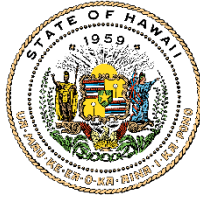


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026
9:40 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2101, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

Senate Bill 2101, Senate Draft 1, establishes statewide goals for reducing solid waste and diverting organic waste. It requires each county to include in its next revision of the integrated solid waste management plan a strategy to cut all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a specified amount of organic waste annually, in line with established state benchmarks. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) submits the following comments.**

Diverting organic materials from the waste stream can help reduce negative impacts on Hawai'i's limited land and natural resources. However, organic and green waste can also become breeding grounds for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), and moving such waste could spread it, posing a serious threat to plants statewide, especially coconuts, landscape palms, and our native loulou palms.

The Department recommends taking measures to limit the transport of CRB host material from infested areas and advises coordinating with the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response (CRB Response). CRB Response is the authority on managing CRB and conducts scientific research on treatment methods. Safety measures should include treating CRB host materials within 48 hours before transport. The safest approach is not to transport these materials at all. Various treatment options are available at: <https://www.crbhawaii.org/treatments-breeding>. Common treatments involve using heat (raising the temperature above 131 degrees F), chipping, or

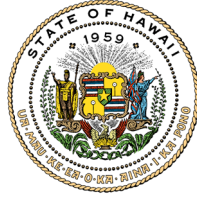
fumigation. It's important to note that untreated green waste can become infested with CRB after treatment.

CRB poses a serious threat to Hawai'i and its natural and cultural resources. The Department, while supportive of organic waste diversion, recommends taking reasonable measures to reduce potential risks if CRB travels with organic waste.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026
9:40 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2101, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE**

Senate Bill 2101, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion and requires each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to reduce all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a specified amount of organic waste per year in alignment with established state benchmarks and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

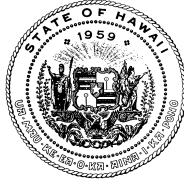
Hawai'i produced 2.5 million tons of solid waste in 2022, with 76% entering landfills. In 2024, 26.4% of the total waste stream was diverted, showing improvement but indicating significant efforts are needed to advance waste diversion. When improperly managed, waste significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, worsening climate change and hindering the State's ability to meet its goal of net-negative carbon emissions by 2045. The State's 2025 *Climate Action Pathways* report indicated that Hawai'i may need to transition toward a more publicly supported or regulated recycling system that is less susceptible to global market forces. It also identified solid waste diversion targets of 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2045. This could involve direct government investment in local processing facilities, guaranteed minimum prices for recycled materials, or stronger Extended Producer Responsibility laws that internalize the costs of

recycling within product pricing, thereby stabilizing the local recycling economy. Funding that significantly increases diversion infrastructure directly addresses both the immediate waste crisis and long-term greenhouse gas reduction targets. Policies that incentivize diversion are no longer merely environmental preferences but have become economic and logistical necessities for the State.

Implementing this will require infrastructure investments in regional material recovery hubs, including advanced sorting facilities, remanufacturing centers, and repair and reuse marketplaces. Other supportive measures include limiting single-use plastic products, clarifying recyclable item manufacturer labeling requirements, and delivering additional recycling awareness campaigns.

Waste reduction and diversion goals would support a circular economy that could significantly reduce Hawai'i's reliance on imported goods while minimizing waste and maximizing resource reuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB2101 SD1
RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date, Time, and Room Number: 03/19/2026, 9:40 am, 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department's) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Solid and Hazardous Waste
6 Branch (EMD-SHWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 This measure would update the statewide goals to reduce the solid waste stream and
8 create new goals to reduce organic waste disposal and eventually divert all organic waste from
9 landfills and incineration by 2038. The new statute would also provide benchmark dates as
10 goals for certain categories of waste generators to divert organic waste and require the
11 counties to incorporate these benchmarks into their next revised integrated solid waste
12 management plans.

13 The Department supports measures that reduce waste contributed to Hawai'i's landfills.
14 However, we have concerns about the timelines in this measure. Under Hawai'i Revised
15 Statutes section 342G-24, the counties shall submit revised integrated solid waste management
16 plans to the Department every ten years. For example, the County of Kaua'i completed a

1 revised plan in 2021 and will not submit another one until 2031. Therefore, it will not be
2 feasible for all counties to incorporate the waste reduction goals in this measure, as some start
3 as early as 2028. The Department recommends extending the dates of the goals and
4 benchmarks in this measure to provide the counties adequate time to update their integrated
5 solid waste management plans and address the goals. We defer to the counties on how much
6 time would be needed.

