

This article was first published in the November 2018 issue of the Sylvia Woods Harp Center e-Newsletter. It is part of Sylvia's ongoing series about living on Kauai, Hawaii.

Kauai Roads

In last month's issue, I told you about the restaurant chains that are not here on Kauai. This month, I'm featuring road-related things that we are missing. For the most part, we are THANKFUL!

#1. Billboards. By law, billboards are banned on all of the Hawaiian islands! You can drive around and admire our breathtaking scenery without having it marred by large ads.



#2. Out-of-state license plates. When I moved to Hawaii, I sold my van in California and then bought a Prius the day I arrived. This way I was able to avoid the huge cost of shipping my vehicle 2,600 miles by boat. If you do ship your car to the islands, you only have 30 days to register your vehicle and get a Hawaii rainbow license plate, so it is very rare to see an out-of-state license plate.

#3. RVs and Motor Homes. RVs or motor homes are not banned, but I don't recall ever seeing one here. There are a few very old VW vans and school buses made into "motor homes," but that's as close as we get here.



#4. Honking horns. I can't remember the last time I heard a car horn! The law states, "*The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with his or her horn; but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.*" We "drive with Aloha" here. Letting traffic merge or turn left in front of us (even when we have the right-of-way), is the norm, not the exception on Kauai.

#5. Freeways. There are several major freeways in Honolulu on the island of Oahu. However, on Kauai, the maximum speed limit is 50 mph, and the widest roads are four lanes: two lanes in each direction. But there are only a few miles of roads here that are actually that wide. My guess is that about 99% of the roads on Kauai are two lanes: one in each direction. On most of the island, there's just one road, with no *alternate routes*. If there's an accident, road construction, or they are mowing the ever-growing plants near the shoulder, you're pretty much stuck. Because of this, flagmen are a common site on our roads.

(Our flagmen don't really wear grass skirts . . . but I couldn't resist adding one to this guy!)



P.S. As I mentioned above, plants of all kind grow extremely fast around here. This is a photo of my favorite stop sign. (What a novel concept . . . I actually have a favorite stop sign!) It is a few blocks from my house, near the local library. A plant has been growing inside the hollow post that holds up the sign. You can't see the foliage anywhere except where it grows out of the top. This sign always makes me smile!