

November 26, 2024

I'm a resident of Paia, Maui to testify on Bill 111. As a resident less than ¼ mile from Holomua Road, I have seen the destruction of Holomua Road where it is no longer an enjoyable morning or afternoon walk. In the evenings, long after Paia town has closed down, the same vehicles go up Holomua Road and leave quickly, making one to assume that this is a drug delivery to the encampment.

The safety and security of homeowners and tax paying residents should be the council members biggest concern or we too will be forced to find housing or leave the island.

Holomua Road encampment use to be cars but now tents, tarps and doors have become the reality of this road no longer being semi-permanent which is why they are laying down stakes and plan on staying. Just today, my neighbor was bragging to a friend of how well the cleanup was going but much to her dismay, she ended up having to put out the cinders from an open fire left unattended from one of the larger homes that has been placed on the road.

Because of our proximity to Holomua Road, the Paia Fire Department came knocking on our door passing out their fire pamphlets "Ready Set Go". The fireman stated: "It's not "if" there is a fire, it's "when" because 98% of the fires are due to humans. This encampment's trash, human excrement, needles, tires and more will continue to require an allotment of County tax dollars to haul cars and tons of rubbish, and it will always be a danger to the residents of Paia Town.

After our Lahaina friends, who lost everything in the Lahaina Fire, drove through the encampment at Holomua Road, they were too traumatized to live in our ohana because there is no escape route. So much so that they had their cars backed into the driveway and dogs ready to go at all times until they found a home that was not a future "fire trap". Now when we hear sirens heading north on Hana Highway, we fear an inferno is about to begin especially if the conditions are dry!

Gavin Fujioka, our Fire Chief has enough statistics to prove that the fires on Holomua Road are caused by the encampments. In 2024 Holomua Road had over 100 calls

vs just a few in 2022 when Holomua Road's encampment was minimal. Officer Malama has a shocking activity report for Holomua Road of drugs and stolen cars, overwhelming the Police Department.

These individuals at these encampments may want to be safe but don't want to be responsible or follow the rules of the housing provided by the outreach team. Just as providing access to mental health, addiction support and social services only work if the individual is ready for help. As long as these encampments persist, these individuals will choose the encampment over help.

Policies that are difficult to enforce or follow i.e. removal of personal property is an expense that may be wasted if the rules cannot be followed or the individuals find another way of protesting the rules making it more difficult to enforce. Even if the rules have been followed the Outreach Providers have seen that the individuals denied the care at the last minute making all their efforts a waste of time and money.

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WASSP Committee

From: Charleen N. Crozier <Charleen.N.Crozier@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 12:49 PM
To: WASSP Committee
Subject: FW: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer
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-----Original Message-----

From: Xerox_donotreply@co.maui.hi.us <Xerox_donotreply@co.maui.hi.us>
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