

RES24-062

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 131

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE & THE ARTS (PESCA)

**PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE &
THE ARTS (PESCA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 3, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 67

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Tyler Doo	Email: dootyler@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 12:04 PM
Testimony: Dear City County of Honolulu, I am writing to bring attention to the pressing need for expanded public access to beach volleyball courts in Honolulu. As a longtime resident and passionate beach volleyball player, I have experienced firsthand the challenges associated with limited access to these facilities. Living in Honolulu, I have always been drawn to the allure of beach volleyball, yet access has consistently been restricted, particularly for those who are not members of exclusive organizations like the Outrigger clubs. Despite the high demand for public volleyball courts on Oahu, availability of suitable courts is scarce, hindering the community's ability to fully embrace this rapidly growing sport. The popularity of beach volleyball is undeniable, with enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels eager to participate. However, the lack of accessible courts limits opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in this beloved pastime. As someone who has witnessed the sport's exponential growth firsthand, I firmly believe that investing in the development of additional beach volleyball courts is not only warranted but also a wise allocation of state resources. Moreover, providing more accessible facilities will help democratize the sport, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their affiliation or background, can enjoy the benefits of beach volleyball. I urge the City County of Honolulu to prioritize the allocation of funds towards the creation and maintenance of additional beach volleyball courts across the city. By doing so, we can meet the needs of our vibrant community, enhance the quality of life for residents, and reinforce Honolulu's reputation as a premier destination for outdoor recreation. Thank you for considering my testimony and taking action to address this important issue. Sincerely, Tyler Doo		
Name: Leigh Sinoto	Email: vleighball@hotmail.com	Zip: 96922
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 12:38 PM
Testimony: Aloha, My name is Leigh Sinoto and I am a beach volleyball player born and raised in Honolulu. I am writing to you pleading that you create more sand courts available for the players on this island. As the origin place of beach volleyball it is sad that as an island we need to fight over only 5 courts in Waikiki and two at ala Moana beach park. We should be encouraging all the play the sport by adding more courts on the island especially in town. It is almost impossible to get a court if we don't go before the break of dawn. I wanted to testify because I love the sport and aspire to reach the next level but without courts it is impossible. Thank you for your time and consideration! Mahalo Leigh sinoto		
Name: Cameron Pujdak	Email: Cpujdak@outlook.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 12:49 PM
Testimony: The availability of additional sand courts would be helpful beyond measure. Not only would it continue to build a community of support, encouragement, and growth among individuals both young and old, more accessible options would be available for children and adolescents to put effort toward. Using Saint Andrew's Schools as a proxy for schools on the island, many of the students have a strong desire to play beach volleyball, but can never do so as there is limited capacity at the existing sand court locations. Developing more permanent sand courts would foster the ambition to try something out of their comfort zone, and would allow for them to grow more resilient as young adults. Best of all, the cost to benefit ratio would be tremendous as beach volleyball courts require minimum maintainence, and are cared for by those who use them.		
Name: Mauro Costantini	Email: mauro.costantini1@gmail.com	Zip: 96814

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 12:56 PM
Testimony: I support building of additional sand volleyball courts		
Name: Anna Guo	Email: awguo1@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 02:10 PM
Testimony: We need more sand courts!! The love surrounding this sport in Hawaii, whether it's for indoor or beach is unmatched. However, the resources for outdoor courts is few and frequently inconsistent. Give the frequent beach players a reliable space to continue to play the sport while also providing more set-ups for people who are always looking for a net and don't have their own equipment.		
Name: Joshua Quint	Email: joshquint@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 02:17 PM
Testimony: For the health and wellbeing of our communities and families, please appropriate city funds to support safe places for residents and visitors to come together and exercise. Beach volleyball is a low cost sport that can be played by people of all ages and abilities. Providing more venues for public gathering and activities will strengthen the social fabric and promote cooperation and an active lifestyle. The first courts that were installed in 2017 have been used continuously and signs prohibiting sports on the beach severely limits our ability to enjoy this activity that is part of Hawaii's unique history. Anyone who attends a UH volleyball match knows that the sport is deeply intertwined with our culture today and adding more facilities will help make the sport accessible to everyone in the community.		
Name: Evan Silberstein	Email: evansilb@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: University of Hawai'i Beach Volleyball	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 03:08 PM
Name: Alexander Fraser	Email: al.fraser12@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 03:23 PM
Testimony: As someone who really enjoys the sport of volleyball and recognizing that it is also growing rapidly, we don't have enough public courts to play on. The only two are located at Ala Moana beach park but those get taken up very fast and it leaves other to find other means of playing, which sometimes means opting out of playing. In the coming years I can only imagine more people will gravitate towards volleyball and we will see a greater demand for public nets. There's a meetup group at Kapiolani and they bring about 10 of their own nets to play twice a week. Just an example to show how the sport is growing.		
Name: Kostas Papadopoulos	Email: kostas1457@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 03:26 PM
Testimony: I would love for more public sand courts be built. There is a huge community of beach volleyball lovers on island, and of different skill levels/experience, and there are constantly new players who join the community from public spaces like Ala Moana beach volleyball courts. The only issue is that there is such a low number of public courts but such high demand that it is often hard for everyone to get a chance to play. It gets competitive to get a hold of court space at times, even for the bring-your-own-net setup		

areas. More supply would help this issue and bring the community closer.

Name:
Taylor Lowe

Email:
1taylorlowe@gmail.com

Zip:
96813

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 03:39 PM

Testimony:

Aloha!

To whom it may concern:

Hawai'i is such a great place for volleyball in terms of weather and the cultural appreciation of the sport. However, I find it sad that there are so few sand courts on the island despite popularity of the sport. Please help rectify the situation and build more courts, so many of us would truly appreciate this. The few courts available are very crowded and do not meet the demand.

Mahalo,
Taylor

Name:
Kaicie McMurray

Email:
kaicie.mcmurray@gmail.com

Zip:
96815

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 04:15 PM

Testimony:

I would love to see additional volleyball courts added. As a new Hawaii resident, connecting with the community through sports is invaluable.

Name:
Anthony Sison

Email:
Usafsison@gmail.com

Zip:
96817

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 04:18 PM

Testimony:

There are only two permanent Ala Moana sand volleyball courts, and they are always full. We need more in town. Please add some to more parks. Thank you!

Name:
Brian Ruthenberg

Email:
bruthenberg@gmail.com

Zip:
96734

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 04:23 PM

Testimony:

I would like to have additional courts to play. Many of the beaches do not have adequate space for the number of beach volleyball players.

Name:
Susie Olsen

Email:
whva@aol.com

Zip:
96815

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 04:24 PM

Testimony:

We need more sand courts

Name:
Zechariah DeLoach

Email:
zachdeloach1@gmail.com

Zip:
96816

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Apr 1, 2024 @ 04:27 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support the motion to build more public beach volleyball courts. As a local person who uses public courts for volleyball at least three times a week, I can tell you firsthand the positive impact these courts have on our community. Not only is it a fantastic workout and a lot of fun, but these courts are a hub for bringing people together. You see all ages and skill levels out there,

everyone from seasoned players like myself to families with kids just getting introduced to the game, locals and tourists alike. The current courts, however, are struggling to keep up with the demand. They're often overcrowded and many are in need of repair. Building more courts would give everyone a chance to play safely and comfortably, which would be a major win for our community's health and sense of togetherness. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Name: Thelma Heath	Email: theath@manaponoholomua.org	Zip: 96818
Representing: Mana Pono Holomua	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:11 PM

Testimony:

Mana Pono Holomua host an events(Volleyball tournament) periodically to support the Teens and all ages beach volleyball enthusiast. Volleyball sport improve the quality of life in Hawaii. However, we struggled to find a place to host the tournament because of lack of volleyball Courts and lacked of support from community or the state. We are urging our State to build more volleyball courts because volleyball is growing sports in Hawaii. The island is relying on tourism to survive. For example, During Covid when there no tourism business. As a result, our island businesses had suffered of lost income and business revenue that supported our community of being the paradise island. With this volleyball community all over the nation traveled to Hawaii to bring in businesses. Especially, the NCAA tournaments and games travel to Oahu to play against the Warriors at the stands Sheriff Center at Manoa University. The beach courts are needed to R&R after the games and tournaments. Tourists struggle to find beach volleyball court around the Waikiki area.

Most importantly, beach volleyball courts would bring in more tourism in Hawai'i. Especially, would e courage our youths and adult to stay active and play sport to improve our quality of life.

Name: Riley Hermosura	Email: rileyhermosura@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:15 PM

Testimony:

Please build more beach courts, the beach volleyball community is very large and often people don't have anywhere to play despite Hawai'i being the birthplace and main proponent of beach volleyball

Name: Israel Anderson	Email: israelanderson21@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:20 PM

Testimony:

To the Honorable City Council of Oahu,I am writing to urge the City Council to consider the construction of more beach volleyball courts, specifically in pairs on various parts of the island. Ideally a set of four courts centralized in Kapiolani park or Ala Moana park would be most advantageous. Please make these available to the public as the demand is already present. The beaches in our area have become increasingly crowded, and the demand for volleyball courts, both for recreational play and for tournaments, has outstripped the current supply. Private organizations hosting tournaments are monopolizing the existing courts, leaving fewer opportunities for local residents to enjoy beach volleyball. This situation has led to disputes and frustration among community members who are unable to access the courts for recreational play. Beach volleyball is a popular (Hawaiian invented) tradition and it is our kuliana to support the community as demand is rising and current access is limited. By expanding the number of public volleyball courts, the City Council would not only meet the growing demand for this popular activity but also promote public health and community engagement. Additionally, providing more courts would create opportunities for female players to access scholarships and training programs, further enhancing the inclusivity and diversity of beach volleyball in our community.I strongly encourage the City Council to prioritize the construction of additional beach volleyball courts to meet the needs of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities for all residents of Oahu.Sincerely, Israel Anderson

Name: Michelle Chan	Email: mchan023@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:38 PM

Testimony:

Hours are spent by people waiting for a turn to play beach volleyball at courts like Ala Moana Beach Park! And putting up grass volleyball courts at parks is apparently illegal (my group has been forced to leave by park officers). So there is very little space/capacity on island for a sport that we love, and that people want to enjoy. Additional courts would make a world of a difference and encourage people to get outside, be active, and enjoy what Hawai'i has to offer!

Name: Marc Roxas	Email: emmayarecee@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:52 PM

Testimony:
I play with a rather large group of enthusiastic volleyball players. You can see as many as 150 of us in Kapiolani park on Saturday until sunset. We play everyday of the week at various courts. But there are t enough courts. Please build more as the sport gives several of us a sense of community and gives many of us a healthy habit instead of entertaining the idea of more self destructive behaviors. Mahalo

Name: Jessica Yee	Email: s456df@yahoo.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 05:54 PM

Testimony:
I support the construction of additional sand/beach volleyball courts at city parks. The small amount of courts that we have are packed and more courts would be appreciated!

Name: Christopher Boreham	Email: borehamcs@gmail.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 06:15 PM

Testimony:
The city of Honolulu could benefit from more permanent volleyball courts. With the popularity of the sport on island and how well UH always performs between indoor and beach, this should be an easy choice. It keeps people from all ages active and coming together for positive interactions. I've played in pick up games where there are school age kids up to retirees who just enjoy being outside and active. It also helps train up all those who wish to take the sport to the next level.

Name: Derrick Chong	Email: dc_hi@hotmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 06:25 PM

Testimony:
Additional areas to play. Creates spaces for people to enjoy the parks and enjoy the beautiful weather. It's a win win for everyone. It also gives people additional areas for recreation and excercise.

