

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## RECOGNIZING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 13-21, 2021

WHEREAS, November 13-21, 2021, is recognized nationally and in Maui County as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, with a focus on those who are facing housing and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week theme for Maui County is “Everybody Needs a Home”; and

WHEREAS, low- and moderate-income residents struggle with the high cost of living and the shortage of affordable housing in Maui County that has been exacerbated by the pandemic, forcing families to choose between basic needs, including food, rent, utilities, and other basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Maui County Point In Time Count Topline Report disclosed 789 homeless men, women, and children, more than half of whom were unsheltered, including 170 homeless children; and

WHEREAS, Maui County’s homeless providers work tirelessly to meet the challenges facing the many individuals with a myriad of circumstances preventing them from receiving help; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui Homeless Program, in alignment with the Housing First initiative, is dedicated and focused on ending homelessness; however, many individuals remain houseless and suffer from food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the systems of care available in Maui County, three houseless individuals lost their lives in the summer of 2021 while awaiting safe shelter; and

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WHEREAS, veterans, formerly incarcerated men and women, persons struggling with addiction and behavioral health issues, and the working poor can all benefit from assistance with food security, housing, and job training; and

WHEREAS, Maui Homeless Alliance in partnership with other local organizations continues to work to develop recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the continuum of care of the homeless in Maui County; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Food Bank and other local food pantries and nonprofit organizations have continued to fight hunger by providing food for many individuals and families in need throughout Maui County; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of aloha, local organizations work to educate the public, draw attention to the problem of poverty, and call for action from community leaders, groups, and individuals to fight hunger and homelessness; and now, therefore,

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

1. That it recognizes November 13-21, 2021, as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Maui County;
2. That it recognizes, appreciates, and acknowledges the love, dedication, and hard work provided by so many caring individuals, groups, and organizations working to provide safety, shelter, comfort, food, and compassion to the houseless and hungry in Maui County; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Monique R. Ibarra, Executive Director, Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, Inc.; Thelma Akita-Kealoha, Maui Community Director, Catholic Charities; Scott Hansen, Executive Director, Maui Rescue Mission; Deb Lynch, Board President, A Cup of Cold Water Maui; Lisa Darcy, Founder, Share Your Mana; BJ Ott, Chief Executive Officer, Malama I Ke Ola Health Center; Dr. Tina McLaughlin and Dr. Dennis McLaughlin, Co-Chief Executive Officers, CARE Hawai'i; Joyce Kawakami, CEO and Founder, Feed My Sheep Maui; Maude Cummings, Executive Director, Family Life Center; Debbie

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Cabebe, Executive Director, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; Kandice Johns, Executive Director, The Maui Farm; Danielle M. Bergan, Maui Community Coordinator, Mental Health America of Hawai'i, Maui County Branch; Linda Ahue, Executive Director, Steadfast Housing Development Corporation; Lt. Steven Howard, Executive Director, The Salvation Army; Sanoë Kaaihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women, Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui; and Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

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