



## MAUNA KEA GOLF COURSE

ISLAND OF HAWAII

### Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 10/2/07

#### **Why did you close the golf course?**

Since Mauna Kea Golf Course's original construction in the 60's, golf and golf course technology has developed exponentially. There are new high-tech hybrid grasses, more efficient irrigation systems and other improvements, important for the environment, the stature of Mauna Kea Golf, and the pleasure-factor of our golfing guests and residents. We want our golf course to be up-to-date without losing any of its character.

#### **What are you going to change?**

By having Rees Jones oversee the project, we are guaranteed its essential personality and original design will remain perfectly intact. The grass will be replanted, a new irrigation system installed and the clubhouse and cart barn rebuilt.

#### **What's happening at the Golf Course?**

Even though you can't see it yet, the Golf Course grass is growing. We have started a turf nursery on the practice range and the #16 fairway, and we'll transplant hybrid 419 Bermudagrass to the tees, fairways and roughs, and TifEagle Bermudagrass to the greens. These are more modern hybrids, better suited to the dry Kohala Coast climate. Rees Jones, who's overseeing the project, was with us August 7 for a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony.

#### **Who is Rees Jones and what is he planning to do?**

Son of original golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., Rees is known in the industry as the "US Open Doctor" because of his work on seven US Open venues, five PGA courses and three Ryder Cup sites. Rees plans a comprehensive upgrade of the entire course to modern standards, while reclaiming the Robert Trent Jones original design intent. He plans to rebuild greens to USGA standards and specifications and reduce the severe pitch on some, without changing their original strategy and challenge. Rees says, "Mauna Kea is not only one of the premier golf courses in existence, but one that cannot be replicated. It differentiates itself from other courses because of its history, its pedigree and its setting. And once our work is complete, the world of golf will be reintroduced to this historic golf venue with 21<sup>st</sup> century playing standards."

#### **What other courses has Rees Jones worked on?**

Great, prestigious courses have his signature, such as the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, The Dunes Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and most recently the South Course at Oakland Hills in Bloomfield, Michigan, host of the 2008 PGA Championship. Rees says, "Oakland Hills is the course that made my father famous for his work in preparation for the 1951 US Open."

#### **When will the course be finished?**

We are hoping to reopen for play in late 2008. Meanwhile, Hapuna Golf Course has proved to be a popular, challenging and fun golf experience for all level players. We've done some landscaping work to enhance the spectacular ocean views from almost every hole.

**What about the clubhouse?**

We're going to have a brand new clubhouse with the same charismatic ambiance as our original 19<sup>th</sup> Hole restaurant, Pro Shop, locker rooms and cart barn. You should see an attractive new golf facility, totally worthy of our "new" golf course.

**What happened to the employees?**

Some chose to retire or try other hotel departments, but many of our golf team members were able to transfer to Hapuna Golf Course, so you'll see familiar faces and be able to take lessons from your favorite Pro.