

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
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June 15, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

*Michael P. Victorino*  
Mayor

6/16/20  
Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Tasha Kama, Chair  
Affordable Housing Committee  
Maui County Council  
200 S. High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Kama:

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON THE HOMELESS PROGRAM DIVISION'S  
COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (AH-17 (16))**

This letter is in response to your correspondence of June 2, 2020 requesting additional information in relation to the above subject. The questions posed in your letter are listed below in bold and are followed by the Department's responses.

- 1. Could the County start a pilot project using COVID-19 funds to create overnight parking for the unsheltered in a designated, safe parking area?**

The Administration has discussed the possibility of utilizing COVID-19 funds to create overnight parking for the unsheltered in a designated safe parking area in addition to many other alternative suggestions garnered over the past year. We believe, however, that our best efforts should continue to focus on ending the homelessness of people who are living in unsheltered conditions (including those habitating inside their vehicles).

The Administration recently opened Wahi Ho'omalu 'O Wailuku, aka the tiny home shelter, on Waiale Street. County staff have been managing this program due to the non-responsive RFP. Unsheltered homeless living on Amala Place (close to

Kanaha Beach Park) were outreached for a sustained period of more than 10 weeks by our homeless outreach partners. VI-SPDATs, our common triage tool that assesses vulnerability, was administered to more than 40 individuals. Using these scores and overlaying them with age, disabilities, and pre-existing medical conditions, the County prioritized the opportunity to live in the tiny homes to those who were at highest risk of COVID-19. To date, 12 people reside at Wahi Ho`omaluku `O Wailuku, with an additional intake scheduled for June 16, 2020. Approximately 10 others have been transitioned from Amala Place into Ka Hale A Ke Ola's shelter. Wahi Ho`Omalu `O Wailuku is meant to be a temporary shelter program; therefore, residents are expected to continue to work with their case managers/outreach workers to work toward permanent housing solutions.

A "safe" parking area, sanctioned by the County, would be contrary to all of the coordinated efforts that have been achieved in the past ten years to address housing the homeless, and is not a recognized best practice in the field. In many ways, such an arrangement could appear to validate and enable folks to live in unsheltered conditions which is misaligned with our focus on permanent housing solutions. Additionally, as the Department has learned first-hand over the past few weeks, operating a program such as Wahi Ho`omaluku `O Wailuku, takes much more effort, coordination, and capacity than one can imagine. A "safe" parking area would be even more of a challenge, especially with the County's assumption of liability for said project.

**2. What amount of residential workforce agreement funds allotted to South Maui from previous development projects could be used for this project?**

There are no available affordable housing funds allotted to South Maui that could be used for this project.

**3. Please explain if you would support this project.**

At this time, given the rationale set out in our response to question #1, the Department is not in support of creating a "safe" parking lot project for the homeless.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely,



LORI TSUHAKO, LSW, ACSW  
Director of Housing and Human Concerns