7 In Section 5 of this measure, the Department also recommends specifying a dollar
8 amount for distribution to the counties, as there is no assurance that the amount requested by
9 the counties for reimbursement will be within the appropriated amount. We defer to the
10 counties on how much funding would be needed to implement this measure. Lastly, the
11 Department is uncertain as to how the funds will be allocated and available for us to reimburse
12 the counties to update their integrated solid waste management plans, given that the plans will
13 be completed after FY2027 (for example, the County of Kaua'i is expected to complete an
14 updated plan in 2031).

15 **Offered Amendments:** Amendments offered below only reference sections or portions of the
16 measure where we are making recommendations for revision and do not include language for
17 the establishment of funding. We have highlighted and bracketed text that we recommend
18 adding to this measure. All other amendments are unchanged.

19 Section 3. Page 4, Line 16 through Line 20: “Organic waste” means any material that is
20 compostable or biodegradable, **does not contain contaminants detrimental to human health**
21 **and the environment,** and is derived from either a plant or an animal, and includes green
22 waste, food waste, food-soiled paper that is acceptable for food storage, and untreated and
23 unpainted wood waste.”

24 The Department recommends incorporating protectiveness of human health and the
25 environment into the definition of “organic waste.” The proposed definition of “organic waste”

1 is broad and could include biosolids and food packaging that may contain per- and
2 polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or other additives, which require further study.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 18, 2026

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Conference Room 325
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 2101 SD1- Relating to Organic Waste

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is North America's leading authority on compostable products and packaging, certifying over 50,000 products from collection bags to food containers. For more than two decades, BPI has given composters and consumers confidence in compostability claims with the backing of science-based standards, while enabling authentically sustainable choices for brands and packagers. BPI champions a systems-wide transition to the circular bioeconomy through rigorous testing, policy advocacy, and industry collaboration, building the infrastructure for "A World Without Organic Waste"—where food scraps and certified compostable packaging become resources. BPI is a non-profit 501(c)(6). To learn more, visit www.bpiworld.org and follow us on LinkedIn.

BPI appreciates the opportunity to comment on the amended version of Senate Bill 2101 (SD1). We appreciate the Legislature's efforts to advance organic waste diversion and reduce landfill disposal across Hawaii. BPI supports policies that expand food scrap collection and composting infrastructure. Certified compostable products can play an important role in these systems by helping to capture and divert food waste that would otherwise be landfilled, particularly in institutional and food service settings.

We respectfully note, however, that the bill's inclusion of the term "biodegradable" within the definition of organic waste may create confusion when applied to products and materials. The term "biodegradable" does not specify the conditions, timeframe, or extent of material breakdown and is not consistently tied to enforceable standards that ensure complete decomposition in real-world environments.



As Hawaii works to expand composting systems, clear and consistent terminology will be critical to minimizing contamination and ensuring program success. Materials marketed as “biodegradable” but not designed for composting environments can disrupt processing systems and reduce the quality of finished compost.

To support the effective implementation of this bill, we recommend prioritizing the use of the term “compostable” when referring to products, defined as:

“Compostable” means products that are certified by an independent third-party organization to meet applicable ASTM standards, including ASTM D6400 and ASTM D6868.

This approach will help ensure that materials accepted in composting programs are designed to break down fully and safely, supporting Hawaii’s waste diversion and environmental goals.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for considering our comments. BPI welcomes the opportunity to discuss these topics in more detail. Please reach out with any questions or to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Ismat Yassin
Senior Government Affairs Manager
Ismat.Yassin@BPIworld.org



Aloha Chair and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

As the state's longest standing and most actively involved organization dedicated to preventing waste, Recycle Hawaii submits this testimony in strong support of this bill.

Establishing a system that captures organic materials and processes them in ways that enrich our soils is the single most important thing any of us—from government to individual households— can do to protect the environment and support food security.

We are so very pleased to see the state providing leadership and taking this critical first step towards establishing such a system. We understand fully that most of the work that lies ahead must be done by the counties and organizations like ours working closely with food producers. We stand ready to take on that challenge and are grateful to the state legislators who are effectively putting their faith in us by passing this bill.

Mahalo,

Kristine Kubat
Executive Director
Recycle Hawaii
808-747-4246
director@recyclehawaii.org



Date: March 18, 2026

To: Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents (HECA)

Re: SB2101 SD1 – Relating to Organic Waste

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of HECA submits testimony in support of SB2101 SD1 – Relating to Organic Waste, which advances statewide efforts to reduce solid waste and expand organic waste diversion.

