

Aug. 13, 2019



Hawaii Tourism and AVPFirst Invest in Future of Beach Volleyball with Statewide Clinics at Boys and Girls Clubs

- *A series of specialized clinics offered August through September across six Hawaiian Islands; Equipment, resources and programs to be donated to community*
- *Hawaii-born Olympian and AVP Champion Kevin Wong along with former professional AVP beach volleyball player Lia Young Hunt, AVP Pros, and University of Hawaii beach volleyball staff and athletes to support initiative across the islands*

[Link](#) to editorial assets (photo credit: AVP / photographer's name in file name)

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA), Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) and AVPFirst, the nonprofit youth programming arm of the Pro Tour, have teamed up on a statewide initiative to provide 17 beach volleyball clinics across six Hawaiian islands starting August 19 through September 22, including Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hawaii Island, Molokai and Lanai.

Both HTA and AVPFirst will work with the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii, Hawaii State Department of Education and local parks, providing coaches, equipment and skills clinics, which will be led by current AVP Pros, along with Olympian, six-time AVP champion, NBC analyst and founder of Hawaii's Spike & Serve Club, Kevin Wong, former professional AVP beach volleyball player and current coach at Outrigger Canoe Club Lia Young Hunt, University of Hawaii beach volleyball staff and athletes, and more. Underserved communities from all over the Hawaiian islands will be able to form their passion for beach volleyball while working on team building and individual skills with top coaches in AVPFirst's Community Corner Clinics.

"The AVP Pro Tour and AVPFirst are honored to join forces with exceptional organizations in Hawaii to provide boys and girls on the Hawaiian islands a unique opportunity to discover and develop beach volleyball skills in the coming month - and thrilled that renowned athletes like Kevin Wong, Lia Young Hunt and a number of current AVP Pros will be joining us in this important initiative," said Donald Sun, CEO, AVP. "We at the AVP believe in planting roots that leave a lasting mark in all we do, and are proud to provide equipment to the Boys and Girls Clubs to help contribute to their success for years to come and hope that this will become a lasting tradition in Hawaii."

Hawaii Tourism will support this initiative to enhance beach volleyball in the communities across the state. These clinics are free for the children to attend, thanks to tourism dollars from the Transient Accommodations Tax. Beach volleyball's most likely origins began in 1915 on the beaches of Waikiki, making it the perfect place to continue the legacy and offer the opportunity to begin, learn, and develop skills for kids in all areas of Hawaii.

"It is important to partner with organizations that have a positive impact on the community. This meaningful partnership with AVPFirst will give children across the state the opportunity to explore their interest in beach volleyball by learning from some of the best," said HTA president and CEO, Chris Tatum.

"The people of Hawaii come first and I'm glad we've found a way for beach volleyball to give back to Hawaii the way Hawaii gave to beach volleyball," said Mufi Hannemann, Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association president

and CEO and former mayor of Honolulu. “Olympians, World Champions and AVP Champions have all come from Hawaii and we must continue to invest in the future of our residents.”

For anyone interested in taking part in any of the upcoming clinics, please visit [Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii](#).

The free-to-the-public AVP Pro Tour will also culminate its 2019 season Sept. 20-22, 2019 at the [AVP Hawaii Open](#) presented by Hawaii Tourism on the Fort DeRussy beachfront, Waikiki. The event is free to view all matches and offers family-friendly activities, DJ music, food, beverages, meet n’ greet opportunities and sponsor village fun throughout the event.

AVPFirst Community Corner Clinic Schedule presented by Hawaii Tourism

Schedule is subject to change. Please visit [AVPFirst.org](#) for the latest information.

Date	Time (HST)	City/Island	Location
Aug. 19, 2019	3 p.m.	Kihei, Maui	Kalama Park
Aug. 20, 2019	3 p.m.	Lahaina, Maui	Lahaina Boys & Girls Club
Aug. 21, 2019	3 p.m.	Kahului, Maui	Kahana Beach Park
Aug. 24, 2019	10 a.m.	Lihue, Kauai	Kalapaki Beach at Kauai Marriott
Aug. 26, 2019	4 p.m.	Honolulu, Oahu	Spalding Boys & Girls Clubhouse
Aug. 27, 2019	3 p.m.	Waianae, Oahu	Waianae Boys & Girls Clubhouse
Aug. 28, 2019	2:30 p.m.	Kailua, Oahu	Windward Boys & Girls Clubhouse
Aug. 29, 2019	3 p.m.	Ewa Beach, Oahu	Hale Pono Boys & Girls Clubhouse
Aug. 30, 2019	3 p.m.	Waianae, Oahu	Nanakuli Boys & Girls Clubhouse
Sept. 7, 2019	10 a.m.	Hulopoe, Lanai	Hulopoe Beach Park
Sept. 8, 2019	10 a.m.	Hulopoe, Lanai	Hulopoe Beach Park
Sept. 14, 2019	TBD	Hilo, Hawaii	TBD
Sept. 14, 2019	TBD	Molokai	TBD
Sept. 15, 2019	TBD	Hilo, Hawaii	TBD

About AVPFirst

[AVPFirst](#) is a 501©3 not-for-profit organization which operates as the official junior development program of the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour. AVPFirst was founded five years ago to create a national pipeline for youth beach volleyball development by consistently delivering the highest quality beach volleyball standards and using its unique ability to provide access to the pros, their coaches, tour resources and support as a mechanism for inspiration, preparation and development for all. Community Corner Clinics allow kids to start their interest in beach volleyball in their own neighborhood at local parks, schools and in conjunction with a national network of nonprofit partners.

About AVP

Established in 1983 and currently headquartered in Southern California, the AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals) is the world’s premier beach volleyball organization. The AVP today is comprised of five divisions: AVP Academy, AVPNext, AVP Pro Tour, AVP America and their non-profit 501(c)3 organization, AVPFirst. With a 36-year rich history in creating, staging, and marketing some of the most innovative and engaging sporting events in North America, the AVP has successfully developed an annual circuit that is not just a sporting event,

but a lifestyle as well. The AVP has been the home of some of the most respected athletes in professional sports, including: gold medalists Karch Kiraly, Kent Steffes, Misty May-Treanor, Kerri Walsh-Jennings, Todd Rogers, Dain Blanton and Phil Dalhausser. For more information, please visit www.AVP.com.

About the Hawaii Tourism Authority

The Hawaii Tourism Authority is the State of Hawaii agency responsible for strategically managing its support of the tourism industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawaii's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure tourism's sustainability and the benefits it brings to residents and communities statewide. For more information about HTA, please visit www.hawaiitourismauthority.org.

###

Media Contacts:

Crystal Yang Edwards for AVP, (310) 940-2228, crystal@makewavescommunications.com
Ashley L. Smith for AVP, (774) 994-7419, ashley@makewavescommunications.com
Marisa Yamane for Hawaii Tourism Authority, (808) 973-2272, marisa.yamane@gohta.net