

# Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-09-04 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 09-04-25 09:00

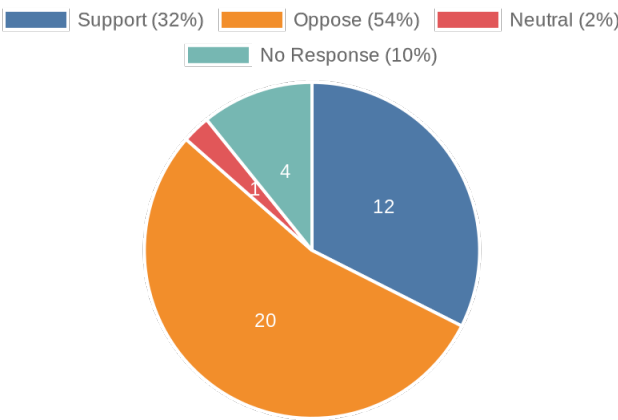
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-09-04 9:00 AM	09-04-25 09:00	2	37	12	20	1

### 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

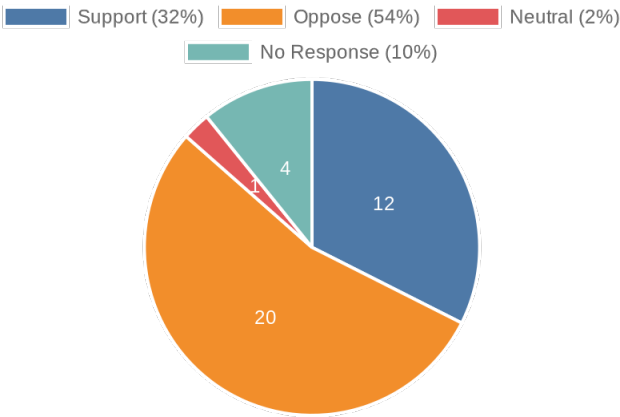


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	29	11	14	1
WASSP-13 Bill 111 (2024) BILL 111 (2024), ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN PUBLIC PLACES AND A RIGHT TO SHELTER (WASSP-13)	8	1	6	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

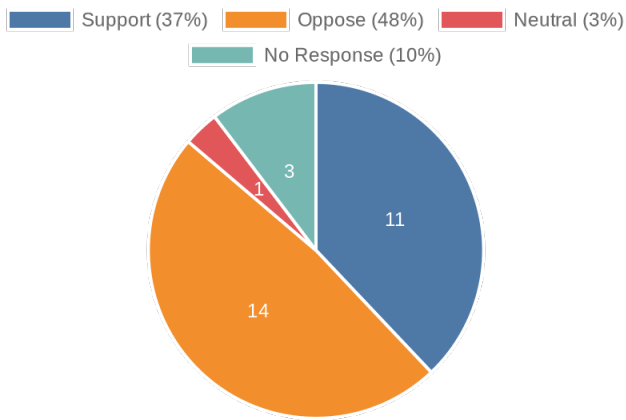
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



## Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

### Overall Sentiment



### Melissa Brown

Location:

Submitted At: 2:54pm 09-04-25

I would like to withdraw my support for this bill as submitted yesterday. This bill must not pass without mandatory drug and mental health treatment included. The passage of the Federal Executive Order "Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets," issued on July 24, 2025, will make federal funding available to localities and we must not waste this opportunity to obtain help with this serious problem.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:20pm 09-04-25

ESTABLISH PROCEDURES for the expeditious removal of unpermitted encampments

- This proposed chapter should only codify lawful established procedures utilized by the County of Maui by providing clear guidelines on the expeditious removal and prevention of unauthorized encampments.
- Support the County in enforcing public health and safety laws.
- Support the County of Maui's equal enforcement of laws that apply to everyone in our community, regardless of socio economic status.
- Support the County of Maui protecting, preserving and ensuring safety of our public right of ways, sidewalks, roadways, community spaces, parks, beach parks, community and shorelines.
- While being unsheltered is not a crime, housing status does not determine applicability for enforcement of state code and county ordinances within the County of Maui.
- Support the County's efforts to restore and properly maintain its properties, ensuring that public spaces are clean, safe and free from unlawful and threatening behavior.

- Support the County of Maui to enforce laws prohibiting unpermitted long-term parking on County property.
- Support the County of Maui's prioritization of greater community welfare and environment health and safety in public spaces within our community.
- We support and want to facilitate keeping our towns, beaches and roadways clean and safe for all.
- Support the County of Maui providing resources and information for unsheltered people to accept the help that is available- shelter space available with dignified housing for all, drug treatment and mental health facilities are available. Services are offered to support unsheltered people in meeting their own needs; However, it is personal choice to access these services.
- We applaud the County of Maui in the beautification at Amala PI roadside and County beach park at Kanaha and were relieved to hear that over 25 people who were formerly living in the bushes or on the side of the road were safely housed in existing shelter space -with access to food, water, shower facilities and access to mental/drug abuse facilities.
- Also glad to hear that at Ka Hale A Ke Ola (KHAKO) are able to expand additional emergency shelter space if the need arises, with assistance for those with animals.
- We support the County of Maui in their ability to shelter people as quickly as possible by providing shelter options and notice to vacate to an unpermitted encampment within 10 days (not 45 days). Actually, everyone should be happy- this puts an accelerated time line on providing shelter for the unsheltered.
- As a community, we don't want to encourage folks to continue to live in unsafe and unsanitary conditions on the roadside or in the bushes for as long as is being proposed by Member Johnson (45 days). -We want them to be housed at a shelter with access to services as soon as possible -rather than delay access to sanitary and safe shelter.
- We have heard that there are 3-5 safe parking site proposals out there being worked on -and we support the County providing funding to make them a reality. There are many in our community who would be happy to assist in reaching out to willing landowners to lease land for interim and short term solutions from private sector and identify suitable parcels owned by the County and State for additional proposals.
- With County of Maui budget planning process around the corner, we urge the Mayor and Councilmembers to please allocate significant funding for interim housing solutions; deed-protected, in perpetuity, low- income workforce and affordable housing; extension of the first time home buyer Ho'okumu Hou program; expanded mental health/drug treatment facilities; respite housing (short-term medical recovery for people experiencing homelessness after hospitalization); residential re-entry/transitional housing for the previously incarcerated; safe overnight and safe parking solutions.
- Many fires have begun near and in unpermitted encampments and threaten the health and safety of those living in unsafe conditions. Additionally, fire risk affects the greater community already traumatized by the 2023 wildfires in Kula, South and West Maui.
- The County must lead by example in reducing threat to public health and safety on County owned property -as the County will be held liable when there are deaths or injuries due to negligence, or if the County allows unpermitted activity and dangerous conditions to continue. This bill must support the County to do so in a expeditious manner or don't pass it.
- Look at the Lahaina fire and how much Hawaiian Electric and Kamehameha Schools are having to pay, our County and our community cannot afford the liability -nor bear the cost of another preventable disaster. We don't want another town burned down or even one more life lost to a preventable situation.
- In times of evacuation due to tsunamis and other disasters, we support the unsheltered to be in a safe shelter space with emergency preparedness on site. Living in the bushes, in parks or on the roadside is unsafe and

