

Charlotte H Carvalho
4372 Pilimai St
Lihue, HI 96766
May 26, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As an individual who lives and works in Lihue, I would like to express my wholehearted support for the Transportation Improvement Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for Lihue, Kauai.

From my perspective, Lihue town is at a crossroad, between revitalization and irrelevance. While there are major public services and institutions in the area (government, school, convention hall, museum, ball field, financial institutions, churches, etc.), it doesn't feel lived in because it's not user-friendly. There are no grocery store and few eateries and is not conducive to biking or walking. Attention is being diverted to a new shopping center that is being built a couple miles away.

The Lihue Town Core Mobility and Revitalization project would update Lihue town, make it more accessible for bikers, walkers and the disabled. This in turn would make it more attractive to commercial ventures such as food and entertainment establishments. People who live in the area would be more likely to patronize these places, hopefully on foot or bicycle. These improvements would be attractive to tourists as well.

Relocating the Transit Center to Lihue Town would be huge for people who now need to get to the Kauai Bus office, which is out of the way. I've heard from people who had a hard time getting to the bus office so they had their bus pass mailed to them, only to be stolen from their mailboxes. Also, having a restroom at the Transit Center would be a significant improvement.

Lihue Court Townhomes and Kaniko'o Senior Housing are two low-income housing projects that house families and elderly who could be better integrated into the community. Walkable streets could facilitate kids walking or biking to school and participating in sports. It would be great if some residents could get jobs in town. The possibilities are exciting! Housing + jobs + accessibility = better health. Better health improves the economy, which in turn stimulates more of the same.

But why should you select Lihue? I believe people here care about each other. Given the opportunity to integrate through environmental changes, people will become more familiar with each other and they will form more and better relationships. There will be mutual support on many levels, from employer with employee, old and young, community services and those in need, and among neighbors.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Charlotte H Carvalho