



PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION KAUAI

2772 Aheaha St., Lihue, HI 96766

www.pakauai.org

info@pakauai.org

FACT SHEET

Pickleball is a sport played on a badminton-sized court with a net. It is played with a perforated plastic ball and paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. Played indoors or outdoors, it is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. The game has a passionate following due to its friendly, social nature, and its multi-generational appeal. It is the fastest growing sport in North America.

In the United States, pickleball grew from 4.8 million players in 2021 to 8.9 million players in 2022, an incredible one-year growth rate of 85.7%. Many perceive the sport as played by seniors, as 52 percent of core players are aged 55 and older. However, 80 percent of casual players are below age 54. Recent data shows the fastest growing age segment is from 6 to 17 years old.

Pickleball on Kauai started when a local boy working as a college professor on the mainland came home to retire in 2015. Partnering with Kauai County Parks and Recreation, he held clinics and shared his love of the game freely. Today, there are an estimated 500 Kauai people that play the game. In addition, hundreds of visitors seek places and people to play with. Many have forged lasting friendships with local people through the magic of pickleball and its social nature.

The rapid growth of the sport has created a shortage of places to play. Many players are introduced to the sport on a makeshift court with chalk lines and a temporary net. On Kauai, pickleball is played on shared tennis and basketball courts using temporary nets and blended lines. Many of the courts are in severe disrepair and are dangerous to play on. Four public permanent, dedicated pickleball courts opened in 2023, but the need is much greater. Pickleball Association Kauai (PAK) was founded to build pickleball courts on Kauai.

- ❖ Mission: ***PAK will develop, operate, and maintain quality dedicated pickleball venues with the spirit of Aloha.***
- ❖ Organized in 2021, PAK is registered with the State and an approved IRS 501(c)(3) corporation.
- ❖ PAK is a membership driven, and director led organization. There are seven directors, all unpaid. There are currently 300+ members. Annual membership dues are \$20. Anyone can be a member.
- ❖ After a search for existing courts to refurbish and convert to pickleball was unsuccessful, we are currently focused on finding a location where we can build a tournament quality complex. We anticipate securing our site by the end of 2023 and completing construction by the end of 2024. Many of our players are over age 70 and our practical deadline is "In their lifetimes".
- ❖ Capital fundraising will start after a suitable site is secured. Projected operational income and expenses will be available. Construction estimates for 8 tournament grade, covered, lighted courts with amenities are in excess of \$1.5 million..