
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
11 composting grant pilot projects in department of education
12 schools to:

- 13 (1) Address opportunities for 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 agriculture shall issue
5 grants pursuant to the recommendation of the composting grant
6 pilot project working group.

7 (b) The Hawaii farm to school coordinator in the
8 department of agriculture shall invite the following members or
9 their designees to the composting grant pilot project working
10 group:

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



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



1 for vegetative wastes; and aerated compost tea and
2 vermicast tea for soil amendments;

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

6 (4) Issue grants to schools pursuant to this section.

7 (d) The composting grant pilot project working group shall
8 elect one of its members to serve as its chair.

9 (e) The composting grant pilot project working group shall
10 be administratively attached to the department of agriculture,
11 which shall provide support staff for the composting grant pilot
12 project working group.

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

17 (g) No member of the composting grant pilot project
18 working group shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii
19 Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation
20 on the composting grant pilot project working group.



1 (h) The composting grant pilot project working group shall
 2 submit an interim report to the legislature with its findings
 3 and recommendations no later than twenty days prior to the
 4 convening of the regular session of 2018 and shall submit
 5 subsequent reports with its findings and recommendations no
 6 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
 7 session thereafter.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 12 2018-2019 to establish and implement the composting grant pilot
 13 project.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 15 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 28, 2081.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to issue grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in DOE schools. Establishes a composting grant pilot project working group. Requires report to legislature. Appropriates funds. (HB1577 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

