Proposed Arizona bill could cost millions

Courses claim that tax break is necessary to survival

PHOENIX — A state lawmaker plans to introduce a bill that would end the property tax breaks enjoyed by the majority of Arizona's 300 golf courses.

Currently, land dedicated to golf course use is assessed at $800 an acre, plus a low per-hole assessment, which is far below comparable land developed with homes or businesses. Even vacant land on the outskirts of Phoenix is reportedly assessed as much as 50 times higher than golf course property.

State Rep. Ken Cheuvront, a Democrat from central Phoenix, has said that overall, Arizona golf courses are assessed at least $1 billion below their values. "We need to bring them up to their real value," Cheuvront told The Arizona Republic.

"They [courses] wouldn't be built if they were assessed at a higher rate."
— Troon Pres. Dana Garmany

Irrigation renovation planned for Hawaiian links

WAILUA, Hawaii - The multi-million-dollar reconstruction of a leaky and outdated irrigation system at the Wailua Golf Course could begin in early April, according to course superintendent Brian Carew.

Depending on what is eventually approved, the project could involve the replacement of irrigation lines, two pumps and irrigation heads and the abandonment of a 10,000-gallon irrigation tank. The county hopes that once the work is done, the layout will once again be a major attraction for local and visiting golfers on the island of Kauai. Wailua was consistently ranked among the best municipal courses in the country during the 1980s.

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