

Resolution

No. 22-166

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO
WORK WITH THE STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PRIORITIZE
ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED
CAMPING ON UNENCUMBERED PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, unauthorizing camping on unencumbered public lands—including beach and coastal areas and parks managed by the County and by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources—continues to be a problem in the County, creating an enormous burden on the community and public resources; and

WHEREAS, as one example, *The Maui News* reported on July 22, 2018, that “a portion of the County’s 100 acres at Ukumehame has fallen victim to illegal camping”; and

WHEREAS, as another example, in September 2021, the County estimated that 80 individuals were illegally camping in the Kanaha Beach area; and

WHEREAS, the gap between income and home prices, along with the persistent scarcity of affordable rental housing continues to increase, resulting in greater prevalence of camping on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the mobile dwelling rental industry also continues to expand in the County despite the limited number of legal mobile dwelling or campervan campsites; and

WHEREAS, numerous recreational vehicles websites advertise “boondocking” outside of designated campgrounds in the County--camping in a recreational vehicle without water, sewer, or electrical connections--which also negatively impacts public lands and County resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Department of Police and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney to work with the State of Hawaii

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Department of Land and Natural Resources to prioritize enforcement against unauthorized camping and recreational vehicle camping on unencumbered public lands; and

2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii; John Pelletier, Chief of Police, County of Maui; Andrew H. Martin, Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui; Karla Peters, Director of Parks and Recreation, County of Maui; Michele Chouteau McLean, AICP, Planning Director, County of Maui; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee", written in a cursive style.

ALICE L. LEE