

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WHAT'S NEW IN HAWAI'I FOR MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS & INCENTIVES

### **VENUE & PROPERTY UPDATES**

- Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa (O'ahu) welcomes a new, expanded space on its outdoor Na Lea Terrace, perfect for private events and group meetings. Earlier this year, the resort began a \$100 million renovation to its 1,230 guest rooms, slated for completion in March 2015. Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa offers 19,500 square feet of meetings and function space, including its Regency Ballroom Convention Center. Waikiki. Hyatt.com
- Kaua'i Marriott Resort on Kalapakī Beach recently completed \$50 million in enhancements and will upgrade its Kaua'i and Puna Ballrooms at the end of 2014. The largest on the island, the Kaua'i Ballroom can accommodate up to 1,200 for receptions and 1,000 for banquets. The Puna Ballroom provides 3,150 square feet of meeting space and is divisible into four sections that can each comfortably seat groups in a classroom or banquet setting. MarriottHawaii.com/Kauai
- **Grand Wailea** (Maui) is enhancing its property through early 2015, including a refresh of its 78 Napua guest rooms and 650 standard guest rooms. The overall design will focus on a clear sense of place with a sleek and modern aesthetic. Rooms will receive all new furniture, fresh artwork by regional and local artists, new carpeting with ceramic tile at entryways, and upgraded bathrooms. <a href="GrandWailea.com">GrandWailea.com</a>
- **DoubleTree by Hilton Alana Waikiki** (O'ahu) recently completed the redesign of its seventh floor function room. The Pikake Room now features floor to ceiling glass windows with upgraded lighting, carpeting, wall covering, and restrooms for MCI events. The remodeled space brings the number of private function options at the property to 10, ranging from intimate meeting rooms for four or more to the 200-seat Pikake Room. DoubleTree3.Hilton.com
- **Kaua'i Beach Resort**, which provides seven meeting rooms and a spacious and versatile ballroom in Līhu'e, has renovated its fitness center and Shutter's Lounge with nightly entertainment ideal for meetings and incentive groups. The resort offers inclusive group rates for MCI programs. <u>KauaiBeachResortHawaii.com</u>
- The **Battleship Missouri Memorial** (O'ahu) recently unveiled its newly renovated **Wardroom**, which can be utilized by groups seeking to meet in a unique historical venue. As part of a long-term restoration project of the officers' living quarters aboard the Mighty Mo, the Wardroom has been restored to its 1991 operational condition, when the USS *Missouri* was last in service. With the completion of the Wardroom, groups can host meetings and conferences in the same place where the *Missouri's* officers dined and strategized while leading America's last battleship during three wars World War II, the Korean War, and Desert Storm. **USSMissouri.org**

- The **USS** *Bowfin* **Submarine Museum and Park** (O'ahu) announced a new after-hour event program. The USS *Bowfin*, permanently ported at Pearl Harbor, can host groups of up to 250 visitors for sit-down dinners and 600 for cocktail parties. <u>Bowfin.org</u>
- The Resort Group, one of Hawai'i's largest landowners of resort developments; Westbank, Canada's premier luxury hotel and residential developer; and Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts have confirmed plans for Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina, an integrated luxury beach resort and private residences that will be the jewel in the crown of the master-planned Ko Olina development. <a href="Press.FourSeasons.com">Press.FourSeasons.com</a>

## **RETAIL, ACTIVITIES & DINING**

- Ala Moana Center, the world's largest outdoor shopping center located a block away from Hawai'i Convention Center, is currently undergoing a multimillion dollar project to add a three-level retail space to the 'ewa (west) end of the center and upgrade other common areas throughout the center. Once completed, the new wing will feature an additional 650,000 square feet of retail space, including Bloomingdale's, large format retailers, dining, entertainment, and 200,000 square feet of inline retailers.

  AlaMoanaCenter.com
- Construction is underway on the revitalization of the **International Market Place** in Waikīkī, which is scheduled to re-open in spring 2016. The 360,000-square-foot open-air shopping center located in the heart of Waikīkī will offer groups a variety of new retail, dining, and entertainment options. The International Market Place will include approximately 75 retailers, seven restaurants and the island's first full-line Saks Fifth Avenue. ShopInternationalMarketplace.com
- Starting in January 2015, groups staying in or visiting O'ahu's North Shore will have a new stop to enjoy at the **Polynesian Cultural Center**. Currently under construction, the **Hukilau Marketplace** will offer a variety of Polynesia-inspired dining, retail and product offerings excellent for groups, along with live entertainment on a regular basis. Admission and parking is free for guests with validation. <u>Polynesia.com</u>
- O'ahu's world-renowned restaurant, Chef Mavro, now offers "Star Catering" services
  for casual business gatherings to first-class events. Creative one-bite canapés,
  entertaining action stations, sit-down dinners, and award-winning menus are catered to
  luxury boutiques, hotels, scenic outdoor locations, or landmark buildings serving
  groups up to 1,000. ChefMavro.com
- Mauna Kea Resort has introduced new group dining experiences including the "Coast Grill Garden Party" and "Plantation Beach House Party." Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel takes farm to table to a new, hyper-local level with its "Coast Grille Garden Party," where guests will savor a custom-designed menu highlighting the freshest ingredients from the on-property garden. Suited for intimate groups of up to 30 people, the event takes place in a relaxing garden setting with beautiful decor, delicious wines, stunning views, and superb service. Best suited for smaller gatherings of up to 50 people, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's "Plantation Beach House Party" will take place on Kaunaoa Bay's south edge. The party includes local-style backyard party foods, live entertainment, and fun decor. <a href="PrinceResortsHawaii.com">PrinceResortsHawaii.com</a>
- Gourmet Events Hawaii offers team-building cooking events for groups on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Its mission is to align cuisine and camaraderie,