Name: Austin Gante	Email: austingante@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 06:28 PM

Testimony:
As an avid enthusiast of outdoor volleyball, I wholeheartedly advocate for the expansion of recreational areas dedicated to this exhilarating sport. Outdoor volleyball provides a unique avenue for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to engage in physical activity, foster social connections, and enjoy the beauty of nature simultaneously. Having personally experienced the joy and camaraderie that outdoor volleyball fosters, I believe that increasing the availability of dedicated spaces for this activity will not only promote a healthier lifestyle but also contribute to building vibrant communities. These recreational areas serve as gathering spots where people can come together, unwind, and form lasting friendships through shared experiences on the court. Moreover, investing in outdoor volleyball facilities aligns with broader initiatives aimed at promoting wellness and active living within our communities. By providing accessible and well-maintained spaces for outdoor volleyball, we empower individuals to embrace a

more active lifestyle, leading to improved physical and mental well-being for all. In conclusion, supporting the expansion of outdoor volleyball recreational areas is not just about investing in infrastructure; it's about investing in the health, happiness, and cohesion of our communities. Let's come together to create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the thrill of outdoor volleyball in the great outdoors.

Name: Aaron Newell	Email: aknewell@outlook.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 06:48 PM

Testimony:
I urge the city administration to prioritize the construction of additional beach/sand volleyball courts at city parks. These courts would not only enhance recreational opportunities but also promote community health and social interaction. Beach volleyball is a popular sport enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels, offering a fun and accessible way to stay active outdoors. By expanding access to these facilities, the city can encourage physical fitness and provide residents with a welcoming space to gather, compete, and connect. Moreover, the addition of beach volleyball courts aligns with the city's commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive recreational environment for its residents.

Name: Logan Mister	Email: logan.mister08@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 07:16 PM

Testimony:
Beach volleyball is not just a sport; it is a way of life for many residents and visitors alike. Oahu's stunning coastline and year-round favorable weather make it an ideal location for beach volleyball enthusiasts of all skill levels to come together and enjoy the sport. However, the limited number of courts currently available often leads to overcrowding and long wait times, diminishing the overall experience for players and spectators alike; sometimes you can't even play because there are not enough courts and just too many players. Additionally, most people have to set up their own nets like at queens, so people have to invest their time and money into putting up courts so people can play volleyball.

By investing in the creation of more beach volleyball courts, we can address these challenges while simultaneously enriching our community in numerous ways. People will become more fit, tourists can come year round to play beach volleyball, and large events can be hosted to increase city revenue.

Name: Elizabeth Barnett	Email: bettybarnett21@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 07:30 PM

Testimony:
To the Honorable City Council of Oahu, I am writing to strongly urge the City Council to consider the construction of additional beach volleyball courts, specifically in pairs, and to establish a centralized set of four courts available to the public in one of our major public parks, such as Kapiolani or Ala Moana parks. Beach volleyball holds deep cultural significance in Hawaii, as it was invented by Duke Kahanamoku, a native Hawaiian. It is imperative that we honor this Hawaiian pastime by providing ample opportunities for our residents and visitors to enjoy the sport. Currently, the demand for beach volleyball courts in our community is overwhelming. Players gather as early as 7 AM and continue to play past sunset, with some even resorting to installing lights for nighttime play. Private tournaments and training grounds are monopolizing the existing courts, leaving recreational players with limited access. By constructing more public volleyball courts, particularly in centralized locations like our major parks, the City Council would not only meet the increasing demand for this beloved sport but also promote public health and community engagement. Additionally, providing accessible courts would create opportunities for female players to access scholarships and training programs, contributing to the growth and inclusivity of beach volleyball in our community. I urge the City Council to prioritize the construction of additional beach volleyball courts to address the needs of our community. This investment would be a significant contribution to our public health and well-being, as well as a tribute to our Hawaiian heritage. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to enhancing recreational opportunities for all residents of Oahu. Sincerely, Elizabeth Barnett

Name:	Email:	Zip:
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Jaypee Bonilla	crinos01@yahoo.com	96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 07:38 PM
Testimony: Hi my name is jaypee bonilla. I play games on oahu for volleyball and there is not enough volleyball court in the island. I wish to have more facilities for volleyball, it's good for the community and help the community deter from doing unnecessary things. If we make more facilities for volleyball it will be fun for keikis and adults or everyone. Thank you.		
Name: Shaun Kanoho	Email: shaunkanoho44@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 09:13 PM
Testimony: As a passionate beach volleyball enthusiast and resident of Honolulu, I can attest to the immense benefits that more beach volleyball courts would bring to our community. Beach volleyball is not just a sport; it's a lifestyle that promotes physical activity, social interaction, and a sense of community. With its breathtaking coastline and perfect weather year-round, Honolulu is an ideal location for beach volleyball. By adding more courts, we would not only cater to the growing demand for recreational activities but also foster a healthier and more active lifestyle among residents and visitors alike. Furthermore, beach volleyball is a sport that appeals to people of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner looking to try something new, there's a place for you on the court. More courts would provide opportunities for people to learn and improve their skills, leading to a more vibrant and inclusive beach volleyball community. In addition to the physical benefits, beach volleyball promotes social interaction and teamwork. Playing on a team fosters camaraderie and communication skills, while pickup games provide opportunities to meet new people and forge lasting friendships. By expanding the availability of courts, we can create more opportunities for people to come together, connect, and build relationships. Moreover, beach volleyball has the potential to boost tourism in Honolulu. As a popular destination for travelers from around the world, offering more opportunities for beach volleyball would attract sports enthusiasts and increase visitor spending in the local economy. In conclusion, investing in more beach volleyball courts in Honolulu is a win-win proposition. It promotes a healthier lifestyle, fosters community engagement, boosts tourism, and enhances the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Let's come together to make Honolulu a premier destination for beach volleyball enthusiasts everywhere		
Name: Ryan Kalei Tsuji	Email: ryantsuji@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 09:32 PM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, My name is Ryan Kalei Tsuji, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Resolution 24-62. As a local beach volleyball player for over ten years, I have seen the demand for areas to play beach volleyball consistently grow. Currently, the public only has access to two public courts at Ala Moana Beach Park and is allowed to set up four nets at Queens Beach in Waikiki. As the sport's birthplace, there needs to be more locations on Oahu that allow the public to play beach volleyball. The courts at Ala Moana Beach Park are heavily utilized, with large crowds of people gathering and waiting to play. For this reason, many like myself, are often forced to set up a net on the beach in the area where the old volleyball poles were once located (on the Ewa most end of Ala Moana Beach). However, because of a no-ball playing rule, we are forced to take our net down by park officials, with HPD also showing up on a few occasions to enforce this rule.		

