



## PAK President's Report February 2023

### NEWS

-President's Report

-February 2023

### PAK CELEBRATES OUR 300<sup>TH</sup> MEMBER!

Our membership campaign started in December 2021. In a little over a year, we are happy to introduce our 300<sup>th</sup> member, Alyssa Miyake! We are so happy to welcome Alyssa in our PAK ohana. She is a 2006 Kauai High School graduate, and the daughter of Paul and Rachel Miyake. She lived and worked for 15 years in the San Francisco Bay area until she recently got a chance to work remotely on Kauai

with her company that deals in real estate. She is also employed by Get Fit Kauai as the Kalena Park Program Coordinator. Get Fit Kauai is the organization responsible for the renovation and rejuvenation of Kalena Park. Alyssa reached out to PAK to participate in a Rice Street Block Party in October of this year. The event is sponsored by the Rice Street Business Association and Get Fit Kauai and is slated for October 2023. PAK has agreed to organize and run a pickleball tournament to be played on the Kalena Park courts that weekend. Details are being worked out, but it promises to be a fun part of a bigger celebration for the weekend. Alyssa is a budding pickleball player. She played tennis in high school, so she has a good court sense and a promising two-handed backhand smash. She will join the growing numbers of pickleball players who need suitable, safe places to play this growing sport. Welcome aboard, Alyssa!

(pictures here)

#### Pickleball Courts Explode on Maui

We have mentioned Aloha Pickleball before. Our friends on Maui have finalized their plans for their multi-million dollar facility to be built in Kihei. According to Mark Beach, they have been on an “emotional rollercoaster” with their dream project to bring world class courts to Maui. After many revisions and challenges, they have submitted their plans for permitting approval this month.

(picture of their facility here)

Their current plan calls for 15 outdoor courts, with five of them under cover, all with state of the art dark sky lighting. Their center challenge court has TV broadcasting approved lights and has the capability of broadcasting Pro Tour pickleball matches from its 70' X 40' court, which can seat 400+ spectators. All other courts are sized 65' X 35', larger than tournament requirements and are cushion padded. Throughout the challenges which included COVID, Mark, his wife Nancy and his team of local associates have kept their faith and hope up by repeating their mantra of “the Universe (and the pickleball gods) are conspiring for us.” Naturally, one of the concerns they had was “will players pay enough to support the huge investment in the facility?” Two years ago, that was a huge unknown, but recent developments have created some comfort that their efforts will be met with success. Nearby Wailea Resort Tennis has converted some of their tennis courts into 10 dedicated pickleball courts and has been having

overflow bookings from their growing membership list and drop in play. According to Mark, they have raised their membership fee for pickleball three times in the last two years. Membership annual rates are currently \$575 for Juniors, \$1,005 for Singles, \$1,325 for Couples, and \$1,625 for a Family. Drop in rates for court use is \$17 for two hours for Kamaaina, and \$28 for visitors. Wow! Kauai has been contemplating how much can be charged to offset the substantial investment needed to build and maintain dedicated courts. We realize even a \$5 charge will be more than free and will be met with resistance. But, considering our courts will probably cost about a million dollars to build, and judging by Maui's successes, we are encouraged to continue our efforts to find suitable sites for courts on the island, and recite our mantra.

***If we build it, they will come.***

It looks like we will be rescheduling our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PAK Tournament from May to August to allow for the use of a larger, possibly 10 court facility with new surfaces. We struggled to put on our first tournament with 100 entries at Kalawai with its four courts. With the 10 court facility we hope to introduce a never before seen in Hawaii format that will be new, exciting, and be able to handle double the number of players as the first. Stay tuned for more news about this, and registration to start sometime in June.

PAK has also been chosen to run a pickleball tournament at Kalena Park in October to coincide with the Rice Street Block Party. Thanks, Alyssa! Be watching for registration in August. The one day tournament will be fast, fun and be able to handle only 60 players, as Kalena only has three courts. Be one of them by keeping your eyes and ears peeled for information on our website! By the way, not bragging or nothing, but our monthly "hits" to our website are well over 1,500 and growing! A good sign is that we now have an ad that pops up on our site! Who woulda thunk?

Until next month.

Nolan Ahn, President