2.1 VISION STATEMENT

Developed by the Citizen Advisory Committee, the vision statement paints a picture of what the Līhuʻe Town Core could be like in the year 2020. It states:

"Līhuʻe ~ the heart of Kauaʻi"

In the year 2020...

Līhuʻe – the vital heart of Kauaʻi – celebrates its unique past and embraces its future, combining the best of both in its development over the next fifteen years.

Our town is the welcoming destination at the gateway to Kauaʻi. It is the center of local government and the embodiment of civic pride.

Līhuʻe embraces business and community development while honoring and protecting its historic architectural resources, commercial districts and residential neighborhoods.

It recognizes its part in the larger environment as demonstrated by the responsible stewardship of its watershed and other natural resources. It is green and beautifully landscaped.

It exemplifies a pedestrian-friendly environment within a multi-modal transportation system.

Līhuʻe is pleasant and vibrant, inspiring and beautiful. The town epitomizes the spirit of aloha, its urban fabric a patchwork quilt of history, architecture, and civic life... an example for all the Garden Isle.
2.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 CIVIC PRIDE
Goals:
- Celebrate Lihue as a destination
- Revitalize Lihue as a unique, vibrant town that inspires and leads by example
- Develop Lihu’u into a model community for Kaua’i, Hawai’i, and the world
- Implement and fund regular maintenance and upkeep of public spaces, parks, and streets

2.2.2 AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION
Goals:
- Beautify Lihue streets, walkways and parks
  - Objective: Design and install landscaping to create a streetscape that unifies the “patchwork quilt” of architectural building styles and mix of uses
  - Objective: Place all overhead utilities underground.
- Develop a “greenbelt” in the center of Lihue Town
- Coordinate with the Lihu’u Civic Center Site Improvements master plan
- Build upon the landscape improvements along Ahukini Road and Kapule Highway
- Implement a Public Arts Program
  - Objective: Ensure public art is accessible to all at all hours of the day and not locked behind gates when buildings/facilities close for business.
  - Objective: Install public art extensively throughout Lihu’u.
- Create a unique identity for Lihu’u
  - Objective: Develop thematic beautification projects for each Lihu’u neighborhood identified in the plan including unique designs for crosswalks, landscaping, public features and amenities.

2.2.3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Goals:
- Inventory Lihu’u’s historic resources
- Maintain and enhance historic resources
  - Objective: Preserve the Sugar Mill or its notion as the former center of Lihu’u and a reason for the town. It is the “lynchpin” connecting the old with the new. At
the very minimum, preserve the vertical form of Līhuʻe Sugar Mill stack to maintain connection to Līhuʻeʻs history. Will require cooperation of landowner, results from hazardous materials investigations.

- Objective: Enhance the old railroad alignment. Explore connections between Līhuʻe and the Harbor through this corridor (bike path, pedestrian path, train). Will require coordination and cooperation of the landowner.
- Objective: Explore uses of upper Näwiliwili Gulch, near Kūhiō Highway overpass (one suggestion: botanical park)
  - Educate residents and visitors about Līhuʻeʻs rich history
  - Celebrate Līhuʻeʻs history and make it a focal point of revitalization efforts. Integrate the old and the new.
  - Encourage historic preservation through government regulation and assistance
  - Encourage enthusiastic community, business, and property owner participation in enhancing historic resources

**Cautions:**
- Maintain integrity of historic preservation. Avoid commercialized or sensationalized versions of history.

### 2.2.4 BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

**Goals:**
- Empower Līhuʻe to be developed as the main urban center for Kauaʻi
  - Objective: True mixed-use housing should be allowed within parts of Līhuʻe where people live above commercial. Increase housing options and affordability at all economic levels within Līhuʻe.
  - Objective: Allow higher density residential and urban developments to be built in Līhuʻe to “keep country, country,” rural communities, rural.
  - Objective: Allow a mix of uses within certain areas of the town core by creating special overlay planning areas.
- Develop a variety of successful businesses and commercial activity within the town core.
  - Objective: Develop a balanced mix of retail, food services, finance and professional services, entertainment, non-profits, government and public services.
Objective: Change existing allowable land uses, design standards, code revisions as necessary

- Develop a mix of housing types within Līhuʻe
  - Objective: Develop higher density residential developments that maintain Kauaʻi’s rural feel
  - Objective: Allow mixed-use developments with residential units located above ground-level commercial uses.

