

AH Committee

From: Ku'uipo Keen <ipokeen808@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 2:35 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Formation of a Maui Homeless Commission

Aloha Mai Kakou Committee Members:

I know that I am late in getting this email to you as your meeting started at 1:30 p.m. Unfortunately, I was not aware of this meeting, and I am hoping that you will accept my testimony.

Hawaii currently has one of the largest unhoused population, and many more are on the verge of slipping into homelessness. I believe that it is imperative that our County do something to head this situation off. I support the formation of a Maui Homeless Commission to find better solutions than what is currently in place.

I honestly feel that our County wasted money on what the unhoused are referring to as the "Chicken Coups." We also need to realize that people are not going to conform to what others want just to be housed. Some prefer to live outdoors in nature. Some will not give up their lifestyle to live in four confining walls. We need real solutions, not knee jerk solutions (i.e., the Chicken Coups). These are real people that we are talking about, and we need practical solutions.

As a person that was unhoused for almost eight years, I can tell you that it is not easy to find the programs that help to get you into something that you can afford and can maintain without some social service help. The reality is that housing costs and rental costs are higher than people on disability, such as me, or people who have been unhoused for more than a year can afford.

Thank you for accepting my late testimony. I again state that I am in Full Support of the measure brought forth by Keani Fernandes-Rawlins, and ask that you also support this measure.

Mahalo Nui,

R. Ipo Keen