

# Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-03-17 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 03-17-25 09:00

## eComments Report

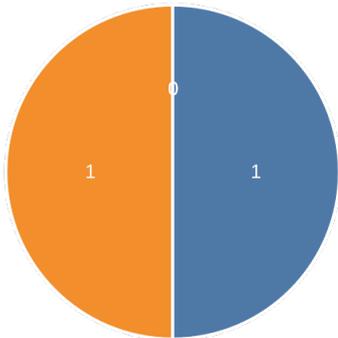
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-03-17 9:00 AM	03-17-25 09:00	3	2	1	1	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (50%)   Oppose (50%)   Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



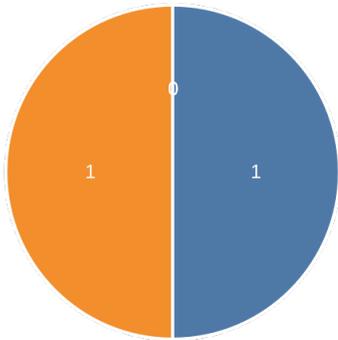
**Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-03-17 9:00 AM**  
03-17-25 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	1	1	0	0
Rule 7(B) WASSP-1(3) OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS	1	0	1	0

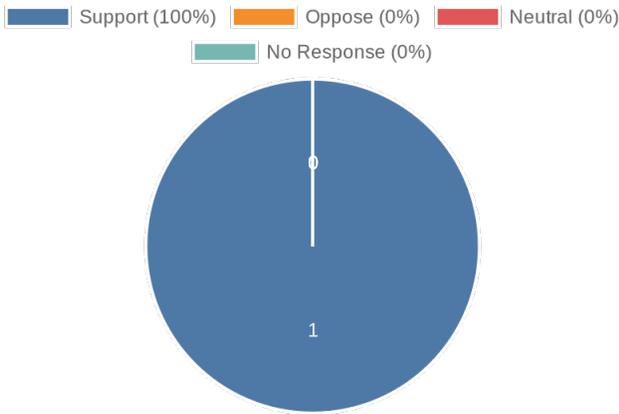
**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



Overall Sentiment



**Edward Codelia**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:35am 03-17-25

Testimony to the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee  
Regarding Senior Services in Maui County

Submitted by: Edward Codelia

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Edward Codelia, and I am a full-time resident of Maui County. I am submitting this testimony to address the urgent need for improvements in Maui County’s senior services. The senior population in our county is growing at a rate that we are simply not prepared to handle. Without immediate action, our k\_puna—who have spent their lives building and contributing to this community—will continue to suffer due to the failures of our current systems.

In the past three months, I have personally witnessed multiple seniors discharged from the emergency room at Maui Memorial Hospital via an Uber, left to fend for themselves with no follow-up care. Some of these same seniors were readmitted the very next day because they lacked the proper support after being sent home. This is a clear sign that our system is failing, and it is our responsibility to ensure they receive the care, respect, and resources they deserve from the County of Maui.

**Holding Agencies Accountable**

Senior service agencies in Maui County must be held to higher standards. There are too many reports of long wait times, inadequate services, and a lack of transparency in funding allocations. Without proper oversight, seniors are left struggling to access basic services they desperately need.

I urge the County to implement regular performance audits, public reporting on senior services, and a clear accountability structure to ensure that senior programs are actually serving their intended purpose. Additionally, the senior housing departments under the County’s jurisdiction must be re-evaluated. It is completely unacceptable that local seniors are waiting up to 10 years to find safe and secure housing provided by the County. Many do not have a decade to wait.

**Increasing Funding for Senior Services**

Many senior programs suffer from chronic underfunding and understaffing, which directly impacts the quality of care and accessibility of services. Without sufficient funding, our k\_puna are left without adequate home care

assistance, transportation, meal programs, and social services. The County must take the following actions immediately:

- Increase the budget for senior home care services, medical transportation, meal programs, and senior centers.
- Seek state and federal grants to expand essential programs and develop new initiatives.
- Provide tax incentives for businesses and nonprofits that invest in senior services, encouraging private-sector participation in improving care.

#### Better Training & Cultural Understanding

Maui's senior population is deeply diverse, and the services provided must reflect the cultural traditions, languages, and values of our communities. Currently, many seniors struggle to find care providers who understand their needs. To address this, the County should require:

- Cultural competency training for all staff working with seniors, focusing on the needs of Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, and other local communities.
- Specialized elder care training that includes dementia care, mental health support, and end-of-life assistance.
- Language accessibility improvements so that non-English speaking seniors receive proper guidance and communication in their preferred language.

#### Discounted Services for ALL Local Seniors

Many senior programs in Maui County are income-restricted, meaning that middle-income seniors who still struggle with the high cost of living are often left out. All local seniors, regardless of income, should receive discounted services to help them age in place with dignity. The County should provide:

- Free or reduced-cost public transportation for all residents aged 60 and older to ensure they can access medical care, groceries, and community activities.
- Discounted access to county parks, pools, recreational activities, and cultural programs to promote active and engaged aging.
- Lower utility and property tax rates for seniors to help them remain in their homes without financial strain.

