

Creating TIMELESS MEMORIES



Mauna Kea's 3rd hole

The 46th annual Mauna Kea Pro-Am attracted a strong field of teams.

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII: Before tourism became the economic engine of the Hawaiian Islands, agriculture was the state's primary industry. At one point in time, the islands supplied 75 percent of the world's pineapples.

Thus, it seems symbolic that pineapple represents hospitality. However, the metaphor didn't originate in the Aloha State. The rise of pineapple as a sign of warmth and welcome can be traced to Colonial times when Christopher Columbus discovered the exotic fruit in the Caribbean.

Because of its rarity (up until the 1970s), the ability to serve pineapple at a party said as much about the importance of an event as a host's rank in society.



David Fink and his father John of Team Oahu from Hawaii were the winners of the Horse Race Shootout on Mauna Kea's iconic 3rd hole.

THE BENCHMARK OF HOSPITALITY IN HAWAII

When Mauna Kea Resort opened 55 years ago, it was the most expensive hotel ever built. More than 1.5 million man-hours were required to complete the resort and 200,000 plants landscaped the lava-filled surroundings. Praised by travel writers and critics worldwide, it was named at the time one of the "three greatest hotels in the world" by *Esquire* and one of the "10 best buildings" by *Fortune*.

NO SHOT OF VITAMIN D REQUIRED

Several years after opening, the Mauna Kea Pro-Am was established and soon became *the* golf event in all of Hawaii.

Last year, 28 teams competed for almost \$30,000 in cash and gift cards during the 46th annual Mauna Kea Pro-Am. The five-night, four-day event is a four-person, 54-hole tournament consisting of three amateurs and one professional. Scoring is two best balls—one gross, one net.

"A visit to Kona in December is like a shot of vitamin D for the soul," expressed Larry Atlas, golf professional representing Team Braemar Country Club in California. ➤



THE HORSE RACE SHOOTOUT, an informal four-hole competition immediately following completion of the first round of the Pro-Am had 28 teams. Players enjoyed soft rock music and an open bar in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.



Mauna Kea Beach Hotel is a member of Historic Hotels of America

A TOUCHING FATHER/SON MOMENT

The Horse Race Shootout is always a popular diversion. “The conga line of golf carts from the tee box to the fairway reminded me of the traffic on the Bay Bridge,” exclaimed Chris Lancerini, golf professional at The Olympic Club in California.

Teams with pars or better advanced to the final hole.

With \$1,000 on the line, three teams approached Mauna Kea Resort’s iconic No. 3 over the Pacific Ocean. All teams hit the green and after a couple of lip-outs and groans, all advanced to a sudden death chip-off.

With *Sweet Caroline* by Neil Diamond playing in the background, David Fink hit his “Fink flip” to within four feet to win the shootout. “I’ve always struggled with wedges, but I had such a good lie on the seashore paspalum grass, I was confident I could stick it,” smiled David. “Winning the shootout with Dad as my teammate is pretty special.”

FOR PROFESSIONALS AND AMATEURS ALIKE

“Our Pro-Am format is a proven winner,” said Josh Silliman, director of golf at Mauna Kea Resort. “Golf professionals are able to compete for a robust purse and amateurs equally contribute to their team’s score when handicaps are figured into the equation. I would like to applaud T.J. Kua as our low gross golf professional and Team Big Sky as our Pro-Am reigning champions.” ■



(Top) Team Olympic Club in California - Pro Chris Lancerini; (Left) Team Braemar CC in California - Pro Larry Atlas; (Above) Team Big Sky in Montana - Pro Greg Van Natta.