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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

As the seasons change, new ideas and programs follow. On the pages ahead, explore the brandnew openings, exquisite eateries and engaging activities across the Aloha State to assist in planning your next meeting, convention or incentive gathering in the Hawaiian Islands.

### **MEET HAWAI'I HIGHLIGHTS**

### HVCB Names Mary Neister Vice President of Meet Hawai'i

The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) welcomes hospitality sales and marketing veteran Mary Neister to its team as vice president of Meet Hawai'i. In this position, she will have the responsibility of leading HVCB's sales efforts for meetings, conventions and incentives (MCI), and work in partnership with the Hawai'i Convention Center team to grow the meetings market for the Hawaiian Islands. Neister will focus on single-property sales efforts for Meet Hawai'i in collaboration with the Hawai'i Convention Center, which will concentrate on citywide group business.

Neister brings more than 30 years of sales and marketing leadership experience to the Bureau, most recently serving as director of sales and marketing at the Hilton Waikiki Beach hotel for the past two years. Prior to that, she held positions as director of sales and marketing for the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, and director of sales and marketing for The Milford Hotel in New York City. She has also held similar positions with Starwood Hotels and Resorts in the Bahamas and Boston.

#### Hawai'i Convention Center Names Kevin Nakata as Executive Chef

AEG Facilities, the management company of the Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC), has named Kevin Nakata as executive chef to lead the center's in-house culinary team. As executive chef, Nakata is responsible for the training and management of the Hawai'i Convention Center's esteemed culinary team. He oversees all food and beverage operations at the center, ensuring a world-class meeting and convention experience for all of HCC's local, U.S. mainland and international guests through cuisine.

Nakata brings more than 21 years of culinary experience to the Hawaii Convention Center, having previously served in executive chef positions at some of the finest restaurants and establishments on Kaua'i, Maui and O'ahu. Most recently, he worked as the executive sous chef at The Royal Hawaiian hotel on O'ahu, overseeing the food and beverage operations on property including the Surf Lanai, Mai Tai Bar, as well as banquet events. Born and raised in Hawai'i, Nakata earned an associates degree in culinary arts from Kapi'olani Community College.

## **CREATIVE PROGRAMS**

Launched in 2015, Hawai'i Insiders is a full service hotel site selection and destination management provider specializing in and attracting group programs to the Aloha State. Committed to genuinely engaging with customers and partners, Hawai'i Insiders services groups from inception to site inspection, through contracting and pre-planning to program operation, to coordinating tours and activities, to creating special events and more. Hawai'i Insiders focuses its visitor industry knowledge and creative talents on delivering customers an exceptional island experience. HawaiiInsiders.com

**EventAccents**, Hawai'i's premier high-quality event rental company, has partnered with Mainland-based **kool**. **Party Rentals**. Together, the brands are lighting up meetings throughout Hawai'i. Combining kool's. specialty illuminated décor and EventAccents' furnishing rental equipment, the partnership's new inventory features an array of modern event furniture and lighted décor pieces, including sofas, club chairs, benches, ottomans, cocktail tables, bars, occasional tables and LED centerpieces. All of it ready for meeting planners looking for the next big thing in event décor in the Hawaiian Islands. EventAccents.com

### **ACCOMMODATIONS & MEETING VENUES**

Due to brisk demand, the **Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina** is accepting early reservations starting June 1, 2016 as the fifth hotel in Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts' Hawaiian Collection. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the resort's 358 luxurious ocean- and lagoon-view guest rooms and 52 suites will each feature private furnished *lānai* (balconies) and authentic Hawaiiana-style décor inspired by nature. Among the property's guest amenities will be five restaurants and lounges, four pools, a white sand beach, a multi-level spa and wellness center, expansive tennis facilities and multiple watersport activities, as well as preferred access to the exclusive Ko Olina Golf Club. Located on the sunset coast of west O'ahu, the resort will offer a total 16,874 square feet of event space bathed in natural light. Its meeting facility will accommodate up to 900 guests and feature a ballroom and five function rooms. Outdoor space adjacent to neighboring Lanikuhonua cultural estate and nature preserve will offer a gorgeous setting for groups. FourSeasons.com/Oahu

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** is undergoing a \$4.5 million transformation, renovating its famed Copper Terrace promenade and reimagining its former Kauna'oa Bar & Grill as one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Kohala Coast. Framed by floor-to-ceiling windows taking in the stunning beauty of Kauna'oa Bay, the new Kauna'oa Ballroom will feature 4,000 square feet of indoor function space, with expansive, outdoor prefunction areas and an adjacent boardroom. The Copper Terrace is set for completion in December, with Kauna'oa Ballroom expected to debut in January 2016.

