

# 











## Background:

**Waialae Country Club** is a non-profit private country club dedicated to providing members, their families, and guests with a PGA Tour-caliber golf experience, comprehensive health and recreational facilities, diverse entertainment and educational programs, and an atmosphere that fosters fellowship and enjoyment.

#### **Environmental Commitment:**

Since 2016, Waialae Country Club has collaborated with Sony Corporation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc., and the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) to establish a comprehensive sustainability program for the Sony Open in Hawaii. Building on this foundation, they launched the club-wide environmental stewardship initiative in 2018 to showcase their commitment to best practices in conservation, resource protection, waste minimization, pollution reduction, and environmental awareness throughout the organization.

#### Sustainability Achievements:

#### **Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling Excellence**

Waialae Country Club continues to pioneer innovative methods to reduce their environmental footprint through targeted sustainability efforts spanning waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation across the golf course and clubhouse operations.

#### Highlights:

#### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Cardboard Baling Program: The cardboard baler has eliminated one weekly dumpster pickup, with each 188-pound bale representing significant waste diversion from landfills.
- Eco Friendly Disposable Products: Complete elimination of styrofoam products, replacing them with paper and compostable alternatives for straws, stirrers, and food service items.
- Reusable Water Initiative: Distribution of reusable water tumblers to golf members has eliminated approximately 160,000 plastic water bottles annually, a substantial reduction in single-use plastic waste.
- Organic Waste Diversion: Food waste recycling partnership with Eco Feed supports local Hawaiian farms while preventing organic waste from reaching landfills.
- Pool Conversion to Saltwater System: Converted the pool system to a saline system with a fully automated sanitation including UV Sterilization for a healthier, environmentally friendly pool for members and guests. Minimize staff maintenance, regulate and stabilize pool sanitation and chemistry balance, no harsh chlorine to irritate eyes and skin.

#### Water Conservation:

- Water Irrigation Management: Waialae runs a state-of-the-art irrigation system that allows them to make the most efficient use of water both in terms of use and the health of the turf.
  They have three weather stations that monitor the conditions and that information is used to calculate the most efficient watering schedule.
- Stormwater Management: Grounds crew proactively maintains proper drainage systems and removes debris to protect water quality and prevent environmental contamination.
- Landscape & Irrigation: The Club replaces water intensive turf with wood chips and cinder around the clubhouse and low maintenance local plants.

#### **Employee Environmental Stewardship:**

They prioritize ongoing environmental education and engagement for all staff members through hands-on initiatives that build lasting conservation habits.

#### Staff Engagement Programs:

- Regular litter collection activities on the golf course and around the clubhouse foster personal responsibility and reinforce proper waste disposal practices. Returned to Earth Day beach cleanup.
- Sustainable Dining Practices: Permanent chinaware and silverware is used for employee meals, eliminating single-use disposables and reducing waste streams Encouraging staff to use personal reusable bottles and flasks, significantly reducing plastic and paper cup consumption.

### Sustainability Leadership:

This comprehensive approach demonstrates Waialae Country Club's unwavering commitment to environmental leadership while maintaining a reputation for excellence. Through operational improvements, sustainable product choices, staff education, and member engagement, they continue to set the standard for responsible club management in Hawai'i and beyond.

Their environmental stewardship reflects a deep respect for Hawai'i's natural beauty and a responsibility to preserve it for future generations while delivering the exceptional experience members expect and deserve.

