



TESTIMONY OF RECYCLE HAWAII RE: Zero Waste Hawaii Island's Report in Response to EPA RFI related to federal infrastructure funding for recycling programs

Submitted by Kristine Kubat, Executive Director

Recycle Hawaii extends its appreciation to Zero Waste Hawaii Island for responding to the EPA RFI and providing that agency with the information it needs to properly assess the status of Hawaii Island's waste diversion programs and understand the benefits a federal award under the Recycling Is Infrastructure Too initiative could provide. We commend Jennifer Navarra and Ellen Okuma for their outstanding work; the value of this volunteer effort will go a long way towards garnering the support needed to move away from outdated waste management programs and towards resource recovery strategies that are the hallmark of a truly circular economy.

Recycle Hawaii is actively engaged with stakeholders and recycling industry specialists to establish a roadmap for this transformation. We are pleased to report that the capacity needed to establish a resource recovery model is readily attainable. The unprecedented opportunity afforded by the federal commitment to invest in the development of the infrastructure, including capital improvement expenditures comes at a critical time and we encourage the county to take advantage of this opportunity.

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