#### Enhancing Senior-Friendly Spaces & Social Programs

Isolation and lack of activity can lead to serious physical and mental health issues among seniors. The County must take proactive steps to enhance community spaces and social engagement opportunities for k\_puna, including:

- Expanding senior-friendly park spaces and walking paths to promote physical activity and well-being.
- Funding more community events and workshops tailored for seniors, including cultural activities and lifelong learning programs.
- Establishing senior volunteer and mentorship programs to keep k\_puna engaged with the community, allowing them to share their knowledge and skills while staying socially connected.

#### Conclusion

Maui County is at a turning point. With a growing senior population, we cannot afford to continue neglecting the very people who helped build this community. Our k\_puna deserve dignity, respect, and support in their golden years. I strongly urge this committee to take decisive action by increasing funding, improving oversight, and ensuring that all seniors in Maui County—regardless of income—have access to the resources they need to live full and healthy lives.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

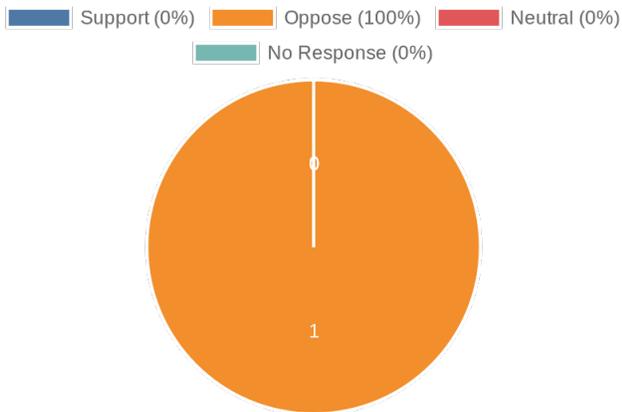
If any one has questions regarding my experiences within these services, I am happy to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Codelia

Direct: 808-283-8288

## Overall Sentiment



## Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:54am 03-17-25

Aloha WASSUP Committee ,

Let me explain what I am opposed to and have way too many questions about The ECONorthwest RFP: The title for RFP started as "A Homeless Strategic Plan" then the final Report done December 2024 is titled "Recommendations to address Homelessness in Maui County" \$240k originally for a Plan and we ended up getting Recommendations?

The timeline is questionable in my eyes.

Started process in 2022

fires happened Aug 2023, adjusted the scope to have:

more direct engagements especially with fire survivors

to eliminate analysis of funding source and uses. Why, after the fire until today so much money got infused into Lahaina well over \$3.5 Billion dollars. This "Project Team" deemed these funding source not important to analyze and track the use?

June 2024-10 months after fire started the direct engagements started. Why wait so long?

Fire happens billions of dollars come pouring in to Lahaina then the Direct engagements with people who were paid \$75 each starts.

Pg.13 In shelters Jan 2024 there were 5,245 displaced homeless people. If I\_m deciphering the tables right.

Pg.3 shows 6 Focus groups in June 2024/# Focus groups in Oct with a total of 79 people directly engaged with at \$75 paid out to each.

79 out of 5,245 people? Really?

Pg.4 table says 3 Workshops in June 2024/2 workshops in Oct 2024. 56 total organizations participated and many are the same entity in this count.

This report states that Maui County homelessness support system not in a state to do a consensus Strategic Plan. Why?

This Project Team could have helped get this County THERE. I\_d like to know how and what are the hindrances. Housing Insecurity is the Real Time NOW issue. The report mentions create stabilized housing, alternative

housing methods, look to other states/counties for answers (San Mateo, CA./Ore./WASH),incentivize/invest in multi units/innovative housing,etc.

Tenant Protection Laws, reintegration with continuum of care of a person.

This has good points made but to have spent \$240k on talk is not the best bang for our buck is my point.

Got mor to say but logging into meeting now.

Elle Cochran

**Testimony to the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee  
Regarding Senior Services in Maui County  
Submitted by: Edward Codelia**

**Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Edward Codelia, and I am a full-time resident of Maui County. I am submitting this testimony to address the **urgent need for improvements in Maui County's senior services**. The senior population in our county is growing at a rate that we are simply **not prepared to handle**. Without immediate action, our kūpuna—who have spent their lives building and contributing to this community—will continue to suffer due to the failures of our current systems.

In the past three months, I have personally **witnessed multiple seniors discharged from the emergency room at Maui Memorial Hospital via an Uber**, left to fend for themselves with no follow-up care. Some of these same seniors were **readmitted the very next day** because they lacked the proper support after being sent home. This is a clear sign that our system is failing, and **it is our responsibility to ensure they receive the care, respect, and resources they deserve from the County of Maui**.

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**Respectfully submitted,**

Edward Codelia  
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