both doable and essential!

Mahalo for your support of the Aina and making the right choice to also prevent fires like the ones that occur on an on-going basis in Kona. Please help make these do-able changes now by supporting this Bill. Thank you so much.

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:24:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AEN and GVO committee members,

Reducing the level of trash/waste in Hawaii is a noble goal.

I would like to fully support Bill HB1526, but there seems to be a word or phrase missing that is critical to understanding what counties are supposed to do with the organic waste produced in their county. This statement from the bill contains the missing word or phrase:

"Requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to" _____ "all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a certain amount of organic waste per year."

What I would like to see is that more of our waste is recycled (glass, metal, paper, etc) or somehow reused (such as food and paper waste getting composted) or repurposed (turning large boxes into smaller boxes). Making this happen may require new types of green jobs.

I look forward to supporting such a bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:31:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important measure to reduce waste. #fixourfoodsystem

HB-1526-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:02:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill.