

## 2.0 VISION FOR THE LĪHU'E TOWN CORE

### 2.1 VISION STATEMENT

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

#### *“Līhu'e ~ the heart of Kaua'i”*

*In the year 2020...*

*Līhu'e – the vital heart of Kaua'i – 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 Kaua'i. It is the center of local government and the embodiment of civic pride.*

*Līhu'e 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.*

*Līhu'e 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 Līhu‘e as a destination
- Revitalize Līhu‘e as a unique, vibrant town that inspires and leads by example
- Develop Līhu‘e 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 Līhu‘e 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 Līhu‘e Town
- Coordinate with the Līhu‘e 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 Līhu‘e.
- Create a unique identity for Līhu‘e
  - Objective: Develop thematic beautification projects for each Līhu‘e neighborhood identified in the plan including unique designs for crosswalks, landscaping, public features and amenities.

### **2.2.3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

#### Goals:

- Inventory Līhu‘e’s historic resources
- Maintain and enhance historic resources
  - Objective: Preserve the Sugar Mill or its notion as the former center of Līhu‘e 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 Līhu'e Sugar Mill stack to maintain connection to Līhu'e's history. Will require cooperation of landowner, results from hazardous materials investigations.

- Objective: Enhance the old railroad alignment. Explore connections between Līhu'e and the Harbor through this corridor (bike path, pedestrian path, train). Will require coordination and cooperation of the landowner.
- Objective: Explore uses of upper Nāwiliwili Gulch, near Kūhiō Highway overpass (one suggestion: botanical park)
- Educate residents and visitors about Līhu'e's rich history
- Celebrate Līhu'e's 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 Līhu'e to be developed as the main urban center for Kaua'i
  - Objective: True mixed-use housing should be allowed within parts of Līhu'e where people live above commercial. Increase housing options and affordability at all economic levels within Līhu'e.
  - Objective: Allow higher density residential and urban developments to be built in Līhu'e 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 Līhu‘e
  - Objective: Develop higher density residential developments that maintain Kaua‘i’s rural feel
  - Objective: Allow mixed-use developments with residential units located above ground-level commercial uses.
- Enliven Central Līhu‘e
  - 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 Līhu‘e Town Core commercial areas.
- Create a Cultural District in the heart of Līhu‘e
  - Objective: Close ‘Eiwa Street and incorporate the Kaua‘i 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 Līhu‘e’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 Līhu‘e Bypass and dedicated community transportation routes.

- Include enhanced links and connections to periphery areas such as Nāwiliwili Harbor, Kukui Grove Shopping Center, and Līhu‘e Airport.
- Consider pedestrian bridges across Nāwiliwili Stream to connect central Līhu‘e to the residential communities on Nāwiliwili Road, as well as adding a pedestrian path on Kaumuali‘i Highway to connect central Līhu‘e to Kukui Grove.

## **2.2.6 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### Goals:

- Protect and enhance natural resources
  - Objective: Mālama Nāwiliwili 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 Līhu‘e Park, increase accessibility and visibility

- Increase the amount of landscaped public spaces within the civic center
- Develop a regional park/multi-purpose center/festival grounds
  - Objective: Develop multi-use parks for different sports and children’s activities
- 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
- 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:

- 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
- Provide sufficient capacity to support projected growth
- Partner government with landowners and developers in developing needed infrastructure
- Prioritize public funding of improvement projects to support revitalization of Līhu‘e
- Develop demonstration sustainable/green energy projects with County buildings and/or private buildings in the Līhu‘e Civic Center in an effort to encourage their development in other areas of the island.