

WAILUA - KAPA'A
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

February 14, 2017

~~Ms. Jody Lowe, Real Estate Specialist
USPS Facilities Office
P. O. Box 27497
Greensboro, NC 27498-1103~~

Mr. Dean Cameron
USPS Implementation Team
1300 Evans Avenue, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94188

The Wailua-Kapaa Neighborhood Association board is opposed to closing the Lihu'e Rice Street Post Office to consolidate services at the USPS Carrier Annex near Lihu'e Airport.

The proposed "consolidation" location is not convenient for the majority of postal customers who live and work in the Lihu'e town core. The high density of businesses and county offices in proximity to the Rice Street facility result in customers walking, rather than driving, to the post office. Both the government and the public often talk about making our towns more walkable and moving to the Annex location is contrary to this practice.

Walkability is the cornerstone and key to an urban area's efficient ground transportation. Every trip begins and ends with walking. Walking remains the cheapest form of transport for all people, and the construction of a walkable community provides the most affordable transportation system any community can plan, design, construct and maintain. Walkable communities put urban environments back on a scale for sustainability of resources (both natural and economic) and lead to more social interaction, physical fitness and diminished crime and other social problems. Walkable communities are more liveable communities and lead to whole, happy, healthy lives for the people who live in them. (<http://www.walkable.org/>)

The current location is already fulfilling the walkability goal of Lihu'e Town core and this should continue as we look to increased population and vehicular traffic in the future.

Regarding parking issues, this minor inconvenience is not sufficient justification to relocate services. Most customers know when to avoid the busy times. Some customers park in the adjacent bank parking lots, conducting business at the bank, and then walking to the post office next door.

Eliminating the Lihu'e Post Office would mean that virtually every user would need to DRIVE to to the Kapule Highway Annex. It is also likely that the Circuit Court, KPD, Kaua'i Bus and Airport employees would also DRIVE to the Annex. Although the distance may be short, access on foot means that customers must cross Kapule Highway twice and without benefit of cover should it suddenly rain. Increased vehicular or pedestrian traffic at that stoplight could impact the flow of traffic along Kapule Highway.

We would like to see what studies have been done to analyze the traffic-light-controlled intersection and the current and anticipated customer use, including the elderly population that resides in

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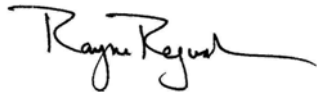
downtown Lihue. A customer analysis would likely reveal that far greater number of people walk to Rice Street Post Office than what might be anticipated at the USPS Annex.

Of critical importance, is the historic character of the Post Office – the first stand-alone post office built on Kaua‘i. Designed in the popular Mission Revival style of architecture and built in 1939, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Located in the center of historic Lihu‘e, the Rice Street Post Office is a landmark and a community asset valued by residents. It is also a social meeting place for many -- an important part of the fabric of our community that would be lost with the proposed consolidation.

We suggest the Postal Service re-evaluate the proposal and determine what products/services could be incorporated into the Annex facility to improve the function of the current location, but still maintain the present location.

W-KNA strongly opposes the proposal to close the landmark Lihu‘e Post Office to consolidate operations at the USPS Annex. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rayne Regush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rayne Regush, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Wailua-Kapa‘a Neighborhood Association

P.S. We are concerned as well, that the deadline for written comments was February 8, yet the Lihu‘e Postmaster Lunlin Rivera issued a letter to postal customers on February 1, announcing a public meeting on Thursday, February 23. Therefore, shouldn't the deadline for comments be extended?