

**From:** [claire.muskopf](#)  
**To:** [Sur, Peter](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for 9/28 EMC meeting - item VII - 1  
**Date:** Monday, September 26, 2022 1:24:52 PM

---

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time for input from the community on this matter.

The opportunity presented with this possible federal funding is very important and timely. Hawai'i as a whole and Hawai'i County in particular needs to find better ways to manage our resources and specifically our outflow (rubbish/trash).

The nature of our island community is such that there is no "away" to throw things.

If we are going to move towards a future where our keiki are not surrounded by the waste of our activities today we need to start to plan and take action.

I realize the initial investment feels steep but if we are going to be prepared to present our needs to the decision makers who might provide the funding to really kickstart a different and elevated approach to solving our waste stream issues we have to start NOW.

Please recommend to the county council to fund a facilitator to begin organizing stakeholders ASAP. We need this process to start before the EPA's Request for Application is released in order to ensure our case is made quickly and in a timely manner.

This funding is going to be valuable to communities across the nation and our needs are equal to if not more significant than other areas where land transport options are more viable.

In order to receive the greatest possible funding available we need to demonstrate a plan that involves coalitions of public and private entities. Those take time to build and function cohesively. It's about more than just wanting to improve our recycling systems but about having plans and ideas of HOW we are going to do that.

DEM seems to think that R&D is responsible for this project and while it may need to start there, there is no part of our county governance that does not have a stake in the future of this land.

Success in this endeavor is going to depend on the key pieces I've already referenced as well as having a coherent voice for this grant application. Please recommend to the county council that they provide funding for a grant writer if R&D is not prepared or able to do so in a timely manner.

Please remember the key place you sit in helping to craft the future of

resource management on Hawai'i Island. The citizens need the government's help to move towards a future where we have more adequate infrastructure, collection systems and end markets for reuse and recycling; if not circular systems of production and reuse. To do any portion of that goal list successfully we are going to need to be supported by policy that holds that vision clearly and staffing to help us all move towards it together.

Mahalo for your time and your kuleana,

~Claire Muskopf  
Kapaau, HI