

We, the children of L. Douglas Hoyt, the original developer of Princeville, request that you preserve the original 27-holes of the Makai Golf Course, which is intrinsically tied to the cultural, historical, and environmental tapestry of Hanalei. Designed by architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., this course is an invaluable asset to the state, not just for its recreational value, but as a sanctuary where the spirit of the land and its wildlife is venerated. It is a testament to Hoyt's commitment to a development that prioritized the land's integrity over the footprint of civilization. To disrupt the integrity of the Makai Golf Course would be to erase a vital chapter of Hanalei's story and to disregard the legacy of those who believed development could coexist with preservation and the natural environment. The course reflects an understanding of the Hawaiian ethos of "malama `aina" – to care for and live in harmony with the land. Please protect this cultural and historical landmark.

Sandra Stenmark

To: Historic Preservation Review Commission
c/o Kaua'i Planning Department
mary.kodama@hawaii.gov

RE: Nomination to the State Historic Register: The 27-hole Makai Golf Course at Princeville

Dear Commissioners,

As owners of a home in beautiful Princeville, since 2018, we are writing to request that The Commission place all 27 holes of the original Makai Golf Course in Princeville, , on the State Historic Register.

Preserving the Makai Golf Course at Princeville for golf, open space and a wildlife habitat is crucial to island visitors and residents of the North Shore of Kaua'i. Over 50 years ago the 200 acres were designed as a beautiful golf course with design and nature a priority. Eagle County Development Corporation, the original developer, determined that this open space should be preserved for all to enjoy. They hired Golf Course Designer and Landscape Architect Mr. Robert Trent Jones, Jr. to develop these 27 holes of golf to preserve the beauty of this land, his first ever solo design. Robert Trent Jones, Jr a famous golf course designer, created a natural environment for the North Shore, considering environmental conditions. The course is designed to direct the rainfall through natural channels to the Historic Hanalei River and on to the Ocean. It is a natural "sponge", with features designed into the course itself to guide the excess rainfall appropriately. Any dramatic overflow from rainfall or a dam break between the lakes is absorbed into a three-layered parking lot across the street from the clubhouse. In addition, the golf course lakes are holding ponds for the partially treated effluent from the sewage plant that is used to water the golf course. There are existing bird and wildlife habitats that are protected under laws preserving endangered and threatened species such as our beloved Albatross, NeNe's and Shearwater birds, just to name a few. To make the lands useful and functional beyond beautiful, Mr. Jones developed a sophisticated design that could challenge golfers, but more important to the community, could manage the abundance of rainfall that the North Shore normally receives.

These courses have significant historical import – Mr. Jones' design, his creativity involved in preserving and caring for the land, the important tournaments that have been played here, the importance of these open spaces for the community. It should be recognized as historically important as has the Honoka'a Course on Hawai'i Island. The preservation of the beauty of this land and its availability to the larger community is vitally important to all of Kaua'i and to Hawai'i. As mentioned on the Makai website, "It is truly one of the world's most stunning golf and resort locations".

Here is a historical reference of the Makai Golf Course: (From Go Hawaii.com)

HISTORY: It was Robert Trent Jones, Jr.'s, first solo design, so it comes to reason that the Makai Golf Club on the island of Kaua'i received Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s undivided attention on a continual basis. Since the Makai Golf Club was his first creation with his own firm, so the course holds special meaning.

"My father was doing courses all over Europe and the Caribbean, not to mention several U.S. Open venues, so he wasn't that interested in coming to Kaua'i," Jones Jr. said. "Because I had honeymooned in Kauai with my wife in 1961, I came back in the late '60s to look with the Princeville Development Company at the property and my wife and I fell in love with an island as well as each other all over again."

Two hundred and seventy courses and counting, throughout 40-plus years in the business, Jones Jr. has traversed the globe several times and then some during his career. His work on the islands of Hawaii has been nothing short of spectacular with nine sensational designs, but his Makai venue will always be special.

"The original Makai course was 27 holes and was over a large property (200 acres), which was very remote," he said. "You had to fly into Honolulu and then take a small plane into Lihue and hire a jeep and travel a very bumpy road before you even got to Hanalei Bay, which, of course, once you got there was worth the trip. If that's not paradise, I don't want to go there. The views, the mystic feelings and the powerful nature, waterfalls and ocean."

