

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**
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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2485: Relating to Solid Waste Management

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2485, relating to solid waste management. The purpose of SB 2485 is to establish a temporary working group in the Office of the Governor to address and inform policies and programs to reduce solid waste.

The membership of this solid waste management working group includes representatives from the state and county agencies, including several subject matter experts. A representative from the BWS is also included and we confirm our availability and full participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2485.

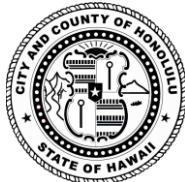
Very truly yours,


ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KAIĀPUNI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 26-06

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. Richards, III, Vice Chair
and Members on the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Richards:

**SUBJECT: Department of Environmental Services
Senate Bill 2485 Relating to Solid Waste Management**

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) submits the following comments to SB 2485, relating to Solid Waste Management:

ENV agrees that "a new landfill on O'ahu is inherently problematic and is not necessarily the best way that communities in the State can reduce and handle the solid waste produced by their linear extract, package, and throw-away economy". However, a new landfill is currently necessary to support O'ahu's economy should all other efforts fail to reduce or handle the solid waste produced on O'ahu, including for H-POWER ash, municipal solid waste when H-POWER is down, or debris generated by a natural disaster, among other potential events.

The establishment of a temporary working group to address and inform policies and programs to reduce solid waste would be helpful to align stakeholders on the current state of solid waste in the State and toward reducing solid waste with the goal of eventually eliminating the need for a landfill.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-3486 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director

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Kaua'i



Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB2485.**

SB2485 is crucial to tackle the ongoing issue of solid waste management in Hawaii. For Hawaii's family farmers and ranchers, solid waste management is fundamentally a soil health issue. Currently, a significant portion of Hawaii's organic waste stream is buried in landfills or incinerated rather than being repurposed into high-value agricultural inputs.

Sustainable agriculture depends on the availability of organic soil amendments. By diverting green waste and food scraps into localized composting and anaerobic digestion systems, the State can reduce its reliance on expensive, petroleum-based imported fertilizers while sequestering carbon and improving the water-retention capacity of our soils.

Farmers rely heavily on healthy ecosystems, and the successful implementation of SB2485 could support Hawaii's agricultural sector by promoting waste management practices that sustain and support these vital resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heaivilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

**Comments before
February 4, 2026**
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
IN SUPPORT OF
Senate Bill 2485
Relating to Solid Waste Working Group

Mike Ewall, Esq.
Founder & Director
Energy Justice Network
215-436-9511
mike@energyjustice.net
www.EnergyJustice.net

Aloha Honorable Committee members. Energy Justice Network is a national organization supporting grassroots groups working to transition their communities from polluting and harmful energy and waste management practices to clean energy and zero waste solutions. In Hawai‘i, we’ve been working with residents, members and member groups since our support and involvement was first solicited in 2015.

We support Senate Bill 2485 and ask it be strengthened with these amendments:

- 1) Remove the inappropriate promotion of specific technologies, plasma arc gasification and pyrolysis, by deleting lines 16-18 from page 3. These are incineration technologies that cannot commercially process municipal solid waste, anyway, and have been promoted and have failed repeatedly across the country.
- 2) Make the study scope more specific by charging the working group with obtaining answers to the following:
 - a. the annual operations and maintenance costs and the costs of any capital improvements of each of the three H-POWER units over the past decade and projected over the next decade,
 - b. the expected costs for each of the three H-POWER units of compliance with new federal regulations for Large Municipal Waste Combustors assuming that the January 2024 draft regulations are finalized on March 5, 2026, as currently scheduled [note that EPA’s data shows that H-POWER would have the 4th largest costs of compliance in the industry],
 - c. the cost of the “put-or-pay” fees and any other penalties for shortfalls in waste provided or energy produced over the past decade and projected over the remaining lifetime of the operating contract,
 - d. the amount of waste reduction needed to close the two old burners and rely solely on the third,
 - e. the cost of implementing unit-based pricing (paying per bag for trash disposal) and other zero waste programs to accomplish the required amount of waste reduction on O‘ahu produce no more waste than the third unit at H-POWER can process,
 - f. the cost of building a new landfill,
 - g. the cost of building a new incinerator to replace the two old burners once they retire, assuming that the January 2024 draft regulations for Large Municipal Waste Combustors are adopted,

- h. the cost and legal requirements to ship municipal solid waste back to the continent for landfilling,
- i. the cost of a material recovery and biological treatment system to process municipal solid waste to extract additional recyclables and biologically stabilize the remaining organic fraction prior to landfilling that stabilized residual.

SB-2485

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:53:31 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii strongly supports studying ways to reduce solid waste and consider new technologies.

All of Hawaii's counties have limited landfill capacity currently; we need to produce less trash. Waste handling is expensive for county property taxpayers as well. Reductions in waste volume and better technology (that doesn't involve incineration) could save people money.

Trash is an important climate issue. Landfills produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas about 80 times worse than CO₂ over the critical next 20 years. Oahu incinerates most of its trash, which also adds to climate heating.

It is time to study ways to reduce solid waste.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo!

SB-2485

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:00:58 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GOOD IDEA.

SB-2485

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 7:44:12 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Oppose The City & County of HNL is already setup for this reason.

2485 SB RELATING TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.	AEN	CR 224 & Videoconference	Feb 4, 2026 3:00 PM
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