





The Club at Kukui'ula

Where Luxury Meets Aloha

Written by Amber Nightingale

Glistening sapphire waters and sweeping emerald vistas form the breathtaking panorama of the lavishly down to earth Club at Kukui'ula, a private luxury community known for its compassionate character and infectious sense of aloha. Perfectly poised on the southern shore of Kaua'i, the one thousand and ten acre scenic expanse exudes an island charm unlike any other of its kind.

Beyond the crimson colored sunsets, lingering plumeria blooms, and distant views of the iconic Po'ipu Spouting Horn landmark, this heritage-rich pocket of paradise attracts members of the truest type. Touted as a "club with an open heart," the gracious Kukui'ula outshines its Hawaiian fashioned affluence. From the pristine award-winning eighteen-hole golf course, opulent spa, blissful upcountry farm and lake, tropical-styled residences and warm Plantation House gathering center that unites it all, the club at Kukui'ula is designed exclusively for Kaua'i.

"We really care about this island," expresses Veronica Lovesy, Senior Marketing Manager. "Our members love to be involved in the community. It's like family. We strive to be good stewards and want to provide a quality

of life at a world class level that remains respectful and authentic to what Kaua'i really is."

Like many local island residents, members at Kukui'ula experience a lifestyle where the indoor and outdoor elements of living merge as one. Red-dirt approved, this nature-loving attitude translates to the inviting architecture and a deep reverence for the surrounding neighborhood center and cultural significance of the property's land.

Once the site of a flourishing sugar cane plantation, this sacred slice of countryside once held the summer home of humanitarian Queen Emma, wife of King Kamehameha IV. The birthplace of benevolent Prince Kuhio is also found close by, and these verdant hillsides hold remnants of the ancient Hawaiians.

"The land is really special here at Kukui'ula. We never take for granted any day that we are guests here too. Our members want to know the history, culture and what was here before us," explains Lovesy with sincerity. A sense of place encapsulated within its name, Kukui'ula symbolizes the three traditional Hawaiian urns of the region. Translated as two separate words, KuKui (candlenut) and ula (red glow), the ritualistic urns were used as navigation tools to

direct returning voyagers from Tahiti back home. Ignited with pure kukui nut oil, a swift hit of wind turned the hot lava rock urns blazing red. And that's the cornerstone of Kukui'ula—a guiding light back home.

Beaming beacons that formed a triangle from the ocean line of sight, one of these urns is situated within the Club at Kukui'ula above golf hole number fourteen. For the first time in several hundred years, this venerated urn was kindled in 2014 during the summer Mahiki games ceremony.

Honoring this ancestry is a stewardship priority of this exclusive community. Owners are advised to bless their homes and builders must reconfigure plans after finding artifacts and bones. With Cultural Advisor Kumu La'amea Almeida and other Hawaiian Elders on hand, cultural integrity graces the land.

"We bless before we start, and we bless when we're done," Lovesy confirms smiling. The debut blessing in August of 2008 marked the first shovel of red Kaua'i earth, initiating the club community and Plantation House construction.

With the official "soft opening" on December 28, 2010, this rare debt-free luxury neighborhood praises their seventy founding



club members with shiny brass plaques beneath the monkey-pod trees profiling Club Drive. Built collectively by DMB, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona and Alexander & Baldwin of Honolulu, which together create Kukui'ula Development Company, LLC, the club's grand opening in June 2011 revealed the island's finest five-star lifestyle intermingled with a simple Kaua'i way.

Unlike its other sister private club communities, like Silverleaf in Scottsdale or Santaluz in San Diego, no gate exists at Kukui'ula, a unique attribute that directly portrays its distinct island charisma. "We want to create the real Hawai'i here," Lovesy explains. "Anybody can come to Kaua'i, but we want them to see it in a whole different light."

The club's "down to earth living" philosophy is displayed

in its full amenities, like the cozy elegance of the Plantation House, a focal hub with renowned views of Kukui'ula Bay. Hospitable and open, the simple architecture has a refined Hawaiian individuality, comprised of the entry Great Room, adult and keiki Game Room, indoor and outdoor dining areas and a souvenir boutique. Photos of smiling members adorn the walls next to original artwork and translucent hanging Italian light fixtures made from wine barrel interiors that illuminate the dining backdrop.

