



Aloha

to Mauna Kea Resort's Pro-Am Winners

*Your invitation to join us in
December for fun, camaraderie,
and competition.*

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII: The Mauna Kea Pro-Am has been a Big Island staple since the first cellular call in New York City was placed on a Motorola phone.

Under a bright moon with calm surf lapping at the beach that Mauna Kea Resort is famous for, 176 players and guests relaxed with fine food and drink and strategized for the upcoming competition during the Welcome Dinner and Cocktail Reception.

Several golf professionals marked milestones at the Pro-Am with Scott Puailoa, director of golf at The Valley Club in California, commemorating 31 years of competition, and Tom Sargent, head golf professional at Mesa Verde Country Club in California, celebrating 27 years of attendance.

"When Scott first competed back in 1990, he had a full head of hair," teased Scott Bridges, director of instruction at the Four Seasons Hualalai. "I think over the years the Kona trades blew his locks into the Pacific Ocean. ➤



Team Valley Club represented by
golf professional Scott Puailoa



Team Mesa Verde Country Club represented
by golf professional Tom Sargent

Mauna Kea Pro-Am



Welcome Reception



THE HORSE RACE SHOOTOUT, an informal four-hole competition immediately following completion of the first round of the Pro-Am had 22 teams. Players enjoyed soft rock music and an open bar in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Pars on the first three holes allowed teams to “fight another day.” On the last hole—Mauna Kea Resort’s signature par-3—the final three teams all had birdie attempts. Ultimately, Brett Rice and Rick Rielly from Team Wilshire Country Club won \$1,000 for a job well done.



The Big Island of Hawaii

is the youngest island in the Hawaiian chain. At 300,000 years old, it's a freshman compared to the upperclassmen of Oahu (three million years old) and Kauai (four million years old).

Before the arrival of the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, ranching was the Big Island's major industry. The resort sits on a beach where cowboys and ranch hands would camp and fish after a day on the range.

On a flight home from Asia in the early 1960s, tycoon Laurance Rockefeller took a detour to Hawaii. During his scouting trip, he spotted the white crescent-shaped beach, fell in love, and soon afterward signed a land lease. More than 1.5 million man-hours of labor were required to excavate 60 acres of lava, landscape the land with 200,000 plants, and incorporate 5,000 square feet of marble, a mile of wood, and 20,000 cubic yards of concrete into the construction of the iconic Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. Laurence Rockefeller was quoted as saying, "We're not for everybody. We're for the fortunate few."

When it opened, Mauna Kea was the most expensive hotel ever built. 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*.



Garret Okamura and Trace Crowe prepare for Sudden Death Playoff

Dennis Brown on Team River Oaks Golf Club, from Oklahoma, aced No. 7 during the first round of competition. It's the first hole in one in the Pro-Am's 47-year history. One has to wonder how free drinks in the clubhouse are handled in the COVID era!



Mauna Kea Pro-Am

(continued from first page) In local folklore, Pele is the goddess of volcanoes and fire and the creator of the Hawaiian Islands. She also was known to partake in a drink of gin now and again. I raise this glass of gin in the hopes Pele grants us calm conditions in the coming days!”

As Grayden Hai-Kelly serenaded guests, everyone dined on salt crusted prime rib and steamed Keahole lobster, met new friends, and prepared for the following morning’s practice round.

DOUBLE DUTY SUDDEN-DEATH PLAYOFFS

It should come as no surprise, after an exciting week of golf, there should be an exciting *finish* to golf. The total purse that approached \$20,000 in cash, prizes, and gift certificates did not go unnoticed.

Both professional *and* team brackets went to a sudden-death playoff.

For the professionals, Garret Okamura (Team Hualalai) and Trace Crowe (Team Ultimate Sack) finished regulation play at +7. On the first playoff hole, Garret played conservative by lasering a solid drive down the middle of the fairway. Trace played more aggressively and cut the corner leaving him only 20 yards short of the green. After sinking a six-foot birdie putt, Trace was crowned low gross professional of the 47th annual Mauna Kea Pro-Am.

