FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACT
Pate Clarson
pclarson@golfhokuala.com

Kaua‘i’s Ocean Course at Hōkūala to host historic 30th Rainbow Wahine Invitational next week

Funds raised through the support of teams, alumni and fans will benefit children and families recovering from Hurricane Lowell

TOURNAMENT FACTS
Dates: October 19–21, 2026
Venue: Ocean Course at Hōkūala
Location: Lihu‘e, Kaua‘i
Yardage (Par): 5,929 (72)
Format: 54 holes; 18 holes each day; 5-count-4
Tee Times: 9:30 a.m. HST, shotgun start on Monday and Tuesday; 9:00 a.m. HST shotgun start on Wednesday
Live Scoring: SCOREBOARD

Host: The University of Hawai‘i
Defending Team Champion: Baylor (851; -14)
Defending Individual Champion: Yurang Li, Baylor (204; -12)

Donation Link: 2026 Rainbow Wahine Invitational supports children affected by Hurricane Lowell

TEEING OFF
The 30th Rainbow Wahine Invitational – the University of Hawai‘i’s storied women’s golf tournament – will be contested for the second straight year on the Ocean Course at Hōkūala on

Kauaʻi after formally being played for a quarter century on Oʻahu. From Oct. 19–21, 13 teams from 11 states and one from Japan will tee it up on Hawaiʻi's "Garden Isle."

The 16th green on the Ocean Course at Hōkūala is framed by Kalapaki Bay and the Hāʻupu Mountain Range. (Photo by Ocean Course at Hōkūala)

Following Hurricane Lowell, this year's Rainbow Wahine Invitational carries special significance for Kauaʻi. Welcoming teams from across the United States and Japan provides an opportunity to demonstrate the island's resilience and readiness to host NCAA Division I competition, while simultaneously supporting hurricane relief efforts and the island's economic recovery.

The tournament will support a collaborative message to visitors around the world: "Kauaʻi is Open with Aloha."

KAUAʻI STRONG

In partnership with 501(c)3 organization HerbieGives, a fundraising campaign has been launched to address immediate hurricane recovery needs, while continuing a long-term mission of supporting local families and community initiatives. Tournament supporters, participating universities, alumni, visitors and those unable to attend are invited to support in one of three ways:

- Visit: Experience and support Kauaʻi's economy while respecting recovering communities.
- Share: Spread the word that Kauaʻi is Open with Aloha.
- Give: Support families and communities affected by Hurricane Lowell with this fundraiser.

TEAMS (14)

App State, BYU, Eastern Michigan, Grand Canyon, Hawaiʻi, Kansas State, Long Beach State, Nevada, Osaka Gakuin (Japan), Prairie View A&M, Sacramento State, San Diego State, Tulane and Washington State.

University of Hawai‘i women’s golf coach, Julie Brooks, poses with her players after a recent tournament for a group photo. (Photo by Hawai‘i Athletics)

Osaka Gakuin (Japan) is the only non-U.S. university in this year’s field.

Three-time tournament champion, Sacramento State (2013, ’16, ’19), will be led by freshman Emilia Schneider, who finished second overall in last month’s Kalispel Invitational in Washington.

2015 tournament champion BYU will travel to Kaua‘i following two consecutive top-five finishes to open the 2026-27 season. The Cougars enter the event anchored by senior standout María José “MJ” Barragán.

BYU’s María José “MJ” Barragán watches her putt on hole 5, a 339-yard par 4 on Royal Kā‘anapali in the 2025 Dr. Donnis Thomson Invitational. (Photo by Kā‘anapali Golf Courses)

Tulane will be guided by the American Conference’s September Women's Player of the Month, Francesca Pompa. The Green Wave junior earned the honor after finishing first individually in last month’s Tulane Classic.

Tulane's Francesca Pompa was named the American Conference's September Women's Player of the Month. (Photo by Parker Waters, Tulane Athletics)

Pompa's teammate, sophomore Sophia Macias, also finished tied for first individually last week in the Ron Moore Intercollegiate in Colorado.

Purdue Fort Wayne transfer and Hawai'i senior, Olivia Jang, will look to guide the Rainbow Wahine after being UH's top finisher in the season-opening Ben Connell Ram Classic in Colorado. She tied for 19th place overall with a one-over-par 217 in the 54-hole event.

Hawai'i senior Olivia Jang looks to lead the Rainbow Wahine women's golf team during the 2026-27 season. (Photo by Hawai'i Athletics)

VENUE

The Ocean Course at Hōkūala, home to the longest continuous stretch of oceanfront holes in the state, is part of a picturesque 450-acre resort property surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Kalapaki Bay and Hā‘upu Mountain Range.