unnecessarily diverts the attention of first responders and emergency preparedness personnel.

- We support the County of Maui protecting public property through strategies to prevent establishment of unauthorized encampments and illegal dumping through regular outreach, signage, fencing, gates, lighting, digital monitoring, and appropriate land stewardship. \_

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:59pm 09-04-25

Frequent fires caused by illegal homeless encampments in the brush, including in Maui Lani, is an unacceptable risk to the community (schools, homes, businesses). Please address this issue, giving strong enforcement powers for removing trespassers from areas that pose a threat to nearby homes and development. However, how about also designate a safe outdoor space for the homeless to go?

Kahului homeowner (Maui Lani)

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:20pm 09-04-25

Please allow this note to support bill 111 with the revisions noted most recently.

I am a business owner in Paia, parent to young children and friend to all in the community, even those living unsheltered. Turns out folks don't lose their humanity when living unsheltered. They can still talk story, still have hopes and dreams, still joke, still care and need to be cared for. I urge those in the Kuau community to step out of your comfort zone and meet the folks you are criminalizing for existing. Majority are Kanaka, would love to meet their neighbors and often are just handed a tough hand in the game of life. You may even be able to support some of them, instead of shaming them for getting water from Hookipa.

I believe whatever the County and fake state of Hawaii have been doing to "manage" homelessness, IS NOT working. There's plenty of research and strategies to intervene and support folks living unsheltered, many places are doing this, look across the globe. Not every place on this planet has homelessness issues like Hawaii does, they implement effective strategies for the problem. If we don't fix the root problems, we just continue to move folks around this island, traumatizing them and wasting tax payers money. The EcoNorth study did refer to the trauma informed, evidenced based research that can be combined with the current outreach that is happening, to better serve these vulnerable populations. Putting services in place verse penalizing people for existing not only seems humane, it is also COST EFFECTIVE. Win win ya?

Please remember the traumas that Maui County has faced in the past 2 years, which continue to be focused primarily around housing. Many community members are 1 or 2 paychecks away from homelessness. Instead of criminalizing homelessness, the County Council has been awarded many options to solve these problems. Instead of continued deliberation, DO something different!

Mahalo for your time.

**Susan Pcola-Davis**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:17pm 09-04-25

Access to a computer and internet may be an issue for those without. Other issues. In this section may be apparent if you think of yourself as houseless.

Regarding this part of the bill:

9.37.110 Online reporting of notices and property logs. A.

Within one business day of the posting of a notice or property log under this chapter, the County or its designee must upload a copy of the notice or property lot to a County website. The County website must include a function that allows encampment occupants to identify advocates as outreach providers under section 9.37.030 and for all interested parties and members of the public to be notified

when a new upload is made.

B. The County must maintain and display on the website, contact information including an email address or telephone number, to retrieve stored personal property. The telephone number must have a voicemail and call-back system if staff are unable to answer calls.

- 10 -

C. Instructions and forms for appeal processes required by this chapter must be available on this website.

## Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:58am 09-04-25

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Nicole Huguenin, and I serve as the Executive Director of Maui Rapid Response.

For two years, community partners like us, service providers, and County staff, including the Mayor's Office, worked together to shape amendments to Bill 111. These amendments are not optional extras — they are the linchpins that keep this bill from becoming just another sweep policy.

- \* Shelter precondition: no one is removed unless there is safe, appropriate shelter or an alternative available.

- \* Cultural safeguards: Native Hawaiian consultation and multilingual notices, because Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted.

- \* Transparency: public reporting so those impacted and their community know who is displaced, what's offered, and what's destroyed.

Last night, the Mayor's office walked away from these efforts, saying they need "flexibility." But let's be clear:

- \* "Flexibility" means sweeping people with nowhere to go.

- \* "Flexibility" means ignoring Hawaiian voices on Hawaiian \_\_ina.

- \* "Flexibility" means repeating the same failed cycle we've already seen and resulted in a lawsuit.

That is not flexibility. That is harm.

## Confusing and contradictory

The Mayor's statement says sweeps will be balanced by outreach. But in October 2024, Family Life Center testified they do not provide outreach before or after sweeps and will not be connected to enforcement. Despite that, the County continues to list FLC as the main outreach provider and has not updated their long-term contract.

So who is really doing the outreach? Where is the accountability? This contradiction makes the Mayor's proposal confusing at best, misleading at worst.

## Proof from recent sweeps

- \* Amala Place (2025): People who asked for shelter were given options that didn't fit. A k\_puna with a dog was offered only a top bunk in a crowded shelter — an impossible choice. They and others were pushed deeper into the bush. Now the County blames them for fire danger, when in fact the sweep itself created that danger by not having adequate shelter options or working collaboratively with others like the state where rooms were available at the former Haggai Institute.

- \* Ukumehame (2024): Long time residents were displaced without alternatives, on \_\_ina with deep cultural meaning. The sweep ignored kuleana and aloha \_\_ina, replacing them with police and bulldozers. In fact, the first announcement to residents for this relocation included the burnt down Lahaina shelter and phone number. If they can't update fliers how can they be trusted with harm-reduction and dignity?

