

Application for Course Ambassador

Pukalani Country Club | July 20, 2026

Dear Pukalani Country Club Hiring Manager:

I am applying for the part-time Course Ambassador position because I want to begin working in the golf industry and become more involved with Pukalani Country Club. I play Pukalani approximately five days per week and have substituted in the Friday league several times, so I already know the course, its regular players, and many of its pace-of-play patterns. My long-term goal is to learn golf-course operations and eventually grow into an operations or general-management position.

I understand that a Course Ambassador's primary responsibility is to protect the golfer's experience. That means being friendly and approachable, monitoring pace of play, addressing problems diplomatically, locating lost property, communicating with the Pro Shop, and helping the day run smoothly. My professional background gives me the maturity and judgment to handle those responsibilities without requiring constant supervision.

I previously owned and operated Pappy's Pizza in Lakeland Hills, Washington, for approximately three years, managing 8-10 part-time employees. That experience taught me how to serve customers, resolve complaints, manage employees, maintain a facility, and keep a customer-facing business operating smoothly during busy and unpredictable situations.

I later founded and ran operations, product development, and logistics for Winberry Farms. I helped build and scale the company through an eight-figure acquisition. In addition to managing production, facilities, employees, vendors, and distribution, I designed the property's landscaping and designed and built an automated irrigation system for its commercial farm. I subsequently served as Vice President of Operations for Dionymed Holdings' Pacific Northwest operations and as COO of Ampli Technologies.

I also have approximately ten years of professional construction experience. I began as a laborer, advanced to carpenter, and eventually transitioned into an exclusive independent-contractor role. As a project lead carpenter working directly under the company owner and project manager, I site-managed and supervised complete home builds and major remodels. My experience includes framing, finish carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, installation, repairs, troubleshooting, and general property maintenance. Most recently, I completed a whole-house build for myself in Haiku.

Additional qualifications

The capability I would most like to highlight — and the one I think could bring Pukalani the most unexpected value — is my work with artificial intelligence. Over the past few years I have gone deep into AI, not as a novelty but as a working tool. I design, build, and operate AI-driven software and automated systems, including systems that run continuously and largely manage themselves. Where a project once required a full team, I can now research, build, and deploy it on my own by directing AI. It has become the core of how I work — and it is the exact skill companies across nearly every industry are now racing to hire for.

That AI work sits on top of a complete technical foundation. I build and operate full-stack software, databases, cloud infrastructure, data pipelines, real-time data feeds, monitoring systems, and automated business processes. My primary language is Python, and I also work in JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL, PowerShell, Bash, and some C++, with hands-on experience across PostgreSQL, Docker, cloud servers, Vercel, Cloudflare, and scheduled automated services. AI is what ties it together: I use it to design, write, test, and maintain these systems far faster and more capably than would otherwise be possible.

For a club, that translates into practical, modern capability. Beyond the Course Ambassador duties, I could help build or improve booking and point-of-sale systems, member data and communications, websites, scheduling, reporting, operational tracking, and on-site technology — and increasingly, I can automate the repetitive parts of that work with AI. The kind of custom software and automation that larger organizations pay whole teams to build, I am able to build and run on my own. This same experience means I learn unfamiliar technology quickly, diagnose problems methodically, and deliver working solutions rather than just ideas.

My formal background reinforces that discipline. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Sciences from the University of North Dakota, graduating cum laude, along with a Commercial Pilot Certificate (airplane single-engine land, multi-engine land, and instrument ratings) and Certified Flight Instructor and Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument certificates. Aviation is not directly related to golf, but earning those ratings demanded discipline, sound judgment, situational awareness, and the ability to master complicated systems safely — the same qualities I bring to both technology and the course. I was also previously CPR-certified.

I recognize that my background is broader than a Course Ambassador role typically requires, and I believe that breadth is exactly what would let me contribute to Pukalani in more than one capacity. I want to enter the golf industry, contribute to my home course, and learn the business from the ground up. I am prepared to prove myself by doing the Course Ambassador job well, while remaining available to help modernize and support the club wherever my technical and AI experience may be valuable.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the position and how I could contribute to Pukalani Country Club.

Sincerely,

John "BJ" Maks

Professional experience

Ampli Technologies — Chief Operating Officer

December 2024 – November 2025

- Led the company's non-technical operations, overseeing the business and organizational functions outside the CTO's engineering responsibilities.
- Managed operational strategy, company planning, priorities, internal processes, and cross-functional coordination.
- Directed the business side of product development, including roadmap planning, prioritization, milestone tracking, and launch readiness.
- Established operating procedures, internal communication systems, and accountability across the organization.
- Supported business development, strategic partnerships, go-to-market planning, and executive communications.
- Helped ensure that technical development remained aligned with the company's business objectives and customer needs.

Dionymed Holdings — Vice President of Operations, Pacific Northwest

2018 – 2020

- Directed Pacific Northwest operations for a publicly traded cannabis company operating in a highly regulated industry.
- Oversaw product development, production, packaging, fulfillment, facilities, inventory, logistics, and distribution.
- Ran IT for the company's Oregon operations, managing the technology systems and day-to-day technical support required by the business.
- Managed cross-functional teams and coordinated activities among employees, vendors, production facilities, and distribution partners.
- Developed and improved production procedures, operational workflows, and quality-control systems.
- Led the operational execution of new product launches while maintaining regulatory compliance, product quality, and reliable production schedules.

Winberry Farms — Founder and Director of Operations

2015 – 2018

- Founded and built an Oregon cannabis production and consumer-products company that was ultimately sold in an approximately \$11 million transaction.
- Developed the company's operational infrastructure from the ground up, including product development, manufacturing, packaging, facilities, inventory management, logistics, and distribution.
- Planned the company's commercial farm and designed its operational layout, property infrastructure, landscaping, and automated irrigation system.
- Ran the company's IT operations, managing its internal technology systems and day-to-day technical needs.
- Managed employees, vendors, production schedules, quality control, regulatory requirements, and daily business operations.
- Designed and implemented systems that allowed the company to scale production while maintaining product consistency and operational efficiency.
- Designed custom automated packaging equipment that was used to produce millions of finished units.