EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

TE OF HAM.

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU. HAWAI'I 96810-0150 CRAIG K. HIRAI

GLORIA CHANG DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1526

#### February 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. Room 325 and Videoconference

#### RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1526.

H.B. No. 1526 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 an unspecified amount of organic waste into its Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) and appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health 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.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



P. O. Box 3378 Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

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

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/10/2022 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: HB1526 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 342G-1 to
- 5 include two new definitions for "biodegradable" and "organic waste." HB1526 also amends HRS
- 6 Section 342G-26(b) to identify specific measures to achieve source reduction through the
- 7 diversion of organic waste produced within the counties, requires the counties to incorporate
- 8 these organic waste diversion requirements into their respective integrated solid waste
- 9 management plans, and provides funding for the counties to implement this new requirement in
- their planning efforts.

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The Department supports HB1526, however respectfully requests revising the proposed definition of "organic waste" to prevent contaminants of concern from infiltrating compost. For example, wood waste painted with lead paint might not always be classified as a hazardous waste by definition, but depending on the lead concentration it would be beneficial to keep the lead out of compost. In addition, landscape and pruning waste is already included in the statutory definition of green waste.

The Department also respectfully requests changing the statutory amendment for organic waste diversion from HRS Section 342G-26(b) to HRS Section 342G-26(c). HRS Section 342G-26(c) identifies recycling and bioconversion components of a county's plan, and adding organic

- waste diversion to this section would be more appropriate. Finally, the Department requests that
- 2 the organic waste diversion assessment in a county's integrated solid waste management plan be
- 3 implemented at the time the county is updating its plan, as opposed to setting a separate deadline
- 4 for completion.
- 5 **Offered Amendments:** The Department requests the following two amendments:
- 6 Amendment 1
- 7 "Organic waste" means any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or an
- 8 animal. The term includes green waste, food waste, food-soiled paper that is acceptable for food
- 9 storage, [non-hazardous] and untreated and unpainted wood waste[, and landscape and pruning
- 10 <u>waste</u>]."

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- 11 Amendment 2
- 12 SECTION 2. Section 342G-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection
- 13  $[\frac{(b)}{(c)}]$  to read as follows:
- "(c) The recycling, [and] bioconversion, and organic waste diversion component shall
- identify and assess:
- 16 (1) The level of waste reduction the county is achieving through existing recycling and bioconversion efforts;
  - (2) The type and amount of solid waste that it is technically and economically feasible to recycle or alter through bioconversion; [and]
  - (3) Methods to increase and improve the recycling and bioconversion efforts, including opportunities for backyard composting[-]; and
- 22 (4) [By January 1, 2025, d] Diversion of all organic waste produced within the county by
  23 facilities generating more than tons of organic waste per year.
- Additions appear as underlined, and deletions appear as strikeouts.
- 25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Officers

Vincent Mina State President HFUU

Anabella Bruch Vice-President HFUU

Maureen Datta Secretary HFUU

Reba Lopez HFUU Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents** 

Dash Kuhr Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert, East Hawai'i

> Steve Lund Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

> Kaipo Kekona Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster North Shore. Oahu

Christian Zuckerman Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch Kauai Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian islands. **HFUU strongly supports HB1526** to require organic waste diversion plans and standards within each county.

Diverting organic materials from our solid waste stream would provide a steady supply of input material for the production of quality compost in each county. Incentive programs for compost use, like that of HB1528, will continue to expand the demand for compost as an agricultural input. By reducing organic materials in landfills, which produce methane gas, HB1526 also advances progress towards climate change mitigation. These reasons also underpin HFUU's support and call for the implementation of regional compost sites within agricultural districts in each county.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF





# House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1526

Thursday, February 10th, 2022 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1526 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 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:00:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Kevin Mulkern	Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	No

#### Comments:

As a landscape professional, I've found that organic material helps considerably to repress weeds, retain moisture and improve the health of plants.

Please support this bill.

Thank you

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:02:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	No

#### Comments:

As a landscape professional, I've found that organic material helps considerably to repress weeds, retain moisture and improve the health of plants.

Please support this bill.

Thank you

Subject: In support of HB1526

Aloha e Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the EEP Committee,

We are in full support of HB1526. Reducing food loss could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 5%, decrease water use by about 13%, reduce nutrient loss from fertilizers by 15%, and reduce biodiversity loss by up to 33% according to a <a href="report">report</a> by environmental, nutrition, and medical professionals from around the world. Food waste affects every part of the food system even though we may not be thinking much as we throw away old leftovers and "ugly" produce. Yet, food waste is just one part of the organic matter like landscapping/pruning waste, and food-soiled papers that we are wasting.

