

**COUNTY OF KAUAI  
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII**

**SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR SIGNS  
Chapter 15, Article 4, Outdoor Sign Ordinance  
Kauai County Code 1987, as amended**

All outdoor signs shall comply with the provisions of the Outdoor Sign Ordinance, County of Kauai. When sign permits are required; the applicant shall obtain a sign permit from the Building Division, Department of Public Works, 4444 Rice Street, Suite 175, Lihue, Hawaii 96766.

**Prohibited Signs:** It is unlawful to erect or maintain any of the following signs:

- (1) Any sign which obstructs the vision of drivers obstructs or detracts for the visibility of any official traffic device.
- (2) Any obscene, aerial, flashing, moving or roof signs.
- (3) Any portable or off-premise sign.
- (4) Any sign which is not permitted or not exempted.

**SIGNS REQUIRING A PERMIT**

**Temporary Signs:**

- (1) **Project sign.** A project sign involves the construction, structural alteration or repair of a structure. Sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area eight and (8) feet in height which contains the name of architects, engineers, contractors, financiers or developers. Only one such sign allow per street frontage posted on commencement of work and removed within fifteen (15) days after issuance of certificate of occupancy.
- (2) **Subdivision Sign.** Any sign which contains the information regarding the subdivision and improvement of real property. The sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area and eight (8) feet in height. Only one (1) such sign allowed for each mile or fraction thereof of subdivision which fronts a street of highway. Sign may be erected for a one (1) year period.
- (3) **Banners.** Banners shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area advertising a special event or promotion and displayed ten (10) days prior to the event or promotion and removed within one (1) working day after the event or promotion. Banners cannot be displayed for more than thirty (30) consecutive days.

**Permanent Signs:**

Only signs of each type as prescribed shall be permitted to be erected or maintained upon any buildings, lot or parcel of land located in the following zoned districts as defined by the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

- (1) **Open, Agriculture of Residential R-1 through R-6 zoning.**
  - (A) **Wall or Ground Sign.** One (1) wall or ground sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area. The top of the ground sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground.
  - (B) **Subdivision Identification Sign.** One (1) unlighted sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area or two (2) unlighted sign each not exceeding twelve (12) square

feet, located at each entrance to a subdivision containing only the subdivision name. The top of the sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground.

- (C) **Directional Sign.** One (1) directional sign not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area with the top of the sign not higher than four (4) feet from the ground. The sign must be located on the same parcel of property, private access road or an exclusive easement serving the property, providing the entity to which the pertains to is not visible from a public roadway.

(2) **Residential R-10 through R-20 and Resort zoning.**

- (A) **Marquee or Wall Sign.** One (1) marquee or wall sign per building wall which faces a street, not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area. The bottom of any marquee sign shall be a least seven and one-half (7 ½) feet above the ground.
- (B) **Ground Sign.** One (1) ground sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area and not more than eight (8) feet in height from the ground to the top of the sign.
- (C) **Directional Sign.** One (1) directional sign not exceeding fifteen (15) square feet in area with the top of the sign not higher than eight (8) feet from the ground. The sign must be located on the same parcel of property, private access road or an exclusive easement serving the property, providing the entity to which the pertains to is not visible from a public roadway.
- (D) **Subdivision Identification Sign.** One (1) unlighted sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area or two (2) unlighted sign each not exceeding twelve (12) square feet, located at each entrance to a subdivision containing only the subdivision name. The top of the sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground.

(3) **Commercial zoning.**

- (A) **Shopping center or office building complex identification sign.** Any shopping or office building complex that is identifiable by a single name is permitted only one (1) ground, marquee or wall sign along each street frontage of the premises which identifies the complex. Each sign shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area. The top of the ground sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground and set back a minimum of eight (8) feet from the property line. **As an alternative** to the identifying complex sign, each sign may list the businesses conducted in the complex, provided each such sign shall not exceed a maximum of thirty-two (32) square feet.
- (B) **Individual businesses within a shopping center or office building complex.** Only one (1) of the following types of signs shall be permitted along each building wall of the business which is exposed to public view identifying the business.
  - (i) **Marquee Sign.** One (1) marquee sign not exceeding nine (9) square feet in area, provided the lowest part of the sign shall be at least 7 ½ feet above the ground.
  - (ii) **Projecting Sign.** One (1) projecting sign not exceeding nine (9) square feet in area.
  - (iii) **Wall Sign for wall 1,600 square feet or less.** May have one (1) wall sign not exceeding forty-eight (48) square feet in area of twenty (20) per cent of the wall area, which ever is less.
  - (iv) **Wall Sign for walls greater than 1,600 square feet.** May have one (1) wall sign not exceeding three (3) percent of the area of the wall on which the sign is displayed.
- (C) **Business not part of shopping center or office building complex.**
  - (1) Any business not part of shopping center or office building complex shall be permitted only two (2) signs of the following types on each street frontage.
    - (i) Any type of sign permissible under (3)(B)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) a marquee, projecting or wall sign; and
    - (ii) A ground sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area nor eight (8) feet in height from the ground to the top of the sign.
  - (2) **Directional Sign.** One (1) directional sign not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area with the top of the sign not higher than four (4) feet from the

ground. The sign must be located on the same parcel of property, private access road or an exclusive easement serving the property, providing the entity to which the pertains to is not visible from a public roadway.