- Enliven Central Līhuʻe
  - Objective: Hold special community events such as farmers markets, street fairs, holiday and community celebrations within the Civic Center
  - Objective: Reach 100 percent occupancy rates in Līhuʻe Town Core commercial areas.

- Create a Cultural District in the heart of Līhuʻe
  - Objective: Close ʻEiwa Street and incorporate the Kauaʻi Museum, Historic County Building, Post Office, and other historic buildings within a cultural district
  - Objective: Support the development of new cultural attractions within the district
  - Objective: Develop a walking tour to celebrate and educate the public about Līhuʻe’s cultural and historic amenities

- Create a community that brings together a wide mix of users—multiple generations, locals and visitors, residents, students, and employees

### 2.2.5 TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

**Goals:**

- Develop transportation networks that support multi-modal choices
- Create a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment that encourages walking
- Convenient bicycle network and facilities
- Uncongested yet appropriate traffic flow. Circulation based on context-sensitive design.
- Appropriate development of parking facilities that encourages the use of multimodal transportation options.
- Develop alternatives for through-traffic such as the Līhuʻe Bypass and dedicated community transportation routes.
Include enhanced links and connections to periphery areas such as Näwiliwili Harbor, Kukui Grove Shopping Center, and Līhuʻe Airport.

Consider pedestrian bridges across Näwiliwili Stream to connect central Līhuʻe to the residential communities on Näwiliwili Road, as well as adding a pedestrian path on Kaumualiʻi Highway to connect central Līhuʻe to Kukui Grove.

### 2.2.6 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Goals:**

- Protect and enhance natural resources
  - Objective: Mālama Näwiliwili Stream by reducing and/or mitigating pollution that enters the stream
- Encourage urban green spaces and parks
- Encourage “green” building practices
  - Renewable energy sources and energy efficient buildings and vehicles
  - LEED® certified buildings and projects
  - Catchment systems for irrigation water
- Encourage low impact/sustainable community structure through performance zoning guidelines

### 2.2.7 GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

**Goals:**

- Establish a range of government-sponsored activities, e.g. “center stage” events on County lawn, farmers markets
- Create tax credits and other formalized incentives for commercial development and historic preservation
- Partner with other governmental agencies, businesses, utilities, landowners, and developers to stimulate revitalization efforts

### 2.2.8 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**Goals:**

- Enhance and improve existing public facilities
  - Objective: Improve and enhance the County Lawn to facilitate community activities held there.
  - Objective: Close ‘Eiwa Street to expand the County Lawn
  - Objective: Improve Līhuʻe Park, increase accessibility and visibility
o Increase the amount of landscaped public spaces within the civic center
o Develop a regional park/multi-purpose center/festival grounds
  ▪ Objective: Develop multi-use parks for different sports and children’s activities
o Develop a civic center forum
  ▪ Objective: Create a “Pump Room” – public area within the Civic Center equipped with closed circuit television to view public meetings, interactive computers for public information, permitting, other public services/data. The atrium within the Pi’ikoi Building could serve this purpose.
  ▪ Objective: Create a technologically advanced “e-hub” where electronic voting and active community discourse can be held
o Develop a dedicated Kaua‘i Information Center (KIC)
  ▪ Objective: Create a non-commercial visitor center. Partner with Kaua‘i Historical Society or other like organization to advance and enrich the synergy between the two organizations and their missions/services.
  ▪ Objective: Locate the KIC within the Civic Center, possibly a public plaza or historic building such as the County Annex.

2.2.9 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goals:
o Locate overhead utilities underground
  ▪ Objective: Prioritize overhead lines within the Civic Center
  ▪ Objective: Work with KIUC to find funding
  ▪ Objective: Schedule undergrounding of utilities with other roadwork or improvements to minimize disruption during construction
o Provide sufficient capacity to support projected growth
o Partner government with landowners and developers in developing needed infrastructure
o Prioritize public funding of improvement projects to support revitalization of Lihu‘e
o Develop demonstration sustainable/green energy projects with County buildings and/or private buildings in the Lihu‘e Civic Center in an effort to encourage their development in other areas of the island.