



Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau
Hawai'i Convention Center

1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815

kelepona tel 808 943 3500

kelepa'i fax 808 943 3099

kahua pa'a web meethawaii.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2016

WHAT'S NEW IN HAWAII FOR MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS & INCENTIVES

Aloha! With summer in full swing, the cool ocean breeze and warm rays of the island sunshine provide for the perfect atmosphere to visit Hawai'i. An abundance of updates and developments for meetings, conventions and incentive travel, complemented by unique group offerings and activities, make quarter three an exciting time to book and enjoy the Hawai'i sunshine.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEETING VENUES

The Aston Aloha Beach Hotel underwent a major renovation on **Kaua'i** and officially re-opened as **Hilton Garden Inn Kauai/Wailua Bay**. Improvements have been made to the 216 guestrooms, lobby, meeting space of approximately 5,000 square feet, exteriors, fitness center, indoor pool and 24-hour business center. The beachfront property offers guests its signature elements, like Hilton's pressure-reducing "Garden Sleep System" bed, ergonomic desk chair, LCD high-definition, flat-screen television, work desk, a "hospitality center" featuring a mini refrigerator and Keurig single-cup coffee brewer in every guest room, and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. HiltonGardenInnKauai.com

The largest Hilton Garden Inn in the world recently opened on **O'ahu**. The 623-room **Hilton Garden Inn Waikiki Beach** is now accepting reservations for stays from June 27 on. Situated in the dynamic hub of Waikiki, the hotel is just two blocks from Waikiki Beach and within walking distance of many of the resort area's most popular shopping, dining and entertainment attractions. TR Fire Grill, the hotel's chef-inspired American bistro, will serve a menu of seasonally inspired dishes crafted with locally sourced produce from Hawai'i's farms. HgiWaikikiBeach.com

Ka'anapali Beach Hotel is set majestically on a three-mile stretch of sandy beach along the sunny western shores of Maui, making it an ideal setting for a memorable Hawaiian experience. They will continue to enrich guests' experience through authentic cultural offerings with the official opening of their new water center, **Hale Huaka'i**. The Hale Huaka'i offers a Hawaiian perspective to several popular ocean activities such as surfing, stand up paddle boarding, snorkeling, conch shell blowing and more. KBHMaui.com

The **Leahi Club Lounge** at the **Sheraton Waikiki** on **O'ahu** is now available for group meetings or use as a private space. Perched 30 floors above Hawai'i's most famous beach, the Leahi Club Lounge is Hawai'i's first Sheraton Club Lounge and was named after the original Hawaiian name for Diamond Head as it overlooks Diamond Head, Waikiki Beach, the ocean and island skyline. Sheraton-Waikiki.com/RoomsAndSuites/LeahiClub

-more-

Nāmakanipaio Campground in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has reopened on the **island of Hawai'i**. Established in the 1960s, today the campground features drive-in campsites for tent camping, restrooms, showers, barbecues, and 10 rustic one-room A-frame cabins. The cabins feature bunk beds and can sleep four. The campground has a fresh light and open look during the day, Mauna Loa is again visible, and at night, campers can enjoy a wider view of the sky, illuminated by stars and the glow from the lava lake in Halema'uma'u Crater. The Jaggar Museum observation deck, the closest vantage point to this eruption site, is an easy half-mile hike from Nāmakanipaio. HawaiiVolcanoHouse.com

Travelers looking for a higher level of comfort and exclusiveness on **Maui** are able to give themselves the "suite escape" they deserve at **The Westin Maui Resort & Spa**. The resort's 553 newly renovated guest rooms and suites in the Ocean Tower feature brand new furnishings such as the Westin's famed Heavenly Bed, present in all rooms. The layers of comfort will make any guest count sheep as they rest peacefully amidst the soft island breeze. The pampering continues for those looking for a luxurious getaway within the resort's 29 suites that include Luxury Suites. As featured on ABC's television series *The Bachelorette*, these oceanfront suites offer multiple balconies to enjoy spectacular views of Maui's island sunsets, a spacious master bedroom and oversized bathroom.

