

# On Designing A Masterpiece

## The Rees Jones course at Kohanaiki

**K**ohanaiki is an exclusive private club and residential community, crafted on 450 oceanfront acres of the Big Island of Hawaii that was once the playground of Hawaii's greatest king: King Kamehameha I. Its shores are steeped in history, with sacred artifacts, cultural landmarks and petroglyphs throughout the property. The land is a rustic mixture of anchialine ponds, lava flows, palm trees and a never-ending stretch of the Pacific. This was the canvas that golf course architect Rees Jones was given to create his first course in Hawaii.

Jones was born into the game of golf. He grew up traveling with his family to golf courses all over the world and worked in the summers for his father, renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. He worked as a principal in the

company after college at Yale and graduate studies at Harvard. Ten years later he founded his own design firm, Rees Jones, Inc.

Rees Jones has designed or redesigned more than 225 golf courses in his career and has earned the moniker "The Open Doctor" for his redesign of courses in preparation for major championships. His remodeling skills have been applied to seven U.S. Open venues, eight PGA Championship courses, five Ryder Cups and many other championship sites. His many accolades include the distinction of being one of only seven people to have been awarded the Donald Ross Award, the Old Tom Morris Award and the Don A. Rossi Award for his expertise and contribution to the game.







**K**ohanaiki is home to the only Rees Jones golf course in Hawaii. The beauty of the course is truly stunning, and will stir the senses of golfers of all levels. Indeed, the scenery is both spectacular and, at times, wonderfully distracting as the course winds across more than 100 acres, playing through a centuries-old volcanic lava flow, and building to a fantastic finish with six majestic oceanfront holes along 1½ miles of shoreline.

**T**he breathtaking beauty seen at every turn was the inspiration behind the Rees Jones design at Kohanaiki. It is a challenging course, yet infinitely fun, ideal for every caliber player. There is an unbelievably natural flow from start to finish, a mixture of “feels” as golfers move through the valley, the lake, the rocky lava outcrop and of course, the six ocean holes on the back nine, where the suspense and drama builds to a wonderful finish.





**W**ith panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean throughout the course, the ocean views become up close and personal when reaching the green on the 12th, which is the beginning of a six hole stretch that plays along the shore and presents some of the most spectacular golf in Hawaii. In fact, 13 through 16 are unlike any holes in golf. And the 17th, where Mother Nature dictated the design, is one of the most natural par 5s in the world.



**R**ees Jones has taken painstaking measures to honor the history and natural beauty at Kohanaiki, with emerald green paspalum fairways that intertwine with flows of black volcanic rock. The course is designed around 14 historic Ahu (sacred rock shrines), ancient structures and 200 protected anchialine ponds that were historically used by Hawaiians to raise fish and are now home to native and migratory birds and wildlife.





**T**he Kohanaiki course on the western edge of the Big Island is the first in the state to be registered with the Audubon International Silver Signature Program, and offers players a wide variety of challenges and never-ending pleasures. Many of its features serve as an introduction to the history of Hawaii, like the 30 restored anchialine ponds around the 14th green, or the Pà Kekake, a donkey corral dating back to the 1940s on the 17th hole.