County:	Hawai‘i	**Solid Waste Issue:**	Organics – food waste, green waste, and untreated wood
Population (2020 Census):	201,000		
Last Update to SWMP:	2019		
Waste Characterization Data:	According to the 2008 Waste Composition Study, approximately 34,230 tons of food (16.3 percent of total waste composition) and 15,858 tons of green waste (7.6 percent of total waste composition) were disposed. Approximately 22,984 tons of clean and treated lumber (10.9 percent of total waste composition) were disposed. There is no County-wide waste characterization data available on untreated wood separately.		
Waste Diversion Data:	In 2022, approximately 36,364 tons of green waste were diverted from the landfills.[1] There is no County-wide diversion data available on food waste and untreated wood.		
County Ordinances:	In 2005, Ordinance 05-27 adopted a 25 percent ($21.25 per ton) of the landfill disposal fee for source-separated green waste and acceptable organics. This was formerly codified in 2015 as HCC 20-49(a)(2)(B) and implemented on July 1, 2015.[2] In 2008, the County approved Council Resolution No. 826-08, an ordinance that prohibits paper and compostable organics from County Landfills by 2012. As a result, the County contracted a private contractor to construct two mulch operation sites: The East Hawai‘i Organics Facility (EHOF) in Hilo, and the West Hawai‘i Organics Facility (WHOF). During FY 2016–17, a Notice to Proceed was approved for the construction of the facilities, and they are both now fully operational.[3] The County of Hawai‘i, Department of Environmental Management’s “Rules of Practices and Procedures” establishes operating rules that customers must follow as further described below:[4] **Transfer Stations –** • **SW Rule 2-5-13**: *Customers shall not put green waste into solid waste chutes at transfer stations that offer green waste collection, except green waste that is classified as an invasive species.* • **SW Rule 2-5-19**: *Except for palm fronds, no green waste items, including logs and branches, shall exceed 3 feet in length or 1 foot in diameter. Not more than one load per day shall be allowed unless approved in advance by the director.* **Organics Facilities –** • **SW Rule 2-6-4:** *All business, government agency and non-profit agency green waste customers shall have a current Solid Waste Facility Disposal Permit.*		
Overview:	Presently, the County of Hawai‘i does not provide curbside trash or recycling collection services.[5] Instead, there are private entities island-wide that provide collection services. Most collection services offered within the County include both trash and recycling, and many offer green waste services. Organics (i.e., yard and food waste) collection services are offered for different collection service frequencies including weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and seasonally.[6] The County has been providing green waste diversion services for over nearly two decades and has successfully diverted over 348,000 tons of green waste in the past ten years.[7] Residential green waste may be dropped off at County collection bins, which are located at several recycling and transfer stations. The collected material is hauled to the East Hawai‘i Organics Facility or West Hawai‘i Organics Facility for processing into mulch.		

The County contracts with Hawai‘ian Earth Recycling to operate, maintain, and recycle green waste at the East Hawai‘i Organics Facility and West Hawai‘i Organics Facility.[8] Residents and businesses may drop off their green waste at either of the two facilities. Acceptable items at these facilities include palm fronds, leaves, trees, shrubs, bushes and hedge cuttings, grass clippings, untreated and unpainted wood pallets, logs, branches or other material less than 18 inches in diameter or 5 feet in length. Some unacceptable items include lumber and food waste from businesses, farms or nonprofits. For commercial food discard service, businesses and restaurants located in Kona may contact Wai‘aha Farms. In 2017, it was estimated that approximately 93 pig farms existed within the County.[9]

Despite these organics recycling options, an estimated 147,000 tons of green waste were dumped in the landfills in the last decade (approximately 28 percent of the total green waste generated).

In 2016, a contract was signed with Hawai‘ian Earth Recycling for the operation of a compost facility that can process organics (including food waste). Hawai‘i County also approved over $10 million for the development of the new composting facility. According to the County ISWMP, the facility was planned for operation beginning in 2020. However, the operation date has been postponed, and a new operation date has not yet been identified.

Once additional recycling opportunities become available, the County may consider requiring residents and businesses to participate in recycling and composting programs.[10]

Recycle Hawai‘i is an organization that offers a Backyard Composting Program to locals on Hawai‘i Island.

According to the 2019 ISWMP, the County plans to:

- Add food waste drop-off locations at recycling and transfer stations that are already collecting green waste.
- Add organics/yard waste disposal to existing brochures/signage.
- Increase the number of drop-off locations for green waste and/or food waste at recycling and transfer stations.
- Evaluate organics collection programs, including a residential curbside collection program for trash and recycling and transfer station drop-off facilities. As part of this evaluation, perform pilot food waste demonstration projects with the potential for eventual expansion into full-scale food waste management program.

County Programs & Funding:	N/A
Estimated Annual Material Type Generation:	There is no Countywide information on organics generation.
Permitted Collectors and Recyclers/Processors:	**Green Waste Mulching Facilities (commercial and residential):**[11] • East Hawai‘i Organics Facility • West Hawai‘i Organics Facility

	Green Waste Receiving Facilities (residential): • Ke'ei Recycling & Transfer Station • Kea'au Recycling and Transfer Station • Kealakehe (Kailua - Kona) Recycling and Transfer Station • Pāhoa Recycling and Transfer Station • Volcano Recycling and Transfer Station • Waimea Recycling & Transfer Station
News Articles:	*Spectrum News*: "What happens to Hawai'i Island's trash and recyclables?"
Solid Waste Management Issue Statement: (County to provide statement regarding the management of this material type.)	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.
County Solid Waste Stream Issue Statement and Potential Solutions: (County to provide issue statement and potential solutions regarding the management of this material category.)	**Issue Statement** – N/A **Potential Solutions** – N/A

[1] Hawai'i Island Sustainability Dashboard (hawaiicounty.gov)
[2] 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[3] 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[4] 23-04-19 Env Mgt Rules of Practice and Procedure - Final.pdf (hawaiicounty.gov)
[5] Who picks up my recycling and where is it processed? (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[6] 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[7] Greenwaste & Food Discards (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[8] What happens to Hawaii Island's trash and recyclables? (spectrumlocalnews.com)
[9] Resources for Renewable Natural Gas Production in Hawai'i (hawaii.edu)
[10] 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (hawaiizerowaste.org)
[11] Greenwaste & Food Discards - County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (hawaiizerowaste.org)