Given Hawaii’s limited landfill capacity, reducing the volume of material sent for disposal is essential. SB2101 SD1 establishes clear, phased benchmarks for organic waste diversion and requires counties to incorporate these strategies into their integrated solid waste management plans, creating a coordinated, statewide approach.

By prioritizing diversion and reducing reliance on disposal systems, this measure supports more efficient and sustainable materials management. We respectfully urge passage of SB2101 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

~Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of HECA

Lindsey Sabec-Kozuma



To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, the Honorable Vice Chair Amy Perruso and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB2101 SD1 RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.**

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2026 9:40 a.m. CR325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2101 SD1!**

"Organic waste" means any material that is compostable or biodegradable and is derived from either a plant or an animal, and includes green waste, food waste, food-soiled paper that is acceptable for food storage, and untreated and unpainted wood waste. Organic waste is

particularly a climate issue because, as it decays in a landfill, it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas approximately 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over the next twenty years.

This bill would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by establishing statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion, 40% by 2028, 70% by 2033, and 100% by 2038. Setting goals does not necessarily mean that they will be met. But the goals do signal to the counties and the public the direction the State wishes to move.

This bill requires plans as well as goals. Each county is required to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to reduce all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a specified amount of organic waste per year in alignment with established state benchmarks.

Organic waste shouldn't be dumped in a landfill or incinerated, which also releases greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. There are alternatives. For example, the City and County of Honolulu has announced that starting April 1, 2026, it will start accepting food waste in its green bins in selected areas.

Every county has limited landfill capacity and difficulty siting future landfills. Reducing organic waste going to the landfill will conserve landfill capacity.

Please pass this bill to help reduce waste going to landfills, conserve landfill capacity, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i !

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

TO: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)

ATTN: Representative Amy A. Perry so

FROM: Noah Dodd, Hawaii Green Earth

DATE: March 18, 2026

RE: Technical Testimony regarding SB2485 and SB2101 (Biosecurity & Soil Integrity)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THE BIOSECURITY VACUUM

As a 20-year agricultural professional and land manager, I am submitting this technical brief to address a critical "biosecurity vacuum" in the current organic waste diversion strategies (SB2101) and the proposed Solid Waste Working Group (SB2485).

Our technical review—anchored by specialists in Veterinary Biosecurity, Entomology, and Soil Science—identifies two primary biological liabilities that the House must address before the March 19th hearing.

1. THE "TOXIC SLURRY" LIABILITY (ANAEROBIC DIGESTATE)

While anaerobic digestion is marketed as a "green" solution, the functional mechanics produce a liquid digestate (slurry) that is a concentrated biological risk.

Pathogen Loading: Current systems do not guarantee the destruction of persistent pathogens or avian/livestock viruses.

Nitrate Concentration: This slurry creates a high-risk nitrate profile that, if applied to island soils without strict oversight, poses a direct threat to our groundwater and livestock water tables.

Requirement: We demand that SB2101 include mandatory Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and biosecurity testing for all liquid byproducts of organic diversion.

2. COMBUSTION TOXICITY & PUBLIC HEALTH (BIOGAS)

The push for biogas-powered public transit (buses) is a "tailpipe-first" strategy that ignores public health.

NOx Emissions: Burning biogas in urban/district lines releases nitrogen oxides (NOx) and fine particulates into local neighborhoods.

Alternative: We advocate for District-Level Bioconversion that focuses on soil restoration and carbon sequestration rather than high-heat combustion in residential zones.

3. SB2485 WORKING GROUP: OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT

The Solid Waste Working Group must include "boots-on-the-ground" mechanics who manage the actual biological cycles of the land.

The Need: Policy consultants cannot account for the intersection of invasive species (e.g., Rhino Beetle) and soil health.

The Offer: Hawaii Green Earth and our technical advisory team are prepared to provide the functional blueprint for a district-by-district bioconversion rollout that protects Hawaii's food sovereignty and biosecurity.

SUBMITTED BY:

Noah Dodd -Principal, Hawaii Green Earth Regenerative Land Management & Consultant



House Committee on Energy & Environment Protections

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2101 SD1

Thursday, March 19th, 2026 9:40 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB2101 SD1 which establishes statewide goals for solid waste reduction and organic waste diversion. This bill would require each county to incorporate into its next integrated solid waste management plan revision a plan to reduce all organic waste produced within the county by facilities generating more than a specified amount of organic waste per year in alignment with established state benchmarks.

