

Dear DLNR:

I hereby enthusiastically support the nomination of Waimalu Shopping Center to the Hawaii Historic Places. Waimalu Shopping Center (WSC) has a storied history. It is an example of early 20th Century American Movement architecture that was unique when it was built and remains so today. It is also the success story of Japanese immigrants.

WSC features many unique design features that make the architecture interesting. The scalloped metal awning and rooftop make it easily recognizable to many. Instead of plain walls and rooflines, the curves of the awning and the repeating curves of the rooftop make it stand out and one-of-a-kind.

The second floor features another interesting design - a stylized open concrete tile pattern that lets the air flow through and hides the second floor from view. The open tile pattern also serves to shield the upstairs apartments from the harsh heat of the afternoon sun.

We see so many examples of huge shopping centers and mainland warehouse shopping areas. But, it is the neighborhood shopping centers that sustain the residents who live in the area. WSC has been around for 58 years and is a part of Aiea's history. Please consider protecting WSC's legacy by including it as one of Hawaii's historic places.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Linda M. Matsuo
President, Shiro's Saimin Haven