

# 2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



**Kupono Fey**  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
NCAA Division I  
Assistant Men's Volleyball Coach

#### **Career Accomplishments to Date:**

- 2023 NCAA Runner-Ups
- 2023 Big West Champions
- 52-10 (overall record while on staff at UH)

#### **Coaching Roles:**

University of Hawaii at Manoa - Assistant Coach (June 2022-present)

#### **What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?**

My love for the game and my alma mater. Volleyball has given me so much; it has given me lifelong friends, gave me the ability to travel to places I wouldn't normally, to live abroad, gave me a great education and prepared me for life after volleyball. Even though I majored in civil engineering and became a project engineer after playing professionally overseas, I've always known coaching was my passion. I want to share

all my knowledge with these players to give them opportunities and experiences I had and more, so they can reach their full potential.

### **What are your career goals in the sport?**

My career goals include winning National Championships, becoming the best coach I can possibly be, and creating a strong environment for our players to excel and reach their potential. They are also to inspire more athletes (especially here in Hawai'i) to pursue volleyball as their main sport and to create more opportunities in general for young men to be able to play the sport they love in college and professionally.



### **Which coaches have influenced you the most?**

I couldn't be more thankful to Charlie Wade for believing in me as a player and a coach. He gave me an opportunity to play in college, to coach alongside him at UH and has always brought out the best in me. Milan Zarkovic has the most passion for volleyball I've ever met, it's contagious and inspiring. His dedication and commitment towards me is something I am forever grateful for. My parents have been huge influences and role models for me. They've sacrificed so much for me and everything I do, I do 100% because of them.

### **What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?**

I enjoy helping these players become their best on and off the court. I really enjoy seeing players "turn a corner" in their career, when it starts to click for them. When they realize they can work harder and they can practice longer. That they'll exponentially

become a better player by getting extra reps and going back into the weight room on their own. Some players realize this their freshman year, most realize it going into their junior/senior year and some realize it after they graduated. But either way, realizing this will always help them after volleyball.

