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President's Report - February 2024

Nolan Ahn, PAK President

WHY ALOHA?

It's leap year, so enjoy the extra day this month! Nobody schedules anything for February 29, so go play pickleball! This month, we will explore the word "aloha" and why we include it in our mission statement. Throughout my life, I have been blessed to have experienced aloha in abundance. Although I am not native Hawaiian, I had the privilege of working for a Hawaiian organization in its formative years as a community organizer. The pay was \$600 per month for half time work, but most of us gave much more time because of our belief in the cause and the close-knit group of employees, mostly Hawaiians, who were so beautiful and fun to be with. We were like family, or ohana and working on improving opportunities for the maka'ainana (the people of the land). This was in the mid-70', the time of the Hawaiian Renaissance, Hokulea, hula, language, and music. What we lacked in salary was made up for with an incomparable exposure to education, training, and exposure to Hawaiian culture and history. The organization was Alu Like, which preceded today's Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). I was with Alu Like for a year and a half, and then moved on to be able to feed my soon to appear children. The greatest lesson I learned was the true meaning of the word aloha in our host culture. Auntie Pilahi Paki, said "The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for world peace because Hawai'i has the key...and that key is Aloha!" She taught that "The Aloha Spirit is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the Self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, Aloha, the following unuhi laula loa (free translation) may be used:"


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Aloha is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation.

Aloha means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return.

Aloha is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence.

Aloha means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

Pickleball Association Kauai recognizes that our greatest asset is our ability to adopt and internalize the Spirit of Aloha as explained by Auntie Pilahi Pahi. It is seen every day on our courts, where visitors and kama'aina experience a sense of peace and inclusion. Something that makes Kauai pickleball special. Just read this month's Visitor Player Profile on Chris White from Seattle. Recently, I reached out to thank a visitor for an unsolicited and generous donation he sent to PAK. His response (used with his permission) was:

Nolan,

You are very welcome. I am a visitor (about three months a year) and am the beneficiary of the nets that get set up in Hanapepe, the balls we play with, the folks who organize, etc. I put a 10 or 20 in the jars and added this as well. I appreciate your efforts, am thankful for the opportunity, wish to support your effort and am touched with how welcoming everyone is.

Aloha spirit in action.

Your partner in this great enterprise of life.

Be well and be blessed,

Emerson Knowles

Gold Canyon, AZ



Another event is the first exclusive Super Senior Tournament (70+) in April at Kalena Park. Our flyer should be on this month's update of our website. You go, kupuna!

Until next month,
Nolan, with Aloha

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