

Sony Open in Hawaii, Waialae Country Club

Photos courtesy of Waialae Country Club



Hole #1
Par-4 | 480 Yards | Mamao (Distant)
 This hole was originally designed in 1927 by Seth Raynor with the famous Road Hole of St. Andrews, Scotland in mind. The forward tee constructed in 1999 makes this former par-5 hole play as a par-4 and 1/2! Depending on the wind, the second shot to a very shallow green guarded in front by a deep bunker and a bunker surrounding the right half of the green, can be played with anything from a 3-wood to a 9-iron. Welcome to Waialae!



Hole #4
Par-3 | 204 Yards | Apiki (Tricky)
 A very tricky par-3 played into the wind. The elongated 59-yard green has a deep swale running across the middle. Par is welcome here.



Hole #7
Par-3 | 176 Yards | Upiki (Trapped)
 The second of the par-3s on the tournament's front nine, this green is as wide as the par-3 hole #4 is long. Originally, this green was completely surrounded by sand, giving the hole its name. Bunkers still wrap around the entire front side of this green with a lone bunker on the backside. A deep ridge on the front green runs laterally front to back.



Hole #10
Par-4 | 351 Yards | Kipaku (Drive away)
 This is the shortest par-4 on the course. Best place for the drive is on the right side of the fairway avoiding the fairway bunker. Two towering palm trees standing sentry on the left protect the two-tiered green. Good birdie hole.



Hole #13
Par-4 | 477 Yards | Akau (Right)
 Formerly played as a par-5 at the Hawaiian Open, the re-designed forward tee allows playing this hole as a long 478-yard par-4 hole. The reshaped fairway bunker on the right allows more room in the landing area for the drive. Par is a very good score on this hole.



Hole #16
Par-4 | 417 Yards | Welo (Float in the wind)
 Tee it high and let it fly! A finish with the wind at your back. The best place for the drive is on the right side of the fairway bunkers. The second shot is a short iron played to a green framed by the Pacific Ocean and several large palm trees. This hole is considered the signature hole at Waialae.



Hole #2
Par-4 | 423 Yards | Oolea (Unyielding)
 An elevated tee sixty yards back and across the stream really adds teeth to this hole. It brings the lake, which runs down the left side into play for the longer hitters. A very demanding tee shot must be placed between the lake and two fairway bunkers guarding the right side. A good drive will leave a middle iron to a fairly generous green.



Hole #5
Par-4 | 467 Yards | Auwai (Two ditches)
 The rebuilt championship tee 30 yards back in its original location unused since the late 1970s calls for a tee shot with a 225-yard carry over the first ditch. This is certainly no problem with the wind at your back, but watch out if the wind switches. A drive that makes it over the ditch leaves a short iron second shot. Putting is very tricky on the heavily contoured green. Birdies are rare on this hole.



Hole #8
Par-4 | 454 Yards | Huluhulu (Hairy)
 The tee shot is the hairy shot on this hole. Played through a chute of trees, the drive must carry a stream that is 230 yards out, avoiding two fairway bunkers on the right. Once that is accomplished, a short iron is left to the hole. A definite birdie opportunity.



Hole #11
Par-3 | 194 Yards | Kailani (Sea and sky)
 The real challenge on the tee shot is to avoid the potential scenic distraction of the vast sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean behind the green. The prevailing wind blows left to right so the large bunker on the right gets lots of action. This is an excellent one-shot hole.



Hole #14
Par-4 | 430 Yards | Hema (Left)
 A dog-leg left par-4 this hole plays back towards the mountains. A well-placed drive to the right side of the fairway leaves a short iron shot to the green that is sloped steeply from back to front. Best to stay below the hole for the ideal birdie putt.



Hole #17
Par-3 | 194 Yards | Alae (Mud hen)
 The most scenic hole at Waialae bears the name of the Sony Open fire-bird according to Hawaiian lore. Hole #17 is a very difficult par-3 requiring a long or middle iron. The green features the original Seth Raynor design which is a classic Redan-style green with a large bunker on the left and a series of four deep, hidden bunkers guarding the right. Par-3 is a good score here, especially in the final round.



Hole #3
Par-4 | 422 Yards | Ii Brown (Mr. Golf)
 Named after Mr. Golf in Hawaii, Waialae founding member, Francis Ii Brown, once drove this green. The tee box moved a few yards forward and to the left in 1999 brings the lake more into play on your drive. A long accurate drive off the tee is rewarded with a short iron for this dangerous second shot to the green.



Hole #6
Par-4 | 460 Yards | Lalau (Go astray)
 A prevailing left-to-right wind blows straight towards O.B. on the right. Drives have been known to go astray here. A well-placed drive must favor the left center to avoid the fairway bunker and trees. The front right of the green is guarded by a large bunker. Tom Doak rebuilt the green with inspiration from Seth Raynor's Punchbowl green.



Hole #9
Par-5 | 506 Yards | Aloha
 Normally played as hole #18 by Waialae members, this par-5 requires accuracy on both the drive and the second shots. O.B. runs down the left side of the fairway and a lateral hazard down the right. A strong left-to-right wind makes this hole even tougher. It is reachable in 2 strokes, however, and has given up its share of birdies.



Hole #12
Par-4 | 440 Yards | Imua (Straight ahead)
 A long hole requiring both length and accuracy off the tee, the drive must be placed between the fairway bunker on the left and the series of mounds and trees on the right. A middle to short iron sets up an easy birdie putt on a relatively flat putting surface.



Hole #15
Par-4 | 398 Yards | Pilikia (Trouble)
 This hole can certainly be troublesome. O.B. runs up the entire left side, and both the drive and second shots are played into the wind. Tee shots out to the right are blocked on the second shot by a huge, old kiawe tree which dominates the right side of the fairway about 100 yards from the hole.



Hole #18
Par-5 | 551 Yards | Kilou Loa (A long hook)
 A great finishing hole! Isao Aoki proved this in 1983 with a spectacular eagle for his victory. Aoki knocked it in from 128 yards out, but this hole is reachable in 2 strokes. A bunker set in the dog-leg makes the drive off the tee a "thinking shot." A second shot can be played straight downwind to the green.