Another factor that makes getting court time at Ala Moana Beach difficult is the limitations of indoor gyms, which causes many club volleyball teams to hold practices on these courts. Coaches, who are getting paid by parents, are holding 3-hour practices on the court with their teams and not complying with the court's rules that the City established. The court rules state that no one shall use the court for longer than 45 minutes if someone else is waiting to use the court and can be "challenged" to play for the court with the winner gaining access. As a coach myself, I do not want to disrupt practice or have to confront a coach to kick kids off the courts because of their extended play through these practices. By not providing more public courts or allowing individuals to set up their nets on the beach, we will continue to see this conflict between teams and individuals who want to play on the public courts.

I hope that you'll please consider creating more public courts for beach volleyball players to use and/or allow individuals to set up their own nets on designated areas of the beach.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ryan Kalei Tsuji

Name: Tanisha Souza	Email: tanisha.souza@tardus.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 09:53 PM

Testimony:
Aloha, City Council,

Building sand volleyball courts on Oahu is long overdue.

One hundred and nine years ago, in 1915, the game of beach volleyball was first played at the Outrigger Canoe Club. Despite Hawaii being the birthplace of beach volleyball, and collegiate beach volleyball athletes and Olympians coming from Hawaii, there are no permanent beach volleyball courts in Hawaii. High school athletes who aspire to play college beach volleyball or for Team U.S.A. must buy their own net and fight for the few spots at Queen's Beach that are not occupied by Hawaii's visitors.

California and Florida have built public beach volleyball courts along the coast and in public parks. High schools use these courts after school to train their athletes for inter-high school competitions, similar to how the ILH works in Hawaii. Kamehameha Schools is the first high school in Hawaii to start a beach volleyball program, and athletes at other high schools are eager to follow. I've spoken with other Maryknoll parents and volleyball players who said they would be interested in joining a school beach volleyball team, if Maryknoll started one. My daughter attends Maryknoll, plays on the varsity indoor team and she plays beach volleyball for Outrigger Canoe Club. When I asked Maryknoll's athletic director if it would be hard to start a beach volleyball club at Marknoll, he said that it wouldn't be hard, but "the biggest challenge will be finding a facility for the girls to practice for a couple of hours at least twice a week."

On Saturday April 13, 2024, a local group called Team Hawaii Beach is hosting an AAU High School Challenge Tournament sponsored by the Twin Fin and Park Shore Hotels. So far 10 teams from six Oahu high schools have entered: Kamehameha Schools, Iolani, Punahou, Maryknoll, Midpac, and Roosevelt. This is evidence of a growing demand for high schools to start beach volleyball programs, they just need to find a regular place to practice and PESCA can help this effort by constructing beach volleyball courts at public parks. As beach volleyball continues to grow in popularity, the city will need to make courts available in parks for public use.

Finally, this year, my company is starting a college scholarship for high school-aged beach volleyball players from Hawaii who aspire to play beach volleyball in college. We believe this scholarship will encourage even more Hawaii girls to join high school and club beach volleyball teams to get recruited to play in college.

For all of these reasons and more, we sincerely hope that you will construct beach volleyball courts for public use.

Mahalo,

Tanisha Souza
Parent of a High School Beach Volleyball Athlete

Best-selling author President and CEO of Tardus Wealth Strategies		
Name: Tamiko Hobbs	Email: tamikohawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 08:39 AM
Testimony: The love and talent surrounding beach volleyball in Hawaii has really outgrown the public facilities around the island to play and practice. We produce so many incredible volleyball players already, imagine if there were more places for people without access to private clubs and training to play. The public courts that exist already are filled sunrise to sunset more and more. Please support Hawaii's volleyball community by providing more public sand courts to play on. Thank you!		
Name: Adam Wong	Email: adam@acwventures.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:38 AM
Testimony: I fully support the building of additional beach volleyball courts at city parks. Women's beach volleyball is the fastest growing women's scholarship sport in the nation and we have an abundant amount of talented girl beach players in Honolulu. However we do not have enough beach courts here for them to practice and hone their skills. In addition, beach volleyball is a sport that can be enjoyed by all generations to promote well being for our citizens. We already have a volleyball culture here in Honolulu, and I am sure that the courts if built, would be in huge demand. Lastly, more courts can also be an economic boost to Honolulu by allowing promoters to put on large tournaments, attracting teams and visitors from across the country. Every year we travel to Hermosa Beach where they have a multitude of national tournaments attracting thousands of visitors which providing an economic boost to the city.		
Name: Tyler Maryon	Email: tyler_maryon@hotmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:42 AM
Testimony: Volleyball is a healthy way for citizens to get out and meet new people. The current amount of courts makes it so that it is hard to allow everyone to play.		
Name: Paul Peterson	Email: pwpeterson89@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 10:24 AM
Testimony: I live in Ewa Beach and play volleyball downtown almost every weekend. To my knowledge there aren't any (good) beach courts in the Ewa/Kapolei area. Seems crazy to me the southwest side of Oahu is so bare with beach volleyball opportunities. Please work to grow the beach volleyball game in southwest Oahu and the entire island! We need more courts! Thank you.		
Name: Mekia Earle	Email: mekia.ostrem@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 01:12 PM
Testimony: Sand volleyball is a huge growing fast sport, there are simply not enough spaces to play with a HUGE demand. It's keeping our youth and community healthy, so much opportunity to do the right thing. Kids should be about to play their sport they love for free-not just be members of fancy clubs to play. Please help grow this sport and keep kids healthy!!		
Name: CHRIS SOUZA	Email: CHRIS.SOUZA@TARDUS.COM	Zip: 96816

