



WAILUA - KAPA'A
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

VIA EMAIL

April 4, 2013

Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
County of Kauai
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235
Lihu'e, HI 96766

Larry Dill, Chief Engineer
Public Works Department
4444 Rice Street, Suite 275
Lihu'e, HI 96766

RE: Kapahi Bridge, Kawaihau District – Budget & Design Concerns & Section 106 Consultation

Aloha Mayor Carvalho and Mr. Dill:

The Wailua-Kapa'a Neighborhood Association (W-KNA) is submitting written comments herewith concerning the County's proposed bridge improvements that were presented recently by KAI Hawai'i to the Kaua'i County Historic Preservation Review Commission on March 7, 2013 and the corresponding budget request to the Council by Public Works on April 2, 2013.

Unfortunately, only one design option was presented to the Commission and it failed to preserve the historic character of Kapahi Bridge, a structure that is eligible for listing on the Historic Register and is the last remaining timber bridge on Kaua'i (c. 1937).

Unfortunately, the county's approach fails to pursue options for preservation/rehabilitation despite recommendations made by the Commission a year ago about this bridge at their March 1, 2012 meeting. Although remaining as one-lane, it is inappropriate for this rural 14-foot wide bridge to be widened to 22-foot wide (including a 3-foot pedestrian curbed walkway and a 4-foot bike lane). At both ends of the bridge, the roadway has neither a bike lane nor a sidewalk which makes the design proposal is illogical!

Of the 53 attendees at W-KNA's March 23 meeting, results of a straw poll showed that 75% favored keeping the bridge 14-foot wide and 25% were undecided; no one wanted two lanes. We would welcome hosting a presentation from Larry Dill and KAI Hawai'i at one of our monthly meetings to assist the county in its attempt to follow federal and state legal protocols related to historic bridges and to secure sufficient community input.

The W-KNA and its members value the rural qualities of the Kawaihau District and its historic one-lane bridges. We encourage the county to pursue design options for structural safety that will retain the historic characteristics of Kapahi Bridge.

Sincerely,

Rayne Regush
W-KNA Board Chair

cc: Kaua'i County Councilmembers councilmembers@kauai.gov
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Serving Residents of the Kawaihau District
"We treasure our rural community"

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