

Lihue, Hawaii

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Lihue or **Līhu‘e** is a census-designated place (CDP) and the county seat of Kauai County, Hawaii. Lihue (pronounced [liːˈhuʔe]) is the second largest town on the Hawaiian island of Kauaʻi after Kapaʻa. As of the 2010 Census, the CDP had a total population of 6,455.^[1]

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History

In ancient times, Lihue was a minor village. Līhu‘e means "cold chill" in the Hawaiian language.^{[2][3]} Lihue is located in the ancient district of *Puna*, the southeastern coast of the island, and land division (*ahupuaʻa*) of Kalapaki.^[4] Royal Governor Kaikioʻewa officially made it his governing seat in 1837, moving it from Waimea;^[5] he gave the town its name after the land he owned on Oahu by the same name.

With the emergence of the sugar industry in the 1800s, Lihue became the central city of the island with the construction of a large sugar mill. Early investors were Henry A. Peirce, Charles Reed Bishop and William Little Lee. The plantation struggled until William Harrison Rice built the first irrigation system in 1856.^[6]

Lihue, Hawaii

Census-designated place



Aerial view of Lihue



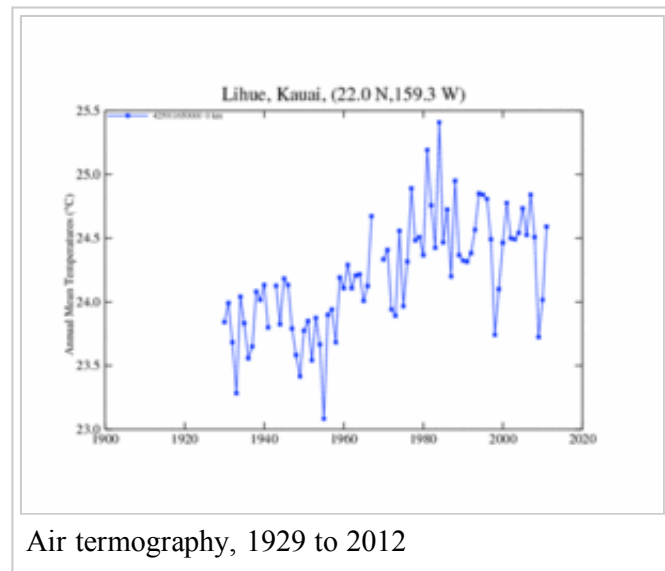
Location in Kauai County and the state of Hawaii

Coordinates: 21°58′29″N 159°21′56″W

Country	United States
State	Hawaii
County	Kauai
Area	
• Total	7.1 sq mi (18.4 km2)
• Land	6.3 sq mi (16.4 km2)
• Water	0.8 sq mi (2.1 km2)
Elevation	220 ft (67 m)
Population (2010)	
• Total	6,455
• Density	898.3/sq mi (346.8/km2)
Time zone	Hawaii-Aleutian (UTC-10)
ZIP code	96766
Area code(s)	808
FIPS code	15-45200
GNIS feature ID	0361837

Subsequent plantation owner Paul Isenberg helped German people emigrate to Lihue starting in 1881, with the first Lutheran church in Hawaii founded in 1883.^[7] Services were delivered in German well into the 1960s. By the 1930s, George Norton Wilcox became one of the largest sugar plantation owners, buying Grove Farm from Hermann A. Widemann.^[8] The Wilcox family home, Kilohana, has been converted into a restaurant and gift shop. The surrounding plantation now grows crops and livestock. A narrow gauge tourist railroad with vintage diesel locomotives from Whitworth and General Electric offers tours of the plantation; horse-drawn carriage tours are offered as well. The grounds are also the site of luaus, many of which are offshore excursions booked through NCL America. Lihue also houses the Kauai Museum, which details the history of Kauai.^[9]

Geography and climate



According to the United States Census Bureau, the CDP has a total area of 7.1 square miles (18 km²), of which, 6.3 square miles (16 km²) of it is land and 0.8 square miles (2.1 km²) of it (11.11%) is water.

