



P. Denise La Costa to: luc@dbedt.hawaii.gov
Cc: "P. Denise La Costa"

02/08/2016 03:06 PM

Aloha,

I am extremely sympathetic to and understand the homeless issue here on Maui. I am also sympathetic to and understand the issues that will arise from a homeless encampment at Puamana. There is a very nice and functional facility behind the aquatic center off Shaw Street. Since the facilities and services exist there, it would be prudent and beneficial for additional 'housing' to be there. It is no secret that crime increases when there are homeless as they usually have nothing and their only income is from social security or what they 'sell'. There are many homes within the area Puamana Nui and Puamana and up the mountain in both Lahainaluna and Puanoa. While I know that not all homeless people are scoundrels, the opportunities for nefarious activities will surely increase. There are health and sanitation problems that arise. The unsightly honey buckets dotting the highway and folks walking down the shoulder to get into town may have a huge impact on the perception that tourists, our life blood, have on Lahaina and Maui as they drive into town and see an encampment on the outskirts. With one way in and one way out of Lahaina for most people, that 'view' will surely be an "OMGoodness" moment. Historically, people do not safe staying around a homeless camp. You only need watch the evening news to see what is happening on O'ahu, to see the concerns and issues that have arisen out of their homeless problem. Think of the impact this will have to not only homeowners but people who want to stay at Puamana and live in Puamana Nui and Puanoa. To sum up my concerns: The camp will be unsightly; the health and safety issues for the area will be impacted; dangerous to walk or ride down the sholder of the highway and the financial impact it will have to our tourist industry. I respectfully request that you DENY the petition to place a homeless camp where Mr. Martin and his associates have suggested. Please build more temporary housing for the folks who are homeless (some people want to stay that way) at the Homeless Resource Center. Mahalo.

With regards and aloha,

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