These sweeps destabilized lives, wasted resources, and harmed Hawaiian — exactly what we warned would happen without clear safeguards.

## The evidence is already in hand

The EcoNorthwest study (2024) and recent trainers that DHC brought in, like Iain De Jong, both of which this County paid for, could not be clearer:

- \* Enforcement-first approaches cost more and solve nothing.

\* Real progress comes from shelter, coordination, and cultural grounding.

Amala Place and Ukumehame prove the study right. Sweeps push people further into hiding, increase risks like fire, and drain money that could fund shelter or housing.

Our request

Bill 111 can only work with the linchpin amendments intact. Without them, it's just a new name for old sweeps.

We urge you to:

\* Reject the Mayor's call for "flexibility."

\* Pass Bill 111 only with the shelter precondition, cultural safeguards, and transparency amendments we worked two years together to craft.

Maui already has the evidence, the recommendations, and the community-built solutions. The choice before you is simple:

\* More sweeps that waste money and cause harm, or

\* Real solutions rooted in aloha, kuleana, and justice.

Please choose solutions.

Mahalo nui loa,

Nicole Huguenin

Executive Director, Maui Rapid Response

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:37am 09-04-25

I support Bill 111 and its current Amendments. I encourage everyone and especially K\_naka involved in all aspects of government, to n\_n\_i ke kumu; look to the teachers; the `ike of those who served others, so that policy, administration and enforcement might be culturally inspired if not culturally led.

That Ke K\_n\_wai M\_malahoe would be more than something used in speeches, reports or studies, and that it would be implemented and its practice encouraged, in our communities.

The way our government and its agencies address homelessness, by placing blame for their lack of stable housing, on those experiencing homelessness, is not only far from the foundational `ike of Ke K\_nawai M\_malahoe, but also shows the willful violence of "the powers that \_be\_", who can create meaningful and compassionate systems of care and recovery for those needing community and support, yet insist on feeding and supporting harmful and false narratives that unsheltered folks are mentally ill, lying, drug addicted thieves who refuse help.

A county-funded study by ECONorthwest shows that homelessness stems from housing scarcity and affordability pressures, not personal failure. So, create the systems and capacity to address those.

Bill 111 isn't the answer to life, the universe and everything, but does outline the least this county can do, to see the success of helping people over hurting them. It requires sufficient, appropriate shelter accommodations BEFORE encampment removals; and notice, outreach and property storage for those residents.

Housing-led solutions, safe parking options, sanctioned, managed encampments, culturally grounded shelters and accommodations for couples, pets and ADA access, can improve stability and safety and foster connections of trust for the entire community.

Affordable housing was hard to find and keep before the fires. Post-fire, the search is even more strained. Folks are giving up beloved pets, moving off-island, taking on more work and seeing less of their families, to avoid being another kupuna, makua, sibling, friend or neighbor living in a car, tent, bush, on someone\_s couch or worse.

Please be inspired by the `ike of Ke K\_n\_wai M\_malahoe. Let it guide you through compassionate and meaningful discussion and later, passage, of Bill 111, as you consider a framework for county administrations and the appropriate departments, to approach and move through situations where the health and best interests of a hui of unsheltered folks guides the path to their recovery.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:12am 09-04-25

Aloha Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair, and Councilmembers,

I support the amendments proposed by Chair Sinenci and Councilmember Johnson. Without them, Bill 111 risks being punitive and retraumatizing, worsening houselessness instead of solving it.

We need solutions, not sweeps. ECONorthwest's own research shows houselessness is driven by unaffordable housing, not personal failure. Sweeps destabilize people, increase trauma, and drive survival behaviors into less visible but more dangerous spaces. Maui already saw this after the Amala Place sweep.

I also want to acknowledge the very real fears of our neighbors in K\_\_au and P\_\_ia. Fires, crime, and unsafe conditions are serious concerns. But scattering people through sweeps only multiplies those dangers. A well-established pu\_uhonua would actually reduce fire risk — because when people are given stability, trash pickup, safe cooking methods, and a chance to care for their home, the chaos that fuels unsafe conditions decreases. People care about their home too, whether it's a hale or a tent. Community-led models like Pu\_uhonua o Wai\_\_anae and Hui Mahiai \_\_ina prove that dignity and safety go hand in hand.

At the same time, Maui County has shown a pattern of favoring luxury developers — like Honua\_\_ula, where hundreds of affordable units were taken away while developers walked off with nearly half a billion dollars in profit. That is not pono. Imagine how many families could be housed and healed if even a fraction of those resources were redirected to our most vulnerable.

We also need to get creative. There are empty storefronts, warehouses, and underutilized properties in Kahului sitting vacant while our people sleep in brush and cars. Why not repurpose those into transitional housing, safe parking hubs, or indoor pu\_uhonua? These spaces are already close to jobs, schools, and medical care. With modest investment, they could provide stability, safety, and dignity far more effectively than endless sweeps.

Bill 111 must ensure that before any encampment action, the County can provide adequate, appropriate shelter — for families, couples, pets, k\_\_puna, disabled individuals, and vehicle dwellers — proximate to the services they need. It must honor K\_\_naka \_\_iwi constitutional rights under Article XII, §7 through Ka Pa\_\_akai analysis. And it must prioritize healing, housing, and public health over displacement.

For too long, K\_\_naka Maoli have borne the hewa of displacement — from the overthrow of our government, to the taking of our \_\_ina, to today's profit-driven developments that push our people into houselessness. Criminalizing and sweeping those who have already lost the most only repeats the same injustice.

If Maui truly wants to prevent another Lahaina, the answer is not more trauma and instability. It is investing in housing, pu\_uhonua, and \_\_ina-based solutions that protect both residents and neighbors. Stability, dignity, and aloha \_\_ina will create the safety we all deserve.

Please pass the amended version of Bill 111 with compassion and pono.

Mahalo nui,  
Maui Tauotaha

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:47am 09-04-25

Good Morning Chair and Councilmembers, thank you for your service.

I don't understand why vagrants who are loitering and paying no taxes, who often ignite life threatening fires and engage in criminal conduct, are favored over tax paying law-abiding Hawaii residents.