At **The Westin Maui Resort & Spa**, meetings and incentive retreats encompass far more than learning and networking as its idyllic setting is most appealing for adventures on **Maui** such as snorkel and sunset cruises, golfing and exploring historic Lāhainā. Planners will find stimulating opportunities to design the perfect event, whether it is a team building scavenger hunt that takes them through the resort's botanical gardens with calming streams, waterfalls and koi ponds featuring wildlife such as flamingos or a local-style beachfront barbecue where the stunning sunsets are rivaled only by excellent sustainable cuisine. WestinMaui.com

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

When it comes to adventure, the **Aloha Kauai Tours' Rainforest Tour** has no comparison. With the combination of four wheel drive vehicles and hikes across the island's great rainforests, there's nothing that guests won't miss. Expert guides will lead the way as guests venture into the heart of Kaua'i. Along the trail, guests will witness many natural wonders such as the Opaeka'a Falls, Wailua Reservoir, or the Keahua Arboretum. There's no better way to discover the great history and culture of Hawai'i than this remarkable excursion. Don't worry about small rain showers, for ponchos and walking sticks are provided, as well as snacks, beverages, and backpacks. AlohaKauaiTours.com

Bishop Museum has announced their newest venture, the Hawai'i Monarchs Tour which began on June 1. The tour features a combination experiences on **O'ahu** including stops at the Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace, with lunch and transportation provided. The journey begins at 'Iolani Palace with captivating stories about the royal residents and how they lived, as guests are led through the first floor state rooms and second floor private quarters. Following lunch, guests travel further back in time and embrace the true spirit of the Hawaiian Islands as they journey through Bishop Museum's 3,900 exhibits. Here, visitors learn stories of the trials and triumphs of Hawai'i's Ali'i (royal class). Tours are offered weekly on

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and run through the day from 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

BishopMuseum.org

Guests of the **Four Seasons Resort Hualālai** are invited to dive deep into Hawai'i's contemporary art scene on the **island of Hawai'i**, as local talent unveil masterful works of art during the Hawai'i Master Artists Series, July 4 – August 26. Exclusive shows will change every two weeks, and feature artist workshops, local style 'talk story' collector receptions and private dining experiences with master artists. FourSeasons.com/Hualalai

The new Island Adventure Center, located at **Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i**, is the perfect home base for both guests and day visitors to enjoy a range of activities managed by the resort. Enjoy daily horseback rides through wooded upland trails, explore heritage sites on a guided Polaris UTV tour or hike beautiful **Lāna'i** on a selection of trails where you will see amazing vistas and discover untouched Hawai'i on this one-of-a-kind island. Sleek Airstream trailers nestled within the forests and plains offer a welcome respite, with comfort stations, toiletries and refreshment. FourSeasons.com/Lanai

Ka'anapali Surf Club has launched new kayak and snorkel eco-tours. These low impact ecotourism activities are designed to enrich the **Maui** visitor experience by building environmental and cultural awareness of West Maui's famed Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock) destination. The eco-tours depart from The Westin Resort & Spa, located in the heart of Ka'anapali. For two hours, knowledgeable guides share ancient Hawaiian history and local folklore as well as information on marine wildlife. Tours are available weekly.

KaanapaliSurfClub.com

Nohona Hawai'i - which can be translated as "living the Hawaiian culture" or "living the Hawaiian way" - is also the name of an expanded program by **Kapoho Kine Adventures** focused on protecting Hawai'i's natural resources and their crucial bond in preserving Hawaiian culture. Nohona Hawai'i allows visitors to split time between ziplining Hawai'i's longest tandem zipline, and working in a *mala* (cultivated garden) or *lo'i* (irrigated terrace), cleaning trails or planting native flora on **island of Hawai'i**. KapohoKine.com

Maui Ocean Center will conduct its annual *Holomua Na Honu* Turtle Release in mid-August 2016. Maui Ocean Center's turtles serve as educational ambassadors through Sea Life Park Hawai'i's Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program. The hatchlings are born at Sea Life Park Hawai'i and raised at Maui Ocean Center for two years until they are released. This provides a head start for hatchlings and allows guests to learn about this endangered species. *Holomua Na Honu* is a privately held event. Guests are encouraged to see the turtles before their release. MauiOceanCenter.com

MauiWine adds a new experience for wine enthusiasts. The King's Visit, available on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4p.m., includes a tour of the winery, cellar and bottling line; an inside look and conversation on how MauiWine works with **Maui's** unique soil and weather to successfully grow its six varietals in Ulupalakua including syrah, malbec, grenache, viognier, chenin blanc and gewürztraminer. King's Visit also includes tastings of its small production and estate-grown wines with seasonal palate pairings for each wine. Private tours for two or more are also available. MauiWine.com

