

## “WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CORI BRETT?”

March 2011

### “OAHU GOLF AND BEACH”

It was like walking on water. Standup paddleboarding, that is. Gliding through gentle waves, I slowly brought the 11-foot board in to rest on the shore at Waikiki Beach. After all, my golf partners were waiting. Golf in Waikiki? Well, not exactly. By staying at Hilton Hawaiian Village, we had access to partner golf courses at discounted green fees that included a complimentary shuttle.

I'd wanted to play Ko'Olina Golf Club ever since I saw Paula Creamer win the 2008 Fields Open. It's beautifully manicured, lush and colorful. The multi-tiered greens can be a little frustrating. Designer Ted Robinson's signature water features define the course, but damage can be minimized with accurate shots to bailout areas. We drove under a cascading waterfall to reach the tee box on par-3 number 12. Ko'Olina is Michelle Wie's home course, where she grew up and learned to play golf. Three out of four tees are rated for women. Ko 'Olina's golf shop stocks terrific apparel and accessories. Love that ladybug logo! [www.koolinagolf.com](http://www.koolinagolf.com)



**18<sup>th</sup> Hole - Ko'Olina Golf Club**

Back at “the Village” in time for sunset, family members were eager to share the day's adventures. It's become our annual family vacation spot. This may sound trite, but there really is something for everyone. Great beachfront location and beach activities, restaurants and shopping within walking distance, and of course, access to some of the best golf courses on the island. Adults can relax, knowing little ones are looked after at Camp Penguin. Hilton Hawaiian Village celebrates 50 years in 2011. [www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com](http://www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com)

We got to know our “ABC's” at Hawaii Prince Golf Club, located on the sunny west side of Oahu. Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay designed the 27-hole course, three nines named A, B and C. The names may not be too imaginative, but the course is fun to play in any combination. If you like a challenge, number nine on the B Course ranks as the most difficult hole.. Water runs all along the left, with another small lake

to the front right. Actually water comes into play frequently throughout the course.

[www.princeresortshawaii.com](http://www.princeresortshawaii.com)



**9<sup>th</sup> Hole, B Course – Hawaii Prince Golf Club**

I'd recognize the "Hawaii Five-0" theme song anywhere. We stumbled across filming of the new series several times around Waikiki and even became part of a crowd scene. But I never did hear McGarrett say those magic words: "Book 'em, Danno!"

If you're on Oahu with a friend or relative with military privileges, do play the military courses. Green fees and tee-time reservation policy adhere to military rank and are reasonable at all levels. Somehow, I didn't expect them to be particularly women-friendly. I was pleasantly surprised, especially with the famous Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course. Two out of three sets of tees are rated for women.



**13<sup>th</sup> Hole - Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course**

Our foursome of two couples agreed it was fair and fun, not to mention absolutely stunning. The jungle-like Ko'olau Mountains were shrouded in mist. We could feel the salt spray all along number 13 as waves pounded the sand on wild and untamed beaches. The Klipper Course opened in 1947. It's on the Marine Corps Base near where President Obama and his family vacation, on the windward side of the island. [www.mccshawaii.com/golf](http://www.mccshawaii.com/golf) The closest military course to Waikiki is Malama Bay Golf Course, located along the ocean on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor & Hickam Air force Base.

When the vacation's over, I head to The International Market Place for souvenirs. This open-air market on busy Kalakaua Avenue has more than 130 little shops and carts sheltered under a century-old banyan tree and lush palms. Great island wear, jewelry, and gifts – much of it locally-made. I bought a gorgeous, brightly colored beach wrap. Now if only I had taken that class on “Twelve Ways to Tie a Sarong.”

*“Escape with Cori” on assignment to exotic and fun golf destinations. First-hand impressions from an experienced golf travel writer and AWGA member. [www.coribrett.com](http://www.coribrett.com). Copyright Cori Brett 2011 – do not copy or cite in whole or in part without permission.*