

**From:** [Mendy Dant](#)  
**To:** [Sur, Peter](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for VII – 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022 11:52:56 AM

---

Aloha Environmental Management Commission,

I am a 66-year-old business owner who has lived in Kona for 46 years. I have two children and a grandson, all born and raised in Kona. Our business is in the ocean tourism industry, and we are seeing the results of climate change and poor earth management caused by our selfish human behaviors. Today's topic is the actions needed to be taken to apply for EPA grants to assist with our island waste systems. This is an opportunity we need to make a top priority and just in time before our current systems ruin our island life. This problem is nothing new, our many Mayors have pushed it to the side. Now, it is urgent, and we have EPA funding to become available.

I support the EPA Recycling Infrastructure Grant Working Group Coordinated by Zero Waste Hawai'i Island Submission report decisions. We can, with both private and public efforts and the funds from the EPA Grant, solve Hawaii Island's landfill waste problems.

I agree with the Summary of the report: Hawai'i County is in desperate need of funding to improve its materials management systems: The Department of Environmental Management is underfunded and understaffed, and the development of public-private partnerships may be the most feasible solution to move away from landfilling of materials. The conclusions in the report both affirm the desire of individuals, government, organizations and businesses to solve our waste problem by shifting to a circular economic model that creates jobs and strengthens our local economy, and uplifts low-income and disadvantaged communities that are struggling to make ends meet. While a vision is emerging of how we get there, the funding from EPA will be needed to bring stakeholders together to identify the solutions that meet the needs of the collective and develop a road map of how to get there. Our county government and community can implement the developed plans to invest in infrastructure (facilities and equipment).

Please put this landfill problem to the front of our County's agenda and make the EPA grant reality to achieve what Zero Waste has outlined in their concise report and our island deserves! The time is NOW!

Sincerely,  
Mendy Dant

><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°>

**Mendy Dant**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Fair Wind Cruises**  
**Kona Sunrise Charters**  
78-6775 Box A Makenawai St  
Kailua Kona, Hi 96740  
C.808-345-6211  
[www.fair-wind.com](http://www.fair-wind.com)



[Travel Tips: Ocean Conservation](#)

*“We need to respect the oceans and take care of them as if our lives depend on it. Because they do.” Dr. Sylvia Earle*