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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 5, 2018
10:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1577 HD1 PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO COMPOSTING**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1577 HD1 Proposed SD2. This appropriates money to the Department to establish a 3-year compost reimbursement pilot program and creates a manager position. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department believes that agricultural costs to do business in the State continue to burden many local farmers and ranchers in the State. From Federal Food Safety regulations to production costs, agriculturalists will need the State's help to address various challenges while at the same time increasing Hawaii's agricultural production. This bill seeks to incentivize, with a 50% State match, compost material to local farmers and ranchers, providing an affordable option for agricultural production. The Department would like to note that we will need initial time to develop and hire the program manager to administer the compost reimbursement pilot program along with any forms associated with the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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April 5, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TESTIMONY ON HB 1577, HD1, PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB stands in support of HB 1577, HD1, PROPOSED SD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State. This measure also establishes a compost reimbursement pilot program manager position.

HFB believes the compost reimbursement pilot program under the DOA, would alleviate operational cost for farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1577-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 6:22:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1577 HD1 SD2** relating to a Compost Reimbursement Pilot Program; Compost Reimbursement Pilot Program Manager; Report; Department of Agriculture; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1577 HD1 SD2** and supports its passage.

HB1577 HD1 SD2, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State; establishes a compost reimbursement pilot program manager position; requires the department to report to the legislature; and repeals 12/31/21.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable

crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-86 (2016)).

We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents. (Platform of DPH, P. 3, Lines 115-116 (2016)).

Given that **HB1577 HD1 SD2** appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a three-year compost reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers when purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State; establishes a compost reimbursement pilot program manager position; requires the department to report to the legislature; and repeals 12/31/21, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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