

Name of agency/organization: Vaunda Stenzel [REDACTED]

Contact person/phone/email: [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

1. In your experience, how prevalent is the issue of squatting and adverse possession?

It is a bad problem through the Island of Hawai'i. From going to the Puna Watch meetings, I understand the frustration of the Prosecutor's office as well as residents in their Communities. The laws definitely need to change.

2. In what communities and districts do squatting and adverse possession appear most prominent?

the rural communities of lower puna

3. When you receive notice or a complaint about these situations, what is your normal course of action?

Try to find the owner of record and contact them. It is not an easy thing to do. Many people do not have current phone numbers or addresses. If the house is foreclosed it is impossible.

4. What kinds of complications have arisen in the past that have prevented a successful resolution of the situation?

Not being able to find the owner of the property, verifying that a "rental" agreement that the person has is legitimate. HELCO hooks up power without verifying anything as long as people can pay for the electrical hookup. Of course, many places do not have any utilities and squatters are still on the property living with no running water or sewer.

5. For those situations that have been successfully resolved, please describe what happened.

We have not had any successful situations to get squatters off properties.

6. What happens when you contact or try to contact the owner of record?

Outdated information, lack of cooperation, some people don't care.

7. What solutions would you recommend?

The laws must be changed in order to successfully remove these people from the houses and property.

8. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Mahalo for taking this matter on and trying to come up with a resolution.