



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:00 am

By

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And

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And

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### HB 2586 – RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2586, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui.

The high cost of imported fertilizer and soil amendments is a significant impediment to the agricultural community. Food waste, particularly in a state with a very large number of retail food establishments serving the tourist industry, also poses significant disposal problems in Hawai'i, and is a wasted resource. HB 2586 would create a pilot project on Maui to recycle such food waste into low cost fertilizer. Due to the infrastructure needs to establish such a project, the Department of Agriculture is the appropriate lead agency, but we expect that College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) staff will engage with the Department and the farming community, as resources permit, to further this pilot project.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2586.