
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 food waste has far-
2 reaching environmental, financial, and social impacts on
3 society. According to the United States Department of
4 Agriculture, food waste in the United States is estimated at
5 between thirty per cent to forty per cent of the food supply.
6 This estimate corresponded to approximately one hundred
7 thirty-three billion pounds and \$161,000,000,000 worth of food
8 in 2010.

9 The legislature further finds that one way to reduce food
10 waste is to compost it. Recycling food waste into compost reaps
11 several environmental benefits. According to the United States
12 Environmental Protection Agency, the benefits of composting
13 include reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the need for
14 chemical fertilizers; reducing methane emissions that are
15 generated through organic waste in landfills; promoting higher
16 yields of agricultural crops; aiding reforestation, wetland



1 restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts; enhancing water
2 retention in soils; and sequestering carbon.

3 The legislature also finds that a three-year compost
4 reimbursement pilot program was established within the
5 department of agriculture pursuant to Act 89, Session Laws of
6 Hawaii 2018, to provide cost reimbursements to farming
7 operations in the State. The legislature further finds that the
8 pilot program, which was repealed on December 31, 2021, provided
9 assistance to farmers and helped ease some of the operational
10 costs relating to the purchase of composting material.

11 The purpose of this Act is to permanently establish and
12 appropriate funds for a compost reimbursement program within the
13 department of agriculture.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§141- Compost reimbursement program. (a) There is
18 established within the department a compost reimbursement
19 program to provide cost reimbursements to farming operations in
20 the State.



1 (b) The compost reimbursement program shall assist farmers
2 and ranchers in meeting the costs of acquiring compost purchased
3 from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler
4 licensed to do business in the State.

5 (c) Applications for cost reimbursements shall be
6 submitted on a form furnished by the department and shall be
7 filed with accompanying documentation of the costs of purchasing
8 compost pursuant to subsection (d); provided that:

9 (1) The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the
10 State and its officers, agents, and employees from all
11 claims arising out of or resulting from the compost
12 purchased; and

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

17 (d) Documentation of compost costs, requested by the
18 department, shall be filed for compost purchased within the
19 fiscal year immediately preceding the filing.

20 (e) Funds shall be disbursed upon approval on an annual
21 basis by the department to the farmer or rancher for up to



1 fifty per cent of the costs incurred for the purchase of the
2 compost.

3 (f) The department shall aggregate the total reimbursement
4 applications pursuant to this section and divide and distribute
5 the available funds on a first come, first served basis;
6 provided that no single farmer or rancher shall receive a
7 reimbursement total of more than \$50,000 per year.

8 (g) Any action taken by the department pursuant to this
9 section shall be exempt from the rulemaking requirements of
10 section 91-3.

11 (h) The department shall submit an annual progress report
12 on the compost reimbursement program to the legislature no later
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

14 (i) As used in this section:

15 "Compost" means the product of a composting process,
16 including but not limited to the receipt of materials, primary
17 processing, decomposition activities, and final processing for
18 sale and marketing, in which organic materials are biologically
19 decomposed under controlled conditions to produce a stable,
20 humus-like mulch or soil amendment.

21 "Department" means the department of agriculture.



1 "Farming operation" has the same meaning as in
2 section 165-2.

3 "Organic materials" includes pre- and post-consumer food
4 waste, waste from animal food processing operations, green
5 waste, crop residues, and waste from vegetable food processing
6 operations and similar materials."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
10 the department of agriculture to establish a compost
11 reimbursement program pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

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

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2100;
16 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

17



H.B. NO. 1528 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Compost Reimbursement Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for a compost reimbursement program within the department of agriculture. Requires an annual progress report of the program to the legislature prior to each regular session. Effective 7/1/2100. (HD1)

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

2022-1326 HB1528 HD1 HMSO

