

Response to the Visual Montage: What is rural to you?

Rural is...

- Farming
- Historic sites
- Historic home
- Animals
- Country setting: still has open space
- Rural-urban interface ok – can work together
- Taro fields
- Main street in very small town
- Looks less dense
- Not as many cars
- Doesn't feel like a strip that people travel through
- Making a living (off land)
- Mix of local and tourist cars
- No parking lot in front of building
- No sidewalks
- One house in large area
- Has agriculture/plots with crops
- No yellow line on road
- No urbanized streetscape, green swale drainage way
- Rural villages with more dense neighborhoods within rural landscape
- Nice overhanging trees
- Building, materials, style look rural
- Lot of trees
- Grassy swale
- Small scale
- Small rock culvert
- It's where I grew up
- Still pretty cool small village – architecturally still rural – can see mountains and open space beyond
- Intimate, human scale of building and environment

Response to the Visual Montage: What is rural to you?

Rural is (not)...

- Looks like country estate
- House is too big
- Heavily manicured
- Background looks like McMansion out there
- Not clustered enough
- Looks like urbanizing rural area
- Still rural town, but filling up with cars and people
- Depends on what's around houses
- Double-solid line on road
- Doesn't have agricultural presence
- Building looks new
- Seems disjointed –not organic, building is isolated
- Gas station
- People driving by too fast
- Seems like strip
- Huge concrete driveway
- New construction with porte cochere
- Trophy mansion
- Chain link fence
- Wide road
- Lawn not being used – no farmer would waste that much space
- Guest unit/CPR “shed” on property
- Emergence of chain stores are beginning of change in rural character
- Grass/lawn
- Pseudo-rural
- Fence
- No agriculture
- Too manicured
- It's a mixture with chain convenience store with parking in front, is totally different from other buildings (on rural town street)

What's important about rural to you?

- Limited population, open space, quiet, not a lot of traffic
- Opportunity to continue lifestyle that is our heritage
- Quiet, natural open space and beauty
- Viewplanes
- Perpetuation of agriculture and starry nights
- Protection of biological habitat
- Preserving sense of community
- Large expanses of open space with no dwellings
- Access points to trails, beaches, open space
- Preservation of park spaces, places for families to go
- Clean water, healthy soils and healthy people
- Can pull into an impervious driveway, can have own garden and not have fence around garden
- Preserving rural roadways, one-lane bridges, non-vehicular-traffic-friendly: pedestrians and bikes can move safely
- Preserving sense of place on Kauai and preserving our common wealth
- Progressive growth of agricultural products/production to offset dependence on imported food
- All of above
- Place where children can come back to live
- Maintaining a rural attitude to be able to do work that needs to be done
- Rural environment – living natural world, ability to grow own food and for people/kids to know where food comes from
- Know my neighbors and feel comfortable sharing my bananas with them
- Pasture land and being able to ride horses safely

What questions do you have about preserving and maintaining rural areas?

- How do we prevent people that are not farmers from moving into farming/rural communities?
- What kind of tools and social processes do you need for bringing these kinds of programs about?
- Is there a distinguishing factor for determining whether land is high quality or not for ag? How do you fit that into keeping your rural landscape?
- Are there handouts/checklists for examples of these tools and how to apply these tools?
- Can we adapt these strategies to make them work here in Hawaii? and on Kauai?
- How do you maintain continuity/implementation of community vision across change in political leadership? Depoliticize planning.
- How have other places brought together state/federal/county for implementation of the kinds of changes talked about here?
- How important is the definition and plan for prime ag to the definition/plan for rural?
- How have counties dealt with federal ASHTO standards with regards to preserving rural roadways, in scale, etc?
- How do you avoid maximum buildout of ag lands, applying TDR concept to current situation on Kauai?
- How do we make this a priority for decision-makers in county? (To preserve ag land for ag and diversify ag to feed ourselves.)
- Why are we (State and County) in this mess? And what can we do about it?
- CPR of ag lands and what do we do about it.
- What indicators can be used to measure progress in staying rural?
- What are components of rural villages? more information on that.
- How can we improve enforcement of existing laws?
- How do you implement bike paths and trails in rural areas?
- What are the true legal limitations to rezoning and downzoning? A Hawaii-specific examination. How do we deal with claims of landowners?
- How do we reduce the transient uses and impacts of transient uses in our rural areas (primarily visitor accommodations)?
- How do we compel State government to enforce farm dwelling requirements?
- Are there guidelines for small rural towns that we can use?

Other comments

- State has to change policy at the State level first; the counties don't have the expertise related to agricultural lands. Discussion during the General Plan update about agricultural parks was very disappointing from a farmer's perspective. Consult with the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association
- A critical criterion for agriculture is availability of non-potable, gravity-flow irrigation water
- Planning here is develop, develop, develop
- Recent vote for county charter amendments showed tremendous support for freezing property taxes
- We should establish watershed councils--`aha councils—similar to what was done in Oregon, gives authority back to the people. Establish watershed planning districts to determine County Council representation
- Kauai is a band of coral reefs and beaches around the island. Every river should be corridors of conservation land kept in public trust
- Very supportive of protecting agricultural land
- We can't support a win-lose situation in our community. It affects all our children. We need a vibrant community, a long-term vision, need a balance. A balance where development is allowed to occur and youth will be able to see hope for the future, be able to stay and work here
- We need to identify what are the best agricultural lands?
- How are we going to control soil erosion?
- Can we look at other models for sustainability in communities, like Whistler, Canada?
- Can we achieve sustainability in terms of food, food self-sufficiency?