

Keeping It Green



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Paul J. Buklarewicz

Message from the Executive Director

"ON THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE"

Hopefully you all had a wonderful holiday season and are now into fulfilling your resolutions to foster justice, love, compassion, peace and tolerance wherever you go and to whomever you meet.

One resolution, proposed by Council member Margaret Wille (District 9 N. & S. Kohala), was passed unanimously by the Hawai'i County Council on December 17, 2014. Resolution 23-14 – TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY BY NAMING 2015 AS "THE YEAR OF COMPOST"

Here in part, is testimony I submitted along with many other farmers and home-compost advocates in support of this resolution:

I have served as executive director for Recycle Hawai'i since 2003, a non-profit educational organization that has for over a decade provided contract services to the County of Hawai'i's Department of Environmental Management (COH-DEM), including nearly 300 composting education workshops for households, students and businesses to learn how to reduce the flow of organics to the island's landfills.

As a resident home-owner in Volcano for over 20 years, I can attest that I have never deposited green waste or vegetable kitchen scraps for disposal into the County's residential rubbish chutes destined for the Hilo landfill, but have put those materials back onto the land to supplement, nourish and build soil needed to grow vegetable and ornamentals.

An estimated one-third of organics currently flowing into the island's landfills could be better utilized to create nutritional additives to improve growing conditions towards agricultural diversity and sustainability for the growing population of this island. Emerging markets throughout the world are dealing with wastes generated by burgeoning populations that continue to "take, make, waste" by implementing the use of effective microbes (EMs) in breaking down solid waste. This island community should continue to make forward-looking efforts to deal with organic discards, including fats, bones and dairy resources which by some estimates amount up to two-thirds of the current waste stream

on this island. Utilizing modern composting methods for home, farms and food service businesses is a sustainable means of dealing with the majority of the solid waste generated in Hawai'i.

Designating 2015 as the "Year of Compost" will benefit the Hawai'i Island community by:

- Educating the public on the County's stated Zero Waste goals to reduce the amounts of organics being deposited in landfills by informing residents how they can reduce solid waste disposal by composting kitchen scraps, yard cuttings, paper, cardboard, and other compostable materials that would normally be sent to transfer station chutes.
- Promoting green waste reduction and landfill diversion of organics by encouraging residential and business composting of grounds cuttings and kitchen scraps island-wide.

Congratulations on the unanimous acceptance of this laudable resolution by our County Council.

Recycle Hawai'i's "Composting is Recycling, Too!" program began in 2003 with workshop participants receiving Presto Hoops to start their home composting operations. Generous grants came from The Bill Healy Foundation via proceeds from the Kona Brewers' Festival, where sort stations initiated by RH continue to make it the largest zero waste annual event on the island.



Waimea Country School teacher Mary Doty and kindergarten students compost in their school garden. Photo credit: Amy Salling

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Recycle Hawai'i is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization serving the people of Hawai'i. We currently offer free public recycling educational services on behalf of the County of Hawai'i, the State Department of Health and our Recycle Hawai'i contributors.

Our mission is to promote resource awareness and recycling enterprises in Hawai'i. To achieve this, we educate the community about sound resource management and recycling opportunities for a more environmentally sustainable future.

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Keeping It Green is published four times each year by Recycle Hawai'i, PO Box 4847, Hilo, HI 96720. It features the work of RH staff members, County of Hawai'i contributors and members of the Island of Hawai'i community at large. Announcements of events are published as space allows.

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**COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS**

For more information:

<http://www.recyclehawaii.org/backyard-composting.html>

Volcano: Sat., Jan. 17, 10 AM – 12 PM
 Volcano Garden Arts
 19-3834 Old Volcano Road, Volcano
 (Café Ono natural food lunch 11 AM – 3 PM)

Ocean View: Sat., Jan. 17, 2 PM – 4 PM
 Ocean View Community Center
 92-8924 Leilani Parkway, Ocean View

Waimea: Sat., Feb. 21, 10 AM – 12 PM
 Montessori Education Center of Hawaii
 65-1297 Opelo Road, Waimea

Waikoloa: Sat., Feb. 21, 2 PM – 4 PM
 Waikoloa Village Association Community Room
 68-1792 Melia St, Waikoloa

Kea'au: Sat., March 17, 10 AM – 12 PM
 Kea'au Recycling & Reuse Center

Hilo: Sat., March 17, 2 PM – 4 PM
 Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles
 1407 Kapiolani St, Hilo

Adults \$10 fee. To register contact:

Ann Hassler at 937-1100 or
crazy4compost2@gmail.com



WAIMEA HOMESTEAD FARMERS MARKET
 Jan. 10 & 24, Feb. 7 & 21, March 7 & 21
 Every other Saturday from 9 to 11 AM
 (on Hwy 19 next to 55 mile marker at Kuhio
 Hale West Hawaii Office of DHHL)

