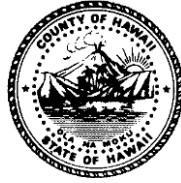


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 14, 2022

Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lowen,

The Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawai'i strongly encourages the committee to support HB 1992, HD1. The bill's intent is in concurrence with our County's efforts associated with the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The County of Hawai'i was very fortunate to be one of 60 regional cluster finalists (out of more than 520 applicants) selected in 10 different clusters. Our efforts are focused on creating a strong agricultural economy that corrects past systemic barriers to growth that are unique to an island market, while also helping Hawai'i Island respond to economic downturns due to the pandemic and natural disasters.

Composting is a robust means to abate climate change, save valuable landfill space, support local farmers/ agriculture, and build resilience for our island home, especially in light of the recent supply chain issues we are currently experiencing. We must support our farmers to enable them to lessen our dependence on food shipped from outside the State of Hawai'i. This ever-increasing volatility in the supply chain can be mitigated in part by supporting our farmers through increasing composting through this legislation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HB 1992, HD1.

Sincerely,

Ramzi Mansour
Director