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 02:08 PM
Name: Davis Haas	Email: Khaas2021@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 02:26 PM
Testimony: To the Honorable City Council of Honolulu, I am writing to urgently request the construction of additional beach volleyball courts in major regional parks such as Kapiolani or Ala Moana. Hawaii is the volleyball capitol of the United States. Amongst all the sporting events that brings our diverse community together, volleyball is the fastest-growing and most recognized athletic activity that makes Hawaii special. Hawaii has produced some of the greatest players in volleyball history, creating well-known "volleyball families" that have added to the unique culture of Hawaii. Additionally, the University of Hawaii brought our state its first National Volleyball Championships a few years ago. To address the growing popularity of volleyball and beach volleyball, the county needs to help create more volleyball courts, or, at the very least, prevent beaches from limiting ball play. As interest in the sport has grown, the limited number of courts available to the public can result in disputes and frustration among recreational players who are unable to find a time where existing courts are available. To make matters worst, rules prohibiting any ball play on the beaches further exacerbate the problem leaving no reasonable alternative. Furthermore, beach volleyball fosters community engagement and promotes public health by encouraging physical activity and social interaction in the most important setting, outside. According to Frankin County Public Health, "[e]xercising outdoors isn't just good for your physical health. It helps with your mental health as well. Spending time in nature and the natural light can improve your mood and reduce stress and depression." I urge the City Council to prioritize the construction of additional beach volleyball courts in major public parks, in recognition of the cultural significance of this sport and the pressing need to address the growing public demand. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Honolulu. Sincerely, Davis Haas		
Name: Lauren Zakarian	Email: lminkel10@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 02:55 PM
Testimony: The Hawaii volleyball community is in need of more beach volleyball courts. Beach volleyball is the fastest growing women's sport in the NCAA, and Hawaii should be prime spot for beach volleyball courts. Unfortunatley there's not a lot of options here for volleyball courts and many of them get taken up quickly. The community would greatly benefit from additional beach volleyball courts!		
Name: Troy Palencia	Email: troy.palencia@gmail.com	Zip: 96730
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 04:23 PM
Testimony: Allow private organizations such as Team Hawaii Beach or volleyball clubs such as Spike and serve to adopt these courts at city parks to manage and maintain them. They can partner up with OIA & ILH high schools to create opportunities and venues for		

practice and competitions. It would allow for collegiate, professional and potentially 2028 Olympic trial venues drawing TOURISM from all over the world.

Name: Ingrid Rolles	Email: ingridrolles@yahoo.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 04:46 PM

Testimony:
To whom it may concern - beach volleyball
Is a growing college sport and we need more designated courts for youth to train - it is a great healthy pastime that creates lifetime friendships. It's a ncaa sport that is opening many scholarships for our youth - it is also sad that UH is now having to compete in Kauai as we don't have enough courts space at queens to host competition- quite disgraceful that we have to go off island - hoping we can get this going so we can encourage more youth to play

Name: Tami Stack	Email: tknappman@hotmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 04:47 PM

Testimony:
I writing to urge city officials to build sand volleyball courts in Honolulu to support one of the fastest growing women's sports. We have the ability to practice year round and become a leader in the sport producing national level athletes 8! Addition to becoming a deatinayion for major tournaments. This would in turn increase tourism for the city.

Name: Rebekah Torres	Email: bekah08.rt@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 05:32 PM

Testimony:
With the growing interest of beach volleyball at the collegiate and professional level youth need the resources to learn and have a chance to participate. Most kids do not have access to drive all the way to Ala Moana to practice...Even if there's a way to just put 1 in ever district that would be a great start.

Name: Scott Rolles	Email: scottrolles@yahoo.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 05:35 PM

Testimony:
To whom it may concern
I am writing to you today to propose the construction of more beach volleyball courts on the beautiful island of Oahu.

Oahu is renowned for its stunning beaches and vibrant beach culture. Beach volleyball has become increasingly popular among residents and visitors alike. However, the current number of beach volleyball courts on the island is insufficient to meet the growing demand. As a result, many enthusiasts are left without adequate facilities to enjoy this recreational activity.

Building additional beach volleyball courts on Oahu would not only cater to the existing demand but also promote a healthy and active lifestyle among our community members. It would provide an opportunity for people of all ages and skill levels to engage in physical activity while enjoying the beauty of our island.

Moreover, the construction of more beach volleyball courts would enhance Oahu's tourism industry. As a popular destination for tourists, the addition of these facilities would attract more visitors who are interested in beach sports and outdoor activities. This, in turn, would create economic opportunities for local businesses and contribute to the overall growth of our island's economy.

I believe that by investing in the construction of more beach volleyball courts on Oahu, we can address the current shortage and provide a recreational space that benefits

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and working together to make Oahu an even more vibrant and enjoyable place for everyone.

Name: Jada Souza	Email: jadasvolleyball@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 06:12 PM

Testimony:

Hello, my name is Jada and I'm a 16-year old sophomore high school student-athlete who attends Maryknoll High School. I plan to get recruited to play D1 beach volleyball in college. I also play beach volleyball for Outrigger Canoe Club. I have friends who would like to get recruited to play in college, but they can't afford to become members of Outrigger.

I don't think beach volleyball should be limited to people who can afford to join a club. Beach volleyball should be available in high school like it is on the mainland. I'm so happy that Kamehameha Schools started a beach volleyball program for it's high school but they are temporarily using UH beach volleyball courts. The rest of Honolulu's students would need to find a regular place to practice and we can't all go to Queen's beach after school. If you build beach volleyball courts all of Honolulu's schools could start beach volleyball programs and have a place to practice.

I hope that you will please build beach volleyball courts in Honolulu.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Name: Sontaya Fujikake	Email: yayafujikake@yahoo.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 08:01 PM

Testimony:

Beach Volleyball is a growing sport which originated in Hawaii. There have been increased collegiate opportunities for kids who play Beach volleyball and it would be a huge win for Hawaii if there was more beach volleyball courts constructed.

Name: Jennifer BOWERS	Email: jennifer@pangcomm.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 08:52 PM

Testimony:

We need more beach volleyball courts. The demand is there, any many times people have to wait for hours to play. Please expand the beach volleyball on Oahu!

Name: Kawika Shoji	Email: kawikashoji@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:05 PM

Testimony:

I have represented Hawaii in the sport of volleyball around the globe for over 12 years, including in two Olympic Games and have recently moved home to begin the next chapter of family life. I understand the importance of the sport, both indoor and beach, to our communities, especially to our youth, and am proud to see the sport being played and enjoyed by people of all ages in schools, parks, beaches, gyms, and streets across our state. Volleyball is a part of the DNA of Hawaii.

