



PAK President's Report October 2022

NEWS

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### **THE AVALANCHE OF INDECISION**

*In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing,  
the next best thing is the wrong thing,  
and the worst thing you can do is nothing.*

-Theodore Roosevelt

(Please insert jpg Coco Palms here)

Thirty years ago Hurricane Iniki destroyed the Coco Palms Hotel. Its rotting buildings still stand today, a monument to ineffective oversight by our County. We all acknowledge that the wheels of government turn slowly, but thirty years? If the County administrators and employees had adopted a Theodore Roosevelt philosophy and made decisions, right or wrong, this blight would not exist today. Deadlines were set, missed, and reset. Owners changed. The economy changed. Politicians changed. The years kept ticking. 30 years and counting. The cost of doing nothing remains evident. Today is the only day for decisions to be made, because tomorrow never comes. Coco Palms has had more than 11,000 todays pass without a clear decision about its tomorrows.

Perhaps Coco Palms has infected decisive actions in other arenas. We complain about traffic, yet traffic gets worse. We complain about over-tourism, yet we still get much more visitors than we can comfortably handle. We complain about homelessness, yet the numbers continue to grow. PAK is a solution-based organization not asking for a handout from anyone. We see the problem as simply too many pickleball players for too little courts. We are willing to self-fund the construction, operation, maintenance, and expansion of dedicated courts on Kauai. Yet, it looks like we will be unable to achieve our 2022 objective of identifying our first court location. As such, our board has decided to suspend our intended annual dues for our members at least until the end of 2023. We want to keep our membership base and show them that we will not ask for more dues until we have accomplished our primary task of securing a suitable site. New members are always welcome, and we are hoping our second year will get our membership numbers to 500 or more. Of course, if our members wish to continue to contribute to our cause, their donations will be gratefully accepted.

We advocate decisions, not deferrals and believe even a “no” allows for movement forward. A “maybe” cripples and burdens both parties in uncertainty and prevents progress. We recently got the “pleasure” of a “no” from the County. We had been approached to provide an after school pickleball program

for the Koloa School PTA and we jointly wrote a grant to the County of Kauai Grant programs to fund a project. We were denied funding and are pursuing other alternatives.

(attach County letter of non-selection)

I recently attended a meeting with the Princeville at Hanalei Community Association. There is a movement to have permanent pickleball courts built in the Prince Albert Park due to continuing conflicts with residents that oppose the noise from neighborhood pickleball play. The movement is being led by Sande Lew, Bob Day, and Lotoua Zoller, all PAK members and Princeville residents. Even though the Association is a private concern, they have many hurdles to overcome before court construction will be allowed. PAK has pledged its support for the new courts and will continue to represent the interests of our membership as a whole in this matter.

(attach picture of protest sign at Emmalani Park)

Our board is considering its options for a follow-up to our highly successful 2022 PAK Open Tournament this past May. Our main concerns are that we are prevented from having a larger tournament with more participants due to the lack of a suitable venue. Our past tournament was a success, but there are so many obstacles to overcome. Despite this, the board felt overwhelmingly that we should make every attempt to have a 2023 tournament at a date and place to be announced soon. This would not be a problem if we had our proposed 8 court dedicated facility already built. Stay tuned. We shall overcome!

I was heartened by a recent visit to the Hanapepe Courts. I went to re-unite with Carol Kolenda, pickleball player who has moved from Kauai to Texas and was visiting the island with new Texas picklers. There in sunny and hot Hanapepe are oodles of happy pickleball players filling up four courts with players waiting for open courts. Lucia and Ray Bartels continue to do a super job in organizing play and the players are delighted to be able to play, even if the nets are temporary, the lines are hard to see, and the courts are horribly cracked. Kalawai Courts recently greeted Jack Hodges from his two week vacation to France with 35 players on four courts, 16 playing and 19 waiting. Lihue Courts are growing their player counts with new players constantly being added. They still have the best potlucks, and do a birthday bash every month for their players. Their last one in

September had well over 50 attendees, and they have already set the date and place for their infamous Christmas Party this year. Kapaa looks like their courts are heavily used for pickleball, as does the (now) limited use allowed at Emmalani Park in Princeville.

Not only do we have growing numbers, but the quality of our players is being shown at tournaments locally and on the mainland. We had a significant representation of Kauai players in the PPA Championships at Las Vegas in October. Lots of hardware was brought back. Brant Fuchigami and Talon Abat won bronze in Mens Doubles 4.0 35+. Brant won gold in Mens Singles 4.0 35+. Jen Uyeda-Gali and Brandon Vallejos won gold in Mixed Doubles 3.0 50+ 60+. Maria Almeida and Kaleo Perez won gold in Mixed 3.5 60+, and Seela Fisher/Sandi Ikeda won silver in Women's 3.5 19+. Seela and Brant also won silver in Mixed 4.0 19+. Congratulations Kauai picklers. You make us proud!

Lastly, we hope you celebrated World Pickleball Day this past October 10 by playing this game that we all love! PAK!

Until next time,

Nolan