- offering corporate groups and private parties unforgettable experiences. These events can include three hours of hands-on cooking instruction, a three-course meal with wine pairings, certificate of completion and more. GourmetEventsHawaii.com
- Maui Hawaiian Village, which shares the traditions and values of the Hawaiian culture
  that sustained life for generations, offers groups educational tours that include learning
  more about native Hawaiian activities and practices using the plants from the land.
  Tours are led by cultural caretakers and include hands-on activities.
  <a href="MauiHawaiianVillage.com">MauiHawaiianVillage.com</a>
- **Photo Safari Hawaii** has launched new full-day inter-island group tours, a unique and unforgettable way to experience more than one of the Hawaiian Islands. Tours include luxury transportation from hotel to airport, air travel (private or public charter), luxury transportation and expert guides, and the enjoyment of an authentic nature experience, with optional creative photography exercises. <a href="ExtraordinaryAdventuresHawaii.com">ExtraordinaryAdventuresHawaii.com</a>
- The founders of O'ahu's Home of the Brave Museum in Kaka'ako recently opened The Brewseum, a one-of-a-kind private WWII museum with a nostalgic tropical bar and lounge and some of the best beers on tap. Groups of up to 50 can enjoy The Brewseum and its fascinating exhibits and collection of antiques, artifacts, and memorabilia. <a href="Brewseums.com">Brewseums.com</a>
- CabaRAE, one of the hottest new variety shows in Hawai'i, garnered rave reviews in its preview show tour. The stunning and spirited two-hour revue at the Hilton Hawaiian Village offers group buyouts with a maximum of 350 guests. The world-class entertainment attraction is a collaboration of former Cirque du Soleil director Alan Goldberg and award-winning nightlife developers, RMD Group. <a href="Cabarae.com">Cabarae.com</a>
- Hawai'i Island's KapohoKine Adventures has announced a new tour. Its "Kīlauea Hike 'n Glow" experience is designed for adventurous groups looking to get off the beaten path and explore Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park with stops at Thurston Lava Tube, Kīlauea Iki, the landmark Volcano House, and more. The group experience includes transportation, a picnic lunch, delicious dinner with views of Kīlauea, and an opportunity to view the glow up close at Halema'uma'u crater before returning to the meeting host property. The tour can accommodate up to 130 guests maximum. <a href="KapohoKine.com">KapohoKine.com</a>
- Ocean Sports will launch a seasonal whale-watching cruise from December 2014 through April 2015 for an unforgettable group adventure on Hawai'i Island. Combining great service, expert naturalists, and an underwater hydrophone, Ocean Sports offers departures every day from two locations within the grounds of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Its fleet of three stable and spacious catamarans can accommodate up to 166 passengers and free roundtrip transportation from Kohala Coast resorts. <a href="HawaiiOceanSports.com">HawaiiOceanSports.com</a>

## **PACKAGES**

• Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay now offers an all-inclusive group package for 10 or more rooms booking together. Two options are available starting at \$265 per person, based on double occupancy. The premium package includes a fournight stay, food and beverage (including alcohol), taxes and gratuities, recreational and resort cultural activities, and a waived daily resort charge. <a href="SheratonKona.com">SheratonKona.com</a>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Qantas airlines is boosting its Sydney to Honolulu flight from three to four times a
  week and upgrading to a permanent and newer Airbus A330 aircraft from a Boeing 767,
  adding 253 seats per week. Beginning on Dec. 20, the new service will operate on
  Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. During peak travel periods Qantas will
  also add a fifth weekly Honolulu flight. Qantas.com.au
- Hawaiian Airlines has several announcements, including:
  - O Seasonal flight additions between **Los Angeles** and **Maui** and **O'ahu** for the November 2014 to January 2015 period. Currently operating daily year-round service between Los Angeles and Kahului, the airline will add a second flight ranging from four times weekly to daily over seven weeks of service beginning Nov. 20. As for Hawaiian's **Honolulu-Los Angeles** service, the company currently offers three flights daily. Starting Dec. 5, a fourth flight will be added that will operate three to five times a week through December.
  - O Beginning on Nov. 20, non-stop service between **San Francisco International Airport** and Maui's **Kahului Airport** will be offered four times a week before increasing to daily flights on Dec. 17, just in time for the holiday travel season. The flights will add more than 210,000 seats to both travel markets per year.
  - o A multi-million dollar renovation of all Hawaiian Airlines-operated airport lounges in the state that will include new furniture and flooring, more outlets for charging digital services, and flight display boards. Construction of the airport lounges will occur in two phases, with the first phase to cover the second-floor lounge at the Honolulu interisland terminal, as well as the lounges in Kahului and Kona. Phase two will include Hawaiian Airlines' lounges in Hilo, Līhu'e, and the third floor of the Honolulu interisland terminal.

For more information, visit <u>HawaiianAirlines.com</u>.

- Effective Oct. 20, **Mokulele Airlines** began four new routes, expanding its inter-island service between **Kalaeloa** (Oʻahu) and **Molokaʻi**, **Kalaeloa** and **Kapalua** (Maui), **Kapalua** and **Molokaʻi**, and **Kapalua** and **Hāna** (Maui). <u>Mokulele Airlines.com</u>
- Makani Kai Air announced a new schedule to expand its Moloka'i service by offering three more daily round-trip flights between Honolulu International Airport and Moloka'i Airport on Sundays and four more round trips on Fridays. MakaniKaiAir.com

### 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.

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For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit MeetHawaii.com.