- (D) **Gasoline Service Stations.** A gasoline service station may have the following type of signs.
  - (1) **Ground Sign.** One ground as provided by an oil company, not exceeding sixteen (16) feet in height nor thirty-six (36) square feet in area.
  - (2) **Lighter Box Sign.** One lighter box sign as provided by an oil company, not exceeding sixteen feet in height nor thirty-six (36) square feet in area containing only the company logo.
- (E) **Theaters.** Two (2) marquee fascia signs not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet which identifies and act, attraction or motion picture being or to be shown.
- (F) **Subdivision Identification Sign.** One (1) unlighted sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area or two (2) unlighted sign each not exceeding twelve (12) square feet, located at each entrance to a subdivision containing only the subdivision name. The top of the sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground.

(4) **Industrial zoning.**

- (A) **Shopping center or office building complex identification sign.** Any shopping or office building complex that is identifiable by a single name is permitted only one (1) ground, marquee or wall sign along each street frontage of the premises which identifies the complex. Each sign shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area. The top of the ground sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground and set back a minimum of eight (8) feet from the property line. **As an alternative** to the identifying complex sign, each sign may list the businesses conducted in the complex, provided each such sign shall not exceed a maximum of thirty-two (32) square feet.
- (B) **Individual businesses within a shopping center or office building complex.** Only one (1) of the following types of signs shall be permitted along each building wall of the business which is exposed to public view identifying the business.
  - (i) **Marquee Sign.** One (1) marquee sign not exceeding nine (9) square feet in area, provided the lowest part of the sign shall be at least 7 ½ feet above the ground.
  - (ii) **Projecting Sign.** One (1) projecting sign not exceeding nine (9) square feet in area.
  - (iii) **Wall Sign.** One (1) wall sign per building wall which faces a street, not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area.
- (C) **Business not part of shopping center or office building complex.**
  - (1) Any business not part of shopping center or office building complex shall be permitted only two (2) signs of the following types on each street frontage.
    - (i) Any type of sign permissible under (3)(B)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) a marquee, projecting or wall sign; and
    - (ii) A ground sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area nor eight (8) feet in height from the ground to the top of the sign.
  - (2) **Directional Sign.** One (1) directional sign not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area with the top of the sign not higher than four (4) feet from the ground. The sign must be located on the same parcel of property, private access road or an exclusive easement serving the property, providing the entity to which the pertains to is not visible from a public roadway.
- (D) **Gasoline Service Stations.** A gasoline service station may have the following type of signs.
  - (1) **Ground Sign.** One ground as provided by an oil company, not exceeding sixteen (16) feet in height nor thirty-six (36) square feet in area.
  - (2) **Lighter Box Sign.** One lighter box sign as provided by an oil company, not exceeding sixteen feet in height nor thirty-six (36) square feet in area containing only the company logo.

- (E) **Theaters.** Two (2) marquee fascia signs not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet which identifies and act, attraction or motion picture being or to be shown.
- (F) **Subdivision Identification Sign.** One (1) unlighted sign not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in area or two (2) unlighted sign each not exceeding twelve (12) square feet, located at each entrance to a subdivision containing only the subdivision name. The top of the sign shall not be higher than eight (8) feet from the ground.

**SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT**

**Temporary Signs**

- (1) **Real Estate Sign.** Any sign which contains information regarding the sale, rental or lease of the real property upon which the sign is located. Only one (1) sign not exceeding six (6) square feet allowed per street frontage.
- (2) **Political Campaign Sign.**
  - (A) **Headquarter Sign.** The sign identifies the headquarters of a political candidate and shall not exceed the size limitation of the zoned district the sign is located in.
  - (B) **Political Candidate or Issue Sign.** The sign identifies the political candidate or issue to be voted upon. Signs shall not be posted within the street right-of-way boundaries of any of any public road or highway and block any sidewalk or pedestrian walkway. The sign shall not exceed the size limitation of the zoned district the sign is located in.

**Permanent Signs**

- (1) **Institutional Sign.** Institutional sign shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area and located on the premises of the institutional. The sign shall denote the name of any public, charitable or religious institution.
- (2) **Public or Informational Sign.** Signs shall not exceed nine (9) square feet in area located and on the premises it pertains to. Signs shall be of noncommercial nature, such as safety, danger, no trespassing signs or other informational sign which indicates a scenic or historical point of interest.
- (3) **Gateway Sign.** One (1) ground sign single-or-double faced which identifies and located at the entrance to a town or resort district and not to exceed two (2) signs. Each sign shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height from the top of the sign and twenty-four (24) feet in area.
- (4) **Flag.** Any official flag of a governmental jurisdiction or a corporate logo flag not to exceed fifty (50) square feet and displayed only when the United States and/or Hawaii State flags are displayed.
- (5) **Address Sign.** A sign which indicate a street address.
- (6) **Ingress-Egress and Parking Signs.** Signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet in area and contains the words “In”, “Entrance”, “Out”, “Parking”, “No Parking” or “Exit”. Signs located at each driveway entrance or exit.
- (7) **Pennant.** Any individual pennant not exceeding 11 inches x 18 inches.
- (8) **Permanently Mounted Signs.** Signs that are intended to be read only by person on the premises which does not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in total area and not visible from any public roadway, including menu signs, complex directory and store hour signs.
- (9) **Display Lamppost Banners.** A banner that does not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in total area affixed to a lamppost. The top of the banner is not higher than sixteen (16) feet above the ground and used for decorative purpose only contains the name and logo of the shopping center, resort or office building complex. The lamppost shall not be a government or public utility lamppost.