Following extensive hurricane recovery efforts, the Ocean Course at Hōkūala has reopened with pristine greens and championship-level playing conditions, thanks to the extraordinary dedication of the club’s maintenance and operations teams led by Rey Tacsiat. Hosting the Rainbow Wahine Invitational marks an important milestone in the course’s recovery and reaffirms its commitment to welcoming visitors to Kaua‘i.

EVENT HISTORY
Originally created as the Princeville Rainbow Wahine Fall Classic, and later known as the Rainbow Wahine Invitational as the event moved islands and golf courses, UH’s annual fall event has hosted impressive teams and individuals during its 29-year history. UCLA leads all programs with five team titles, followed by Sacramento State (3), Baylor (3), Colorado State (2), Florida International (2) and San Francisco (2). Baylor is the defending champion.

QUOTES
“This year is especially meaningful as we host the 30th edition of this special event,” said Hawai‘i Women’s Golf Head Coach and three-time Big West Coach of the Year, Julie Brooks. “This tournament provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase Kaua‘i, celebrate the tradition of Rainbow Wahine golf and share the special spirit of Aloha with the collegiate athletic community.”

The par 3 14th green on the Ocean Course at Hōkūala is framed by Kalapaki Bay and the Hā‘upu Mountain Range. (Photo by Ocean Course at Hōkūala)

"The Rainbow Wahine Invitational represents something bigger than golf. We have an incredible opportunity to bring people together physically and virtually to support our island's recovery, while showing the world that Kaua‘i is Open with Aloha,” reflected Tom Freestone, PGA, General Manager, Ocean Course at Hōkūala.

“If I were inviting a friend to visit Kaua‘i, I’d encourage them to experience our island through the people who know it best – my friends across Kaua‘i who take great pride in sharing what makes this place so special. Let them welcome you at our beautiful resorts, introduce you to our award-

winning golf courses, guide you on unforgettable adventures with trusted activity companies and invite you to shop, dine and support the businesses they've poured their hearts into.

Most importantly, visit with aloha. Friends and neighbors are still recovering, rebuilding their homes and lives back together. They need our understanding, respect and space to heal. I would ask guests to honor the guidance and requests of these communities while enjoying the many wonderful experiences that Kauaʻi is ready to share."

E ALA E: SUNDAY
On Sunday, Oct. 18 at 6:00 a.m. prior to the 9:00 a.m. tournament practice round, players, coaches and spectators are welcome to join at the club for a traditional Hawaiian E Ala E ceremony. Taking place on the 13th green, participants will clear their minds and body, letting go of the old and setting a clear intention for the day. Interested parties can meet on the 13th hole tee box at 6:00 a.m. Parking is available in the paved lot adjacent to the tee box.

The tranquil par 4 13th on the Ocean Course at Hōkūala finishes at the iconic Ninini Point Lighthouse. (Photo by Ocean Course at Hōkūala)

ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY
Practice round and tournament round attendance is free for all walking spectators to watch the future stars of women's professional golf. Parking is available on-site. The Ocean Course at Hōkūala is a five-minute drive from Lihue Airport (LIH).

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About Ocean Course at Hōkūala
Home to the longest continuous stretch of oceanfront holes in the state of Hawaiʻi, the Ocean Course was named one of the "World's Most Beautiful Golf Courses" by MSN Travel. The 18-hole golf course is part of Timbers Kauaʻi Ocean Club & Residences, a private residential club which opened in 2018 on the island's southeast coast. Timbers Kauaʻi sits on a 450-acre natural amphitheater and offers unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean, Kalapaki Bay and Hāʻupu Mountain Range. Website | Facebook | Instagram

About Troon

The Ocean Course at Hōkūala is managed by Indigo Sports, a Troon company. Headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz., Troon is the world's largest golf and golf-related hospitality management company, providing services at locations in 45-plus states and 40-plus countries. In addition to private, daily fee, resort and municipal golf, Troon specializes in homeowner association management, private residence clubs, estate management and associated hospitality venues. Troon's family of brands includes Troon Golf, Troon Privé, Troon International, Indigo Sports, **CADDIE**MASTER, ClubUp, Cliff Drysdale Management, Peter Burwash International, True Club Solutions, RealFood Hospitality, Strategy & Design and RF DesignStudio, ICON Management and Eventive Sports. For additional news and information, visit www.Troon.com.