Doesn't make sense to me. Do the right thing before the entire North Shore burns down!

**Guest User**

Location:



Submitted At: 8:44am 09-04-25

Aloha, I am writing in support of Bill 111 with the amendments. I believe Bill 111 with the amendments is a step in the right direction.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:36am 09-04-25

The encampment in Holomua poses a very dangerous threat to the safety of residents along the North Shore. I live in Kuau and frequently can smell fires coming from that area as we are directly down wind. This is terrifying to think about as a fire from the encampment combined with a strong North Shore winds could wipe out all of Paia just like Lahaina two years ago.

Additionally, this area has become dangerous as far as criminal activity. It used to serve as a reasonable traffic outlet for locals trying to go up country during the busy tourist seasons. But now is nearly impassible due to illegal structures along the side of the road as well as potential toxic materials in the area. Additionally, driving on this road poses a threat of an automobile versus pedestrian accident, which could lead to fatality.

It is in the communities's best interest, and safety to clear out the encampment on Holomua and safely place these individuals in the many housing projects that have sprouted up around the area mainly in Kahului.

No one wants another fire that wipes another one of our towns off the map. Additional regulation and barriers and red tape is definitely not the answer.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:25am 09-04-25

Aloha Council and community members,

My name is Nikki Hauptman, I am a fourth generation kama'aina born and raised here on Maui and I write to you today in support of the amended versions of this bill from Committee Chair Sinenci & Council member Johnson.

The amended version's definition of an 'encampment', the inclusion of Kanaka Oihi constitutional rights explicitly in writing, and the requirement that adequate shelter for peoples needs are met before any forced relocation are crucial amendments to maintain a sense of humanity, dignity, compassion, safety, and cultural preservation for all involved.

I speak from the heart when I say that the people being "swept away" deserve much more than being re-traumatized and destabilized for simply trying to survive through a time where almost every local I know is getting "priced out of paradise."

Ive watched Maui change through my lifetime, I see classmates and old friends, kupuna and entire families lose access to their homes through no fault of their own. These people deserve compassion, they deserve community and care and they deserve respect just like you and me. The majority of the people being harmed by these sweeps are native Hawaiian and kama'aina, kupuna, keiki, mothers, people who work hard every day and still cannot afford to live in a home. They deserve the dignity of stability without fear of losing everything, again and again through inhumane sweeps.

Please start with basic things like trash pickups and regular public works visits to maintain a clean and safe environment and reduce risk of accidental fires around encampment areas. This will have a huge positive impact for all communities.

The resources spent on inhumane sweeps could easily fund programs for Safe Parking, shelters with capacity for pets, disabilities, partners, families, and also help procure spaces for self-managed pu'uhonua locations. People WANT to live and malama aina, they need the space and safety to do so.

In addition to the many ways we can reduce the cruelty of sweeps through the above practices, before any forced relocation, the county must also ask: Are there pet-friendly, partner/family, ADA, and vehicle accommodations? Are beds proximate to jobs, schools, and medical care? Are they stable for more than a night or two? Has a Ka

Pa\_akai analysis been completed?

Until the county can answer all of these questions positively, there must be a more humane alternative that does not bring further violence and trauma to our communities.

Please prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable community members and amend this bill with compassion and respect in the forefront of your mind.

Mahalo Council members for your time and consideration.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:21am 09-04-25

Aloha Councilmembers, I support the amended versions of this bill from Committee Chair Sinenci & Councilmember Johnson. Without these amendments, the bill would be punitive and only contribute to the problem instead of the solution. Specifically it's important to include the amended versions' definition of an encampment and inclusion of K\_naka \_\_\_iwi constitutional rights explicitly in writing. We must also require that adequate shelter for people's unique needs are met and stay in the bill.

Studies commissioned by the County agree that sweeps contribute to the problem, not the solution by retraumatizing and destabilizing people who need our help and support. We should invest all the resources spent on this inhumane and outdated practice of sweeps to create more shelters, safe parking, and self-managed pu\_uhonua instead. Please refer to ECONorthwest's research for more information - we pay for these studies, we need to use the information in them to create fair and just policy. If you're worried about cleanliness, start by providing things like trash pickup and see how much that helps.

Before any forced relocation, the County needs to ask: Are there pet-friendly, partner/family, ADA, and vehicle accommodations? Are beds proximate to jobs, schools, and medical care? Are they stable for more than a night or two? Has a Ka Pa\_akai analysis been completed?

Unless the county can say yes to all of these questions, you need to hold off on doing anything until they can provide these BASIC things.

Mahalo nui for bringing this issue onto the agenda and prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. Please amend this bill with compassion at the forefront of your mind.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:07am 09-04-25

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

As an ohana living in K\_\_au with k\_puna and with keiki, we oppose Bill 111. Our biggest concern is safety for our children, k\_puna and neighbors.

Holomua has had over 100 fires in the past year—all human-caused—in an area already full of brush, debris, and abandoned vehicles. Any delay of even 10–45 days puts our homes and families at immediate risk.

We support housing and safe parking solutions, but fire danger cannot wait. Please don't add more red tape when lives are at stake.

Mahalo,  
A Concerned K\_\_au Ohana

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:57am 09-04-25

I'm a Kuau resident opposed to Bill 111. This bill will only deepen the problem by fueling the Homeless Advocacy

Industry. The reality is simple: the more advocates and programs we fund, the more homelessness grows. This industry, largely supported by Maui County taxpayer dollars, has become a self-sustaining cycle. Just look at the Mayor's Budget Ordinance to see how much of our money is being funneled into these efforts—yet the situation continues to worsen as the industry expands.

I shouldn't have to pay for something that directly threatens my safety and quality of life in my own community. It's time to wake up and recognize that this approach is leading us nowhere.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:18am 09-04-25

Aloha Councilmembers and our island communities of Maui County,

I oppose this bill.

I will keep it brief.

I agree that some points are necessary towards the goal of getting help for people amongst the homeless populace that want to stop the cycle they are in and better themselves (as each individual should do in life), but as a whole this bill is highly flawed! It recommends solutions and policy/procedures that DOES NOT take into consideration the already devastating effects that have been occurring in our communities by enabling poor life choices or actions, and not enforcing existing laws and common sense standards of conduct that is what makes civilized communities flourish.

