

**From:** [Katrina Zavalney](#)  
**To:** [Sur, Peter](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony to improve Hawai'i county's recycling infrastructure - agenda item VII – 1  
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## Testimony to improve Hawai'i county's recycling infrastructure - agenda item VII – 1

Aloha,

Thank you for taking in testimony on agenda item VII – 1 this matter to improve Hawai'i county's recycling infrastructure that affects everyone on the island regarding what people do with their discards, waste, recycling, and resources.

It is important that there is the appropriate support, infrastructure, and resources directed to make the waste & resources management successful. I am aware of the well written and researched [Request for Information Report](#) that was submitted for Hawai'i County for the [EPA Recycling Infrastructure funding](#), based off a needs assessment with a large net of stakeholders on the island, who gave their input on needs for recycling infrastructure. The EPA will prioritize funding projects where there is a coalition of public and private entities working toward improving recycling systems.

**To support the build out and obtain the EPA funding that must go through the county or state, I ask the EMC to recommend to the county council that they fund a facilitator to organize meetings with stakeholders ahead of the release of the Request for Applications (RFA) that is expected to come out this fall. Waiting until the RFA comes out will not allow for much time to coordinate stakeholders in the development of an application. We need the coalition development to happen now, and a qualified facilitator has been identified to be recommended for facilitating this forward. It would be helpful if the EMC recommend to the county council that they fund a grant writer for this opportunity, if R&D does not have the capacity to do so. It takes a village to support a village, if we all work together this can get done. Utilizing the input given from the community needs assessment, stakeholders, and developing a coalition where input can get refined into a strategy and proposal with a modest budget to develop the infrastructure on handling waste and recycling is the way forward. We need your support! Mahalo for your time, consideration, and service.**

Kind regards,

**Katrina Zavalney**

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"When minds meet, they don't just exchange facts: they transform, reshape them, draw different implications from them, engage in new trains of thought" -Theodore Zeldin, Secret Language of Leadership by Stephen Denning

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