

PIA Committee

From: John Durkin <durkinjohnp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 1:46 PM
To: PIA Committee
Subject: Homeless
Attachments: Kaa Point Kahului Maui .png

Dear Maui County Council

I read the very objective and informative piece in the Maui News by Mr. Victorino.

My comments are that there should be some type of temporary assistance given to authentic homeless from our community and that mental health care should be available to those that require such care. Homeless persons should be transitioned to the community and not be made permanent. Homeless from the mainland should be offered a voluntary repatriation.

Homeless should not be allowed to occupy our public spaces and thereby deny the fair use of such spaces to the public at large. In particular, parks that are occupied by homeless become unsanitary, unsafe, dirty, and filthy such that the space cannot be used by any ordinary citizen and our keiki.

Near my home on West Maui, recently Waihikuli Park has recently seen an influx of homelessness and is becoming an unwelcome space to both residents and visitors from the Kaanapali resort. The public bathrooms are becoming occupied by the homeless and get dirty and unsanitary.

On my way back from work, I was running along Ka'a Point and noted the large amount of filth and stolen shopping carts left behind by the homeless camp that was dismantled. Besides the horrible bad smell and unsanitary condition, it's an eyesore for visitors. This area is popular with wind and kite surfers, who are confronted by such a shocking sight. I have attached a photo of the garbage and filth pile taken as I ran by. Included are a large amount of stolen shopping carts. Recently, I have also seen homeless pushing stolen carts along the Honoapiilani Hwy on West Maui.

Very much appreciate the efforts of the County Council and Mayor to solve this problem in a humane way and not replicate the problems of Honolulu.

Sincerely,

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