

# Teeing off: Kohala Golf Park par-3 course opens with Dec. 2 tournament

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KAPAAU — The fairways are ready to roll at Kohala Golf Park, a long-term community volunteer effort that began earlier this year.

The 1,080-yard walking course will officially open to the public Dec. 2 with an open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a charity golf tournament from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.

It is the only golf course north of Mauna Kea Resort on the west side of the island.

Over the last four months, volunteers have been whipping the course into shape, refurbishing the six original holes. Three additional holes are in the works to make it a 9-hole course. The bathroom has been remodeled, trees trimmed around the property, scrap junk equipment removed and an entry road cleaned up.

“We were very fortunate earlier this month when Hilton Grand Vacations (HGV) selected Kohala Golf Park for their annual community service event. They cut fairways, greens and palm trees, painted the clubhouse inside and out, donated two SCAG mowers and much more,” Imonti said. “It was mind blowing. Over 47 employees showed up, plus Kelly’s Tree Service sent eight employees to cut trees, mulch and chip.”

“We cut the fairways and greens and do most of the work ourselves as we are working off of limited funds,” Imonti said. “We have received many donations and have enough to build a new putting green. We’ve also been gifted three SCAG mowers, two green mowers, an aerator, two used weed whackers and two Weber barbecues for future events. HGV also donated furniture and mirrors to update the clubhouse and bathrooms, and more equipment will be donated soon. We have come a long way.”

Volunteers will continue to cut and trim the course on Mondays, with assistance from Aikane Nursery to shape the golf course.

To date, Kohala Golf Park has received more than \$12,000 in monetary donations and needs an additional \$15,000 to build the three new holes. Volunteers are seeking donated gravel, sand and soil to do so.

The volunteer committee plans to find a grounds keeper who will also run day-to-day operations in the shop, where check ins take place, golf balls are sold and clubs rented. In the future they plan to add water, soda and snacks to the shop if solar power or a generator can be donated for needed electricity.

“Kohala Golf Club was created to attract seasoned golfers, young and old, and new golfers. We look forward to getting the schools involved to set up a high school golf team in the future,” Imonti said. “We have a PGA pro, Mark Sommers, who will be our instructor for the course.”