

Neighbor Island News – Kaua‘i *County Hires New Transportation Planner*

Marie Williams – Planner Kaua‘i County Planning Department

Two years ago, Kaua‘i County’s Council created a new transportation planner position. Even though the County was experiencing overall budget cuts at the time, the Council thought it was important to have a staff person lead the County in planning for improved multimodal transportation on Kauai. Recently, the position was filled by Lee Steinmetz, a landscape architect from Monterey, California. Lee brings to the County over twenty years working on various projects and plans as a private consultant. “I am excited that the County created this position. It shows a commitment to implementing Complete Streets,” said Lee.

Less than one month into the job, Lee has been tasked with serving as the liaison between Planning and Public Works on transportation issues and projects. In fact, Lee’s office is located in the Department of Public Works, even though he is funded through the Planning Department’s budget. Lyle Tabata, Kaua‘i County Deputy Engineer, said, “Lee is a welcome addition to our team to weld the relationship between Planning, Public Works and other related department in all aspects of planning and development of transportation project.”

So far, Lee is impressed with the potential to break new ground as Kaua‘i’s first transportation planner and is enjoying that his job is being defined as he moves forward. Ultimately, he hopes to not only foster better collaboration between County agencies on transportation projects but to build on existing private/public partnerships as well. Peter Nakamura, Long-Range Planning Division Supervisor, said, “Lee’s perspective will help us focus on multimodal planning from project outset rather than after-the-fact.”



Lee in his Līhu‘e Office