PrinceResortsHawaii.com/Mauna-Kea-Beach-Hotel

Currently undergoing a multimillion-dollar transformation, the **Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i** will be ready to host intimate indoor and larger outdoor conferences on its well-manicured 90,000 acres when it reopens in late 2015. Redesigned with an island aesthetic inspired by Hawai'i's culture and stories, the resort's interior renovations include 217 updated guestrooms and 51 suites, newly refurbished lobbies and seating areas, new culinary offerings, a renovated spa, luxury retail boutiques and a new pro shop at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Manele Golf Course. FourSeasons.com/Lanai

Planners searching for memorable traditional Hawaiian experiences should know about the myriad activities offered at **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows**. Guests can see prehistoric petroglyphs and ancient fishponds along Hawaiian trails via a guided tour led by the hotel's keeper of the ponds. A Hawaiian historian is available within the immediate vicinity of the hotel. And guests can gather along the resort's oceanfront for hula dances and talk story evenings on the subject of Hawaiian myths and folklore, or enjoy interactive activities such as the art of feather- and *haku lei*-making. MaunaLani.com

Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea has unveiled two new event venues: the Beach Front Lawn and Wailea Point. Located on the resort's oceanfront, each venue offers sweeping panoramic views of the island of Lāna'i and West Maui Mountains. Perfect for receptions, the Beach Front Lawn can accommodate up to 50 guests and offers a stunning backdrop just steps from the golden sands of Wailea Beach. Ideal for an intimate gathering, Wailea Point is perched above Wailea Beach and can accommodate a maximum of 30 guests. The resort's secluded nook is a great location for a VIP reception. FourSeasons.com/Maui

Part of Lite Hotels, a division of Aqua-Aston Hospitality, **Hilo Naniloa Hotel and Golf Club** celebrated its \$20-million renovation project with a formal groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony this past August. With 388 rooms, the restoration is scheduled to be finalized in March 2016, with the brand relaunched as **DoubleTree by Hilton**. Renovation plans include updates to the hotel's lobby and lounge, banquet facilities, waterfront restaurant and poolside bar, fitness center, retail shops and three fully-restored towers, as well as the construction of a concert hall and event space where iconic Hawai'i musician Willie K. will perform regularly. AquaResorts.com/hotels/Hilo-Naniloa-Hotel

**Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa** has finalized a \$22 million transformation that included its Nanea Lobby, which may now be utilized as a special events venue. The crowning touch of the beautification project is a 60-foot by 20-foot carved wood artwork by local artist Kaiwi Nui Yoon whose inspiration was Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani. Yoon's artwork will be unveiled in late fall 2015. The multimillion-dollar renovation spans the resort's porte cochère, main lobby and meetings spaces. <a href="MarriottHawaii.com/Waikiki-Beach-Marriott-Resort/">Marriott-Resort/</a>

Located on 20 acres of oceanfront property on Kaua'i's south shore, the **Sheraton Kauai Resort** has completed its renovation of **Lava's on Po'ipū Beach** with the installment of a glass wall around the restaurant perimeter, providing expansive ocean views. The restaurant, located just steps from the beach, offers a comforting menu of local favorites from sunrise to sunset and is available as an open-air function space upon availability. Lava's on Po'ipū Beach is a wonderful complement to Kaua'i's Ocean Courtyard, which completed its own renovation in 2014 and opens to a stunning view of the Pacific through a meandering pathway. In addition to the revitalized landscaping, native Hawaiian flora, a new stage, new seating and new fire pits were added to enhance the space, welcoming groups of up to 300 guests. Sheraton-Kauai.com

## **SPECIAL OFFERS**

Outrigger Resorts means business with its new "Boardroom" and "Conference" packages valid through Dec. 31, 2015. Detailed below, the packages are being offered at **Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort** and **Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort** and feature all-inclusive options simplifying the meeting planning process. Both located in the heart of Waikīkī, the resorts have multiple indoor and outdoor meeting spaces to fit any corporate need.