This bill is a liability to the County of Maui (not just the government but the whole community), not an asset.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my vote and brief opinion.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:06am 09-04-25

We live in Kuau and are constantly terrified that the neighborhood will be burned down by fires started at Holomua Road!! The almost daily fire engine sirens are a constant reminder of this huge risk to our neighborhood and the town of Paia.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:19am 09-04-25

From the Keiki:

We are Keiki that live in Kuau. Please focus on our safety. When we go to Hookipa there are people filling water jugs, taking showers, driving fast and through there. Our street and the Kuau store have more people wondering around - 1 with a knife on his belt, laying in the grass passed out, peeing on the side of the road and we feel unsafe. We had a fire back and got robbed from drug users when we were really small and now terrified we will have another one or something will happen. Please do not pass this Bill and focus more on enforcing the current laws and moving the encampments to a designated safe spot for them and us.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:08am 09-04-25

Stop avoiding the insanity that is Holomua. If you want to continue to have extreme fire risk and rampant crime, this bill and Gabe Johnson are for you! I can't wait for the next council elections where I will be telling every single person I meet about how Gabe Johnson doesn't care about Kuau residents.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:27am 09-04-25

Living on the fence line I am one of the closest properties to Holomua encampments. Frequent fires, sometimes of entire vehicles creates toxic smoke along with extreme risk of wild fires. The smoke often wakes me in the middle of the night. In addition to weekly Maui FD trips I have witnessed uncontrolled wildfires which due to strong winds are a real threat to all living in the Paia area. No sanitation results in runoff into the ocean which so many residents use on a daily basis. There has to be a better location closer to town and further from the ocean to set up encampments. Yet more inaction is not a solution. Please work toward ending this threat to life health and safety for all Paia / Kuau residents. John Nichols 38 Holua Place Kuau.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:31pm 09-03-25

Aloha Councilmembers, I support the amended versions of this bill from Committee Chair Sinenci & Councilmember Johnson. Without these amendments, the bill would be punitive and only contribute to the problem instead of the solution. Specifically it's important to include the amended versions' definition of an encampment and inclusion of K\_naka \_\_\_iwi constitutional rights explicitly in writing. We must also require that adequate shelter for people's unique needs are met and stay in the bill.

Studies commissioned by the County agree that sweeps contribute to the problem, not the solution by retraumatizing and destabilizing people who need our help and support. We should invest all the resources spent on this inhumane and outdated practice of sweeps to create more shelters, safe parking, and self-managed pu\_uhonua instead. Please refer to ECONorthwest's research for more information - we pay for these studies, we need to use the information in them to create fair and just policy. If you're worried about cleanliness, start by providing things like trash pickup and see how much that helps.

Before any forced relocation, the County needs to ask: Are there pet-friendly, partner/family, ADA, and vehicle accommodations? Are beds proximate to jobs, schools, and medical care? Are they stable for more than a night or two? Has a Ka Pa\_akai analysis been completed?

Unless the county can say yes to all of these questions, you need to hold off on doing anything until they can provide these BASIC things.

Mahalo nui for bringing this issue onto the agenda and prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. Please amend this bill with compassion at the forefront of your mind.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:44pm 09-03-25

Hi Chair & Councilmembers, I want to thank you for all your hard work on our behalf. You really are a lifeline to our community.

Imagine this: very dry conditions, red alert high winds, low humidity, and then fires are ignited intentionally by persons on Holomua.

The result is Paia & Kuau will be burned to the ground, just like Lahaina. Most of the structures are wooden and old.

If you want to save this area, do what you need to do to remove the fire risk ASAP.

Mahalo.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:41pm 09-03-25

Written Testimony on Bill 111

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Darla Palmer-Ellingson, and I am speaking today as a private citizen regarding Bill 111. I support this bill if further revisions are undertaken.

I appreciate the intent of this bill and the recognition that homelessness requires attention and action. However, I am concerned that the measures outlined may not meaningfully change the current cycle of sweeping individuals from place to place without addressing underlying causes.

My Experience

In 2022, I witnessed a senior woman in my neighborhood in Ha\_ik\_ sleeping by the side of the road. Her husband

had become critically ill, and she ended up evicted with no possessions, living outside while grieving separation from her husband, and with no support. A group of neighbors—including myself—stepped in to provide a safer location, food, water, sanitation, and rides so she could visit her husband at Hale Makua.

Despite our best efforts, it took over two years for her to find stable housing. During that time, we encountered many systemic barriers: long delays between referrals, paperwork that was misplaced and had to be repeated, lack of updated shelter information, and services that were simply inaccessible without reliable transportation, phone, or internet. Even though a full assessment was done, the individual we were helping falls in a grey area between mental health housing and regular homeless services, with neither prospect having immediate availability. Currently, a homeless person must call the shelter every day at 8am to see if there is a bed open, then get there immediately. Even with multiple people advocating on her behalf, it was almost impossible for us to navigate the system, let alone someone in her situation.

#### Observations of the System

Through this experience, I observed:

- Fragmented services with long delays in communication and referrals.
- Barriers to access, especially for those without technology or transportation, and suffering from issues, in this case mental anguish.
- Overextended staff who are deeply committed but overwhelmed by high caseloads.
- Gaps in planning that fail to meaningfully involve the unhoused community.

In addition, I believe it is important for the Council to be aware of community concerns regarding how public funding is administered from the state to the designated faith-based nonprofit on Maui. For example, I experienced challenges in communication that were only solved with support from the Governor's homeless liaison, and heard consistent concerns from others about transparency, program oversight, and whether public dollars are being distributed equitably. I raise these concerns not to cast blame on any one organization, but to ensure that public resources are stewarded with transparency and fairness for the benefit of the entire community, and that taxpayer funds are used effectively and with accountability.

