

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

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Deputy Managing Director



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COUNTY OF MAUI
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February 13, 2025

Honorable Shane Sinenci, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee
Maui County Council
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Sinenci:

**SUBJECT: PILOT PROJECT USING COUNTY PARKING LOTS FOR
HUMAN HABITATION UPDATE (WASSP-1(2))**

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 29, 2025 regarding Safe Parking. I am writing to provide information regarding the Safe Parking pilot project to be discussed at the committee meeting of February 25, 2025.

Regarding the status of the Safe Parking pilot, in April 2022, the County Council voted to add \$200,000 to the Homeless Program of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns' ("DHHC") FY23 budget to, "establish a safe zone or sleeping space for the houseless."

Subsequently in June 2022, Bill 108 (A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10.76 AND SECTION 13.04A.070, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO USE OF VEHICLES FOR PURPOSES OF HUMAN HABITATION AT COUNTY PARKING LOTS) was referred to the Affordable Housing Committee. The bill allowed for human habitation in vehicles within a county parking lot if agreed to by the director of the department responsible for that lot. On August 23, 2022, Bill 108 CD1 was unanimously approved by the Council.

On September 8, 2022 the county issued a press release that announced the Cameron Center as the location for the pilot parking lot project. DHHC records indicate that the J. Walter Cameron Center's leadership met with the Council Chair, Member King, and with Share Your Mana for consultation. Approximately one month later, DHHC was informed that the grant agreement of \$200,000 to the Cameron Center did not meet the standard for Corporation Counsel's approval of form and legality because Maui County Code 3.36 required that, "solicitation must occur."

Based on the guidance provided by Corporation Counsel, DHHC proceeded to draft an "Invitation to Apply" for the Safe Parking pilot project and released the invitation on December 9, 2022. Unfortunately, the invitation to apply did not yield any proposals to operate the Safe Parking pilot project. The Department made an announcement in early January 2023 that no agencies had submitted proposals.

The Administration believes that Safe Parking is needed within the county, and is currently working on a revised/updated Request for Applications for a Safe Parking pilot project. The Administration's hope is that, in addition to county-owned land, private landowners may consider working with service providers to submit proposals for consideration. It plans to release the Invitation to Apply this fiscal year.

If you have further questions please reach out to Naomi Crozier in my office, at Charleen.N.Crozier@mauicounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Bissen, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

WASSP Committee

From: Michelle L. Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 2:25 PM
To: WASSP Committee
Cc: Charleen N. Crozier; Noah D. Jackson; Cynthia E. Sasada; Erin A. Wade; Josiah K. Nishita; Kelii P. Nahooikaika; Jessica C. Crouse; kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us; loriann.tsuhako@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: WASSP Committee-Pilot Project Using County Parking Lots for Human Habitation Update.
Attachments: WASSP Committee-Pilot Project Using County Parking-2-13-25.pdf