Adults \$10 fee. Register at Farmer's Market
 or contact Samantha Robinson at
 747-2737 or samillater@hotmail.com

FILM PRESENTATIONS & FORUM
*Free; donations welcome***"RACING TO ZERO"**

Tuesday, January 6, 2:30 PM
 Environ. Mgmt. Comm. Meeting,
 Hilo Council Chambers

Thursday, January 8*, 5:30 PM
 West Hawai'i Council Chambers

Saturday, January 10*, 6:30 PM
 (5pm compost initiative; 6 pm potluck)
 N. Kohala Elem.-High School Cafeteria

*Special guests: Diane Fuller, producer
 & Chris Beaver, director

**Sponsor: A Better Way for Hawaii:
 a no burn, no waste citizens coalition**

"TRASHED"

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 PM
 NHERC, Honokaa

Sponsored by Third Thursday Thrive

Wednesday, January 28*, 5 PM
 NELHA, Kona

Thursday, January 29*, 6 PM
 Palace Theater, Hilo

Saturday, January 31*, 1 PM
 Uncle Robert's, Puna

*Special Guests: Paul Connett,
 chemist & author "Zero Waste Solutions,"
 Rick Anthony, COH Zero Waste
 Implementation Plan, and others.

\$5 minimum donation (students free with ID)
**Sponsored by Hawai'i Zero Waste Alliance,
 Hawai'i Wildlife Fund & Recycle Hawai'i**

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE COLLECTION**

March 7

Waimea Recycling & Transfer Station
 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

March 8

Pāhoa Recycling & Transfer Station
 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on events and Recycling & Reuse Centers
 visit www.recyclehawaii.org

Recycle Hawai'i

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info@recyclehawaii.org • www.recyclehawaii.org

KEEP PUAKŌ BEAUTIFUL

Keep Puakō Beautiful (KPB) provides opportunities for volunteers to engage in giving back to the community and its natural environment through water and beach cleanups. KPB's goal is to clean up the water and land by removing discards that could become marine debris or are a threat to a healthy ocean environment. If the interest is there, water cleanups are always welcome when we work on the land.



National Trail Day cleanup, Ala Kahakai Historic Trail at Kānekanaka Pt., Hāpuna State Recreational Area. Volunteers Rick Gmirkin & Scott Grainger clean up 1.5 tons of dumped trash in the park.
Photo Credit: Dani Granger

Volunteers are needed in the South Kohala area year-round to cover the coastline from Hāpuna State Recreation Area to Holoholokai Park, with special events held in spring as part of Earth Month activities and during the fall in conjunction with the national Get The Drift and Bag It program. Volunteers hike, dive, kayak, snorkel and swim to clean land and water. Local business partners support the effort by donating the use of equipment and kayaks. Dive shops provide expert on-site guidance in water recovery. KPB provides tools and on-site support for litter cleanup and removal.



Get The Drift & Bag It at Puakō Boat Ramp. Volunteers Phil Hayward, Jean Schumaker & Mr. Kanealli bring out a piece of railroad track left over from Puakō sugar plantation days.
Photo credit: Cynthia Ho



Get The Drift & Bag It volunteers Annie Mendoza and Phil Hayward at Puakō Boat Ramp.
photo credit: Cynthia Ho

For those unable to attend organized cleanups and benefit from the community education component, KPB and Hawai'i Wildlife Fund have partnered to develop ocean environment education stations (OEES) which allow everyone to become good stewards in the park on their own time. The OEES program encourages station users to conduct impromptu volunteer speed beach cleanups and become informed while they conserve Hawai'i's coastlines. At the OEES, users find a QR code and resource guide, beach cleanup tips, supplies and educational brochures. The OEES provides further enrichment when users download the QR code directory onto their smart device for future reference. A typical KPB OEES kids program speed cleanup employs four people to remove five to 10 pounds of trash from a beach parking lot in 15 to 30 minutes. Speed cleanups using the OEES system are the perfect way for families and visitors to show their aloha for our precious natural resources because they don't take much time and don't require planning... and park sites are great places to relax after a speed cleanup. Still, prevention remains the best cure: KPB encourages everyone to practice the 4Rs... reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse single-use plastics.

OEES stations are located at the Puakō Boat Ramp, Beach 69 in Hāpuna State Recreational Area, and coming soon at Hāpuna State Beach. Stewardship volunteers are needed to maintain current and future stations.

