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Road Signs on Kauai

Our local Kauai newspaper is called "The Garden Island." There's an occasional column called "Da Shadow." Here's how the editors describe this feature.

"Old-timers might still remember the introduction from 'The Shadow' radio program: 'Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!' Jerome Freitas is a retired State Department of Transportation worker who is now better known as Da Shadow. Since 2004, he has been meeting with government representatives about problems he has discovered or that have been reported to him, and reporting the county's responses."

Last December I noticed this new mileage sign a few miles from my condo. After driving past it several times, I actually read the numbers. The 2.1 miles to Princeville looked about right. But it is WAY more than 2.4 miles to Hanalei. When I got home, I checked out Google Maps, and I was right: it is at least 4 miles from the sign to the town of Hanalei.



I realized that this sign could be very confusing for tourists, since they'd think they should get to Hanalei much sooner than they'd actually arrive. So, I sent an email to Da Shadow, along with my photo of the sign, asking him to check into it.



When my friend Patti was visiting me in February, I told her this story the first time we drove by the sign. When we drove past it about week later, she said "I think it has changed." And she was right! Because of my email, with help from Da Shadow, the sign is now correct. It is 4.2 miles to Hanalei.

One person (with a little help) can make a difference . . . especially on a small island.