

**TESTIMONY FOR THE WAIIEHU MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS AND  
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL PARKS, RECREATION,  
ENERGY, AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

Presented by Lloyd Ginoza

Re: PRL-30 – Waiehu Municipal Golf Course Operations and Improvements

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Lloyd Ginoza and I am here to present testimony relating to the Waiehu Municipal Golf Course (PRL-30).

I understand that the Administration is again proposing to close 9 holes of the Waiehu Golf Course (Waiehu) for 4 or so months to convert the greens to Seashore Paspalum.

I am again opposing such actions for the following reasons:

1. Closing 9 holes of Waiehu will decrease the green fee revenues by more than 50%.

The golf tee times would need to be adjusted to have the first group of golfers play the first nine and only then the next group of tee times would be available. The tee time for the second group of golfers would be approximately 4 hours after the first tee time. This would continue throughout the day. In effect the tee times and revenue would be cut in half.

This proposal will be frustrating to golfers, especially the seniors, and may discourage golfers from golfing at Waiehu.

The tourists would be willing to pay a little more to play other golf courses with 18 holes. As you know, the tourists contribute a substantial amount to the total revenue of Waiehu.

2. I question the sincerity of the Administration's proposal at this late stage, especially since the Administration initially proposed to close Waiehu. By the time funds are appropriated and supplies are procured, the new Administration will have to deal with the disruption at the course.

I strongly suggest this proposal be deferred and consider the studies and proposals of the new Administration to convert the greens to Seashore Paspalum.

Hopefully, the new Administration will consider the USGA's proposed method of introducing the Seashore Paspalum with sprigs into the greens with no green closures and virtually no disruption to the golf course operations. This method was successfully used for courses on Oahu and Kauai.

Excerpts from the 2008 USGA audit are attached.

RECEIVED AT PRL MEETING ON 2/27/18

**United States Golf Association**  
Green Section, Northwest Region  
5610 Old Stump Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, WA. 98332  
(O) 253-858-2266 (C) 253-278-2766  
www.usga.org



## **USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service Visit**



### **Waiehu Golf Course October 29, 2008**

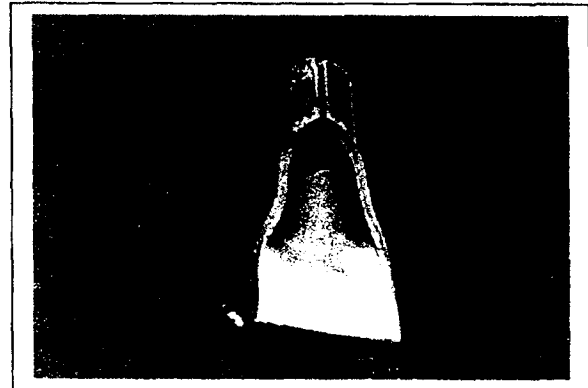
**Present:** Mr. Ron Kubo, Superintendent  
Mr. G. Riki Hokama, Chair, Maui County Council (short visit)  
Mr. Zachary Helm, Deputy Director, Dept. of Parks and Rec. (short visit)  
Mr. Art Rego, Head Professional (short visit)  
Mr. Lance Taguchi, Legislative Analyst, Maui County Council (short visit)  
Mr. Larry Gilhuly, USGA Green Section

The following report contains visual observations and specific recommendations following the tour of your golf course. The intent of this report is to provide unbiased information for the betterment of your golf course and players while keeping your budget in mind.

- **Immediately purchase seashore paspalum for Nos. 6, 7 and 8.** After observing the dilemma of goosegrass invasion in and around the greens at Waiehu for the past two decades and observing how successful the introduction of seashore paspalum has been at numerous golf courses across the state (Wailua has been an overwhelming success!), it is time for a change to this grass. This has been recommended multiple times at Waiehu in the past, yet nothing has happened with this recommendation as the USGA Green Section cannot force anyone to follow our suggestions. However, this is one suggestion that has proven time and again to be the right choice at every type of golf course, so **once again** it was **highly recommended** to begin the conversion process of the greens over to seashore paspalum. The obvious question should be, "Why would we want to convert our greens at a time when customers are already upset with conditions?" The answer is simple – it is the answer to your weed issue!

Two methods of introducing this grass into the greens were proposed with one requiring virtually no disruption while the other requiring green closure. Since both methods have their positives and negatives, both were suggested to be demonstrated as soon as possible even though now is not the best time to expect great results with warm season grass promotion from sprigs. Regardless, the least disruptive method of sprig introduction was suggested for demonstration on those holes directly next to the ocean. This method is simple in its' approach

with a very low cost that has been used with success at Kiahuna, Princeville and Ko Olina. It was suggested to use a very effective method of converting bermudagrass greens where ¾" open tines have been cut open, heated and pounded into a chisel shape. When used on a walking putting green aerifier in a parallel direction as the machine these "tines" push sprigs (10 bushels/M) laid on the surface into the greens with spacing similar to regular aeration without bothering players. Based on the very positive results noted from this operation, the speed and simplicity of this operation should be duplicated at Waiehu for the only feasible conversion of the greens without course closure. Now is not the perfect time to introduce this grass into the greens, however the cooler weather will favor seashore paspalum growth over the hybrid and common bermudagrass found on your greens. In addition to the positive that will be derived from pushing these sprigs into the greens, the "spiking" action of these tines will also provide needed aeration to the surface.



Since you will be introducing a grass that is inherently different than bermudagrass you should not expect complete conversion for at least 2-3 years or more when using this process. This does not mean that the greens cannot be playable in this time frame. It does mean that they will not be visually consistent and the difference in growth rates will be noticeable during the summer months. The preceding test will offer a glimpse at how effective pushing Sea Dwarf sprigs into the greens will be and how the need for frequent watering during the sprig establishment phase will be accepted. While this is not the recommended way to create quality putting surfaces in the fastest manner possible, it is understood that this test will at least determine if the program is feasible. Also, contact Alan Nakamura at Ko Olina for more input.