Climate data for Lihue, Hawaii (1981–2010 normals, extremes 1905–present) ^[a]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	87 (31)	89 (32)	88 (31)	88 (31)	88 (31)	89 (32)	91 (33)	90 (32)	91 (33)	91 (33)	89 (32)	89 (32)	91 (33)
Average high °F (°C)	78.0 (25.6)	77.8 (25.4)	78.4 (25.8)	79.2 (26.2)	81.2 (27.3)	83.3 (28.5)	84.2 (29)	84.7 (29.3)	84.8 (29.3)	83.4 (28.6)	80.8 (27.1)	78.8 (26)	81.2 (27.3)
Daily mean °F (°C)	71.7 (22.1)	71.6 (22)	72.7 (22.6)	74.0 (23.3)	75.8 (24.3)	78.1 (25.6)	79.1 (26.2)	79.7 (26.5)	79.4 (26.3)	78.1 (25.6)	75.8 (24.3)	73.2 (22.9)	75.8 (24.3)
Average low °F (°C)	65.5 (18.6)	65.5 (18.6)	67.0 (19.4)	68.8 (20.4)	70.4 (21.3)	73.0 (22.8)	74.1 (23.4)	74.6 (23.7)	74.1 (23.4)	72.9 (22.7)	70.8 (21.6)	67.6 (19.8)	70.4 (21.3)
Record low °F (°C)	46 (8)	47 (8)	47 (8)	51 (11)	54 (12)	59 (15)	59 (15)	60 (16)	59 (15)	55 (13)	51 (11)	50 (10)	46 (8)
Average rainfall inches (mm)	3.75 (95.3)	3.16 (80.3)	4.61 (117.1)	2.25 (57.2)	2.07 (52.6)	1.61 (40.9)	1.87 (47.5)	2.13 (54.1)	2.12 (53.8)	3.82 (97)	4.46 (113.3)	5.20 (132.1)	37.05 (941.1)
Avg. rainy days (≥ 0.01 inch)	13.1	12.1	15.3	16.6	14.2	17.2	19.4	18.3	16.3	17.2	17.6	17.5	194.8
Avg. relative humidity (%)	76.1	75.4	75.3	75.2	74.9	73.5	73.9	74.0	74.1	76.2	76.8	76.5	75.2
Mean monthly sunshine hours	176.2	181.7	206.5	202.8	243.6	248.3	257.9	263.3	242.1	207.7	161.4	160.7	2,552.2
Percent possible sunshine	52	57	55	53	60	61	62	66	66	58	48	48	58
Source: NOAA ^{[10][11][12]}													

Demographics

As of the census^[13] of 2000, there were 5,694 people, 2,178 households, and 1,420 families residing in the CDP. The population density was 898.3 people per square mile (346.6/km²). There were 2,399 housing units at an average density of 379.8 per square mile (146.6/km²). The racial makeup of the CDP was 22.8% White, 49.2% Asian, 0.2% Black or African American, 0.2% Native American, 6.4% Pacific Islander, 0.7% from other races, and 20.5% from two or more races. 6.5% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 2,178 households out of which 25.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 48.9% were married couples living together, 11.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 34.8% were non-families. 29.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 16.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.55 and the average family size was 3.16.

In the CDP the population was spread out with 22.8% under the age of 18, 5.2% from 18 to 24, 23.7% from 25 to 44, 25.8% from 45 to 64, and 22.4% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 44 years. For every 100 females there were 92.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 90.6 males.

The median income for a household in the CDP was \$44,906, and the median income for a family was \$56,875 in 2000. Males had a median income of \$38,713 versus \$28,032 for females. The per capita income for the CDP was \$22,619. 4.6% of the population and 1.7% of families were below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 1.4% of those under the age of 18 and 7.3% of those 65 and older were living below the poverty line.

Transport

Lihue is served by the Lihue Airport, located in the CDP.^[14] The main seaport for Kauai is at Nawiliwili Bay, directly southeast of town. Lihue is also served by, The Kauai Bus, a public bus system serving the entire island of Kauai.

Facilities

The town is home to the county administration building; Kauai's largest shopping center, Kukui Grove Shopping Center, which houses the island's only big department store, Macy's; and several big-box stores including Sears, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Costco. There are also several car dealerships, movie theaters and restaurants.

Education

Lihue is home to Kauai Community College, part of the University of Hawaii system.

Lihue is also served by the Hawaii Department of Education. Two K-5 elementary schools — Wilcox Elementary School in Lihue, and Kaumualii Elementary School in downtown Hanamaulu, Hawaii — serve the area. All of the area is zoned to Kamakahelei Middle School and Kauai High School.

Island School, a private pre-kindergarten to 12 school, is also located in Lihue.

Notes

- a. Records are based on data under "Lihue Area"

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External links

- City website (<http://www.lihuehawaii.com>)

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County seats in Hawaii

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