



President's Report - August 2023

Nolan Ahn, PAK President

FOOTSTEPS IN THE SAND

There is a popular Christian poem titled "Footprints in the Sand." The author tells about a dream he had in which he traces his entire life by looking at a trail of footprints in the sand. Many of his happiest times were marked by two sets of footprints, but to his dismay, the prints marking his lowest and saddest times were of only one walker. He identified the two prints of himself and his God and lamented that it seemed that God has deserted him in his time of greatest need. He queried God in prayer, asking why He was not with him at those times. God reassured that He loved him, and when there was only one set of footprints, God carried him through.

I thought of that story because July was a rough month for me as President of PAK. We were told that the lessor of the land that we identified as our ideal pickleball site was not ready to discuss our proposal in the foreseeable future. A tournament we had planned for the new pickleball courts at Kauai Community College was cancelled because of construction delays. Negotiations with college officials for PAK involvement were declined, and there is not a high degree of hope that the facilities, if ever completed, will be open for public play. The City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation opened a 12-court dedicated pickleball complex at Keehi Lagoon, with plans for 67 more by the end of 2023. This compares to existing plans (as we know them) of Kauai County Parks and Recreation to resurface one of their 25 tennis courts every two years and to "perhaps" accommodate pickleball needs. After surveying our state, we appear to be lagging every major island in fulfilling demand for dedicated courts.



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led by volunteer picklers. The skill levels of the players ranged from beginners to advanced. There is tremendous interest in having more clinics in the future, and Lori and Rumi will be working on expanding the program. I want to thank all the new members who joined PAK through the clinics and the volunteer instructors who worked so hard teaching fundamentals to advanced skills to the players.

Kapaa Clinic





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Speaking of members, I am ecstatic about the growth of our group. It has not been two years since we started our campaign, but we show 344 paid members who believe in our quest for courts. I am confident that we will exceed



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lowest and saddest times, when I am most discouraged that things are not going as I think they should, they are there to tell me to “stay the course.” This is a marathon, not a sprint, and the tortoise will prevail over the hare. Somewhere, out there, is a Kauai County official that will adopt the Honolulu director’s refreshing stance. She said, “It is very rewarding to see our outdoor courts given new life, and for pickleball players around the island to enjoy more dedicated facilities...We look forward to progressing this effort and making better use of our existing facilities to accommodate a growing diversity of park users across Oahu.” We need more public servants like her. It must be obvious that to get different results, you must do things differently. Let’s go, Kauai.

Until next month,
Nolan

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Photos from the April 2023 President's Report