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Houseless Encampment Leaders Want Seat at the Decision-Making Table

By [WAYNE YOSHIOKA \(/PEOPLE/WAYNE-YOSHIOKA\)](#) • OCT 31, 2018

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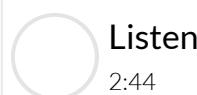
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Leaders from 3 homeless encampments came together at the Honolulu Museum of Art to discuss their futures.



Houseless Discussion

They don't have houses but they have a home. And that home is Hawai'i. Many are houseless by choice and want to work with



(<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/khpr/f>)

Houseless community leaders gathered to discuss their future.

government and community leaders on

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http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/khpr/files/story/wayne/public/201810/IMG_4222.jpg

Twinkle Borge, leader of Pu'uuhonua 'O Wai'anae

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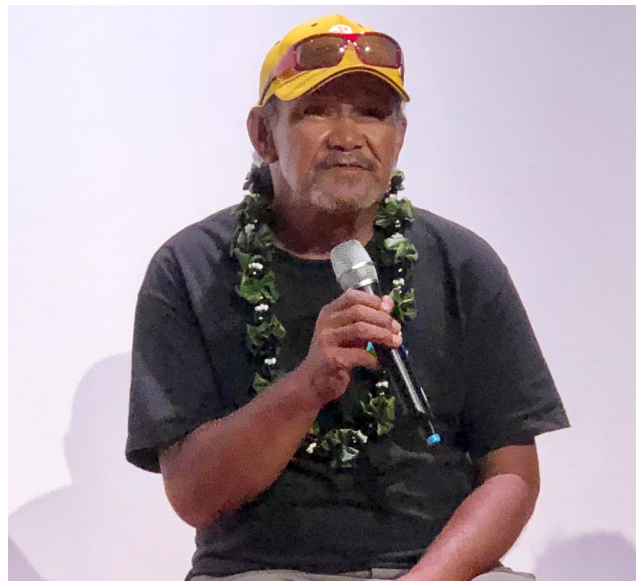
solutions. Twinkle Borge is the leader of Pu'uuhonua 'O Wai'anae.

"We gotta make that noise up in the Capitol to let them know that we exist. That we still alive and we still here. You know, and I think we are the ones that gotta be the textbooks to them. You know, they read everything from books and what not but we live it daily. We go through it daily. And I believe we can be their answer."

"The houseless community, we're not bad. We just made bad choices along the way. You know, but just going about with your sweeps, it hasn't been working for the last 20 years. So why don't we do something about it and work with each other instead of trying to fight each other."

Roz Sargent is the leader at Waimanalo Beach Park. She meets monthly with a neighborhood board subcommittee on homelessness and says they are close to a solution in the area which has no transition shelters.

Kaka'ako. He doesn't envision Kaka'ako as a safe haven for the houseless in the future but wants to work with everyone.



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John Ka'ulupali, leader in Kaka'ako

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"Just this past week someone from the Canoe Club approached me and said they have land that has electrical wiring already and has running water and they're just



(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/khpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201810/IMG_4225.jpg)

Roz Sargent, leader in Waimanalo

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waiting for the governor to give the okay that they can use that land to house us there.”

Waimanalo houseless residents also receive funding for 3 loads of laundry each month. Danica Shoji has provided that service for the last 3 years.

“We went through about 4-thousand to 5-thousand pounds a month. So, it’s about 50 to 80 people that come to our service for between 12-hundred to 15 hundred every month to do their laundry.”



(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/khpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201810/IMG_4242.jpg)

Craig and Danica Shoji, donates money for laundry and hygiene center mobile trailer

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Shoji’s husband, Craig, meanwhile, is waiting for insurance and permitting for their latest project.

“We started a nonprofit called Revive and Refresh, which is a mobile hygiene center. So the trailer has 3 showers and an ADA bathroom also so there’s a shower, toilet and a sink.”

Borge says the houseless need a seat at the table during government discussions and decisions and has invited the public to see first-hand what has been done in Wai’anae.

“So November 3rd we’re having an open house from 10-to-2. We’ll be having also prototype homes that will be stationed there for people to see what can be come Pu’uhonua or even for other places also.

For HPR News, I’m Wayne Yoshioka.

TAGS: [HOUSELESS \(/TERM/HOUSELESS\)](#) [TWINKLE BORGE \(/TERM/TWINKLE-BORGE\)](#)

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