



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAII ISLAND GROUP

testimony on agenda item VII 1 EPA Recycling Infrastructure Grant
for Environmental Management Commission
9 AM September 28, 2022, Puna Conference Room, Hawai'i County Building, Hilo

Aloha Commissioners,

Please build on the tremendous efforts of the Zero Waste working group, and do all you can to ensure the County succeeds in obtaining this grant.

Please recommend to County Council that they

- fund a grant writer to prepare an application, if County departments are unable to do it
- fund a facilitator to organize meetings with stakeholders so they are ready to coordinate their efforts when the Request for Applications comes out this fall

Instead of underfunded programs that lead to garbage dumped in gulches, junk cars abandoned in jungles, and overflowing landfills, we need a system that honors traditional cultural values, works for residents with no cars and little spare time, and contributes to the local economy.

This is a do-not-miss opportunity to develop a model system that would not only benefit Hawai'i, but also serve as a model for rural areas elsewhere.

Mahalo,
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