



## ALOHA AND WELINA (WELCOME) TO PAK

Mahalo for becoming a member in Pickleball Association Kauai (PAK)! Thank you for your support of our efforts to create world-class pickleball facilities on Kauai. Whether you are a brand-new member or one that dates to our initial drive in December of 2021, we appreciate your coming aboard. Each member that signs up adds credibility to our quest and helps demonstrate the incredible growth our beloved sport has experienced here and around the world. To the skeptics that said pickleball was just a passing fad, we already have a growing pro circuit, and soon will have enough international players to become an Olympic sport.

Now, let's get some housecleaning done. By becoming a member, you are acknowledging that pickleball is an active sport that has inherent dangers and you will not hold Pickleball Association Kauai or its agents responsible for any bodily

injury you suffer from participation in any of its sponsored events. You also grant us permission to use your likeness in any of our publications. You may elect to “opt out” of the photographic release by emailing [info@pakauai.org](mailto:info@pakauai.org).

Every year, thousands of courts are opening across the nation as government recreation departments and the private sector try to fill the gap between too many players and not enough places to play. In my opinion, Hawaii has lagged the nation in the ratio of pickleball courts to number of players, and Kauai County has the least dedicated courts of the rest of the state. This has not prevented us from experiencing growth in the numbers of pickleball players. We see the greatest growth is with younger people below age 35 as they discover that the “funny game with the funny name” is really a highly competitive sport that they can enjoy for a lifetime. Kauai is not lacking in national level competitors as evidenced by a significant number of our players qualifying for the 2023 National Championships. People are asking “Where is Kauai and how do they develop such great pickleball players?” Imagine if we had quality courts!



In 2022, our board suspended our annually renewable dues until we secured a site for our first pickleball facility. Our membership at that time was about 200 and has since grown to almost 400 as of this writing. For 2024, we are still focused on finding and securing a suitable site for our facility, but also planning a full calendar of events, including multiple tournaments and clinics. Members will be entitled to significant discounts or free registration at our events. In lieu of dues, donations are always welcome.

Please continue to keep up with PAK and pickleball happenings by visiting our robust website [pakauai.org](http://pakauai.org). We promised that until we secure our courts, we would communicate to our members what was happening and be an open book in our endeavors. We share our minutes, by-laws, financial reports, and a monthly President's report. Jack Hodges' "From the Picklehood" column is a wealth of tips, insights, and game improvement suggestions from the father of Kauai Pickleball. See who is featured in our Kauai and Visitor Player of the Month. Our Places to Play pages are highly popular with visitors and residents. We get well over 1,500 "hits" per month on our website. Visit us soon and often. If there are any suggestions or input, we promise to respond to you through the communications available on the site.

Aloha a hui hou and see you on the courts!

Nolan Ahn, President