

# PAK President's Report December, 2021

## NEWS

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We are off to a great start! December 1, 2021 marked the official start of the Pickleball Association Kauai (PAK) membership campaign. After months of planning and preparing our website, we launched our campaign dedicated to the memory of Leona Bryant. Within 8 days, we had more than a hundred members enrolled in PAK through the efforts of our court representatives and directly through our website. We are hoping to smash our goal of 200 members and see how much support there is for our mission to build dedicated courts on Kauai. If you are a pickleball player or a supporter of our cause, please join us. We need to show that we have broad support as we look for a site for our "alpha court". We believe that first court will be the genesis of more courts as our sport continues to grow in popularity. Thank you to Lori Uyeda, board member and chair of the campaign. She and her court representatives (Lori Koga, Bob Day, Shelley Salausa, Chase Crane, Jack Hodges, Lucia Bartels, Mike Wellman, Jules Canon) are doing a superb job. Keep up the good work.

PAK is an organization that started in the uncertain times of COVID-19. Even while we "hunkered down" many picklers ventured out to play the game and enjoy the exercise and friendships. Procedures were developed to prevent contagion, and to our knowledge no one has contracted the disease from playing pickleball on Kauai. We did all of our organizational meetings and communications electronically, by Zoom, email, texts, and telephone. We are grateful to Jonathan Chun for his assistance in drafting our By-laws and filing our 501(c)(3) application with the IRS. If you see any of our Board members out there, please thank them for the countless hours they give to our cause. We have done incredible work in getting our website operational, even though none of us is really trained to create one. I am proud of what we have so far, and we work constantly to improve it for you. There is so much work to be done. If you are

willing and able to help in any way, please contact us by email [info@pakauai.org](mailto:info@pakauai.org)  
We need help with the website, gathering news and player profiles, coordinating leagues and lessons, officiating, organizing tournaments and possibly tours to mainland tournaments. In the future, be looking for regular articles on how to improve your pickleball game, get to know the rules and etiquette better, and local and visitor player profiles. I hope to make the President's Report a regular feature as well.

Our quest for courts continues. In December, our rainstorms made outdoor play impossible for long stretches of time. A frequent question was "Why are the Kalaheo Gym courts not open?" For the record, the Kalaheo gym was an incredibly popular venue for indoor play. 2-3 times per week, two groups of "less advanced" and "more advanced" players would meet at the gym, rain or shine for 2 hours of fun. Average attendance per session would be 40-50 players for the four courts. The gym was closed about 2 years ago for roof repairs, and we have been trying to engage the County to re-open the facility. Now that we have an organization that represents a significant number of players, we are hoping that our requests to engage in on-going dialogue with the County will be fruitful. We are also hoping to see if they have a willingness to discuss innovative solutions to our lack of courts by working together with us. Our tax dollars fund the departments and facilities, and we should have a voice in the process. Stay tuned for more.

Our constant objective is to identify a site for our permanent courts. Our initial preference was to re-furbish existing, under-used tennis courts. Those that control courts are resisting the change to pickleball, and we are now expanding our search to look for suitable open space to construct brand new courts. The cost to start from scratch will be 3-5 times more than our original plans, but we remain optimistic and continue to search. Anybody know of a flat, vacant parcel with about .75 acres of space, that has parking, electricity and water, bathrooms and a generous, community minded owner? If we think it, it will come!

Until next time,

Nolan