As the sport of beach volleyball continues to grow and offer opportunities to high school graduates to play at the collegiate level, it is important for our state to give our kids more spaces to play and compete and the opportunity to reach their potential. It is an avenue to higher education. High schools are following suit and starting to field beach teams (it will be a sanctioned championship soon) and we need facilities and courts to support them as well.

Currently, there is an economic barrier for beach court access, with the majority of courts within private clubs. We need to remove these barriers and build more courts, so that people of all backgrounds can enjoy the game.

Beach volleyball, however, is not only for the youth. People of all ages enjoy playing. We play for fun, for competition, and also for exercise. Beach volleyball is a fun and relatively cheap way for our communities to stay active, to fight negative long term health outcomes.

Thank you for considering the push to add more courts. Thank you for listening to and reading the testimonies. In the end, the addition of more courts, with relatively inexpensive equipment and upkeep, will benefit so many diverse populations across our state. There are too many positive outcomes that result from this. We have to push this forward.

Mahalo and aloha,
Kawika Shoji

Name: Aaron Nakahara	Email: aaron_nakahara@yahoo.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:19 PM

Testimony:

I would like urge the city to construct additional beach volleyball courts at our city parks. Some of my best memories are playing beach volleyball with my family. However nowadays, it is almost impossible to play due to the growing popularity of the sport and the lack of courts on Oahu. While Hawaii is the home of beach volleyball (it was originated on Waikiki Beach in 1915) Oahu only has one one outdoor designated court! For a sport that almost four million people in America play, it is tragic that the city has not made more courts available for the public to use. I have tried and waited many hours on many different occasions to play at Waikiki, but it is almost an impossibility due to the number of others also waiting to play. How can our children play other than to pay exorbitant memberships at private clubs? Beach volleyball is an Olympic Sport, collegiate sport and the University of Hawaii has a top 25 program in the nation. It is time for the city to help make this game more accessible for its residents-the city where the game was born.

Name: Kimeona Kane	Email: Kimeonakane@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:26 PM

Testimony:

Aloha kkou,

Kimeona Kane of Waimnalo, where we have zero public sand volleyball courts. Volleyball, when our district gym was functional, was a pillar of community gathering and celebration, boasting its fair share of volleyball greats! I think this effort can be a great addition to my community, and will require planning including how to minimize the potential of cat feces from ongoing colonies of feral cats. We will also need to be mindful of its construction so as not to impact cultural resources and sites. In my years, I always traveled to FT. Derussy, Alamoana and Queens Beach to play including in tournaments like Dukes. I think communities should be given an opportunity to determine if this may be of service to them. Mahalo nui for the initiative.

Kimeona Kane

Name: Barbara Ritchie	Email: blritchie01@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:27 PM

Testimony:

Constructing more beach volleyball courts in Hawaii is a commendable initiative that can enhance recreational opportunities and promote a healthy lifestyle.

With the growing interest in beach volleyball within the local community, it is unbelievable that there is only one outdoor designated court on Oahu which is often overcrowded. Additional facilities would benefit youth programs, schools and clubs and provide opportunities for our youth to develop their skills, and nurture their talent.

Besides providing our youth with potential collegiate opportunities through beach volleyball, the sport also has a positive impact on tourism and the economy. Beach volleyball attracts visitors and provides economic benefits through tournaments, events, and

related businesses.		
Name: Allison Guard	Email: allison.guard@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:30 PM
Testimony: I am an enthusiastic beach volleyball player and encourage the c&c to increase access by adding additional courts. We have the perfect climate for outdoor activity		
Name: Mary Aipoalani	Email: Maryaipoalani@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:33 PM
Testimony: Hawai'i is in great need of outdoor sand volleyball courts. Hawai'i is where sand volleyball originated and we have little to no sand courts available. Please consider making 8 to 12 courts that will allow tournaments and practice. The sport is growing each year amongst our youth, adults, and kupuna. Each year courts are rarer to find. Sand volleyball is one of the only sports that cater to people of all ages due to low-impact conditions. Building courts will promote access to the opportunity for activity and promote a healthy active community for generations to come.		
Name: SILVIA TEDESCHI	Email: LATEDESCHI7@GMAIL.COM	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 10:05 PM
Testimony: Aloha I am a mom of 15 months old twins I'm doing everything possible to provide my Keiki outdoor health active life And hopefully more volleyball Mahalo Nui Silvia		
Name: Rachel Sherman	Email: shermanrms@msn.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 10:30 PM
Testimony: I am writing with full support of Resolution 24-62, advocating for the construction of additional beach/sand volleyball courts in our City parks. As a kama'aina who still enjoys playing beach volleyball, former beach volleyball professional, youth coach, and former beach volleyball referee, I wholeheartedly believe that expanding access to this beloved recreational activity will bring immense benefits to our community. The current beach volleyball resources are maxed out with adult recreational, youth and collegiate training and competition. The installation of the Ala Moana Beach volleyball courts has been an amazing resource to the community. The courts are continuously in use with some contention among groups given the two court limit. Even with the two courts at Ala Moana Beach Park, individuals attempt to set up private nets on the beach, only to be instructed by parks employees they must take down and vacate the beach area. Basically, if you build it, they WILL come. Investing in the construction of beach volleyball courts in our city parks not only promotes health and wellness in the community, but also will aid in our youth's athletic endeavors and development. Beach volleyball was the fastest growing collegiate sport in 2021 and there are now near 100 NCAA Division 1 beach volleyball programs with Division 2 and 3 programs following suit. University of Hawaii, Chaminade, and Hawaii Pacific University have all started beach volleyball programs and they all need places to practice and compete. Queens Beach and Ala Moana lack the capacity to serve three collegiate programs, the potential for countless youth programs, and the avid adult beach volleyball community.		

There are over 40 indoor volleyball programs in Hawaii, however, less than a handful of beach volleyball programs. This is primarily due to the lack of beach volleyball courts. Construction of more places to play and train will help our keiki develop with more options than just indoor volleyball.

As the birthplace of beach volleyball, Hawaii ought to be proud and promote the sport we all love.