The trashcan always seems to be the first option, even for food waste or yard clippings that still contains so many nutrients. Our own City and County of Honolulu Waimānalo Landfill website warns that, "Landfills have a limited life span. Please join us in our efforts to reduce the use of the landfill by utilizing other options for waste disposal provided in this site." HB1526 provides us with the opportunity to utilize organic waste instead of dumping it into our limited space-landfills.

On Hawai'i island, the Pu'uanahulu Landfill is expected to operate well past its lifespan of 30 years, partly due to Hawai'i County diverting organic green waste from the landfill for the past decade. The same <u>article</u> states that almost 40,000 tons of waste are diverted each year to be made into beneficial soil amendments like mulch.

The City is already looking for a new site for a landfill. Unless we want our keiki to grow up next to another landfill, we should start diverting organic waste that has potential benefits to be turned into nutrients or compost for use afterwards. **We strongly support HB1526**.

Mahalo, Food+ Policy Team

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:04:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Malama Kaua'i	Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

#### Comments:

It is urgent that we do what we can to take waste and turn it into resources for agriculture if we want to increase our food security. This is a great first step towards supporting Counties in creating plans to do so.

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:04:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

#### Comments:

Hawaii needs to increase composting and to decrease waste that is burned (air emissions) and landfilled (methane emissions).

Please pass this bill

Mahalo

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:56:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Organic waste not only takes up space in our landfills, but also produces methane gas which creates a fire hazard, and is additionally a potent greenhouse gas. Organic waste is also a precious resource which can be used to generate energy and create soil amendments. I support any measure which will divert this resource from landfills, where it is harmful, and to use it for beneficial purposes.

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:37:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1526 - Relating to organic waste. Organic waste is actually a valuable resource. It makes sense to require counties to incorporate organic waste diversion into their plans.

Mahalo.

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:20:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1526.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

<u>HB-1526</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:20:39 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Close the cycle

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:57:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Wolff	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

We as an island state need to be more mindful of the excessive amount of waste we create especially when it comes to organic materials. There is so much potential to be more sustainable and to convert those organize to compost to be utilized by our local farmers rather than being burned or buried. We know how to do better and we must do better. Please vote yes on this bill.

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:00:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Steve Sakala	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian islands. HFUU strongly supports HB1526 to require organic waste diversion plans and standards within each county. As a long-time member and past president of the Kona Chapter I too strongly support HB1526.

To speak truthfully hear this measure is long overdue. Farmers in each county have requested access to state-supported compost for at least 15 years. In addition, the detrimental effects of methane on the environment have been well known for decades. It would be my hope that this bill could be implemented earlier than 2025. I understand it takes time to create and implement plans. However, many of the counties have had compost facilities planned for some time yet have not been funded properly or implemented due to lack of political will.

Diverting organic materials from our solid waste stream would provide a steady supply of input material for the production of quality compost in each county. Incentive programs for compost use, like that of HB1528, will continue to expand the demand for compost as an agricultural input. By reducing organic materials in landfills, which produce methane gas, HB1526 also advances progress towards climate change mitigation. These reasons also underpin HFUU's support and call for the implementation of regional compost sites within agricultural districts in each county.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steve Sakala

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:32:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Aloha,

Organically disposal of waste is a very under valued approach that needs more resources to comprehend. It is a means by which many people already operate on very small to individual home scales, but it has shown great value and should be developed upon.

I support this opportunity.

Mahalo nui, Kimeona Kane

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:34:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, Oʻahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of HB1526.

Currently, the state of Hawaii discards organic waste by incineration and landfill. These methods are not sustainable waste solutions and create copious amounts of preventable greenhouse gases. Support HB1526 which allows every county to create an individualized green waste management program.

Support HB1526.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:47:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

HB 1526 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.

Respected members of the Committee, my name is Charles Matthew Shofman. I am concerned resident of Maui, and I am in SUPPORT of HB1526.

These are crucial times we live. Keeping Hawai'i beautiful and prosperous and perserving the lands for succeeding generations is very important. How we as a society deal with our organic waste is a major indicator to how we view our role in the legacy of preservation. Throwing organic wastes to landfill is known to contribute greenhouse gases that are initiating our enviornmental and ecological demise. By doing that, we are also robbing ourseves of an opportunity to harness and return valuable nutrient rich biomass back to our lands. We must care for and respect the land. Establishing systematic compost and green waste infrastructure is critical to this aim and something all residents of Hawai'i (and our visitors) can appreciate. I respectufly request the Committee to pass and implement HB1526. Mahalo.