Spanning from the Plantation House, the Great Lawn features an event pavilion and the nearby collection of Makai pools that include a bar and grill. Kukui'ula's farm-to-table earth friendly restaurant concept brings fresh menu items from their upcountry farm and lake. Using as many

local ingredients as possible, Chef Ben Takahashi serves seasonal recipes, with Sunday family nights and monthly themed farm dinners.

Its own separate utopia, the abundant fifteen acre farm grows over sixty different plants, including veggies, herbs, fruits and exotic flowers, and looks down upon a twenty acre lake. "To the right, it looks like the Midwest and to your left there's the Pacific Ocean," Lovesy describes, "it's incredible...you feel like you're in a different place, so quiet you can hear yourself think."

A beautiful towering Earpod-tree sets the scene for many picnics after members hand-pick the produce they wish and enjoy canoeing, fishing or hiking. |Strikingly innovative, a rustic refurbished water tower interior is home to the farm restroom



area, complete with a rain water catchment system, solar power and a barn door entry.

Indulging the senses, the enchanting Kukui'ula ambiance floats into the exquisite full service spa, where optimal well-being, personalization and the healing environment of water marry an Asian flair. The nourishing Seven Step Wet Ritual is an unparalleled Kukui'ula Spa icon, preceding each custom treatment which ranges from massage, facials and nail services to specialty body care. Pampering both men and women, the six treatment rooms house private outdoor areas with lava rock showers, soaking tubs and a punee with comfort at the core.

Intimate and detailed to the finest touch, the classic ritual leads you step-by-step through the ornate courtyard of the facility. From the lava rock walled dry sauna, conditioning Brazilian propolis hair regimen, and exfoliating "goshi goshi" Japanese scrub, the Seven Step Wet Ritual concludes with the glass walled steam pavilion and

invigorating three time hot and cold pool plunge. A spacious fitness studio paired with thirty six classes a week in yoga, Pilates, water aerobics and more, complement the spa's total health foundation.

Golfers dot the grassy faraway landscape on the eighteen-hole Kukui'ula course, designed with all skill levels and ages in mind. Despite its private status, Kaua'i Resident Golf enables island golf enthusiasts to take a swing after registering and paying a minimal thirty five dollar fee. Named "Best of the Best" in the world by Robb Report in June 2012, the course was created by British Open winner Tom Weiskopf, and the corresponding clubhouse welcomes participants to play.

Generations of families contribute to the living Kukui'ula Legacy, from sand-castle building children to joyful grandmothers who share an affinity for the Garden Isle. These members dwell in custom homes, Club Cottages, Villas or the recently added Bungalows. An elite partnership with the Parrish Collection provides

vacation rental opportunities through the Lodge at Kukui'ula, extending the Club's exclusive amenities to non-members for the first time.

The tangible warm-hearted atmosphere of this luxury community is undoubtedly shaped by the strong family member base, where the Kukui'ula onsite staff are genuinely embraced. Lovesy explains, "What touches me the most is how much our members care about our team, like family. We all really love what we do and feel grateful to be here. We are proud of our people."

In the club's activity-based Island Pursuits, this enriching member-staff connection is notably cultivated, as local guides take families out for adventures like kayak fishing, boating, or ridgeline treks that celebrate the active elements of island life. Kukui'ula's family essence is mirrored in their loyalty to Kaua'i.

A humble presence in the south shore community, Kukui'ula



built the western bypass road (Ala Kalanikaumaka) including the central Po'ipu roundabout, donated land for the public housing project of Paanau Village Phase 2, and revitalized the south shore region's source of water.

Opening in August 2009, The Shops at Kukui'ula have also been their contribution to the neighborhood. The Plantation inspired design, despite the higher investment, was attuned to the likes of island residents and is now treasured by not only locals, but by visitors and Club members as well.

As a supporter of numerous schools and organizations island wide, future Kukui'ula plans entail a twenty acre neighborhood park on Po'ipu Road with soccer and baseball fields in addition to a five acre beach park at Kukui'ula Harbor for all to enjoy.

Echoed in their living legacy, the Kukui'ula spirit of aloha will shine for generations to come. ■





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