

**SB-2101-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:54:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2101 SD1

Dana Keawe

**SB-2101-SD-1**

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Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2101 SB RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE.

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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 Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
10:55 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**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.



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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 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 heavily dependent on imported fertilizers and soil amendments, 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 'āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union