

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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November 29, 2024

Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Richard T. Bissen, Jr. 12-3-24
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Chair Sinenci:

**SUBJECT: BILL 111 (2024), TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE
REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN PUBLIC
PLACES AND A RIGHT TO SHELTER (WASSP-13)**

This transmission is in response to your letter dated October 28, 2024, requesting number and cost of encampment removals over the past three years. Fiscal responsibility is critical to local government operations, and I appreciate the work all departments are doing to operate in a fiscally responsible manner with the resources that they have.

The closure of Wahikuli Park in Lahaina on August 1, 2024 was the primary county encampment intervention over the previous three years. This intervention required both county personnel and a contracted property removal and storage company. The intervention cost \$46,928 in tracked costs from DPW, DPR, and the contractor, and an estimated 150 non-DPW and DPR man hours from county employees.

The contract with the property removal and storage company, H.T.M. Contractors Inc. cost \$30,105. Costs for their services included trash and property removal, related equipment rental, storage of property for 30 days, providing owner-access to stored property, and personnel transportation from Oahu. This was the County's first

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intervention involving organized property removal and storage following the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in *Davis v. Bissen*, which required storage of personal property. The County expects costs for these services to decline for future interventions.

DPW billed \$6,223 for equipment and labor costs for work done the day before, during, and the day after the closure of the park. Most of this cost came from the removal and hauling of trash.

DPR estimated \$10,600 for equipment and labor costs for planning and execution of the park closure. Of this cost, 55% was incurred during the assessment, planning and preparation for the closure, and 45% for the closure itself. This estimate includes trash removal, but not park repairs following closure. Of note, DPR reported that regular upkeep, trash clean-up, and property removal is more time and cost-effective for DPR staff than periodical larger-scale encampment interventions.

Non-DPW and DPR county staff participation to close the park to the public included all day involvement from eight county employees. While not tracked, preparation for the closure required roughly the same number of man-hours. Other county staff participated for a portion of the closure day, so the county estimates that around 150 man-hours were required in total apart from DPW and DPR.

If you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to me at extension 7205.

Sincerely,



JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

WASSP Committee

From: Michelle L. Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 12:46 PM
To: WASSP Committee
Cc: Noah D. Jackson; Cynthia E. Sasada; Josiah K. Nishita; Kelii P. Nahooikaika
Subject: Bill 111
Attachments: MT#10881-WASSP Committee.pdf