



President's Report - Oct 2023

Nolan Ahn, PAK President

FOOTSTEPS, PART 2. LOOKING BACK

Last month, I titled my monthly message as “Footprints in the Sand.” It was a tribute to our Board and others who helped me keep going when it appeared there was no place to go in our quest for courts. They carried me when I couldn’t walk. Always, they reminded me that our goal was a worthy one to continue to pursue. They may not have said it in these words, but I think their support echoes this saying: “God never closes a door without opening a window.” Every time I get stymied, meet adversity, or feel like giving up, I think of this little saying. “I am reminded that although I cannot do it all, I can do something. I cannot win at everything, but I can win sometimes. I can get up if I fall. Until the day I am granted eternal rest, I can do something.”

Last month, I had a meeting with Reiko Matsuyama, our newly appointed Managing Director for Kauai County. I have known Reiko since she was about four years old, as she is the same age as my son Ben. I am so proud to see how she has risen to her position of influence, second only to the mayor. Of course, the purpose of our meeting was pickleball. Where we have been. Where we are. Where we are going. How the County can help us. How we can help the County. For a frantic hour, I gushed out two and half years of history and our current goals for pickleball. Part of the history was outlining our attempts to secure a site for our proposed courts. To share with you, here they are, in no particular order:

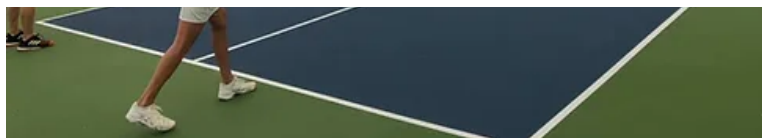
1. Kauai County Parks and Recreation

2. Kauai County Mayor's Office
3. Kauai County Council
4. Kauai Beach Villas
5. Kukuilono Park
6. Kauai Community College
7. Grove Farm
8. Pua Kea Golf Course
9. Island School
10. Kauai YMCA
11. Poipu Kai Resort
12. Sonesta Resorts
13. Timbers Resort
14. Princeville Resort
15. Hawaii Department of Education
16. Poipu Athletic Club
17. Kawaihau Sports Villas
18. Kauai Philippine Cultural Center

That's a pretty long list, with nothing to show for it to date. But, somewhere, there is a window that will open. It must, because we are rapidly outgrowing our existing facilities, and the resultant tension in securing court time to suit the desires of our growing number of players will become a revolt.

The end of the year is approaching, and we are mapping out a schedule for 2024. We are planning multiple tournaments despite currently not having a suitable venue to accommodate the demand. Along with tournaments we will be having more clinics to help players improve their games. These will be held in the "hotspots" of pickleball on Kauai...Kapaa, Lihue, Kalawai, and Kekaha. We are planning at least six, and possibly eight clinics for various skill levels. Tournaments and clinics will have significant discounts for PAK members, and as such we are considering collecting renewal dues for members in 2024. FYI we suspended dues pending the securing of a site for our courts, but it looks like that saga is not over, and we will need to raise lots of money for our courts. Estimates are now well over a million dollars to build our envisioned covered facilities.





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Why covered facilities? There are many reasons why covered courts should be considered by us:

1. Lihue gets rainfall 180 days per year. No more squeegees!
 2. Very few people like to play from noon to 4 pm because of the heat.
 3. Courts last longer when covered.
 4. Drainage is not a problem. Courts need not be sloped as much.
 5. Orientation does not have to be North to South.
 6. Wind is not a problem.
 7. Noise is better contained.
 8. Shade between play is assured.
 9. Lighting is more easily installed.
 10. Night play is possible.
 11. There is no need to shut down during Shearwater fledgling months.
 12. The structure has multi-use possibilities. Picture a 20,000 sq. ft. canopy!
- What's the downside? More cost. But while we are dreaming, let's dream big!

This month, PAK will operate the Kalena Park Fun Pickleball Tournament on October 28. As of this writing, we are almost fully subscribed, and the deadline is October 21 for signup. The number of players is limited to 48 players due to only having three courts available. Pray for good weather. This will probably be the last "manual" tournament using paper brackets, registration, collection of fees, and scoring. We are looking at having tournaments run digitally, like the "big boys" do. Now, if only we had a place to run them...

Until next month,
Nolan

Previous Month's President's Reports and Photos

Jan '23 **Feb '23** **Mar '23** **Apr '23** **May '23** **Jun '23**

Jul '23 **Aug '23** **Sep '23**

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Dec '21

Photos from the April 2023 President's Report

