

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRAURY 23, 2022

10:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 3004
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Chairpersons Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3004. The bill establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program and requires an annual progress report of the program to the legislature prior to each regular session. The Department supports this bill.

The Department successfully administered a similar program in 2019-2021 and would implement the same controls to ensure the proper disbursement of funds for this program. In order to maximize funds available for reimbursement, the program will be administered by existing staff. The previous program was popular with the agriculture sector and would assist farmers and ranchers with compost costs.



As such, the Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3004

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO COMPOSTING

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

Senate Bill No. 3004 requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers for up to 50% on purchases of compost from certified vendors, provided that no single farmer or rancher can receive more than \$50,000 per year. This bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for 1.00 permanent Program Manager position, program administrative costs, and reimbursements.

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.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:43:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coaliton	Support	No

Comments:

Composting is a very effective way to reduce methane, a powerful GHG emission, and create a very useful product for soil enhancement that in turn sequesters carbon. It's a win / win for the environment and improving our soil for better growing conditions leading to greater food security and a atronger local economy. Let's incentize this climate action.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:31:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

Compost reimbursement is an excellent strategy to enrich our constantly depleted soils. Highly support this help for our farmers.



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 DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

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 SB3004** to provide cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost.

During 2019 and 2020 the compost reimbursement pilot program provided over \$300,000 in funding to farmers large and small, organic and conventional, as well as landscape and turf operations, as cost-share for purchasing compost. **HFUU would like a compost reimbursement program re-established and made permanent.**

The success of the pilot program is clearly demonstrated by it's wide adoption, which would only grow through the establishment of a permanent program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3004
RELATING TO COMPOSTING

Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3004, which establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the department of agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program.

HFB strongly supports the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawai'i. Many of our farms add compost made off-site as well as utilize short-term fallow between crop cycles to increase organic content in their soils. HFB recognizes and supports the diversion of discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. The benefits of this and of composting are well-known.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawai'i's farmers. Land, water, labor, taxes, transportation, utilities, inputs, invasive species, and food safety regulations are all costs of doing business that often results in our farmers just being able to break even. HFB supports this initiative that could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing, with a 50% match, the use of compost material. This is another mechanism that can help locally produced goods compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:57:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: Hearing: SB3004 **RELATING TO COMPOSTING.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB3004!

This bill would establish permanently a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture and fund one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position.

This bill will help farmers afford the costs of purchasing compost.

Making compost from food waste instead of dumping it in landfills not only can be used to help farmers by enriching soils, it is also very important for reducing methane emissions from landfills. Food waste produces methane in landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 30 times more harmful to the climate than CO2. Removing food waste from the landfills and instead composting it will help mitigate methane emissions that warm the atmosphere.

Please pass this bill to reduce methane emissions from landfills by encourage composting food waste.

Please pass this bill!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i



Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB3004

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 10:05 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB3004, which establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the department of agriculture and one full-time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program. Requires an annual progress report of the program to the legislature prior to each regular session.

HAPA supports efforts to expand composting, which can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.

Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Composting 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.

Please support SB3004.

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

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:25:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB3004

The Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to support SB3004 relating to establishing and appropriating funds for a compost reimbursement program within the department of agriculture and one full time permanent compost reimbursement program manager position to oversee the program. Please support SB3004.

Mahalo,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Co-Chair GPH Susan Roberts Emery



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 22, 2022

Subject: **In support of SB3004 Relating to Composting**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Senate Members of the WAM Committee,

We stand in support of SB3004 establishing a compost reimbursement program and program manager because the benefits of compost are undeniable and numerous: organic waste reduction, reduced burden on landfills, improvement of our agricultural soils, and reduced toxic fertilizer use.

The concept of composting is not a new one; it is an ancient technology that Native Hawaiians and peoples around the world have practiced for thousands of years. Pits used for compost would allow households to compost their own waste and enrich the soil. But today people have come to rely on synthetic fertilizers that eventually runoff into our oceans and streams, creating deadzones that kill our marine life. When our home is surrounded by water, this fact is especially alarming and concerning for all our marine life prevalent in our waters. Supporting, encouraging, and incentivizing the use of compost through a bill like **SB3004** could effectively increase the accessibility of this extremely valuable resource.

By increasing the access and demand for compost, other efforts to divert food waste and other organic materials from the landfill could fall into place also. Compost can be used in many markets, from agronomic, horticultural, urban/suburban landscaping, forestry, to bioremediation. This bill would be supporting a diverse set of actors in Hawai'i's economy.

Especially with ambitious goals set by the Aloha+ Challenge of doubling local food production by 2030 or Act 175 requiring 30% of school foods to be local, meeting these goals will be dependent on the quality of our soils, which are the foundation to agriculture. The increased accessibility to compost resulting from this bill would increase the quality of soil and its ability to produce nutritious foods to meet our local food production goals.

To ensure the benefits are incurred for our local economy, we are requesting that **SB3004** be **amended** to specify beyond just reimbursements for compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State, but that the

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

compost have been created in the state as well. This bill begins with concerns of food waste, yet reimbursing farmers, ranchers, and landscapers for compost imported from outside of the state will not have any effect on Hawaii's food waste issues, which stand somewhere around 1.43 million pounds of food wasted per day, and does not fully address our food security.

