

Submitted on behalf of the Pauahi/Maunakea St. neighborhood & Chinatown Watch

BRIEF: The Kuwili Street hygiene center opens this Monday 1/7. It is time to CLOSE the Pauahi Street hygiene center and move Safe Haven to a secure location elsewhere. Mental Health Kokua is unable to manage the Pauahi Hale facility in a manner consistent with public safety. The City has not provided funding that MHK and others requested for security services on the Pauahi Hale block.

DISCUSSION: Our neighborhood has tried to coexist with Safe Haven and the hygiene center. We know now from 3 years' experience that it doesn't work. Homeless magnets like Safe Haven, the hygiene center and River of Life Mission are incompatible with a healthy live/work community of small businesses that depend on foot traffic.

There is a constant tug of war between the ordinary citizens (e.g., shopkeepers, shoppers, residents & tourists) and the homeless citizens. The ordinary citizens need order, cleanliness, safety and a positive community "vibe". Many homeless citizens want the same. Yet many other homeless citizens are mentally ill and/or substance abusers. They have needs and standards that conflict with those of the ordinary citizens. Where all kinds of homeless people gather unsupervised, there is often disorder, garbage, danger, f-bombs, fights, psychotic outbursts and criminal activity.

I am not describing our neighborhood's vague NIMBY fear. I'm describing the daily reality in our neighborhood where the homeless services are clustered such that the homeless and mentally ill and addicts mix with the general population. Following are typical scenes from the past 3 weeks:



Woman drinking beer by River of Life



Man urinating at Pauahi parking garage



Street fight on Pauahi Street



Addicts on Maunakea Street



Sleeping on Pauahi Street



Drinking beer on Pauahi Street



Feces on Pauahi St. next to hygiene center

To the City administration:

We beg you to close the Pauahi Street hygiene center, relocate Safe Haven out of Chinatown, and let our community heal. Please fast-track your negotiations with River of Life so they may move their feeding operation to Iwilei this year. The Pauahi block will continue to need additional security while the neighborhood stabilizes. Please provide the funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens

To all Chinatown residents, merchants, shoppers, property owners, workers, visitors, etc:

1) Call 911 to report violations. Don't think you're inconveniencing the police by calling. They want you to call 911. Doing so gets the violations into their database and helps HPD help you.

2) Talk to your neighbors about the problems. Encourage them to call 911, too.

3) Post incidents to ChinatownWatch.com. Please encourage your neighbors to post, too. It's an unofficial but visible way to build our community's case for more support. Please note that posting to ChinatownWatch.com is NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 911.

4) Get some neighbors together to meet with the HPD's Community Policing team. Call the CPT office at 732-3927. A strong community partnership with HPD is good for everyone.