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**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition to Malama One  
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Aloha to the Commission for Environmental Management

Malama One claims that their proprietary filtering system is designed to capture nearly all the microplastics from the process water. But that system is designed to only capture particles 50 microns or greater, which means all the particles smaller than that (those most invasive to plant and animal physiologies) including all the nanoplastics (which are defined as 1 micron or smaller) are going uncaptured. Also I have heard nothing about any plans they have for capturing airborne particles. 50 microns is a joke.

Similarly there is no mention of the toxic chemicals in the plastics they hope to collect. They only talk about processing the various polymers as if they are pristine, inert hydrocarbons that can be shredded, melted down and reformed with no impact to the environment. All unicorns and rainbows. Greenwashing at its worst.

There is scant information about their plans to go on. They have been extremely secretive and have conducted NO public outreach with details about their operation. According to a press release from about a year ago, they are planning to process 52 million pounds of PET per year. This amounts to about one billion plastic water bottles being redirected to our island from across the state per year. All to get shredded and processed in ways that generate micro (and nano) plastic pollution.

The latest specs for state of the art recycling plants is that they operate at a 30% loss, which means for every 100 pounds of plastic they bring in, 30 pounds are lost. This leaves us (not Malama One) worrying about the nearly 15 million pounds of plastic that would get lost in the recycling process every year, non stop, for decades to come.

What form is it in and where does it go?

See below for the impact of micro-plastics.

Mahalo.

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### **Here are some of the conditions that are related to micro- and nanoplastics:**

- *Respiratory disorders:* Inhaling plastic particles can cause **inflammation and damage** in the lungs and airways, leading to coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, fatigue, and dizziness.
- *Cancer:* Plastic particles can trigger **uncontrolled cell proliferation and tissue growth**, leading to many cancers, including those affecting the lungs, blood, breasts, prostate, and ovaries.
- *Heart disease:* Plastic particles can be found in artery plaques, which can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke.

- *Immune system dysfunction:* Plastic particles can make us more **susceptible to infections**, including the flu, and increase the risk of autoimmune diseases.
  - *Obesity:* Plastics makes us fatter by increasing **fat absorption by an astonishing 145%**.
  - *Inflammation:* Plastics can cause **chronic inflammation**, which is linked to cancer, heart disease, inflammatory bowel disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.
  - *Hormonal and reproductive system issues:* Plastics can leach out chemical additives that can harm the hormone and reproductive systems, resulting in **infertility in women and poor sperm quality in men**.
  - *Gut microbiome dysfunction:* Plastics shift the gut microbiome into an unhealthy state by mimicking or attaching to its microbes. The risks come not just from the micro- and nanoplastics themselves, but also from the **synthetic chemicals and heavy metals** they contain.
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