Mahalo for taking my testimony. I look forward to supporting this resolution in any way possible.

Sincerely,
~Rachel Sherman

Name: Sara Pulaski	Email: sarapulaski94@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 11:25 PM

Testimony:
I support the motion to build additional sand/beach volleyball courts. I play at Queens and Derussy 3-4 times per week, and I watch as the community keeps growing day by day. New players, younger and older, are finding their passion with this wonderful team sport. Families bring their children to learn how to play; children invite friends and family out to watch and support. Tourists come and ask to join in on the fun on a daily basis. Whether it's a hobby or for competition, our community is growing larger and larger and we need more places to share the love of the game.

Name: Samuel Montalvo	Email: sam.montalvo@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Hawaii Volleyball Federation	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 12:26 AM

Name: Ookkrit Boonprakong	Email: jimguam@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 01:24 AM

Testimony:
There are many wanting additional beach volleyball courts as the current spaces are not enough to accommodate the need for players young and old to practice and hold competitions. There are no lighted facilities and most have to bring their own net systems to even play. With the growth of women's collegiate beach volleyball there are so many younger players wanting to learn and practice the sport that we need to provide them the space to do so. Having quality beach volleyball courts may also attract international competitions to be held in Hawaii.

Name: Joanne Chang	Email: guavajo@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 07:44 AM

Testimony:
Please utilize Hawaii's amazing beaches and create more outdoor beach volleyball courts for the world to see what an amazing place Hawaii is. This sport is growing worldwide and Hawaii is the forefront Let's keep it this way! More beach volleyball courts for all!!

Name: Tammy Giusta	Email: tammygiusta@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 07:55 AM

Testimony:
I hereby agree that Oahu needs the city to construct more areas of sand courts for the residence and also for the visitors as well. For years now, as the number of beach goers increase, as well as the sport has become more popular, the need for beach courts

needs to increase. It is a daily battle to set up your own court when there are others already there. It seems as though there would be less turmoil in this area because of disagreements of lack of space, who was here first to set up? People fighting over court space because there just is not enough areas. We have been asking people to move down the beach because they have been lying around where the anchors are placed. This is not right. We are pleading with the city to allow for this positive activity, to be in nature and allowing visitors along with locals to enjoy this sport knowing that there will be areas for us.

Thank you,
Tammy Giusta.

Name: Stewart Chong	Email: stewchong@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 08:30 AM

Testimony:
I unequivocally support the construction of additional permanent beach courts due to the growing popularity of the beach volleyball game. The sport was first invented by Dad Center and played by Waikiki beach boys (including Duke Kahanamoku) at the former site of the Outrigger Canoe Club, adjacent to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The sport is growing in popularity with the inclusion of women's volleyball at the NCAA level and, more recently, local ILH schools forming high school teams this school year. Hawaii has always had strong support and participation in the sport of volleyball and I hope to see that continue through increased playing opportunities.

Name: Dana Ritchie Fujikake	Email: danaritchiefujikake@gmail.com	Zip: 96826-4444
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 09:01 AM

Testimony:
At 73 I recall everyone playing beach volleyball. Hawaii is the origin of beach volleyball. The sport has now become increasingly popular to where some high schools are offering it and there are now Collegiate opportunities!
We have only 1 outdoor designated court on Oahu at ala moana beach park. Please consider constructing sand volleyball courts in our major districts - at least two per the six moku. Support our youth the home of beach volleyball!

Mahalo & aloha,
Dana Fujikake
Lifetime resident Oahu

Name: Rory Brandt	Email: rsbrandt@me.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 09:53 AM

Testimony:
In a city this large with a sport growing as rapidly as volleyball the amount of spaces to play is highly inadequate. Recent changes to ball lay rules at the beach park has cut off the ability to even have overflow play down at the beach when courts are full which most weekday afternoons and weekend mornings.

These are also used as over flow courts when teams can't find gym time which is a huge issue yet still want to let kids have extra practice so they use the beach as a "practice" day sometimes.

I fully support the building of more courts in parks around the city to go along with the growing sport of beach volleyball and support the use of the Ewa end of the Ala Moana beach park to be maintained and used for volleyball courts in the interim.

Mahalo!

Name: Erina Kitagawa	Email: er1na226@icloud.com	Zip: 96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Apr 3, 2024 @ 10:00 AM
Testimony: I support the bill to go through. By building more volleyball courts, it would support the volleyball community on the island. There are many parents and kids who wants to learn or play volleyball. UH has great volleyball team and they encourages other kids to play. I have also been seeing more and more kids wanting to play volleyball because of our history and culture we see on this island.		
Name: James Ka	Email: jamesk.ka@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 10:18 AM
Testimony: With beach volleyball being offered at the high school and collegiate level, it's paramount that there are more beach volleyball courts available to the public so Hawaii's youth can have the opportunity to play beach volleyball at the high school and collegiate level. If beach volleyball courts aren't available to Hawaii's youth, it will strip them of the opportunity to earn financial aid/scholarships which can offer a significant financial relief for Hawaii families.		
Name: Cynthia Lee	Email: csl808@icloud.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 11:31 AM
Testimony: As the founder and leader in Beach volleyball, Hawaii should have many more facilities available.		
Name: Tanna Kirchmer	Email: tannakirchmer@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Spike and Serve Beach Volleyball	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 11:53 AM
Testimony: Hi, my name is Tanna Kirchmer! I am a Beach Volleyball coach at Spike and Serve. We are trying to grow the sport here on island and having more beach volleyball courts available would allow us to share the sport with the community. This sport offers growth and opportunity for the younger generation. There are college opportunities available for this sport. It can keep them out of trouble and it also brings the Ohana together!!		
Name: Libby Tomar	Email: tomarlaw@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 3, 2024 @ 11:58 AM
Testimony: Please provide more beach volleyball opportunities. So important for our citizens to have this. We only have one place for it now. That not enough. We have 1,000,000 people on Oahu!		