To learn more about Keep Puakō Beautiful, beach cleanups, OEES stewardship and other volunteer programs contact: kpb@hawaii.rr.com and Hawai'i Wildlife Fund at kahakai.cleanups@gmail.com.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL
**GREAT AMERICAN
CLEANUP**

March 1 – May 30, 2015
National Litter Cleanup Initiative

(Message from the Director continued from page 1)

Since 2004, on behalf of the COH-DEM, RH's island-wide home composting and vermiculture workshops have been conducted by Piper Selden and Ann Hassler, Master Composter/Recyclers, and Tamar Atsumi, West Hawai'i Composting Educator. This past year, the Bokashi method—an anaerobic system that composts fats and bones using effective microbes (EMs) has been an added feature in RH's Waimea composting workshops taught by Noah Dodd and Samantha Robinson, who are also helping with zero waste practices at island schools, including Kohala Middle School and Hawai'i Preparatory Academy. These well-attended workshops have established venues in Captain Cook, Hilo, Honaunau, Kalapana, Kailua-Kona, Kea'au, Pāuilo, Pahoa, Ocean View, Waimea, Waikoloa, and Volcano with two to four workshops scheduled per month.

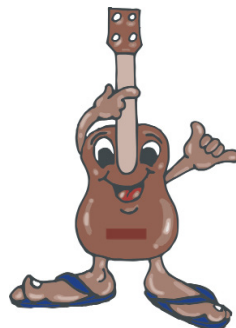
As an adjunct to the composting workshops, RH has assisted the COH-DEM in distributing over 4,000 Earth Machine compost units to schools and households over the past decade. Made from recycled plastic beverage containers, these units have the potential of diverting up to 10 tons of kitchen scraps and backyard trimmings from island landfills over the ten-year estimated lifespan of each unit (mine is still in use now for over 10 years). Based on unit and distribution costs, household use of EMs amounts to from \$5-6 per ton—one of the most economical methods of solid waste diversion.



Earth Machine with volunteer pumpkin vine
Photo credit: Sahra Indio, South Kona

As of June 1, 2014, Recycle Hawai'i negotiated its Education Outreach contract with the COH-DEM which would have allowed us to continue these programs and honor the dozens of vouchers for EMs that remain outstanding due to the supply of units running out prior to the previous contract that ended May 31, 2014. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting the mayor's signature on the contract, which was scheduled to begin seven months ago, forestalling any chance of our being able to purchase additional Earth Machine composting units.

I would like to thank the Swain Barber Foundation, based in Los Angeles, California, for providing us with alternate funds so we are able to continue our zero waste efforts in the schools and the home composting instructional workshops. For upcoming composting workshops near your home, visit our website www.recyclehawaii.org.



'Koa'
RH's Recycling Mascot

Winter has arrived and there's a chill in the air up mauka in the rainforest of Volcano where I live. Hard to believe but many of us up here sit around a fireplace to get warm, while friends in other places of Hawai'i swim, surf and have good fun at the beach. Hawai'i is truly a wondrous place of contrasts in environments and people which makes our home such a treasure, one that we all love with much aloha.

It's a new year and many of us make resolutions with the best of intentions to keep them. However, no matter how much I try, my will power is weak at times. Let's be realistic. Can one really give up chocolate or ono calorie-laden foods like pizza? Not me that's for sure. Yet I do make some resolutions like these that are self-defeating.

Being one of the spokespersons for Recycle Hawai'i, I'd like to focus on doing things that help our islands and the Earth—projects that RH is involved with too: zero waste, composting, food sustainability and recycling education.

EARTH FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS

This year I am making these resolutions and I invite you to adopt them too! What resolutions will you make this year?

- I will volunteer for beach or neighborhood cleanup projects like Get the Drift and Bag It and The Great American Cleanup. See *page 3 about clean ups.*
- Since I'm kind of a creative guy, and have lots of 'still good stuff' piling up in my office, I will reuse them to make recycled art and crafts. For some ideas, check out RH's Art of Recycling School Competition (ARSC) exhibits during April or the annual Fall Trash Art Show in Hilo. For ARSC information contact 985-8725 or hiartrecycle@gmail.com
- I'll put my kitchen scraps in a bucket for making compost to grow healthy plants and vegetables in my garden. Arugula anyone? *Upcoming composting workshops are listed on page 2.*
- Finally, I will break down and take my bell bottom pants and other clothes that haven't been worn in years (or don't fit me anymore) to a reuse center on the island. *Recycling and Reuse center hours are on page 2.*

For complete information about recycling on Hawaii island visit www.recyclehawaii.org or www.hawaiiizerowaste.org. Share your Earth-friendly project, zero waste event or reuse ideas with RH at 985-8725 or hiartrecycle@gmail.com

BECOME A MEMBER OF RECYCLE HAWAII

Become a member of **Recycle Hawai'i** and receive a free Recycle Hawai'i tote bag with your paid membership or contribution.

Sponsoring Contributor

Non-Profit - \$50

Corporate - \$100

Individual Contributor

Student / Senior - \$10

Individual - \$20 • Family - \$30

Other Contributors

Friend - \$50 • Lifetime - \$50

Donor - \$100 • Patron - \$250

Go to www.recyclehawaii.org now and become a supportive member of our recycling community!