
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 according to the
2 United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States
3 Department of Agriculture, food waste is the second largest
4 component that enters a waste stream, and accounts for
5 twenty-five per cent of all materials sent to landfills.
6 Recycling food waste into compost has environmental benefits,
7 such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance,
8 and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, and
9 pesticides. Furthermore, applying compost and organic matter to
10 soil sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, forming the largest
11 land-based carbon sink, and mitigates climate change by
12 effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The legislature
13 believes that food waste diversion will help move the State
14 toward the Aloha+ Challenge commitment of seventy per cent waste
15 stream reduction by 2025.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to the
17 department of agriculture to establish and implement a compost



1 reimbursement program to assist farmers, ranchers, and
2 landscapers in the State with acquiring affordable compost
3 material comprising green waste and food waste.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§141- Compost reimbursement program. (a) The
8 department of agriculture shall establish and implement a
9 compost reimbursement program to assist farmers, ranchers, and
10 landscapers in meeting the costs of acquiring compost purchased
11 from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler
12 licensed to do business in the State.

13 (b) Applications for cost reimbursements shall be
14 submitted on a form furnished by the department of agriculture
15 and shall be filed with accompanying documentation of the costs
16 of purchasing compost pursuant to subsection (c); provided that:

17 (1) The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the
18 State and its officers, agents, and employees from all
19 claims arising out of or resulting from the compost
20 purchased; and



1 (2) The department may request an applicant to provide
2 necessary information for the purposes of verifying
3 the size or sale weight, as applicable, and amount of
4 compost purchased.

5 (c) Documentation of compost costs, requested by the
6 department of agriculture, shall be filed for compost purchased
7 within the fiscal year immediately preceding the filing and be
8 effective for compost costs incurred.

9 (d) Funds shall be disbursed upon approval on an annual
10 basis by the department of agriculture to the farmer, rancher,
11 or landscaper for fifty per cent of the costs incurred for the
12 purchase of the compost.

13 (e) The department of agriculture shall aggregate the
14 total reimbursement applications pursuant to this section and
15 divide and distribute the available moneys on a first-come,
16 first-served basis; provided that no single farmer, rancher, or
17 landscaper shall receive a reimbursement totaling more than
18 \$ _____ per year.

19 (f) There is established within the department of
20 agriculture a compost reimbursement program manager position,
21 which shall be a full-time, temporary position exempt from



1 chapters 76 and 89. The compost reimbursement program manager
2 shall possess a requisite level of knowledge and expertise in
3 the area of program management necessary to carry out the duties
4 of the position. The compost reimbursement program manager
5 shall:

6 (1) Facilitate the division and distribution of available
7 costs for reimbursement; and

8 (2) Manage the day-to-day coordination of the compost
9 reimbursement program.

10 The compost reimbursement program manager shall receive a salary
11 not exceeding \$ per year.

12 (g) As used in this section, "compost" means a product of
13 a process in which organic materials are biologically decomposed
14 under controlled conditions to produce a stable humus-like mulch
15 or soil amendment. The composting process includes receipt of
16 materials, primary processing, decomposition activities, and
17 final processing for sale and marketing. Compostable materials
18 include pre- and post-consumer food waste, waste from animal
19 food processing operations, green waste, crop residues, and
20 waste from vegetable food processing operations and similar
21 materials."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
4 department of agriculture to establish and implement a compost
5 reimbursement program; provided that the department of
6 agriculture may expend:

7 (1) \$ to establish one full-time temporary program
8 manager position for the compost reimbursement
9 program; and

10 (2) \$ for program and administrative costs.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

HDOA; Compost Reimbursement; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a compost reimbursement program within the Department of Agriculture to provide reimbursements to farmers, ranchers, and landscapers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State. Establishes a compost reimbursement program manager position. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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