



**SB878 SD1**  
**RELATING TO WASTERWATER**  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

March 17, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Room 325

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB878 SD1, which authorizes the use of composting toilets to meet the wastewater needs of rural and other areas.

OHA believes that this measure has the potential to reduce human waste impacts on coastlines, undeveloped areas of cultural significance, and rural regions where many of our beneficiaries reside. Particularly in rural areas and properties where septic and municipal sewer infrastructure may be costly or impractical to install, composting toilets may, in some cases, be an environmentally-friendly and cost-effective means to meet local wastewater needs.

OHA appreciates the amendments made to this measure, in allowing counties to determine the most appropriate circumstances under which composting toilets may be installed. In some cases, what could be defined as “composting toilets” may be inappropriate or ineffective for properly treating or dealing with human waste. For example, composting toilets in areas with a high amount of human activity may not be able to sufficiently process the volume of waste that they may receive, after installation. In addition, this measure’s broad definition of “composting toilet,” as any facility that uses “natural processes,” appears broad enough to encompass any toilet design that does not use synthetic chemicals to treat raw sewage, regardless of any environmental or hygienic considerations. Allowing counties to draw upon their localized and subject matter expertise in evaluating and approving composting toilet proposals will best ensure that composting toilets are appropriately designed and installed.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB878 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 12:24 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB878 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM

**SB878**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 878, SD1, relating to WASTEWATER, which authorizes the counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines "composting toilets". (SB 878, SD1)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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lowen2-Thomas

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 1:14 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB878 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM\*

**SB878**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:12 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB878 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM

**SB878**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A laudable solution to outdoors defecation and urination, instead of go to the bush or behind a tree to do it.

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