

2025

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Taylor Souza
Le Jardin Academy
Head of Girls Volleyball

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- 2024 HHSAA State Championship Runner-Up [Head of Program]
- 2025 ILH II Boys Intermediate Champions
- 2024 ILH II Boys Intermediate Champions
- 2022 ILH II Champions [Assistant Coach]
- 2022 HHSAA State Champions [Assistant Coach]
- 2022 ILH II Champions [Assistant Coach]
- 2021 ILH II State Championship Runner-Up [Assistant Coach]

Coaching Roles:

- Le Jardin Academy Girls Volleyball Head of Program - 2024
- Le Jardin Academy Varsity Girls Volleyball Co-Head Coach - 2023
- Le Jardin Academy Varsity Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach - 2019 - 2023
- Le Jardin Academy Boys Intermediate Head Coach - 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
- Le Jardin Academy Girls Intermediate Head Coach - 2020, 2021
- Ka Ulukoa: The Volleyball Institute Hawaii - Head Coach: 2020 - 2025
- Prospects Hawaii - Skills Coach: 2022 - 2025
- FUNdamentals of Sports - Volleyball Head Coach - 2019 - 2025
- Kauai'i Volleyball Clinics Co-Founder & Co-Head Coach - 2025

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I started coaching to stay connected and give back to a sport that's shaped so much of my life. I was lucky to learn from great coaches growing up, and I love creating that same experience for the athletes I work with now. What started as a way to stay involved has turned into something way bigger... there's nothing better than watching young people grow, figure things out, and realize how tough and capable they really are. Those lightbulb moments, big wins, and even the gritty breakthroughs, that's the part that makes it all worth it.

What are your career goals in the sport?

My goal is to continue building the LJA volleyball program from K-12 while having a hand in developing great humans, not just great athletes. I want every player to walk away with a positive experience, no matter their path after high school. I also want to keep supporting the growth of Ka Ulukoa and Prospects Hawaii. Ka Ulukoa shaped me as a player, and now being part of its expansion to 30 teams and nearly 500 athletes is incredibly rewarding. And of course, winning a state championship at LJA is definitely high on the list, too.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Lee Lamb has been one of the most influential coaches in my life. After a revolving door of coaches in high school, things clicked when he came in. He introduced the idea of legacy building at Le Jardin, which still shapes how I coach today. His focus on what really matters: player development, culture, and doing things the right way, has had a huge impact. I've played for him, coached under him, and now coach alongside him at Ka Ulukoa. I'm also inspired by Shane Kimura, who recruited me to Linfield and built lasting program culture during his 40-year tenure.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

What I enjoy most about coaching is building relationships. Getting to know athletes off the court, supporting their growth, and being someone they can count on means a lot to me. I also love connecting with their families and being part of their journey. Coaching has introduced me to an incredible network of people across the Hawai'i volleyball community, and those relationships are what make this work so fulfilling. On top of that, I'm constantly learning myself from the athletes, from the families, and from the coaches I'm lucky to be around every day.