

HB2648 HD2
Relating to Food Waste Disposal
Tue, March 22, 2016

LATE

Aloha Senators Baker and Wakai and Members of the Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Zero Waste Kauai, a local non-profit on Kauai promoting sustainable solid waste management practices, strongly supports the proposed plan to reduce the disposal of Foodwaste in Hawaii. Numerous other states and municipalities have also initiated Foodwaste “bans” and are already seeing the benefits of keeping putrescible waste out of landfills.

HB2648 HD2 attempts to lay the groundwork for such a program, however by removing language specifying implementation schedules and diversion goals, the current version of the Bill may end up being little more than another “study”.

The Senate EET should consider reinstating some of the earlier language establishing diversion requirements and dates. At least the bill should set goals that the Advisory Committee would be tasked with implementing.

ZWK would recommend initial goals of compliance by all large generators (>1 ton / week) by 2022 and by all mid-range generators (>1 ton/mth) by 2025.

Regarding the structure of the Advisory Committee:

- The collection and processing of foodwaste and other organics does not necessarily require the same skills involved in the operation of a Materials Recovery Facility (which focuses on clean paper and containers). In designating the committee members, rather than including a “representative from the solid waste collection industry, who shall own or operate a material recovery facility” The industry member should be an operator or owner of an organic materials processing facility (composting, anaerobic digestion, etc);
- In addition the makeup of the Advisory Committee should include at least one member of the Environmental community (Sierra Club, Surfrider, Blue Planet, etc.);
- And for a foodwaste diversion program to be truly successful, “feeding the people” needs to have a high priority. A representative from soup kitchens and/or foodbank programs should be part of the discussion.

If any diversion effort is to be successful and achieve results within a reasonable time frame, adequate staff resources and funds are necessary. For FY 2017 the legislature should include funding for an additional Recycling Specialist within the Solid & Hazardous waste Branch to oversee the development of the plan, draft regulations, and provide technical support and outreach and education.

In addition, it would be beneficial, if while the overall implementation strategy was being developed one or more demonstration programs could be conducted using facilities with existing capacity and permits to manage foodwaste. We would recommend \$200,000 per year to carry out these efforts.

Again, this effort to keep organics from disposal could provide multiple benefits to solid waste operations, local agriculture, solving the problem of the hungry, and doing something to address the growing issue of climate change. Please pass out this proposal with modifications to insure it is successful.

Mahalo for your consideration;
John Harder
Zero Waste Kauai



LATE

March 22, 2016

To: The Chairs and members of the EET & CPH Committees

Position: Strong Support for HB 2648 HD2 (Relating to Commercial Organic Waste)

Dear Chairs Wakai & Baker, Vice Chairs Kidani & Slom, and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters, our RAP Coalition and thousands of members across the state, I am writing in strong support of HB 2648 HD2. We worked with many groups to help sponsor the bill, which will reduce the amount of food waste going to landfills and incinerators by diverting it to food distribution centers and composting or clean energy facilities.

Along with setting general guidelines for food waste reduction, the bill will create an Advisory Council. Their mission will be to study successful models in other states, work with the counties to come up with practical solutions and create incentives to encourage the development of food recycling facilities in Hawaii. This law has the potential to create more opportunity for local businesses to recycle food waste and reduce our state's carbon footprint.

At a time when homelessness and hunger is on the rise, it's hard to conceive that food waste is the second largest component in our waste stream, making up 25% of all materials sent to our landfills (according to the EPA and USDA). The EPA has established a hierarchy of food waste disposal methods and calls for landfilling and incineration to be the lowest priority below: source reduction, feeding the hungry, livestock production and creating compost for healthy soils.

Food disposed in our landfills rots and contributes to producing methane gas - a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Yet recycling food waste and turning it into compost has high environmental benefits such as improving soil health, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides. It has been demonstrated that applying compost and organic matter to soils sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating climate change. Besides, incinerating wet food waste is a waste of energy.

Reducing GHG emissions in Hawai'i through food waste diversion will move Hawai'i towards our Aloha+ Challenge commitment of 70% waste stream reduction by 2025. We believe a diverse and expert Advisory Council will find ways to divert safe and healthy food to food banks and help feed Hawaii's hungry and address the 1 in 7 households that are food insecure. They will also create guidelines and incentives to create more composting facilities and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Along with Surfrider, the RAP Coalition and many other groups, we ask you to support HB 2648 HD2. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager



wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 5:38 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: jodimalinoski@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2648 on Mar 22, 2016 10:00AM*

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HB2648

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for EET/CPH on Mar 22, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Malinoski	Rise Above Plastics-Surfrider Oahu Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

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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