#### Housing First in Name Only

The term Housing First, is a well-defined, national model focused on immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions, combined with supportive services. However, what I have seen in practice does not reflect this approach. To truly implement a Housing First model, I urge the Council to:

- Ensure immediate and low-barrier access to housing options, not just shelters. We did it for fire survivors, proving we can get rapid basic housing accomplished. Studies show this is a more financially viable option than shelter expansion.
- Expand the homeless services workforce and provide fair compensation to reduce burnout and turnover.
- Establish real-time, transparent systems for bed and housing availability, and improve systems and transportation to access services.
- Involve people with lived experience of homelessness in policy design and implementation, including those that are currently unhoused.
- Protect personal property and uphold the dignity of the unhoused, avoiding enforcement approaches that criminalize poverty.
- Expand resources beyond survival to help people regain stability and thrive.

#### Moving Forward

If we want to reduce unsheltered homelessness, not treat this section of our community like criminals, expand resources, and create pathways to stability, we must go beyond managing encampments. We must commit to a coordinated, comprehensive, Housing First strategy, be open to contemporary solutions that work, with efforts backed by transparency, accountability, and compassion.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Darla Palmer-Ellingson

#### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:56pm 09-03-25

Aloha Chair and Council Members,

I am writing to oppose Bill 111. Bill 111 will create delays in reducing wildfire risk. It will extend the time that the

houseless living in the Holomua encampment or any Maui roadside encampment will be at risk in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

My family has lived in Kuau for over 30 years. We own two homes less than half a mile from Holomua Road. We are extremely concerned about wildfire risk enhanced by the large homeless encampment near the Old Maui High School directly upwind from our homes. Last year there were over 100 brush fires or car fires on Holomua Road. Recently, on August 17, there were stacked pallets and brush on fire at the Holomua homeless encampment. There was another brush fire on Holomua on August 20. These fires not only threaten our Kuau community they also threaten the health and safety of those living in the unsafe conditions at the Holomua encampment.

Please do not pass Bill 111.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,  
Kitty Walsh  
kitty.d.walsh@gmail.com

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:47pm 09-03-25

Aloha Councilmembers, I am supportive of the amended versions of this bill from Committee Chair Sinenci & Councilmember Johnson. Without these amendments, the bill would be punitive and only contribute to the problem instead of the solution. Specifically the parts that are important to include are the ways the amended versions define an encampment and put K\_naka \_\_iwi constitutional rights explicitly in writing. We must also require that adequate shelter for people\_s unique needs are met and stay in the bill as it is.

Studies commissioned by the County of Maui agree that sweeps contribute to the problem, not the solution by retraumatizing and destabilizing people who need our help and support the most. We should invest all the resources spent on this inhumane and outdated practice to create more shelters, safe parking, and self-managed pu\_uhonua instead. Please refer to ECONorthwest\_s research for more information - we pay for these studies, we need to use the information in them to create fair and just policy.

Before any forced relocation, the County needs to ask: Are there pet-friendly, partner/family, ADA, and vehicle accommodations? Are beds proximate to jobs, schools, and medical care? Are they stable for more than a night or two? Has a Ka Pa\_akai analysis been completed?  
Unless the county can say yes to all of these questions, they need to hold off on doing anything until they can provide these BASIC things.

Mahalo nui for bringing this issue onto the agenda and prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. I ask that you please amend this bill with compassion at the forefront of your mind and implement research-based solutions to avoid creating a cycle of trauma that benefits no one.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:29pm 09-03-25

Aloha,

Kuau residents have been pleading for support and are waiting to be heard. Any legislation that postpones enforcement for even a few weeks—let alone more than a month—jeopardizes lives and property. We are still waiting for action on the Holomua gate through Bill 95; adding new delays will only worsen an already escalating situation across the island.

Instead of streamlining solutions, Bill 111 adds layers of delay and regulation, especially around clearing dangerous encampments in high-risk areas like Holomua. Extending notice periods—even in cases of clear hazards—places more emphasis on procedural formalities than on the immediate safety of residents, enforcement of existing laws, and wildfire prevention.

We don't feel safe in our own neighborhood.

Mahalo.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:56pm 09-03-25

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

As K\_\_au residents, we oppose Bill 111 in order to allow immediate action when the safety of our community is needed.

As proposed, it would create MORE delays and red tape when it comes to removing unsafe encampments—especially in high-risk areas like Holomua. While it claims to codify processes, it also opens the door to extending notice periods, even when urgent violations are present. It seems to be more geared towards the HOUSING issue vs. fire safety, legal enforcement and public risk. All that puts our neighborhood still in a dangerous position.

There were over 100 fires on Holomua in the last year—all human-caused. This is a high-risk wildfire zone, upwind from neighborhoods, with overgrown brush, flammable debris, and abandoned vehicles—all violations.

Any bill that delays law enforcement—even for 10 to 45 days—puts families and properties at immediate risk. We cannot wait for more permitting and paperwork while fires continue to ignite weekly. We have been waiting for Bill 95's permitting for the Holomua gate. This is more waiting, be Holomua or any location on island where this issue is RAPIDLY increasing.

These encampments have personal impacts to homeowners, businesses and neighbors from these ongoing conditions. We fully support housing solutions and compassionate outreach. But fire safety must be non-negotiable. Waiting could cost lives. This time, energy and efforts would be better spent following through with the safe parking spaces for these encampment people.

Mahalo for your time and service,  
Ku\_au Residents

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:26pm 09-03-25

Aloha Councilmembers, I am supportive of the amended versions of this bill from Committee Chair Sinenci & Councilmember Johnson. Without these amendments, the bill would be punitive and only contribute to the problem instead of the solution. Specifically the parts that are important to include are the ways the amended versions define an encampment and put K\_naka \_\_iwi constitutional rights explicitly in writing. We must also require that adequate shelter for people\_s unique needs are met and stay in the bill as it is.

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Unless the county can say yes to all of these questions, they need to hold off on doing anything until they can provide these BASIC things.

Mahalo nui for bringing this issue onto the agenda and prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. I ask that you please amend this bill with compassion at the forefront of your mind and implement research-based solutions to avoid creating a cycle of trauma that benefits no one.

**Guest User**

Location:

Chair and Members of the Maui County Council,

My name is Melissa Noble Brown, a resident of Maui County concerned about the ongoing challenges of homeless individuals and encampments, drug use, crime and the general public decay I see in our county. I do offer my support for Bill 111, which amends Title 9 of the Maui County Code to revamp procedures for relocating individuals and managing personal property in public spaces.

