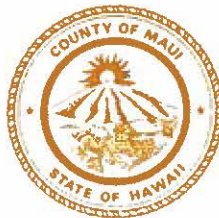


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKE
Director

JESSICA CROUSE
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

March 14, 2025

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Richard Bissen 3-14-25
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Chair Sinenci:

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

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 28, 2025. For ease, we have maintained the numerical labeling of your questions and provided our responses accordingly.

1. Has Project Vision Hawaii received County grant funding to deliver water and street medicine to the County's houseless population?

a. If no, please explain why not.

The Department has not yet been able to execute a grant agreement with Project Vision Hawaii (PVH) for FY2025 funding in the amount of \$188,550. Several factors, including staffing shortages at the Grants Management Division, have contributed to the delays in execution. The agency submitted their application for funding, with program narratives, proposed outcome measures and a proposed budget in a timely fashion. The Department was delayed in providing feedback and obtaining required edits for more clarity from PVH.

In November 2024, the Department was approached by a second agency that sought to "take over" the delivery of the service. The Department advised PVH and the second agency to develop a sub-recipient agreement to memorialize their

partnership and explain how the work of water delivery to remote areas of the island and the medical outreach service were to be bifurcated and accounted for via one grant agreement.

To its credit, PVH followed through and provided the Department with a draft sub-recipient agreement on February 20, 2025. This was followed by an in person meeting the following day attended by PVH's Executive Director, Darrah Kauhane, and Program Director, Bob Wardlaw, as well as the Director and Deputy Director of DHC.

Recently PVH has decided to not pursue a sub-recipient agreement with the other agency and has instead asked the Department to proceed with their initial proposal. The Department has provided PVH with information about a few issues that need clarification in their proposed outcomes and how they will be accurately measured/validated. We expect that once the outcomes have been adequately addressed, we will be able to proceed to grant execution.

Once the grant agreement is executed, PVH's work will be monitored via desk review and on-site monitoring of agency records. If applicable, the Department will also utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to verify relevant data and outcomes.

2. In 2009, under Executive Order 4033, the State of Hawaii granted 4.02 acres, identified for real property tax purposes as tax map key (2) 4-4-001:106, on Honoapiʻilani Highway, Lahaina, to the County.

a. For what purpose has the property been used since being granted to the County in 2009? How is the property being used today?

Subsequent to being granted the property, the County made earnest efforts to develop affordable housing and an evacuation route in compliance with the terms of the Executive Order. A developer was selected following a competitive process for Affordable Housing Funds, and the Council later authorized a grant of real property to the non-profit for the project called "Honokowai Project" in the fall of 2009. The plan at that time was for the subject property to be developed into 55 units of housing affordable to residents at 80% of Area Median Income level.

In March, 2010, the non profit agency's Board of Directors and the Department of Housing and Human Concerns were notified that the Honokowai Affordable Rental Housing project would not be pursued. The County then moved to revoke agreements for funding from various sources within our control, and the lease of the property was formally terminated on May 14, 2012.

The property has been untouched since that time, with periodic clearing of trash, weeds and abandoned vehicles undertaken by the County. At one juncture in 2019-2020, the parcel was re-evaluated for potential development. At that time there was a determination made that egress could not be made onto the Honoapiilani Highway, and that there is a main water line running through the

middle of property. The Department of Human Concerns has not been able to obtain a formal report to confirm the above findings.

In May, 2023, prior to its bifurcation, the Department of Housing and Human Concerns made a formal request to the State to return the parcel to the State and cancel the Executive Order. However, after the fires occurred in August, 2023, the DHHC was not able to dedicate attention to this request and thus the property remains in the County's inventory.

The property remains vacant today.

b. Who is responsible for managing the property?

Inasmuch as the property was deemed unusable for affordable housing, it remains in the inventory under the Department of Human Concerns. There is no management service attached to the property. Community volunteers have come forward to do limited up-keep of the property, but formal recognition of their efforts have not been accomplished.

c. Please explain why cars are allowed to park on the property.

Cars are not allowed to park on the property. Lack of management of the parcel pending return to the state has resulted in unauthorized parking.

d. Please provide reasons why the property could not be designated for use as a County parking lot for human habitation.

The principle reason that using the parcel for human habitation may not be allowed is because the terms of the Executive Order restrict the use of the land to "affordable housing and evacuation route purposes".

Thank you for the opportunity respond to the Committee's inquiry. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Tsuhako".

LORI TSUHAKO, LSW, ACSW
Director of Human Concerns

WASSP Committee

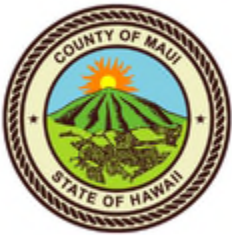
From: Estrelita B. Dahilig <Estrelita.B.Dahilig@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Shane M. Sinenci; WASSP Committee
Cc: loriann.tsuhako@co.maui.hi.us; Jessica C. Crouse; kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us; Josiah K. Nishita; Erin A. Wade; Cynthia E. Sasada; Cynthia D. Lallo; Kelii P. Nahooikaika
Subject: TRANSMITTAL: PILOT PROJECT USING COUNTY PARKING LOTS FOR HUMAN HABITATION UPDATE (WASSP-1 (2))
Attachments: MT#11008.Shane Sinenci.WASSP Chair.pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached transmittal dated March 14, 2025, from Director of Human Concerns, Lori Tsuhako, LSW, ACSW.

Thank you and have a nice day!

Mahalo,
Lita



Lita B. Dahilig

Secretary

County of Maui
Office of the Mayor
808-270-7855
estrelita.b.dahilig@co.maui.hi.us