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Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

July 1, 2024

Mr. John Mizuno, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
State of Hawai'i
Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions
415 South Beretania Street, #5
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Via Email: john.m.mizuno@hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Mizuno:

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PU'UHONUA O NĒNĒ TEMPORARY
SHELTER (WASSP-1(17))**

At its meeting of June 18, 2024, the Maui County Council's Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee received an update on Pu'uhonua o Nēnē.

During the meeting, the Committee received testimony from 15 individuals. Some testifiers, who were residents of Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, raised concerns about the shelter's inadequate staffing levels and noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Testifiers also spoke about incidents of violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and deaths at the shelter.

Following testimony, a Project Vision Hawai'i representative shared that Pu'uhonua o Nēnē was built in less than two weeks after the August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires and was meant to be a temporary shelter until the State built a permanent site.

If you are interested in listening to the testimony and Committee's discussion, please visit <https://www.mauicounty.us/agendas/>.

May I please request your response to the following:

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1. Please confirm whether Pu‘uhonua o Nēnē will receive State funding so Project Vision Hawai‘i can hire additional staff members to address the shelter’s safety concerns.
2. Does the State intend to make infrastructure improvements for water access, wastewater management for permanent bathrooms, paving of the gravel lot, or installing landscaping for residents to have better access to shade? Please explain.

May I further request that you send your written response by **July 12, 2024**. To ensure efficient processing, please transmit your response to wassp.committee@mauicounty.us, with a reference to WASSP-1(17) in the subject line of your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Clarissa MacDonald at 808-270-7135, or Maria Leon at 808-270-7886).

Sincerely,



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services, and
Parks Committee