Outfitters Kaua'i offers a new "Kahuna Zipline Trek" tour. This course has a total of six lines. No beginner lines. This tour heads straight to the thrills of a take-off tower for two. Race side by side on tandem lines. Soar high above towering trees, through the forest canopy and high above rivers and waterfalls of **Kaua'i**. Take in the amazing views of Kīpū Ranch— 4,000 acres of beautiful diverse terrain with scenery made famous in movies like Jurassic Park, Pirates of the Caribbean, Indiana Jones, the Descendants and many more. The Ziplines are designed, built and operated according to the highest safety standards as set by the ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology). OutfittersKauai.com

Get a "bird's-eye" view of Lāna'i and Maui Nui with **Paradise Helicopters** in an ultra-modern helicopter, affording vistas of coastline, mountaintops, waterfalls and wild game. Choose from the 20-minute Lāna'i Circle Island tour, which provides an aerial understanding of the island's history, culture, and beauty. Or choose the 2.5 hour Maui Nui Experience and explore the islands of Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe, Maui, and Moloka'i or custom-craft your own Four Seasons Hawai'i Charter Experience with Paradise Helicopters. Tours offered Thursday and Fridays. FourSeasons.com/Lanai

DINING

BLT Market recently opened at the Ritz-Carlton Residences Waikiki on June 28, 2016. Sourcing from partnerships with local island purveyors and farmers, BLT Market features a daily-changing menu with seasonal offerings created by Executive Chef Johan Svensson. From an all-day menu, to brunch on the weekends, overnight menu and specialty tea service, BLT Market offers a dining experience that's truly ripe for any time and season! www.blmarket.com

Eating House 1849 by Roy Yamaguchi recently opened at the Shops at Kukui'ula on **Kaua'i's** south shore. The new restaurant offers signature dishes made famous at the 30 Roy's restaurants, but Eating House will mainly showcase new flavors, ingredients and dishes inspired by Portuguese, Filipino and Spanish influences. EatingHouse1849.com

California's Malibu Farm, a favorite of local residents, surfers and A-list celebrities alike, is now open at Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i. "Fresh, organic, local" is the motto at Malibu Farms, with menu favorites including quinoa oatmeal with coconut milk, fried egg sandwiches, a kale Caesar salad, soy marinated steak, burgers with bacon marmalade and an array of freshly squeezed juices. The restaurant will offer brunch, lunch and cocktails along with a sunset sabering ceremony. FourSeasons.com/Lanai

Mediterranean Gourmet reopened at Hanalei Colony Resort on **Kaua'i**. After 10 months of renovations, the popular Mediterranean Gourmet restaurant reopens its doors. Amongst the restaurant changes, the husband-and-wife team Imad and Yarrow Beydoun introduce a number of new menu items such as pizzas, a Wagyu beef burger, and an organic grass-fed Rib Eye Steak. All-time favorites such as Seafood Paella, Rosemary Rack of Lamb, and Chicken Marsala are also readily available. KauaiMedGourmet.com

Celebrating the abundance and variety of quality foods and ingredients on **Maui**, **Japengo's Maui Tastemakers Series** features a dining experience carefully crafted around and inspired by our local partners. Each event presents a unique menu carefully crafted to feature one of our valued Maui partners, including farmers, artisans, fishermen, and beverage makers. Let us share with you how Maui continues to inspire our award-winning cuisine and us.

HyattHotels.Hyatt.com/Corporate.Restaurants/Japengo/En/Maui/Events-Specials.html

Guests can indulge like royalty at The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort's "Royal Breakfast Buffet." **The Surf Lanai** on **O'ahu**, renowned for its sweeping views of Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head, has reintroduced the breakfast buffet experience with a modern twist. Selections include fresh Kahuku papaya, exotic fruit salad, muesli, smoked salmon salad with mini bagels, pīpīkaula spinach breakfast sandwich, grilled Portuguese sausage, miso soup and a waffle bar. Patrons also will be able to select from Royal signature breakfast items, including Pink Palace pancakes with guava raspberry shortcake; The Royal Loco Moco featuring port wine-braised beef short ribs and two sunny-side-up eggs; and Kalua Pork-style Hash with poached egg and Hawaiian chili pepper hollandaise. The breakfast buffet is served daily from 6:30 to 11 a.m., in addition to the Surf Lanai's ala carte menu. Royal-Hawaiian.com/Dining/SurfLanai

