

2024

AVCA Thirty Under 30 Club



Tiana Nihipali

Maunalani Volleyball Club

Head Coach of 16u and Asst Coach of 18u Girls Division

Career Accomplishments to Date:

As a first year Coach in the 2023 season, won the Silver medal in the 18u Gold Division of the Under Armour Emperors Cup (JVA) & Bronze medal in the 18u Champions League for AAU Hawai'i. Also, led the team to a 5th place finish at the USAV Las Vegas Classic in the 18u Gold Division.

In my second year, won the Silver medal in the 18u Gold Division for the USAV-Aloha Region Premier League & 9th place finish at the JVA 18u National Championship in Louisville, KY.

Coaching Roles:

- '24 Season: Asst. Coach of 18u and 16u Girls
- '23 Season: Asst. Coach of 17/18u Girls
- Currently the Head Coach of the 16u Girls and Asst. Coach of 18u Girls

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

That'll be my Dad! Who was my Head Club Volleyball Coach. It inspired me in wanting to follow in his footsteps. To show our players what hard work can accomplish. That with volleyball, you're not just a player ON the court but OFF the court as well. In the classroom, with your family, your community and more

He loves to take the most underestimated players and turn them into someone that is least expected to be noticed! It truly pushes me to do the same & I hope to possibly be a Coach at the Collegiate level someday, too.

What are your career goals in the sport?

Coaching at the collegiate level would be an amazing opportunity for me. I didn't think that I would be someone that was interested in doing that at first. But starting to coach alongside my Dad & now leading my own team, has been such an eye opener for me. I truly enjoy it! And that was not something that I would have said a couple of years ago. But my dream would be to get back to the winners circle & win a National Championship with my team! Even winning a medal every season is really awesome for them!



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Besides my Dad? I have to honestly say that my last College Coach at Simpson University (CA) was a true inspiration. His patience, expertise and relationships that he formed with the Captains of the team made me want to have the opportunity to work with him someday. It would be a dream to Coach alongside him, if given the chance. He believes in tough love Coaching! And that's the way I was raised as well...something we call "old school".

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

Watching the players that I have worked with makes me proud to see them grow into collegiate players. Because I was one myself that no one first believed in, I look for the abilities in each player that we have on our team and see where their level can be. Not everyone is a D1 player, but there is a place for the girls we choose for our teams. And we are one of the only Club Team within Hawai'i that can say we've recruited all of our players that want to play at the next level in College!

