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February 24, 2015

**Support for SB 1227**

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the US Composting Council (USCC), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for introduced bill SB 1227, a bill that would require large generators of organic residuals to recycle those residuals. This legislation will prohibit the disposal of commercial organic material waste at landfills or waste-to-energy facilities in the state and will require all generators of commercial organic material to use alternatives, such as donation, composting, biofuel production, anaerobic digestion, thermal combustion of organic materials, or animal feed.

The USEPA estimates that 15% of the wastes generated in the United States are food residuals *alone*. This bill would benefit Hawaii by encouraging the management of its resources within the state and region. Many food processors, institutions and other large-scale generators of food scraps – among the law's targets – want their food scraps to be rescued or otherwise beneficially used locally, if the infrastructure is in place to handle them. Investment in, and expansion of, needed capacity to handle recycling of food scraps and other organics in Hawaii would be spurred by this bill.

Composting also creates and sustains more jobs on a per ton basis than landfilling or waste-to-energy.

The US compost manufacturing industry is a growing sector that will be positively affected by the proposed regulation. Compost is a soil amendment that has a wide range of benefits, including improving soil health, protecting against water pollution, limiting drought impacts, and assisting in soil remediation. It is also increasingly recognized for its climate protection benefits as it helps soils store carbon and reduce methane emissions from landfills. California has acknowledged this by establishing that composting facilities can receive carbon credits.

There is one area of the bill where the USCC recommends a change. The bill states the effective date is July 1, 2050. The USCC urges this Committee to consider an earlier start date of July 1, 2020. There is no reason to push implementation so far into the future.

This bill is a significant step forward in reducing the environmental impact of organic residuals. The USCC respectfully suggests that the Committee recommend passage of SB 1227.

The USCC is pleased to support the passage of SB 1227, and will be happy to work with friends and allies to assist the passage and implementation of this bill with the amendment detailed above. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Rattie  
Interim Executive Director  
US Composting Council

### **About the US Composting Council**

The US Composting Council (USCC), a 501(c) 6 Trade and Professional Association, is the only national organization in the United States dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry. The USCC has over 800 member companies, including private and municipal compost producers, equipment manufacturers, product suppliers, academic institutions, public agencies, nonprofit groups and consulting/engineering firms. The USCC achieves this mission by encouraging, supporting and performing compost related research, promoting best management practices, establishing standards, educating professionals and the public about the benefits of composting and compost utilization, enhancing compost product quality, and developing training materials for composters and markets for compost products.