

From The Picklehood

February, 2023

As the District Ambassador responsible for Pickleball in the State of Hawaii, I continue to receive requests from mainland (and other countries) pickleball players about play on our four islands currently offering the game to locals and visitors.

As such, I would like to be sure that visitors have access to the most current 2023 information regarding pickleball on Kaua'i, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii island. Our USA Pickleball Ambassadors on each island are great at keeping me updated.

What follows is a 2023 update from each island and—what is particularly important—where to go to get the most up-to-date information on play.

KAUA'I Pickleball

Obviously, if you are reading this, you are on our website. Please explore the various links. There is a wealth of information including upcoming tournaments.

Local players are anxiously awaiting the opening of Kaua'i's first permanent, dedicated pickleball venue in Koloa. The latest word is that the opening will be soon—just a few minor 'touch ups' to be completed. Stay tuned.

OAHU Pickleball

oahupickleballassociation.org is a wonderful website for information. They also have a Facebook page....Oahu Pickleball Association. Diamond Head Pickleball is another good Facebook page. Everything you need to know about play on Oahu can be found via these three sources.

Another very good source for Oahu information is Kyle Kaneshiro, USAP Ambassador who is the Director of Pickleball at Moanalua High School. The facility has 12 pickleball courts and is one of the finest venues for play on Oahu. Website: K2TENS.com

HAWAII ISLAND Pickleball

Hawaii island checked in with information on a few key areas.

waikoloapickleballclub.com has a new website. Their new club is growing, with membership close to 100 players.

The Holua Racket and Paddle Club in Kona is the largest pickleball venue in the state with 20 courts. Website: holuaracketandpaddle.com They have hosted a number of very successful tournaments over the years and were the site of the first USAPA tournament ever conducted in Hawaii (2015).

konapickleballhui.weebly.com is another website for play in Kona. I've played there as well. Lots of fun.

Hilo pickleball is growing considerably. No website. Google 'Hilo Pickleball.'

In 2022 many major hotels on Hawaii Island have started offering pickleball. Blended lines on existing tennis courts. Call for details and fees.

MAUI Pickleball

The spotlight is on Maui. Lots of great information circulating. The 'Valley Island' is challenging Oahu as the premier destination for pickleball play.

Maui just hosted a great tournament Jan 26 to 30. 588 participants from 17 states and 3 countries. The tournament was well attended by local Maui players and picklers from our other three playing islands. Unfortunately, rain canceled play two of the five days and major adjustments had to be made to accommodate players. Still, very successful.

A new club, "Maui Pickleball Club," has been formed. Their home base is the War Memorial Sports Complex. Membership is rapidly growing. Plans are to have a tournament in the near future to raise funds for the club. No website yet. Their Facebook group page (with over 1,000 members), **Pickleball On Maui**.

South Maui information.....The Grand Wailea Tennis Center has 10 pickleball courts. Open, drop in play is available, but the fees are a bit on the pricey side. Waipuilani Park (Kihei), with eight courts, is Maui's most used venue. During the winter months, it is not uncommon to see 70-80 players every morning of play. It is peak visitor season. The numbers go down significantly during the summer. There are plans to open a central Maui dedicated facility, but the timeline is unknown. Also, a private facility, 'Aloha Pickleball,' located in Kihei, is in the permit stage with plans to open in 2024. Laurie Loney, Maui's first USAP

Ambassador (and a person who has played pickleball for over 50 years—yes, 50!!...she started at age 8), was kind enough to send me the following information regarding play on Maui. Many mahalos Laurie.

WHERE TO PLAY PICKLEBALL ON MAUI

South Maui:

*Waipuilani Park Tennis Courts – Maui’s first designated public courts! West Waipuilani Rd, 96753 (Public parking lot is next to Maui Sunset Condo, 1032 S. Kihei Rd.) Courts 5 and 6 are designated for PB, everyday, 8am – 7pm. These 8 dedicated courts are at the northern end of the facility. **Often players show up daily mostly in the mornings.** Contact 808-205-1040 or County Contact: 808-891-4955

Central Maui:

War Memorial Tennis Courts - Kanaloa Ave., Kahului, (Near War Memorial Football Stadium, park on left, upper side of Stadium lot.) 96732. The tennis courts are not marked but they are behind the fence. Walk up the sidewalk. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 – 7:30 pm. Also Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings 8 am. County Contact: 808-270-7389

Upcountry Maui:

Eddie Tam Gym – 931 Makawao Ave, Makawao, 96768 (Indoor Pickleball) Wednesdays 9 am – 11:00 (no advance sign ups required.) **On Wednesdays please park in lower lot by tennis courts.** Non-scuff mark shoes required. Check to make sure the gym is available, as it is sometimes closed for maintenance. Contact 808-250-1766

Kula Tennis Courts – East Lower Kula Road, 96790 (across from the Holy Ghost Church) Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 – 12. Contact: 808-633-6764

West Maui:

Lahaina Civic Center – 1840 Honoapiilani Hwy., Lahaina, 96761. There are 4 dedicated, public Pickleball courts on the farthest court next to basketball court. Available daily 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. Pickup games are all mornings and some evenings. (contact: 808-250-1600.) County contact: 808-661-4685.

Napili Park – Maiha Street, Napili, 96761. There are 4 recently resurfaced dedicated courts. Open daily 7 am to 7 pm. No regular pickup games yet. County contact: 808-661-4685.

WHERE TO PLAY PICKLEBALL ON MAUI. PRIVATE BUT OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Upcountry Maui:

PickleballMaui. Private court in Kula, 96790. Available for rental, lessons, paddle demos/sales and setting up matches (for 2 or more players.) Starting at \$10/person for \$2+ hours. Contact 808-250-1766 or pickleballmaui.com

South Maui:

Wailea Tennis Club. 131 Wailea Ike Drive, Kihei 96753 Contact: 808-879-1958. \$15/person for 90 minutes or longer if no others are waiting.

West Maui:

Kapalua Tennis Club, 200 Plantation Dr., Lahaina, 96761 Contact: 808-662-7730. \$25/person for the day.

Royal Lahaina Tennis Ranch, 2789 Kekaa Dr., Lahaina, 96761 Contact: 808-667-5200. \$10/person.

Thanks for taking the time to read through this month's Picklehood News. As you can see, the game is growing in Hawaii at such a rapid pace that demand is growing for more venues to accommodate local and visiting players. Across the country, the game is becoming so popular that colleges are now forming 'club pickleball' groups who are competing against other colleges and local pickleball clubs. Large companies are forming pickleball clubs that play after work and against other local clubs as well. Amazing growth in the last five years!!

Happy February, 2023.

Jack Hodges
District Ambassador - State of Hawaii
Kaua'i Resident