As outlined in the bill, its purpose is to provide procedures for compassionate relocations, including offering access to behavioral health support, housing transitions, and other services within available resources. By requiring advance notices, the presence of outreach providers during removals, and the establishment of temporary refuges offering shelter, medical care, and storage—this legislation prioritizes dignity and support over punitive measures..... This next phrase is where my support stops. As written: “These provisions are crucial for Maui, where we must balance the needs of our unhoused population with the well-being of our broader community.”

I am assuming the phrase “well-being of our broader community” refers to us everyday taxpaying citizens, the citizens who will pay to fund these programs, and the balancing therefore should be weighed in our favor of our needs and consider what is crucial to us, “the broader community.”

1) Safety within our community: Crime is out of control as evidenced by recent horrific crime events both publicized and kept on the down low. I’m genuinely afraid to drive in Kahului at night due to people wandering the streets in dark clothing and I won’t see them and I’m not alone in this fear

2) Health and hygiene: Bluntly, Maui in general looks like crap. Everyone seems concerned about pollution while there is garbage, debris, human feces and urine and most importantly PEOPLE strewn all across our county on roadways, sidewalks, BEACHES, public parks. Parks and beaches literally STINK. Public restroom facilities (if you can find one open and not destroyed due to vandalism) are disgusting and dangerous (except in Wailea and Kaanapali)

3) FIRE HAZARDS – I don’t think I need to say any more on that. We all see it and are fearful of another disaster (small disasters occur almost daily at Holomua Road, Piikahana Road, now Upcountry too)

We must confront the root causes of homelessness head-on: drug addiction and mental health issues. Federal data indicates that nearly two-thirds of individuals experiencing homelessness report regular use of hard drugs such as methamphetamines and fentanyl, while a significant portion also suffer from serious mental health conditions. Ignoring these underlying factors perpetuates a cycle of instability and fails to deliver lasting solutions.

the Federal Executive Order “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets,” issued on July 24, 2025, directs federal agencies to prioritize funding for states and localities that enforce prohibitions on urban camping and address homelessness through mandatory treatment, including assisted outpatient programs and civil commitment for those unable to care for themselves due to addiction or mental illness. It shifts away from “Housing First” models that deprioritize treatment, instead conditioning housing assistance on participation in behavioral health services to promote recovery and self-sufficiency. Additionally, it emphasizes public safety by supporting the removal of encampments where necessary.

Bill 111 aligns with this federal directive by emphasizing access to services during relocations and incorporating behavioral health support but this MUST BE MANDATORY. Allowing mentally ill and drug addicted people to languish in decay and filth is not humane or compassionate.

I urge the Council to ensure that implementation of this bill incorporates the Executive Order’s focus on mandatory treatment options. For instance, when offering alternatives prioritize programs that require engagement with addiction recovery and mental health services to break the cycle of homelessness. I do not see one alternative within the proposal that requires engagement, only offers it as a choice.

News flash: Mentally ill and/or drug addicted people are not usually thinking clearly and will not choose treatment if given a choice.

This approach not only addresses immediate needs but also tackles the core issues driving the crisis, as evidenced by the order’s recognition that unchecked addiction and mental illness contribute to public disorder and higher homelessness rates.

Passing Bill 111 with an emphasis on integrating federal guidance will help Maui County, will help all citizens, lower crime rates, support vulnerable residents in achieving stability, and align local efforts with national priorities. This is an opportunity we have now in this time and I urge the council to take it for the sake of our Maui County

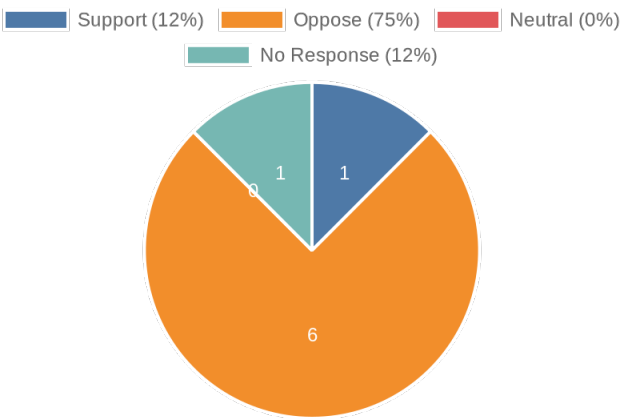


citizens who are, frankly, fed up.

Thank you.

Agenda Item: eComments for WASSP-13 Bill 111 (2024) BILL 111 (2024), ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN PUBLIC PLACES AND A RIGHT TO SHELTER (WASSP-13)

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:  
Submitted At: 3:51pm 09-04-25

Please, do what we elected you do: support the working class. Instead, this bill yet again focuses on the few, and enables (does not actually) help dangerous behavior, hurting the great majority of people just trying to get by. The homeless advocates are paid actors who are financially interested in showing up to legislative meetings and have a vested interest in making more people homeless by enabling them. They get richer while the rest of the county gets ignored. This bill will further endanger the many children who live in constant fear of the fires these encampments create near daily. Further, this bill ties the hands of the county to remedy encampments. The language designating open flame cooking as not a fire risk is absolutely wrong-- open flame cooking causes fires in these encampments every week. It is only a matter of time before they burn down central Maui and blood will be on your hands, Gabe Johnson and whoever votes for this. The question is simple: where do we put our energy: to rolling out a welcome mat for every violent Portland meth head to come to Maui to light fires, or do we focus legislation on the things that 99% of your voters actually care about and need: affordable housing, safe education, and safe outdoors? It's notable that the people who support this bill don't have to tolerate the constant attacks by homeless people that the working class do. The supporters ride their moral high horses to their homes Upcountry while the working class holding Maui together is left to deal with the violent methheads living in the bushes next to their houses.

Melissa Brown

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:55pm 09-04-25

Chair and Members of the Maui County Council,

My name is Melissa Noble Brown, a resident of Maui County concerned about the ongoing challenges of homeless individuals and encampments, drug use, crime and the general public decay I see in our county. I do offer my quasi support for Bill 111, which amends Title 9 of the Maui County Code to revamp procedures for relocating individuals and managing personal property in public spaces.

