

comments for Environmental Management Commission
9 AM Wednesday, June 25, 2025, Hilo Council chambers
re. agenda item IV 2 Mālama One
from Cory Harden

Aloha Commissioners,

Thank you for your volunteer service. Please ask Mālama One to respond on these questions/ issues:

1--Provide a copy of the Department of Health permit, and any documents showing requirements governing operations and/or indicating who will monitor compliance.

2--Provide documents indicating what County permits are required and which ones have been obtained.

3--If you disagree with the following, please provide information to the contrary: most plastic recycling plants can only recycle about 65% of the plastic they bring in, leaving 35% that cannot be recycled. For Malama One, collecting plastic from the entire state, that would work out to 17 million pounds of plastic, every year, that could not be recycled.

4--Plastic can be contaminated with additives used to make the plastic; PVC labels; and substances that were stored in the plastic containers—pesticides, pharmaceuticals, viruses, etc. Heating can generate new contaminants. This creates risks for recycling workers, consumers who use the recycled plastic, people exposed to waste from the plant, and the environment. Describe how Mālama One will eliminate these risks.

5--Explain how sludge, used filters, and unused plastic that Mālama One plans to send to the landfill can legally be accepted by the landfill, and describe any communication you have had with the County regarding this.

6--Explain how Kealakehe would be able to process leachate from the landfill containing micro and nano particles, plus contaminants, without endangering Kealakehe's ability to obtain a NPDES permit.

7--Specify what size particles the filters will capture, and whether they will capture micro and nano particles.

Provide data to back up your information.

8--Identify the government agency that has oversight over the filtering system to ensure it works as described.

9--Wastewater from general cleaning in the plant is likely to be contaminated with micro and nano plastic particles. Is it legal to send this wastewater to the sewage plant? Describe any communication you have had with the County regarding this.

10--Describe how airborne micro and nano particles will be captured, and any government regulations that apply.

11--What percent of the feedstock will need to be virgin plastic in order to meet industry specifications?

12--Describe how Mālama One will ensure that, before it accepts plastic to be melted down, that the plastic has been re-purposed and re-used as much as possible (refillable bottles for liquid soap, reusable foodware, etc.)

13--Describe decommissioning plans (including financing) in case the plant goes out of business—cleanup of micro and nano particles, disposal of filters and sludge, etc.

14--Describe the end products the plant will produce and the length of their useful life.

15--Where will the plant will be located?

16--Describe the plan for “use of 100% off-grid, on-site renewable energy (world 1st) as stated on the Mālama One flyer here:

[https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/144045/25-01-29%20EMC%20Testimony%20-%20\(1-23\)%20Malama%20One%20Recycling%20-%20Agenda%20VII.1.pdf](https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/144045/25-01-29%20EMC%20Testimony%20-%20(1-23)%20Malama%20One%20Recycling%20-%20Agenda%20VII.1.pdf)

17--Describe any formal agreement regarding “18 positions for employees with disabilities...via impact partnership with the Arc of Hilo”, as stated on the flyer.

18--Describe actions taken to engage with the community on this plant, such as meetings, news articles, e-mail, postal mail, social media posts, etc.