
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMPOSTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 education produces a large amount of rubbish and waste from two
3 hundred sixty-five schools across the State, which significantly
4 impacts the State's environment and finances.

5 The legislature further finds that on-site campus
6 composting programs involving students have been extremely
7 successful in providing a beneficial method of waste diversion.
8 These programs foster learning about scientific principles and
9 social practices while allowing students to take responsibility
10 for the amount of waste generated.

11 The legislature believes that a demonstration of the
12 effectiveness of on-site campus composting allows students to
13 see the relationships between food waste, composting, nutrient
14 cycling, healthy soils, and local food production. This is a
15 natural extension of the legislature's commitment to increasing
16 garden- and farm- based opportunities and is one of five pillars
17 of the department of agriculture's Hawaii farm to school



1 program, established by Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015.
2 Proper guidance from the departments of health and education
3 regarding campus composting would increase the safety of
4 existing programs while expanding opportunities for new programs
5 in state schools.

6 The legislature finds that developing a statewide model for
7 on-site campus composting provides a way to reach the Aloha+
8 challenge waste reduction goals, increase local food production,
9 and promote natural resource management.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a two-
11 year on-site campus composting pilot project in department of
12 education schools to:

- 13 (1) Address the opportunities of waste diversion;
- 14 (2) Engage students to learn about different composting
15 methods;
- 16 (3) Develop nutrient-rich soil for school gardens and
17 local agricultural endeavors;
- 18 (4) Decrease the amount of methane-producing waste being
19 dumped in landfills;
- 20 (5) Decrease the overall trash hauling cost to taxpayers;
- 21 and



1 (6) Develop campus composting guidelines in conjunction
2 with department of health rules for system-wide
3 guidance.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall
5 establish a two-year on-site composting pilot project in one or
6 more schools in the State.

7 (b) The pilot project shall be implemented by a working
8 group. The superintendent of education shall invite the
9 following to become members of the pilot project working group
10 or to designate a representative:

- 11 (1) The department of education, facilities branch;
- 12 (2) The department of education, office of curriculum,
13 instruction, and student support;
- 14 (3) The department of health, sanitation branch;
- 15 (4) The Hawaii farm to school coordinator in the
16 department of agriculture;
- 17 (5) The chair of the senate committee on education;
- 18 (6) The chair of the house of representatives committee on
19 education;
- 20 (7) The chair of the senate committee on agriculture and
21 environment;



- 1 (8) The chair of the house of representatives committee on
2 energy and environmental protection;
- 3 (9) The dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa college
4 of human resources and tropical agriculture;
- 5 (10) The Kokua Hawaii Foundation; and
- 6 (11) An experienced school composting program leader.
- 7 (c) The working group shall:
- 8 (1) In conjunction with the department of health, develop
9 guidelines and provide oversight for campus
10 composting, which shall include leachate monitoring,
11 pathogen testing, involvement of community members,
12 development of a fire plan, material categorization,
13 and volume recording;
- 14 (2) Consider multiple composting and fermentation
15 techniques that can be tested and monitored for
16 effectiveness in schools of varying sizes, such as
17 bokashi for meats, dairy products, and bones;
18 vermicomposting for vegetable wastes; hot composting
19 for vegetative wastes; and aerated compost tea and
20 vermicast tea for soil amendments;



1 (3) Establish networks and relationships with local farms
2 and piggeries that may be able to accept surplus food
3 waste;

4 (4) Select several participating schools on each island;

5 (5) Fund a resource recovery specialist for each of the
6 pilot project sites; and

7 (6) Fund composting equipment for participating schools.

8 (d) The working group shall elect one of its members to
9 serve as its chair.

10 (e) The working group shall be administratively attached
11 to the department of education, which shall provide support
12 staff for the working group.

13 (f) Members of the working group shall serve without
14 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,
15 including travel expenses, incurred during the performance of
16 their duties.

17 (g) The working group shall submit an interim report to
18 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
19 of the regular session of 2018, and shall submit a final report
20 with its findings and recommendations to the legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
2 session of 2019.

3 (h) The working group shall cease to exist on January 30,
4 2019.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2018-2019 to establish and implement the department of education
10 on-site composting pilot project.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.
14

INTRODUCED BY:

<u>Richard Gray</u>	<u>Alan</u>
<u>Tom B...</u>	<u>Guthrie Threten</u>
<u>Sean Quindel</u>	<u>Nicole E. Low</u>
	<u>Cindy Brown</u>
	<u>Jan J. Jan</u>
	<u>[Signature]</u>

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H.B. NO. 1577

Report Title:

DOE; Composting; Pilot Project; Working Group; Established; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a composting pilot project in DOE schools.
Establishes a pilot project working group. Appropriates funds.

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