State:	State of Hawai‘i	**Solid Waste Issue:**	Organics – food waste, green waste, and untreated wood
Population (2020 Census):	1.45 million		
Last Update to ISWMP:	2000;		
Waste Characterization Data:	According to the 2000 ISWMP, approximately 133,876 tons of food waste and 192,795 tons of green waste were disposed Statewide in 1998.		

Overview:

As organic material decomposes in landfills, it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas (GHG). In order to address these environmental and public health impacts, organics management must be taken into consideration. The Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan identifies specific goals to establish long-term plans for Hawai‘i’s sustainable future. Goal 2, Strategic Action 1, sets targets to increase production and consumption of local foods and products, particularly agricultural products. The State is also committed to considering the social cost of GHG emissions across relevant policy and decision-making processes.[1]

The DOH defines green waste as solid waste that includes leaves, grass clippings, garden and yard waste, tree trunks, holiday trees, tree trimmings, and/or prunings.[2] HAR 11-58.1-65 requires solid waste disposal facilities to have a plan to ban or require source separation of green waste from entering the disposal facility. The plans must detail requirements for a 75 percent diversion rate of all commercially generated green waste and fifty percent of all residential green waste. If diversion rates are not met, commercial and residential green waste shall be banned from the facility.

The source separation of organics helps to divert it from entering landfills where it would decompose, release methane gas, and pollute the air impacting the climate. While each of the counties have established options for green waste collection, residential and commerical food scraps collection options are limited. According to researchers from the University of Hawai‘i, the average person in Hawai‘i discards approximately 356 pounds of food annually. Over 26 percent of the available food supply, valued at over $1 billion, is discarded in Hawai‘i each year.[4] Furthermore, an average of 12.8 percent of households experienced food insecurity statewide in 2019 (approximately 2 percent above the national rate).[5] This equates to approximately 162,200 people (1 out of 9 people).

The Hawai‘i Green Business Program is a free, state program that assists and recognizes businesses such as resorts and hotels, offices and retail spaces, restaurants and food service facilities, and green events that aim to operate in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. One of the program’s missions is to help businesses reduce waste.

Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Emergency Food Assistance Program, USDA-donated food and administrative funds to states. In FY 2018, the state of Hawai‘i received $176,308 in administrative funds and $894,346 in USDA-donated food.[6]

	Each of the counties encourage residents to compost at home. In all islands, some food scraps are donated to pig farms. In 2017, it was estimated that approximately 226 pig farms existed within the State.[7]
Legislative Actions and State Statute	**HRS 342G-1** defines "composting" as a process in which organic solid wastes, such as biosolids (sewage sludge), green or yard waste materials, manures, and non-treated wood chips and shavings, are biologically decomposed and stabilized under controlled conditions to produce a stable humus-like mulch or soil amendment. The term includes the processing of organic and untreated wood waste materials for the generation of wood chips or other materials that can be used as soil amendment, planting mixes, mulches for horticultural and agricultural applications, landfill cover, and land reclamation. **Act 302 (2022)** was passed to permanently establish and appropriate funds for a compost reimbursement program and compost reimbursement program manager position within the department of agriculture.[10] The program was established to assist farming and landscaping operations in meeting the cost of purchasing compost from a certified processor, dealer, retailer, or wholesaler licensed to do business in the State.
Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR):	**HAR 11-58.1** - *"Composting" means a process in which organic solid wastes, such as biosolids (sewage sludge), green or yard waste materials, manures, and non-treated wood chips and shavings, are biologically decomposed and stabilized under controlled conditions to produce a stable humus-like mulch or soil amendment. This term includes the processing of organic and non-treated wood waste materials for the generation of wood chips or other materials that can be used as soil amendment, planting mixes, mulches for horticultural and agricultural applications, landfill cover, and land reclamation. The process of composting under methods approved by the department is a recycling activity. Land application of uncomposted organic solid waste shall not be considered an approved solid waste management activity except as a portion of the United States Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service approved Land Improvement, Soil Stabilization or Reclamation Plan.* **HAR 11-58.1-65** requires solid waste disposal facilities to develop a plan to ban source-separated green waste from entering the disposal facility. The plans must meet a 75 percent diversion rate for all commercially generated green waste and fifty percent for all residential green waste. Commercial and residential green waste shall be banned from the facility if diversion rates are not met. Through **HAR Title 11-60.1.21**, the Department of Health's Clean Air Branch has updated and initiated GHG emission rules and emissions caps to implement the goals set forth in **Act 234**. These administrative rules further require the DOH to conduct annual evaluations to determine progress in achieving the statewide GHG emissions limit.
Federal Government:	The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S. Code §1791) is federal act that protects individuals who donate and distribute food products from civil and criminal liability when certain criteria are met. The purpose of the act is to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to those in need. Originally passed in 1996, the bill was amended by the Food Donation and Improvement Act in 2022, which expanded liability protection. While not federally regulated, some state and local governments have established organic waste disposal bans.
Estimated Annual Generation and Diversion:	**Estimated Generation:** According to the 2000 ISWMP, approximately 389 pounds of green waste were generated per person each year.

	Diversion: According to the 2000 ISWMP, approximately 82,493 tons of organic waste (68,567 tons of green waste/wood waste and 13,926 tons of food waste) were diverted statewide.
Number of Permitted Collectors and Recyclers/Processors:	As of 2019, there are 15 DOH certified compost producers in the state of Hawai'i.[11] • Hawai'i: 4 • Honolulu: 7 • Kaua'i: 4 • Maui: 4 (2 Maui, 1 Molokai, 1 Lanai)
Material Management Complaints:	*From 2018-2023 there were 39 complaints involving either composting, green waste, or food waste.*
Advance Disposal Fee (ADF):	There is no Statewide disposal fee for organics. Currently, some composting businesses charge a tipping fee to accept green waste.
Solid Waste Stream Issue Management	Organics (i.e., food waste, green waste, and untreated wood) comprise a significant portion of Hawai'i's waste stream. When disposed of in landfills, organics generate methane as they decompose. This is problematic as methane is up to 36 percent more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere, making it a large contributor to global warming. While mulching and composting exist for untreated wood and green waste, outlets to manage food waste are limited. In addition, while Americans dispose of millions of tons of food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that about 13.7 million households are food insecure as of 2018. Concurrently, millions of tons of food are being discarded, including food that could be donated to foodbanks.
Industry Expert Speaker(s):	Marvin Min, Senior Vice President of Hawaiian Earth Recycling Email: marvin.min@hawaiianearth.com Phone: (808) 682-5895 Sean Anderson and Greg Williams, Co-Founders of Full Circle Farms Email: sean@fullcirclesolutionshi.com, connect@fullcirclesolutionshi.com Phone: (415) 717-0309

[1] Climate Change Portal (hawaii.gov)
[2] What is Green Waste? (hawaii.gov)
[4] Reducing Food Waste in Hawaii: A Primer (hawaii.edu)
[5] Aloha Challenge – Local Food Production & Consumption (hawaii.gov)
[6] Office of Community Services (OCS) | The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) (hawaii.gov)
[7] Resources for Renewable Natural Gas Production in Hawai'i (hawaii.edu)
[10] Gov. Msg. No. 1431(hawaii.gov)
[11] Hawaii Department of Health Certified Compost Producers (hawaii.gov)