



POSTAL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Waipio Contract Postal Unit offers mailing services to Waipio, Waikele, Crestview and Mililani residents, businesses

Residents and businesses in Waipio, Waikele, Crestview and Mililani can now conveniently access U.S. Postal Services at a new Contract Postal Unit (CPU) that recently opened at the Waipio Industrial Court, located behind the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The 400-square foot Hawaii Plantation Store CPU is open for business from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and features all of the services of a regular post office, except for P.O. box rentals, the processing of claims, and the sale of money orders and Ready Post shipping products. The CPU plans to extend its hours of operation for the holiday mailing season, beginning in late October.

The Plantation Store and its CPU services is an extension of GeminiTech, a thriving business that has provided computer repair and other information technology solutions for 10 years.

“I’m a Waipio resident myself,” said Plantation Store Owner-Operator Karen James. “So adding the postal services to our business was sort of self-serving because there is no post office in the immediate area. Prior to the opening of our CPU, nearby residents and businesses seeking postal services used to have to drive anywhere from 10 to 15 minutes to the Mililani, Pearl City or Waipahu Post Offices.

“The idea behind the name of our business is that we are designed to be a modern-day equivalent of the classic plantation store that provided for most of a family’s needs under one roof,” James explains. “In our case, we plan to provide for most of the technology and shipping needs of families and businesses, including computer and printer repair, cell phones sales and service, small business information technology consultation and the establishment of business shipping accounts.”

James and her partners opened the CPU in late July. They invite the public and business owners to join them for a festive grand opening *pau hana* celebration from 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29. The celebration will feature prizes, entertainment, refreshments and product demonstrations. Parking is available on the street just outside the Waipio Industrial Court complex.

“The customers who have stopped by so far have said how excited they are that we’ve opened here,” James says. “The biggest challenge has been to inform people that we’re open for business as a CPU. We don’t exactly look like a typical postal operation since we’re located in an industrial warehouse facility. But once people find us they’re glad they made the effort.”

The U.S. Postal Service delivers 212 billion pieces of mail a year, or about five pieces per address per day to more than 144 million homes, businesses, and Post Office boxes, and serves 9 million customers daily at more than 37,000 postal retail outlets.

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