

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

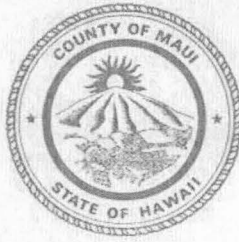
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.  
Deputy Director

MICHAEL P. RATTE  
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.  
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
Environmental Protection &  
Sustainability Division



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
2050 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2B  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

October 23, 2020

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

*Michael P. Victorino* 10/28/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki-Lei Sugimura, Chair  
Water, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Councilmember Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: (WIT-109) RESPONSE TO COUNTY OF MAUI ABANDONED VEHICLES  
AND JUNK VEHICLES PROGRAMS**

In response to your request for information, please see my responses below.

**1. Please provide a written copy of the program updates that were discussed during the meeting.**

The programs discussed during the meeting included the Abandoned Vehicles Program and the Junk Vehicle Disposal Assistance Program. Both programs are funded by annual vehicle registration fees via special revolving funds, rather than general funds.

The Abandoned Vehicles (AV) Program administers the removal of vehicles that have been abandoned on public roadways or properties. In short, vehicles are tagged and marked by Maui Police Department, and once a report is received by the AV office, they are towed within two to three days. Abandoned vehicles are then stored for thirty days and then disposed of if not claimed by the registered owner. Derelict vehicles are towed directly to the recycling facility for processing. Registered owners are charged for all towing, storage, disposal, and administrative costs.

There are two measures that would result in improved operations and fiscal management for the AV program. First, additional field staff could assist in improved response time. Second, state legislation that would allow Department of Motor Vehicles and Licensing (DMVL) to place a hold on vehicle registrations until outstanding AV charges are paid by the registered owner is expected to help recuperate costs as well as serve as a strong deterrent for others. The

Department of Environmental Management would support any efforts at County or State level to pass such legislation.

The Junk Vehicle Disposal Assistance Program (JVDAP) assists residents to legally and properly dispose of their unwanted vehicles. Two updates to the program include expansion to allow disposal of two vehicles per owner per year, and streamlining the process to allow most owners to process all documents at the recycling facility rather than having to do so at the DMVL. Intended improvement to the program consists of adding towing services to make the program more accessible to more residents. Two options being considered are conducting periodic vehicle "round-ups" in different regions of Maui or, more desirably, allowing owners to schedule their own tows for their junk vehicles, at the expense of the County. This would provide more flexibility and convenience to owners while also minimizing administrative duties for section staff. All potential options for JVDAP towing are in research and development phase, and a fully-formed program is expected to be rolled out by March 2021.

**2. Please provide a count of how many vehicles have been processed through these programs.**

Since Fiscal Year 2019 through now, the Abandoned Vehicles program has towed 3,833 vehicles (FY19: 1718; FY20: 1611; FY21 to-date: 504). Vehicles towed represent about 60% of the total police reports received. The remaining ~40% of police reports result in a "Not-On-Location" status, but still require time and resources to process reports, issue tows, and provide (reduced) payment for tows not completed.

Since Fiscal year 2019 through now, the Junk Vehicle Disposal Assistance Program has assisted residents to recycle 2,489 vehicles (FY19: 1,051; FY20: 1,137; FY21 to-date: 301)

**3. Please provide a summary of what fees have been collected through these programs.**

Cost recovery for abandoned vehicles was:

FY 2016 – 2017: \$56,152.81

FY 2018: \$95,744.89

FY 2019: \$104,208.40

FY 2020: \$105,656.54

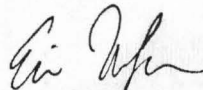
FY 2021 to-date: \$37,110.36

TOTAL: \$398,873

These amounts include towing, storage, disposal, and administrative fees, and represent 15% of total charges since 2016. Cost recovery has increased since the county started placing accounts into collections in 2018; however, 85% of accounts, in the amount of \$2,048,594.25, remain outstanding.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about our programs.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Eric Nakagawa  
DN: cn=Eric Nakagawa, o=County of Maui,  
ou=Director of Environmental Management,  
email=eric.nakagawa@co.maui.hi.us, c=US  
Date: 2020.10.23 14:41:44 -10'00'

ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director of Environmental Management