As outlined in the bill, its purpose is to provide procedures for compassionate relocations, including offering access to behavioral health support, housing transitions, and other services within available resources. By requiring advance notices, the presence of outreach providers during removals, and the establishment of temporary refuges offering shelter, medical care, and storage—this legislation prioritizes dignity and support over punitive measures..... This next phrase is where my support stops. As written: “These provisions are crucial for Maui, where we must balance the needs of our unhoused population with the well-being of our broader community.”

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Bill 111 aligns with this federal directive by emphasizing access to services during relocations and incorporating behavioral health support but this MUST BE MANDATORY. Allowing mentally ill and drug addicted people to languish in decay and filth is not humane or compassionate.

I urge the Council to ensure that implementation of this bill incorporates the Executive Order’s focus on mandatory treatment options. For instance, when offering alternatives prioritize programs that require engagement with addiction recovery and mental health services to break the cycle of homelessness. I do not see one alternative within the proposal that requires engagement, only offers it as a choice.

News flash: Mentally ill and/or drug addicted people are not usually thinking clearly and will not choose treatment if given a choice.

This approach not only addresses immediate needs but also tackles the core issues driving the crisis, as evidenced by the order’s recognition that unchecked addiction and mental illness contribute to public disorder and higher homelessness rates.

Passing Bill 111 with an emphasis on integrating federal guidance will help Maui County, will help all citizens, lower crime rates, support vulnerable residents in achieving stability, and align local efforts with national priorities. This is an opportunity we have now in this time and I urge the council to take it for the sake of our Maui County citizens who are, frankly, fed up.

Thank you.

**Susan Pcola-Davis**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:14pm 09-04-25

Access to a computer and internet may be an issue for those without. Other issues. In this section may be apparent if you think of yourself as houseless.

Regarding this part of the bill:

9.37.110 Online reporting of notices and property logs. A.

Within one business day of the posting of a notice or property log under this chapter, the County or its designee must upload a copy of the notice or property lot to a County website. The County website must include a function that allows encampment occupants to identify advocates as outreach providers under section 9.37.030 and for all interested parties and members of the public to be notified when a new upload is made.

B. The County must maintain and display on the website, contact information including an email address or telephone number, to retrieve stored personal property. The telephone number must have a voicemail and call-back system if staff are unable to answer calls.

- 10 -

C. Instructions and forms for appeal processes required by this chapter must be available on this website.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:47am 09-04-25

STOP delaying the inevitable of needing to clean up our island and take care of the homelessness and mentally ill problem that is ruining neighborhoods, communities, businesses, and affecting our well being! You all know this needs to be handled ASAP and all you are doing by prolonging this matter is kicking the bucket down the road for another day when things get worse. Can they get worse?? A police officer was just SHOT and KILLED in PAIA! By allowing the lawlessness of Holomua Rd. and all other activities around our island you have made it unsafe for our communities. MAKE PAIA SAFE AGAIN! clean up Holomua Rd. and stop the delay!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:21am 09-04-25

Testimony Opposing Bill 111

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

I am writing in strong opposition to Bill 111. This bill, as written, would incentivize rampant homelessness and place an exponential financial burden on taxpayers without addressing the root causes of the crisis.

As a taxpayer and community member, I want to be able to bring my family back to the Cut Mountain area one day to enjoy the beach safely. Since COVID, this area has turned into a hub for drugs, domestic violence, car theft, wildfires, and criminal activity. It is no longer a safe place for families.

Years ago, I was part of efforts to advocate for the county to purchase these lands for the future Pali to Puamana Parkway plan. The vision was to create a community space that would one day serve as a park, a place of wellness, and a gathering area for all residents. Today, that vision is being undermined by the lack of enforcement and accountability—what could be a park for families is now a dump and a danger zone.

It is also important to note that many people in our community are too afraid to publicly testify out of fear of retaliation by homeless advocates. Their silence does not mean support for this bill. It means intimidation is preventing honest voices from being heard.

The county has a responsibility to protect surrounding communities from wildfire risks. We lost over 100 lives in the Lahaina fire—a tragedy we must never allow to happen again. Yet Maui Fire Department continues to respond to fire calls in this area almost weekly. Bill 111 would only worsen this public safety hazard.

For the sake of community safety, fiscal responsibility, and the future of the Pali to Puamana Parkway vision, I urge you to reject Bill 111.  
Mahalo.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:12pm 09-03-25

please support the removal of the Holomua Rd encampments. This area is at high risk for fire which could destroy Paia town. We need to find a better safer area for people that are unhomed. Holomua Rd is a beautiful area and should be cleaned up anyways.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:36pm 09-03-25

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

I am writing to oppose Bill 111. Bill 111 will create delays in reducing wildfire risk. It will extend the time that the houseless living in the Holomua encampment will be at risk in unsafe and unsanitary conditions where it is also well known that all versions of criminal activity proliferate and overflow into nearby neighborhoods.

I have lived in Kuau for over 25 years. I reside less than half a mile downwind from Holomua Road. I am extremely concerned about wildfire risk enhanced by the large homeless encampment near Old Maui High School directly upwind from our homes. Last year there were over 100 brush fires or car fires on Holomua Road. Recently, on August 17, there were stacked pallets and brush on fire at the homeless encampment. There was another brush fire on Holomua on August 20. These fires not only threaten our Kuau community but they also threaten the health and safety of those living in the unsafe conditions at the Holomua encampment.

Please do not pass Bill 111. Please prioritize immediacy with providing safe and healthy shelter and homes for the population within this encampment.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Lisa Starr

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:11pm 09-03-25

I understand that the proposed bill 111 could cause more delays in removing homeless people and their abandoned belongings as well as slowing down a rest processes and getting needy people to care at services they should be referred to. The county and state need to act expeditiously to remove campers and waste that we see throughout our community further, I would like to see more trees planted in our parks and more caregiving, including irrigation of lawns and small trees at all of our parks, especially the beach parks like Kanaha and Lania Poco thank you Brett Gobar, bachelors degree and resource management, environmental quality and policy analysis