Diverting “organic waste” as defined in the legislation enables reducing the amount of ‘ōpala that would enter our landfills. Instead, this creates an opportunity to create an agricultural input in our communities. Mandating diversion within 20 miles of the source creates opportunities for more operators who are closer to their producers, reducing the spread of organic material and creating a source of valuable farming amendments near the producers who use them. This supports agricultural infrastructure for producers while minimizing the potential spread of invasives, diseases, and other pests.

As we advocate for the diversion of landfills in our communities, advocating for the creation of a county and constituents approved recycling, bioconversion, and organic waste diversion centers provides an alternative path. To sincerely execute plans we support the proposed timelines so that counties have time to do due diligence in the process of selecting a site and requesting permits.

Please support SB2101.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



March 17th, 2026

To: Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Subject: **SB2101 SD1, Relating to Organic Waste**

Hawai'i Food + Policy strongly supports SB2101 SD1, which establishes critical benchmarks for organic waste diversion in the State of Hawai'i. This legislation is a vital step toward aligning our state's waste management practices with the Aloha+ Challenge and United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

As noted in recent committee reports, there is an urgent need for waste reduction, as every county in the State faces limited landfill capacity and significant challenges in siting new facilities. Furthermore, organic waste in landfills is a major source of greenhouse gases, which directly impedes our state's climate mitigation policies. By establishing a state goal to reduce the solid waste stream by seventy percent by 2030, SB2101 SD1 ensures we remain accountable to our sustainability commitments.

We support the tiered approach moved into the integrated solid waste management plan components in the SD1 version. This strategic schedule targets waste generators based on their volume:

- Tier 1 (By 2028): Large-scale entities like wholesale food vendors, supermarkets, and hotels
- Tier 2 (By 2033): Mid-sized generators, including restaurants and schools
- Total Diversion (By 2038): A complete ban on organic waste, including from single-family residences, from entering landfills and cogeneration plants

The bill's focus on bioconversion is essential for Hawaii's food system. By defining "organic waste" to include food waste, green waste, and food-soiled paper, the bill treats these materials as valuable resources rather than trash. Requiring counties to assess the feasibility of processing materials like animal manure and food wastes into beneficial products like compost supports the soil fertility necessary for local food production and reduces our reliance on imported fertilizers.

Finally, we support the requirement for counties to incorporate these benchmarks into their integrated solid waste management plans. The appropriation of funds to the Department of Health to reimburse counties for these planning costs is critical to ensuring our local governments have the resources for a successful transition.

Hawai'i Food + Policy urges the committee to pass SB2101 SD1 to secure a more sustainable and resilient future for our islands.

Mahalo,
Carlin McFadden & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



LATE

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawaii

East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii

Gina Lind
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimanalo, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, Oahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

The Hawaii 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 strongly supports SB2101.**

SB2101 is a critical step toward securing Hawaii's agricultural future by transforming organic waste into essential soil fertility. By establishing mandatory diversion goals, this bill provides the consistent feedstock needed to scale up local compost production. Currently, Hawaii's farmers are often dependent on imported soil amendments and fertilizers, leaving our food system vulnerable to global supply chain shocks and rising costs. SB2101 promises to recapture thousands of tons of organic material annually, closing the loop to create a stable, island-based nutrient cycle that treats waste as a valuable agricultural asset.

To ensure these diversion mandates are practical for local businesses, we recommend that the counties be required to define a specific proximity radius for diversion within their integrated solid waste management plans. This approach is successfully pioneered by Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, which mandates diversion only when a processing facility is located within a specific distance from the waste generator. By adopting this localized strategy, Hawaii can foster a decentralized network of composting and bioconversion facilities. This prevents unreasonable transportation costs for businesses, minimizes the biosecurity risks of moving organic matter between regions, and ensures that organic waste is treated as a resource for the benefit of all Hawaii's farmers and the 'aina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union

SB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:16:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2026 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that is a step towards promoting good waste management practices. We will all benefit from identifying and taking steps to reduce the solid waste that currently often ends up in our landfills, or is incinerated, resulting in pollution that harms our communities and the climate. If we were to divert local food waste and green scraps through composting and anaerobic digestion, the state can slash its reliance on costly, climate-harming imported petrochemical fertilizers, while simultaneously storing carbon and increasing soil moisture retention.

To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 18, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2101 SD1
Measure Title: RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.
Report Title: Department of Health; Counties; Solid Waste Reduction; Organic
Waste Diversion; Benchmarks; Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2101 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:25:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2026 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal is largely ineffective if not implemented until 2050.

It should be set to start immedietly as soon as passed.