TRANSPORTATION

Island Air resumed service to the island of Kaua'i with six daily round-trip flights between Honolulu and Līhu'e Airport (LIH). The return to Līhu'e is expected to benefit Kaua'i and the traveling public by offering more seats and more flight options for interisland travel, and the new service will create local jobs. IslandAir.com

Virgin America now flies daily nonstop flights to Hawai'i from Los Angeles International Airport, California (LAX), to Honolulu International Airport, **O'ahu** (HNL), and began service to Kahului International Airport, **Maui**, on June 14. Hawai'i continues to be the No. 1 visitor destination for travelers from the West Coast, with more than 3.3 million visitors arriving in 2014. VirginAmerica.com

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Celebrate the Fourth of July at the **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows** on the island of Hawai'i with the resort's 27th annual Turtle Independence Day. The celebration kicks off beachfront with a welcome ceremony and hula performance by Hālau Waiau, followed by the release of *honu* (Hawaiian green sea turtles) into waters off the hotel. Since 1989, the Mauna Lani has received *honu* from O'ahu's Sea Life Park and raised them in the hotel's ponds until they're old enough to be released into the open ocean. The annual celebration will also feature live entertainment and *honu* educational displays. It all happens July 4, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. MaunaLani.com

Everyone is mad for mangoes at the **Moana Surfrider**, A Westin Resort & Spa's 8th annual "Mangoes at the Moana" event on Saturday, July 16 at the Moana's Banyan Courtyard on

O'ahu. Highlighting the celebration of Hawaii's favorite summer fruit will be an all-star cast of top island chefs and restaurateurs who will battle head-to-head in the Mango Throw Down. Other events include: Best Mango Contest, Mango Farmer's Market, Silent Auction, Mango Cooking Demonstrations, Mango Cocktail Mixdown and Mango 101.

Moana-Surfrider.com/Dining/MangoesAtTheMoana

Held in the **Kaua'i** town and district where Hawai'i's first sugar plantation was founded in 1835, **Kōloa Plantation Days** offers a multi-day slate of lively, family-oriented events showcasing the area's agricultural and natural history, and diverse multicultural traditions. Bring the family to Kaua'i's sunny south coast for the celebration's many events, which will include sporting activities and entertainment offered throughout the Po'ipū and Kōloa area. Kōloa Plantation Days happens July 22-31. KoloaPlantationDays.com

The **Made in Hawai'i Festival** gathers more than 400 exhibitors in one place offering for sale all things Hawai'i-made, from art, clothing, food and home furnishings, to jewelry, toys, fresh produce, plants and Hawaiian arts and crafts. An annual hit with residents and visitors, the fest also hosts free cooking demonstrations and live musical performances. This year's Made in Hawaii Festival happens Aug. 19-21 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall and Arena on **O'ahu**. MadeInHawaiiFestival.com

Travelers may enjoy hula and music, watch skilled artisan demonstrations, and try their hand at Hawaiian crafts at the **36th annual Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival and BioBlitz**, happening Aug. 27, 2016 on the Island of Hawai'i. The free festival will include a "BioBlitz" - a fun, hands-on opportunity to observe and document plants and animals that thrive in the lava flows and native rainforests of Kīlauea volcano - led by individuals and organizations at the forefront of conservation, science and Hawaiian culture. NPS.gov/Havo

O'ahu's annual **Aloha Festivals** is a cultural celebration of Hawai'i's music, dance and history, featuring parades, street parties, concerts and family activities. The Aloha Festivals' Waikīkī Ho'olaule'a, the resort area's largest annual block party, happens September 17, with thousands of residents and visitors gathering to take in Hawaiian culture, crafts, food and hula. On Sept. 24, the Aloha Festivals' 70th annual Floral Parade will take place on Kalākaua Avenue with a colorful procession of flower-bedecked floats, marching bands, pā'ū horseback riders and more.

AlohaFestivals.com

The **Lava Lava Beach Club** on the **island of Hawai'i** set new standards for island-inspired cuisine and creative cocktails served up with a toes-in-the-sand ambiance. With live music featured every night at Lava Lava, Aloha Fridays just got even better! The entertainment lineup at the Beach Club each Friday now features sets by renowned Hawai'i musicians Henry Kaponu or John Cruz, and the island of Hawai'i's own LT Smooth. Residents and visitors, who already enjoy Lava Lava's beachfront location, will now dine, drink, celebrate and relax each Friday as the new lineup of entertainers plays some of Hawai'i's favorite music after sunset.