This bill will not only help to support our farmers, ranchers, and landscapers, but the future of Hawaii's local food capabilities and food security. Therefore, **we are in full support of SB3004.**

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawaii communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

LATE

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:35:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3004

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:19:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3004.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:28:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:48:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB3004.

Mahalo,

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:03:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
devin lopez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Compost is important to healthy soils and producing healthy and nutritious food. As a farmer, I support this measure and believe it will be beneficial towards increasing local agricultural production.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:55:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Composting diverts more than half of our waste from dumps and provides rich healthy fertilizers to our farmers. It's a win-win proposal.

Mahalo.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:15:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:32:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2955.

Efforts to expand composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants. Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

On December 14, 2021 Civil Beat posted an article entitled, "The Proposed Sites for Oahu's New Landfill Would Threaten Drinking Water, Officials Say"

On January 9th, 2020 Hawaii Public Radio posted an article entitled, "Hawaii Island Has Decades of Landfill Space but Still Faces Challenges When Dealing With Its Waste"

We as a state need to work on moving to a lower waste society with better programs for our future generations. Appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture for a pilot program so that farmers and ranchers receive reimbursements will encourage better practices on a wider scale.

Composting 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With Aloha,
Ashley Lee

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:39:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michal Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3004 because it will expand composting, thereby creating material in which to grown healthy, nutritious plants. Composting will also avoid the costs of hauling waste to other locations, reduce the harmful impacts of fertilizer, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Mahalo.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 2:45:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

we need more, bigger, smaller composting opportunities.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:44:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherryl Royce	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

strongly support

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:13:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this composting bill - Mahalo, JW

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:43:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:50:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help support small and family farmers as well as any producer seeking to support their soil health.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:05:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:53:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:04:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear WAM members,

I strongly support SB3004 which permits Hawaii needs to strongly encourage composting programs to divert green waste from landfills to farmlands where this waste can be used to reduce CO2 and methane emissions (greenhouse gases). Additionally, compost reduces farmers' costs for fertilizer and pesticides by producing healthier soil and thus healthier plants. Finally, support for composting encourages small local businesses.

Please support all the composting bills this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:19:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy & Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Senate Ways & Means Committee Members:

We submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB3004, which would – more permanently -- provide cost-sharing with farms to purchase compost. Composting not only improves soil health and increases drought resistance, but also reduces the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. In 2019 and 2020, the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture successfully implemented a compost reimbursement pilot program and provided \$300,000 to Hawai`i’s farm, landscape and turf operations in shared costs associated with purchasing compost. Passage of this measure can spur increased demand for locally produced agricultural supplies – like compost and supports Hawai`i’s farmers’ efforts toward more sustainable agricultural practices.

However, we would ideally like to see this program adopted on a more permanent basis—and that sufficient funding be allocated to the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture to support a permanent, full-time position.

For all of these reasons, we urge your honorable committee to please pass SB3004 out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB3004.

Warm aloha,

Nancy & Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:47:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

As owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and owner of a small 5.5 acre farm, we fully support SB3004. A compost reimbursement program would substantially help with local food production and help farmers financially. Compost helps build soil health and provides a foundation for all plants to thrive. Please support this bill and help Hawaii grow its compost programs. There is so much opportunity to grow this organization by building better composting facilities and preventing tons of food waste from landfills while producing quality compost and helping farmers boost local food production.

Mahalo,

Drew Wilkinson

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:56:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Efforts to expand composting can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create garden gold for healthy, nutritious plants.
- Through encouraging composting programs, we have the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.
- Composting 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.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:30:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:56:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair and Committee,

I support SB3004 Any time we try to expand our composting programs on farm or from public waste recycling programs its a good thing because it can divert up to 54% of household waste from the landfill and create nutritious soil supplement for healthy, nutritious plants.

Farmers who used these supplemental soils can get reimbursed so this incentivized program reinforces improving their soil structure, their micro biome profile of the soil, increase earth worms and other beneficial organisms.

In nature there is no such thing as waste, there is only nutrients being recycled. Composting programs reflect this natural process and we get the added benefit of avoiding the costs associated with hauling waste to other locations for recycling or disposal as well as reducing costs of inputs such as fertilizer or compost.

Composting 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.

The only problem with the bill is there is only 1 year funding for personal.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:39:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:40:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB3004.

A compost reimbursement program would benefit everybody by reducing food waste and methane emissions from our overflowing landfills as well as reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and retaining the water in our soil which obviously improves the overall health. This is what we need to grow the good local food we all want!

Please pass bill SB3004 to support Hawai'i farmers and the land that feeds us!

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:48:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emmaleah Stauber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3004.

A compost reimbursement program would benefit everybody by reducing food waste and methane emissions from our overflowing landfills as well as reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and retaining the water in our soil which obviously improves the overall health. This is what we need to grow the good local food we all want!

Please pass bill SB3004.

LATE

SB-3004

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support developing a composting infrastructure to reduce waste and encourage regenerative agriculture. I support this bill!