

December 3, 2019



Dear CPAC members,

Thank you so much for your work on the West Maui Community Plan. We'd like to provide testimony in support of Solid Waste infrastructure on the west side. For the last five years Malama Maui Nui has partnered with the Lahaina Sunset Rotary, the Lahaina Cannery Mall and 5A Rent A Space to provide the west side community with a bulky item drop recycling event every third Saturday. This event is only three hours long and collects on average ten tons of materials including washers, dryers, refrigerators, tires, e-waste, lead-acid batteries, etc. per event.

Lahaina is one of four urban clusters in Maui County and the population is projected to increase significantly in the next twenty years. An increase in population and associated housing will result in an increase in bulky item consumption. It's inherently understood that generation and consumption of these products will result in the inevitable need for disposal of these products. Section 342G-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes requires the department and counties to consider solid waste management practices and methods in the following order of priority; 1) source reduction, 2) recycling (including composting) and 3) landfilling and incineration.

The bulky item materials of focus are EPA and DOH regulated due to the fact that they can cause severe human and environmental damage. Most can only be disposed of via a recycling program and those facilities are located in central Maui and generally only open from Monday through Friday, 8am – 4pm when most of the local population is at work. Lack of local infrastructure and access to existing infrastructure on the west side has led to systemic illegal dumping on roadsides, gulches and the ocean. Given that cost and perceived convenience are known drivers of the success of drop recycling programs, it's imperative to ensure that a convenient location is provided for proper disposal of these materials.

We recommend a permanent local transfer station for bulky item drop off. Currently there is a demonstrated need for such infrastructure on at least a part time basis and as such, it may be possible to operate out of a hazard mitigation staging site temporarily until permanent infrastructure can be obtained. Nevertheless, we advocate and support planning for permanent infrastructure to provide adequate community access to appropriate disposal opportunities, especially while the local population continues to grow.

We are happy to answer any questions or provide clarity or additional data. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Kind regards,



Gabrielle Schuerger  
Executive Director