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Date: May 21, 2020 at 14:46:32 HST
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Subject: Honokohau Harbor - Problems with Homeless

Aloha Ryan and Gil

I Wanted to alert you to some serious problems at the Honokohau harbor (outer portion near harbor entrance). The parking area at the makai end of the harbor as well as the area from the Atlantis Submarine to the beach area has always been an area that the homeless and druggies utilize for 'setting up camp'. Since the Covid-19 episode and the uprooting of some of the other homeless camps, the problem at the harbor has become much worse, especially now without any State DLNR employees to oversee the area. The problem has gotten to the point where some of the 'non-boat owners' were actually living on one of the commercial dive boats that has a slip in this area. The restrooms are closed so the illegal campers do what ever they want, where ever they want - a serious health issue.

About ten years ago the State put a gate across the road (near the Atlantis Slip) and the gate would be closed around 6 PM and opened around 6 AM, by a State worker. Boat owners in the secured area also had keys and this system worked to some degree. About three years ago one of the boat owners with a slip in the makai area installed his own gate at his expense and paid someone to open and close the gate during the morning and evening hours. Other boat owners in the area also had keys for this gate. This put an end to the parties, drugs and vandalism in this area,

The problem now is enhanced due to the absence of any State workers to enforce the rules and has created these situations of people going (living) on private boats and docks with no fear of being removed. This also sets up a situation for confrontations that will easily escalate to serious harm of individuals.

A quick fix to this situation is to return to locking the gate near the Atlantis Submarine slip. The second gate at the makai section is and has been operated by the boat owners in that area. The keys to these two gates can be assigned by the Harbor Agent.

Your support on this issue is requested. Thank you.

Aloha

Gary Beals