

From: [Robert Culbertson](#)
To: [cohdem](#)
Subject: Agenda Item VI.2 – Recycle Hawai'i Update
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 11:28:13 AM

Aloha Chair Perez and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep disapproval of a proposed project in Hilo to construct a plastic processing factory. The project is called '**Mālama One**', and I share the very serious doubts and concerns others are expressing today.

Our current state regulations have not kept pace with modern science on the dangers of micro- and nanoplastics. And this project appears to try benefitting from a lack of regulation to claim a prerogative for permitting under current rules.

What's worse, by building this for-profit facility, we will actually **create an incentive to import more plastic to our islands**, locking us deeper into an extractive, polluting industry that directly threatens our people, our ecosystems, and our future.

At the close of the current Hawaii state legislative session an attempt to get 'up to speed' with the onslaught of plastic pollution, led to the adoption of two new resolutions meant to highlight the importance of safeguarding our pristine fresh water supplies, and the dangers of plastic pollution.

HCR 128 cites the critical role of fresh water in maintaining healthy nearshore ecosystems. (Let us keep it so!)

SCR 132 endorses recommendations (ie. calling for plastic reduction) born of the United Nations Global Plastic Treaty.

I urge this Commission to do everything in its power to recommend that this project **not be allowed to move forward**.

Our water, air, soil, and bodies should not be burdened by this polluting industry!

Mahalo for your time.

Respectfully,

Rob Culbertson
Honokaa