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:05:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I'm writing in support of HB1526. I support bills like these that will facilitate and incentivize composting in the state. I believe that this is necessary to help us reduce net our greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:29:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Requested  Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please encourage more composting infrastructure. Setting these targets and a time horizon will help us to take necessary action. Eventually, I would love to see us infrastructure developed that incorporates all residential needs as well. Friends in CA are currently working on the details of managing facility level program rollout or enjoying the benefits of residential service. I think that we can set these targets and learn from others. I see so much good material literally going to waste in my own community! Please support this bill!

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:38:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

The current methods the state of Hawaii has in place for waste is not sustainable or in the best interest to our environment. Our state discards organic waste by incineration and landfill which creates copious amounts of preventable greenhouse gases. I strongly support HB 1526 which allows every county to create an individualized green waste management program. It is imparative that we take the steps to influence better practices for our future generations now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ashley Lee

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:12:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I support this bill to increase composting across the state, help reduce the amount of opala going to landfills and the associated green house gases. Mahalo.

Aloha, Stuart

Stuart Coleman, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:48:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Requested  Requested
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Dear Members, as a long time Hawaii resident and educator in locals schools with a background in sustainable development I stringly urge you to support this Bill.



February 9, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1526

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and EEN Committee Members,

We write in strong support of the Organic Waste Program. This is reclamation of organic waste, such as food scraps and green waste. Our future nutrition comes from the compost we produce today.

In my kitchen, all my peels and food scraps go into my compost container and out into the backyard compost pile. On the continent where curbside recycling is the normal waste management system, food scraps are encouraged to go into the green waste container. This is a known valuable asset.

All restaurants are provided several containers for pick up and REQUIRED to put all uneaten food and kitchen scraps into these containers. It is the law. So much is reclaimed and seen for the valuable nutrients that will increase soil production.

Did you know that because of erosion and soil compaction that the Earth only has enough soil to last another 40 years maximum? With much of the Planet used for commerce, transportation and housing, the available land to grow our food is ever decreasing. Some areas where food could be grown, does not have available water and is suffering from desertification.

Soil that is absent of healthy, nutrient rich available compost leads a country onto a starvation track. An Organic Waste Program is the most sensible and cost-efficient way to grow nutritious and vitamin rich food. It is more important now than ever to make use of what we have.

For more information on the importance of local, non-synthetic soil nutrients and low water farming, please visit growbiointensive.org

With warm aloha and respect for our `aina,

Jeri Di Pietro, President Hawai`i SEED Koloa, HI 96756 (808) 651-1332

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:26:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

A 10% coffee blend to be labeled "Kona," (or "Ka'u," "Hamakua," "Maui," or "Kauai") is "misleading". The Legislature's 2007 Concurrent Resolution called it "consumer fraud." Hawaii County's 2014 Resolution called it "inherently deceptive and misleading.

Truth in advertising, transparency, is the way.

Aloha,

Keith Ranney

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:56:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
James Trujillo	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

aloha committee members,

mahalo for accepting this testimony IN FAVOR of HB1526

we need to take aggressive steps to reduce the amount of divertable organic matter in our municiple waste stream. from household food waste to commercial green waste collected throughout our island community we HAVE TO REDUCE methane producing gas HB1526 attempts to move us in the right direction. organic waste in the landfill is doubly troubling since it produces harmful green house gas while taking up valuable real estate in our landfil. in addition, it facilitates the growth of toxic leachates found in every landfill. organics can include contaminated paper and cardboard products in addition to food and green waste. all of it is totally divertable and can produce a valuable soil amendment when used as compost. HB1526 helps our county solid waste teams to develop the capacity to better manage our organic inputs found in all local landfill located in the state

please PASS HB 1526 and help our local solidwaste team deal with a problematic aspect of our municiple wastestream. your actions to support HB1526 will help to address the climate crisis and the solid waste crisis while building capacity for composting as a sustainable solution for responsible waste management

with respect and aloha,

james g trujillo po box 33 kapa'a, HI 96746

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:48:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

please support HB1526. we are in danger of loosing the very little top soil we have and what is left of it is depleted from extractive agricultural practices. we need our organic matter to go back to the land like our grandparents did in their backyard gardens and farms. the cost of imported soil amendments is too high for farmers to purchase the appropriate quantity they need to support their farms. we have been throwing away and burning a priceless resource that improves crop yields, lowers water usage, and builds soil. please, no more incineration. mahalo.