LavaLavaBeachClub.com

SPECIAL OFFERS

Destination Resorts Hawaii partners with **Maui's** best spas and restaurants to provide more value to its guests. Offering the largest selection of villa rentals on Wailea and Makena, guests booking two- to five-bedroom villas in one of Destination Resorts Hawai'i's beachfront resorts will receive \$155 in certificates to Duo Steak and Seafood, Ko, Ruth's Chris Steak House and Tommy Bahama restaurants, and the spas at Four Seasons, Fairmont Kea Lani and Grand Wailea. DestinationResidencesHawaii.com

Bring the whole family and take advantage of two beachfront rooms at **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** on the **island of Hawai'i** for one great price that includes complimentary breakfast. Just steps away from world-famous Kaunaoa Beach and Bay, guests can also enjoy enhanced beach experiences at the all-new Beach Club at Mauna Kea as well as an exciting array of cultural activities such as authentic Hawaiian wood carving, coconut-frond weaving, throw-net fishing, hula lessons and more. The two-for-one promotion is valid until Sept. 30, 2016.

MaunaKeaBeachHotel.com

Get ready to "Spring Into Summer" at **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel**. Enjoy warm relaxing days on Hapuna Beach ending with sublime sunset views from the Beach Bar or Coast Grille of the **island of Hawai'i**. The beachfront hotel's "Spring Into Summer" package offers guests a guaranteed ocean view room; daily breakfast for two, and every fourth night is free. Rates are based on select room categories and exclude tax and daily resort charge.

HapunaBeachPrinceHotel.com

In celebration of the **Moana Surfrider's** 115th birthday this year, the **O'ahu** hotel is offering a 115th Anniversary room package. For stays of at least four nights, the last night is just \$115. In addition, guests who book this package will receive a \$115 resort credit (applicable toward dining or spa services), as well as a welcome basket with a Moana Surfrider historical book and other gifts. The package is good through Dec. 25 and is commissionable for travel agents. To book the package, simply go to the Moana Surfrider website and book rate plan 115AN. Kama'aina room rates are also available to Hawaii residents who provide a proof of residency at check in.

Moana-Surfrider.com

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i has just received the coveted AAA Five Diamond designation. Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i is now part of a very select group representing the upper echelon of the hospitality industry in North America holding the AAA Five Diamond Rating. Hotels at this level employ experienced, highly qualified staff to provide the custom service luxury hotel guests expect, according to AAA. These establishments deliver unmatched guest comfort with luxurious accommodations, extraordinary facilities and many personalized amenities.

Business Insider's annual "World's Best Hotels" list, awards **Wailea Beach Villas** as the "Best Hotel in Hawai'i." Selections are based on aggregated data from hotel rankings made by elite travel publications and websites. Wailea Beach Villas' ocean front location on 11 acres of lush,

Hawaiian gardens, and its 98 luxuriously furnished villas on **Maui** make it a top choice amongst travelers and an award-winner favorite.

Kapalua Golf's Plantation Course was named the #1 course in Hawai'i by Golfweek Magazine for the 10th consecutive year. Home to the annual PGA TOUR's Tournament of Champions each January, The Plantation Course is one of Kapalua's famed two courses and has received numerous awards and accolades since it opened in 1991. The lengthy 7,411 yard par-73 course provides one of **Maui's** most challenging course layouts and was designed by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore. The Arnold Palmer/Francis Duane-designed Bay Course was also ranked as the No. 11 best golf course in Hawai'i.

###

About Meet Hawai'i

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) to reinforce the brand of the Hawaiian Islands as a world-class destination for business meetings, conventions, and incentive programs. The marketing efforts of the Meet Hawai'i team are overseen by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the state of Hawai'i's tourism agency. HTA was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai'i's economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs. For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit MeetHawaii.com.

Media Contacts:

Meet Hawai'i

Nathan Kam

Anthology Marketing Group

808-539-3471

nathan.kam@anthologygroup.com

Michelle Hee

Anthology Marketing Group

808-539-3474

michelle.hee@anthologygroup.com