

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date: 02/25/2008

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

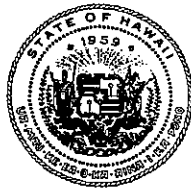
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2571, SD1 RELATING TO FOOD WASTE RECYCLING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education, in a partnership with the department of health, to establish a three-year food waste recycling pilot project within one or more public schools. Appropriates funds from the environmental management special fund for the pilot program. (SD1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 2571, SD1, if it provides adequate funding from the Department of Health environmental management special fund to develop and implement the pilot project set forth in the bill. We must defer to the Department of Health to speak to the priority of this project within the environmental management special fund. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

S.B. 2571 S.D. 1, RELATING TO FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 25, 2008
10:30 A.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports both the prevention of food waste and food waste
2 recycling, but respectfully opposes this measure as worded because of major resource limitations.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified amount from the Environmental Management Special Fund. Use of
4 this fund will jeopardize the regulatory functions of the department's solid waste program.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill requires the Department of Education, in partnership with the
6 Department of Health, to establish a three-year food waste recycling pilot project within one or more
7 public schools, to be paid through DOH's Environmental Management Special Fund (EMSF).

8 This bill proposes using the EMSF to fund the recycling program. Because of statutory
9 limitations on the different accounts within the fund, the funding would have to come from the account
10 that collects the solid waste disposal surcharge. This account currently receives about \$500,000 per year
11 for a program that requires about \$800,000 per year to fully meet obligations under HRS Chapters 342G,
12 342H and 342I. This account is also facing reduction in income due to plans by the City and County of
13 Honolulu and private operators to ship waste out of state for disposal. Together, these proposed
14 facilities have the potential to reduce funding by about \$200,000 per year. Any additional burden on
15 this fund account will would essentially eliminate our solid waste regulatory and planning program. We

1 estimate that the cost of one vermi-composting pilot project (capital cost and three years of operation)
2 would be about \$100,000 assuming a waste generation rate of 100 pounds of food waste per day and that
3 the composting operation will be contracted out. If existing DOE staff operates the on-site worm bins
4 during the pilot project, the project cost would be about \$30,000. We estimate that one DOE staff would
5 spend about 2 hours per day on the compost bin.

6 The Education and Energy and Environment Committees in their Committee Report SCR 2206 stated
7 that "Food waste recycling in Hawaii's public schools could positively impact our environment and
8 reduce the schools' garbage bills." Based on committees' research the Legislature should consider
9 utilizing this cost savings to fund the pilot program to minimize impact on budget priorities.

10 We request that for any appropriations, the Legislature support the priorities in the executive
11 supplemental budget proposal.

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

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