"We put the clubhouse in the center of the property and had three nines, like spokes of a wheel, reaching out to the periphery of the property. All nines were attempted to be balanced and we built them in a day when the Vietnam War was still going on, so we had some ex-soldiers helping us."

"My hero golf writer was Dan Jenkins," Jones added. "He was as curmudgeon even then, so we had to persuade him to come over and take a look ... and he did. Once he saw what we had, he talked to his wife June and pretty soon they wanted to be here. We were able to negotiate with the ownership since they owed us some money and they hit the recession and they couldn't pay our bill, so we got the beach house, which was the old plantation house on the property. It was the best bad deal I ever had!"

"Dan Jenkins and I owned it for a while and he wrote articles about the property and as his children grew up, he sold his half interest to me in the 1980s and we haven't looked back and come here to our special place, so we're

not only the designer, but a resident here, and this is where all our family comes when we can."

Seven years after it opened, the course hosted the World Cup of Golf in 1987.

"It had come to my attention in the late '70s, that they were looking for a host site, as they were having a problem with a venue somewhere and they were suddenly looking for a home and I persuaded the powers that be to host the World Cup on the Makai and that sort of put on the map with the golf world," Jones said. When all was said and done, the U.S. team of John Mahaffey and Andy North bested Greg Norman and Wayne Grady of Australia for the title.

"Once it had a World Cup, that was a big deal," Jones said. "In those days there was no Internet or communications, so people discovered this and they went back to their various countries to talk about it, particularly Asia-Pacific and Japan. We had a lot of Japanese visitors coming here and the Princeville Development Company built out over time a community and then the hotel in the early 1980s."

It wasn't long after that the LPGA Tour came calling, as the Makai Golf Club played host to the Women's Kemper Open for several years. Hall of Famer Betsy King captured the event twice, defeating Beth Daniel by one shot and then Jane Geddes by two after opening the event with a round of 63. Future HOF Juli Inkster won in its first year at the course in 1986, as she edged Amy Alcott by one stroke. Her four-day total included a sizzling round of 64 for a 12-under-par 276. Two-time major championship winner Geddes also captured the Kemper Open, as she defeated Cathy Gerring in a playoff.

"It had a quality of hosting championships in a remote location and because of the photogenic atmosphere, it was popular on television, particularly in the winter, Jones continued.

Thirty-eight years after it opened, RTJ Jr. returned for a renovation of the course. What took place was a usual happening of golf courses when they receive a face-lift of sorts, reshaping and the addition of the bunkers and adding additional tee boxes for the high skilled player and for the beginning, thus increasing rounds to the course.

"Over the years, the ownership changed, the Makai Course got tired, the Japanese withdrew from both the Makai and the Prince Course and we had a chance to do it again," Jones said.

"The game has changed, a lot, technically and also by a playing point of view and who plays," Jones continued. "What we did at Makai was to revise just

the championship course, which was the Lakes and Ocean nines, not the Woods nine, as they were equally balanced."

However, the most significant changes to the Makai Golf Club were the adjustment of strategy to the green complexes and the turf adjustment to Seashore Paspalum for the greens, fairways and tees.

"The issue was to get new grass types throughout the entire course, widen the fairways and re-bunker it with white sands, so it's striking (Augusta kind of white). When you do all that, with all I've learned by being an architect all those years, I saw some ways to update the strategy and refine the design, together with my partner, Bruce Charlton, and that's what we did. We re-shaped it," Jones said.

Following its recent renovation, the course has moved up 15 spots in the latest rankings of Greatest Public Golf Courses you can play by Golf Digest.

"It's a whole new generation who are rating it, who were not even born when we first opened it," said Jones, which might mean it's a test of generations, rather than a test of time."

We clearly endorse your placing the Makai Golf Club on the State Historic Register as a way to honor Mr. Jones, the famous Golf Course and Landscape Architect, and to honor the public's use of this beautiful land.

Mahalo,

Glen & Leslie Aronson
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