

PIA Committee

From: Joseph Pluta <pluta@maui.net>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 2:31 PM
To: PIA Committee
Cc: WMTA; 'Rick Nava'
Subject: PIA-61

Aloha Chair Michael Victorino and Committee members:

I am writing you as an individual and not representing the West Maui Taxpayer's Association on which I serve. The WMTA board has not had an opportunity to discuss the Mayor's proposals your committee is studying on homeless issues.

I attend the Maui Homeless Alliance meetings and have come to learn more about the homeless crisis we have on Maui.

Part of my research has found a study on the Cost of homelessness on Oahu that quoted: "Queens hospital cared homeless patients 10,126 times in 2015 resulting in gross charges of \$89.3 Million."

Has there been any effort to see what MMMC has incurred in this regard like Queens Hospital did on Oahu?

We know that there are many other costs associated with the loop of in and out of the ER due to critical need of our homeless and indigent.

When it comes to quantifying actions to take, it may be more beneficial to spend money on housing first, Mental Health and General Health, and Food for the homeless than what we are currently spending.

This issue is going to get worse before it gets better.

May God Speed your committee's research on this community crisis in the best interests of all concerned.

Warm Regards,

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