

SOUTH KAUA'I COMMUNITY PLAN AND FORM-BASED CODE



KAUA'I COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC. OPTICOS DESIGN, INC.

The South Kaua'i Community Plan sets a new bar for county regional plans. The Plan's visionary approach to land use goes beyond policy statements and guidelines. It implements. It implements Form-Based Code. It implements strategic growth areas. It implements a truly integrated land use and transportation growth system.

The central themes that emerged from the public process were 1) preserve South Kaua'i's rural character, and 2) increase the housing stock and job market opportunities. The community wanted to halt suburban sprawl, yet they did not want to change the scale of their historic towns.

By implementing new zoning standards that support infill development yet also mandate a certain form, the Plan's Form-Based Code ensures new development will occur that meets housing demands that are appropriately scaled to support the town's character.

In addition to a Citizen's Advisory Group and a multitude of public outreach venues, an intensive, public three-day design charrette was held to explore urban design issues and walkability. The charrette included a design workshop open to the public where consultants, staff, and the community collaborated to produce street and intersection design concepts as well as design guidelines for future development that preserves the character of South Kaua'i's rural communities.

The multimodal transportation component of the Plan lays out the detailed roadway network needed to support projected growth and land uses and encourage the shift from car-based travel to transit, biking, and walking as previously prioritized in the County of Kaua'i's Multimodal Land Transportation Plan.

Instead of presenting the public with a vague space on a map, the Plan communicates the scale of potentially new places, infill possibilities, street sections, building types, and civic spaces. It does not just guide, it implements by example. There is tremendous potential for transferability of the Plan's components and public process across Hawai'i.

The APA Hawai'i Chapter jury commends the South Kaua'i Community Plan for its visionary approach that goes well beyond vision statements and policy development. The community advisory committee incorporated a public process that sought inclusion and transparency beyond typical community meeting formats. Implementation was the target from the start with integration of the community, the consultants and the County participants, all leading to strong public support. All of the planning documents and presentation materials were highly professional in both their contents and graphics.

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