

From: [M. Mitsumori](#)
To: [Sur, Peter](#)
Subject: Testimony re: Agenda Item VII.1
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:34:56 AM

Aloha, Members of the EMC,

I am writing regarding Agenda Item VII.1, regarding this opportunity to apply for funding for our county through the EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Program.

Hawai'i County continues to see the challenges created by funding shortages, which directly impact resources available to address our solid waste management efforts. A working group, which I was a member of, has invested in completing an RFI and in starting to raise awareness among diverse stakeholder groups of this opportunity, and of our common ground in this effort. Ms. Jennifer Navarre will be presenting in more detail on this.

As a result of these efforts, I would like to respectfully request the EMC to recommend to the County Council:

- To **fund a facilitator** to organize meetings with diverse stakeholders **ahead** of the release of the EPA's Request for Applications, which is expected this fall.

The EAP will prioritize funding projects with a coalition of public and private entities. Funding a facilitator after the RFA is released will not allow sufficient time for input and support needed for a strong County application.

- To **fund a grant writer** for this opportunity, if the County's Research & Development Department does not have the capacity to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of these next steps.

Sincerely,
Michele Mitsumori
Hilo, HI