UNIVERSITY
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MĀNOA

April 2, 2024

To: PESCA Committee Members

From: Evan Silberstein, University of Hawai'i, Head Beach Volleyball Coach

Re: **In Favor of Res 24-062**

Aloha e',

I greatly appreciate the committee's time and energy in deliberation of this important matter and regret not being able to attend in person to deliver my enthusiastic support for this resolution. To be direct, this resolution should pass and here is why.

Beach volleyball was founded in Hawai'i by George Dad Center and Duke Kahanamoku in 1915. Since that time our beaches have been renowned world over for this sport due to the excellence of the Outrigger Canoe Club and the many BVB olympians who have sprouted from the shores of Oahu. More recently, the game has experienced explosive growth in the most unlikely of places, collegiate women. In this arena, the University of Hawai'i has excelled and delivered great pride and success with our results on the sand from Queens Beach all the way to Gulf Shores, AL.

Corollary to the collegiate growth, we have seen a juniors movement that is massive across the United States and the world over with many countries sending their best to institutions in America to compete in the NCAA. Many states are witnessing ballooning interest in the game at the club and even at the high school level for over a decade now. States like Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Florida and California. But, not Hawai'i. The question is why?

While the University of Hawai'i has been a prominent leader in this movement at the collegiate level since the outset of the game in 2011, sadly our local community has fallen way behind many other states in providing opportunities for our keiki to compete. Limited access to courts is the primary reason for this obstacle. Passing this resolution will be a pivotal and important step forward for Honolulu to provide opportunities to our children. To not only learn the basics of a game they can continue to play for the entirety of their lifetime at the community and recreation levels, but to also go on and seek next level opportunities for college level play and study across the U.S. as has now grown so common for both our boys and girls on the indoor side of the game.

Passing this resolution and taking immediate action to provide beach courts for our community to play is a common sense move by this committee. We are Hawai'i and our people love to play volleyball yet our access to beach courts is next to nothing. Now is the time for us to move forward and begin providing better opportunities for beach volleyball to be played openly, fairly and without reservation all across our island. Please do not hesitate to contact me at evansilb@hawaii.edu should you have any further questions regarding my position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Evan Silberstein

University of Hawai'i

Rainbow Wahine Beach Volleyball Head Coach

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Souza and I'm a local native Hawaiian businessman who was born and raised in the islands. Not only would constructing beach volleyball courts be great for the local keiki of Hawai'i, but adults like me who like to play on weekends and after work.

More than that, building beach volleyball courts at the local parks would be a smart and profitable business decision for the City and the State of Hawai'i. Hosting local tournaments brings in revenue for the state. Local and mainland beach volleyball clubs want to host tournaments in Hawaii. Tournaments bring in airport, hotel, restaurant, and parking revenue to Oahu. Beach volleyball tourists are more respectful to the land and culture of Hawai'i than tourists who come to Hawai'i only when there are cheap airfares.

A mainland beach volleyball club, DaKine, recently hosted a large two-day BVCA tournament on Kaua'i. The tournament brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue from airfare, hotel, restaurant and grocery stores from Oahu and the mainland. The host hotel was the Royal Sonesta in Lihue. They set up beach volleyball courts along the beach fronting the hotel and spectators could watch from the grass, the beach or even their hotel rooms. Tamarack Beach Volleyball Club from California hosted a smaller event on Oahu and the host hotel was the Twin Fin.

These types of tournaments are rare on this island because Queen's beach is the only location to host them and there isn't enough room or enough nets to host large tournaments. If we start to use under or unutilized spaces like the Nanatorium or parts of Kapiolani park, we could build sand courts and host tournaments with seating for spectators. Even professional AVP teams could be lured back to Hawaii for tournaments if we could fix the beach volleyball court problem.

For these reasons, I believe constructing beach volleyball courts could mean bringing in much needed revenue to Oahu.

Thank you,

Chris Souza



1920 Kahakai Drive, Unit C,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 USA
E-Mail: HawaiiVolleyballFederation@gmail.com
Phone: +1 917 880 0290

April 2, 2024

To: PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)

Subject: Agenda Item: RES24-062 - URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL BEACH/SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS AT CITY PARKS.

Dear Committee Members,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Hawaii Volleyball Federation to express our strong **SUPPORT** for RES24-062, which advocates for the construction of additional beach/sand volleyball courts in our city parks. It is a well-known fact that Hawaii proudly stands as the birthplace of beach volleyball, a sport that embodies our island spirit and promotes healthy, active lifestyles among our communities.

Despite our rich volleyball heritage, it is disheartening to note that there are regions within Europe as well as smaller islands in the Pacific boasting more beach volleyball facilities than not just Oahu, but our entire state. The scarcity of sand courts across the island has become increasingly evident, especially against the backdrop of beach volleyball's surging popularity locally, nationally, and globally. The existing facilities are far from adequate to cater to the growing demand and development outside of a certain canoe club in Waikiki.

A significant issue arises from the overuse of existing courts by private entities and large amount of organized adult groups, particularly at Ala Moana Park, where availability for younger enthusiasts is virtually non-existent. This monopolization not only hampers accessibility but also discourages broader community engagement in the sport. The situation at Queens Beach further underscores the dire need for additional courts, with the area becoming so congested that individuals reserve spaces as early as 4 am and people paying others to hold a spot for others. This, coupled with limited parking and those with elitist attitudes significantly deters participation from novices and those not affiliated with the primary user groups and creates a problematic and sometimes hostile environment.

Moreover, the absence of adequately lit beach volleyball courts on the island starkly contrasts with the well-maintained and brightly illuminated facilities provided for tennis and pickleball. This discrepancy becomes particularly problematic during the winter months, when shorter days limit the time available for beach volleyball under natural light.

The addition of beach volleyball in some private schools is a promising development that anticipates the sport's formal recognition and support within public schools. This progression will inevitably increase the demand for more courts, making the timely construction of these facilities not just beneficial but essential for fostering the sport's growth and ensuring equitable access for all.

In closing, the Hawaii Volleyball Federation urges the committee to recognize the importance of expanding our city's beach volleyball infrastructure. By doing so, we can honor our state's unique contribution to the sport, promote inclusive community participation, and support the health and well-being of our residents.

Thank you for considering our position on this critical issue.

Yours in Sport,

Samuel Montalvo
Director, Hawaii Volleyball Federation