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Subject: Testimony for agenda item: V.3. Discussion on preparations to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program. Advice to DEM on priorities for grant proposals
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Aloha EMC,

Here is my **testimony for agenda item: V.3. Discussion on preparations to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program. Advice to DEM on priorities for grant proposals**

This island needs greater infrastructure to handle the waste and processing resources in a sustainable way. Zero Waste Big Island and other stakeholders on this island have identified a way to ratify this, with a funding source: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program. There has been the option and opportunity to have a grant writer contracted to write this grant that can go through the county to support this infrastructure, which is a win/win situation. We need all the support from the county to make this happen, otherwise we will lose out on this valuable opportunity.

Specifically:

1. Pilot creation of a Resource Recovery Park at Kea'au Transfer Station over a 5-year period. Begin by improving the Reuse Center. Acquire additional land to set up drop off stations for various materials beyond existing ones – cardboard and paper and food for composting, construction materials, textiles, segregated plastics, etc. Dedicate land for shredding, composting and distribution of compost. Set up a "fix it" station, including a tools library and educational opportunities on repair. Set up warehousing and processing space for reuse/recycling entrepreneurs. Alternate location: Hilo.
2. Enable transfer station recycling by small businesses (ISWMP top priority). In addition to code changes, a small fee/licensing program must be devised. Additional capabilities to be provided include: additional pick up of containers and/or containers and vehicles and labor needed to monitor and transport recyclables.
3. Equipment to aid distributed composting: home compost bins, shredders, larger invessel composters. Coordinate with private parties for collection and distribution of equipment and pre- and post-compost materials. County may need to help with setting up locations for large composters and shredders.
4. Explore grant partnerships with Waste Management and Hawaii Earth Resources to expand/enable their capabilities to do recycling.

Please support this in any way you can. The County Council has given their support and we need you to as well. Please help facilitate this moving forward efficiently.
Thank you!

Kind regards,

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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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