



Tournament Fact Sheet

Sony Open (PGA TOUR)

Waialae Country Club • Honolulu, Hawaii • January 15-18, 2026

Golf Course Superintendent

Dave Nakama, CGCS, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 21

Years at Waialae Country Club: 25

Years as a Superintendent: 23

Previous Courses: Koolau (superintendent)

Education: University of Hawaii

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This is the 25th professional event for Nakama

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Course Architect

Seth Raynor (1927)

Renovation: Over the years changes have been made by Robert Trent Jones, Desmond Muirhead, Rick Smith, Tom Doak

Notable

- Superintendent Dave Nakama is hosting his 25th professional tournament.
- Nakama is a GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS).
- The course features the iconic W formation of coconut trees behind the member's 7th hole (No. 16 for the tournament).
- There is only about 10 feet of elevation change on the golf course.
- Waialae, which opened in 1927, was the 8th oldest course played on tour last year (includes The Open).
- Waiale was one of 13 par-70 courses on tour last year.
- Waialae (7,044 yards) was the 3rd-shortest course on tour last year behind TPC River Highlands (6,844) and Pebble Beach (6,972) (average length last year was 7,373 yards)
- Waialae was one of just 5 courses on tour last year with both bermudagrass greens and rough.
- Waialae (7,100 sq. ft.) greens were the 6th largest on tour last year (average green size last year was 6,008 sq. ft.).

Tournament Setup

Par: 35-35--70

Yardage: 7,044

Turfgrass

Greens: Bermudagrass .120"

Collars: Bermudagrass .325"

Approaches: Bermudagrass .325"

Tees: Bermudagrass .350"

Fairways: Bermudagrass .400"

Rough: Bermudagrass 3.5"

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 7,100 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 50

Acres of Rough: 100

Number of Sand Bunkers: 83

Number of Water Hazards: 4

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 5

Soil Conditions: Various

Water Sources: Well

Drainage: Fair/Good

Links

GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet Home:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

GCSAA Website: <https://www.gcsaa.org/>

GCM (GCSAA Magazine): <https://gcmonline.com/>

Tournament X: @SonyOpenHawaii

GCSAA X: @GCSAA

GCSAA Conference and Trade Show (Feb. 2-5, 2026):

<https://gcsaaconference.com/>

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.