Immediately following the professional sudden-death playoff, Team River Oaks Golf Club and Team Ultimate Sack teed off to determine team competition winners. Aggressive play was again rewarded on the first hole with Team Ultimate Sack proving victorious. (continued) ➤



Awards Dinner



Do you think Team Ultimate Sack is going to have to pay checked luggage fees to get their oversized checks home? The good news is they can now afford it.



Though not as ubiquitous in Hawaii as the mai tai, The Fredrico remains the signature cocktail of the Mauna Kea, created by Fred Allen in 1988. The drink was named Fredrico after his nickname at Stanford University. Auntie’s Backyard is the resort’s newest specialty drink. Head mixologist, Jenna, regularly prepares a different Auntie’s Backyard concoction, utilizing locally grown produce, and Kuleana Rum, specifically distilled nearby for Mauna Kea Resort.

Mauna Kea Pro-Am Memories



Team Friendly Hills Country Club represented
by golf professional Jay Prestella



Mauna Kea Pro-Am Memories

Team Bridgewater Club represented
by golf professional Rick Witt



Team Bonk Bonk represented
by golf professional Max Bonk



Team Pedicini represented by
golf professional Alex Ching



Team Braemar Country Club
represented by golf
professional Larry Atlas



Team Club Fix represented by golf
professional Josh Garber



Team 10+ represented by golf professional Jay Taise



Mauna Kea Pro-Am Memories



Team Wilshire Country Club represented by golf professional Rick Rielly



Team North Ranch Country Club represented by golf professional Scott Miller



Team Ultimate Sack represented by golf professional Trace Crowe



Team Valley Club represented by golf professional Scott Puailoa



Team Bridges represented by golf professional Scott Bridges



Team Hayashi represented by golf professional Kevin Hayashi

Mauna Kea Pro-Am Memories

Team Salsa represented by golf professional Robert Moreno



Team San Francisco Golf Club represented by golf professional Ashley Marsay



Team Mesa Verde Country Club represented by golf professional Tom Sargent



Team River Oaks Golf Club represented by golf professional Mark Fuller



Team Sea & Land represented by golf professional Garrett Okamura



Team Keiter represented by golf professional Chris Keiter



Mauna Kea Pro-Am Memories

Team Who's Your Daddy represented by golf professional
Brendan Moynahan



Team Curtis represented by
golf professional Ben Curtis



Team Shayna represented by golf
professional Shayna Miyajima



48th Annual Mauna Kea Pro-Am



Dates

Check in: Tuesday, December 7 • **Check out:** Sunday, December 12

Format

A five-night, four-day golf tournament at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel.

For the amateur: Four-man, 54-hole Pro-Am consisting of three amateurs and one professional.

Two best balls: one gross, one net. Amateurs play to full handicap.

For the golf professional: a cash purse, with no buy-in required.

Itinerary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7: Arrival Day • For early arrivals, optional practice round at Mauna Kea Golf Course • Optional \$300 team buy-in • Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8: Full breakfast • Hospitality room
Practice round at Mauna Kea Golf Course • Evening at your leisure

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9: Full breakfast • Hospitality room
Traditional Hawaiian Blessing • Tournament Round #1, Mauna Kea Golf Course
Lunch on course • Horse Race Shootout with \$1,000 prize • Evening at your leisure

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10: Full breakfast • Hospitality room
Tournament Round #2, Mauna Kea Golf Course • Lunch on course • Evening at your leisure

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11: Full breakfast • Hospitality room • Final round, Mauna Kea Golf Course
Lunch on course • Awards Cocktail Reception and Dinner

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: Departure Day • Full breakfast

TO REGISTER FOR THE 48th ANNUAL MAUNA KEA RESORT PRO-AM,
contact Mark Pazdur at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com or (949) 933-6478.