UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:45 pm
By
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And
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SB 2138 – RELATING TO NUTRIENT CYCLING

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2138, 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 Hawaiʻi, and is a wasted resource. SB 2138 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 SB 2138.