

# 40 Under 40 Class of 2017: Christopher Thibaut

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[Christopher Thibaut](#), 34  
CEO, [Maui Brewing Restaurant Group](#)

As the leader of Maui Brewing’s restaurant arm, [Christopher Thibaut](#) has followed his parent’s footsteps as a success story in the Hawaii restaurant industry.

His family started TS Restaurants, and his earliest memories are of working in the kitchen.

“I was always really eager to work in the restaurants before I was even legally allowed to do so. So my dad would give me odd jobs to do around the restaurant, usually maintenance related,” Thibaut said. “I felt like a part of the crew whenever I could get involved, and I could never really imagine doing anything else.”

[Garrett Marrero](#), who co-founded Maui Brewing Co. with his wife, Melanie, in 2005, brought on Thibaut as CEO of Maui Brewing Restaurant Group in 2015.

With a business degree from the University of San Diego and a passion for the job, Thibaut led the company through an expansion when he opened its first Oahu restaurant at the Holiday Inn Resort Waikiki Beachcomber.

Alongside Handcrafted Restaurants CEO William Terry, Thibaut spearheaded the multimillion-dollar renovation of the space, transitioning it into one of Waikiki’s newest popular eateries, all while continuing his work with TS Restaurants as a top board member, and planning two more locations for the brand at the company’s headquarters in Kihei and in Kailua.

Thibaut said he combines the mission, vision and values to create a solid foundation for a restaurant.

“Together, those three components not only define how your restaurant looks, or what type of food you serve, but also gives your restaurant purpose beyond serving great food and drinks,” Thibaut said. “It aligns your people with a common definition of success, vision for the future, and a plan to achieve your big goals.”

Earlier this year, he co-founded UVSC, a foundation that supports those fighting cancer. It was with UVSC that Thibaut experienced the proudest moment of his career.

“Our first donation drive was to benefit Trucker Dukes, a little legend who had been fighting cancer since he was 18 months old. I’m heartbroken to share that he passed last month, but he inspired millions with his bravery and playful heart,” Thibaut said. “UVSC was able to unite the community inspired by him to donate to his cause and help to ease the immense financial burden his family had incurred because of the cancer treatments.”