- The Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort's "Boardroom Package" for 10 to 12 guests includes room rental, a hot breakfast served local-style, tropical fruit platter and assorted pastries, various lunch wraps, side salad and fresh baked cookies, plus two refreshment breaks, and starts at \$105 per person. The "Conference Package," for groups of 25 or more, includes a hot breakfast buffet, gourmet lunch, decadent dessert and two refreshment breaks, and starts at \$120 per person. Meeting attendees will receive complimentary Outrigger stationary and exclusive use of presentation equipment, including the resort's Wi-Fi, podium, microphone and drop-down wall screen. The resort offers several options for more intimate meetings, including the Na Koa Boardroom, which was designed exclusively for executive meetings; The Kalākaua Room, with 741 square feet of space; and the Leahi Room, featuring 1,250 square feet of space that can be divided into two similarly sized breakout rooms. Overlooking the beach, the resort's two oceanfront venues Suite 123 and the Ali'i Deck are ideal for receptions and evening functions. OutriggerWaikikiHotel.com
- Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort's "Boardroom Packages" for up to 20 guests includes room rental, a hot breakfast, lunch wraps and select snacks, with two refreshment breaks, and starts at \$90 per person. The "Conference Package," for 25 or more, includes room rental, breakfast, gourmet lunch with two refreshment breaks, and starts at \$110 per person. The hotel is conveniently located five-minutes from the Hawai'i Convention Center. For planners seeking outdoor options, the Diamond Head Terrace meeting room provides 2,520 square feet of space and an adjoining open-air courtyard. Additionally, two oceanfront executive meeting rooms the Voyager Boardrooms 1 and 2 can accommodate up to 20 guests in conference-style seating. Both rooms connect via the open-air Voyager Deck overlooking Waikīkī Beach and have the capacity to accommodate up to 60 guests for receptions. OutriggerReef-OnTheBeach.com

As the recipient of the 2014 Pinnacle Award from Successful Meetings magazine, the **Makena Beach & Golf Resort** celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 with special meetings package rates starting at \$198.60 per night, honoring the resort's 1986 opening year. The 30<sup>th</sup> Special includes a complimentary room and complimentary suite upgrade for every 30 rooms booked. The special also includes a one-hour complimentary reception for groups occupying 20 rooms or more with a four-night minimum stay. <a href="MakenaResortsMaui.com">MakenaResortsMaui.com</a>

The **Kauai Marriott Resort** in Līhu'e is offering up to 1,000,000 Marriott Rewards Points on group bookings through June 2016 with a minimum three-night stay. Qualifying groups will receive complimentary airport shuttle service, daily self-parking, enhanced Internet service and limited domestic and international calls. Guests also receive complimentary mai tais, yoga classes, hula lessons, tennis court time and a photo book commemorating their stay. The offer also includes discounts on Enterprise on-site car rentals and Alexander Day Spa & Salon services, as well as select merchandise throughout the resort. <a href="MarriottHawaii.com/kauai-marriott-resort/">MarriottHawaii.com/kauai-marriott-resort/</a>

A 2015 honoree of the Hawaii Green Business Award, the **Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa's** new "Meet and Be Green" special is rewarding 3 percent savings off their master bill to meeting planners incorporating green efforts into their programs. The 10-step program encourages reducing, reusing and recycling during any corporate or recreational gathering. Waikiki.Hyatt.com

## **ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS**

The National Park Service celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August 2016. In time for the National Park Centennial, Hawai'i's very own Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park on Hawai'i Island, and Haleakalā National Park on Maui are offering an annual Tri-Park Pass for \$25. At either park, participate in self-guided or guided tours, partake on a hike suitable for every level of hiker, and experience once-in-a-lifetime activities to learn more about each park's history. NPS.gov

**Trilogy Excursions** was the only Hawai'i company to make TripAdvisor's list of the "Top 10 Tours Across the U.S." for 2015. The company was rated No. 5 based on the quantity and quality of reviews and opinions from millions of TripAdvisor travelers. With more than 3,300 reviews and a five-out-of-five bubble rating, Trilogy (a family owned and operated local company since 1973) commits to practicing sustainable tourism. Its guided snorkeling and sailing charters allow groups and visitors to experience parts of Maui and Lāna'i in safe and environmentally responsible ways. SailTrilogy.com

**Tasting Kaua'i** has revitalized its intimate and educational North Shore Kaua'i Food Tour by partnering with the St. Regis Princeville resort. Offering a different itinerary each week, the North Shore Kaua'i Food Tour is a flavorful adventure, accommodating groups of up to 10 people and exploring a diverse selection of handmade food, including north shore Kaua'i grassfed beef, traditional Hawaiian dishes,  $p\bar{u}p\bar{u}$  (snacks), tiki cocktails, handcrafted desserts, and a private tasting with an executive chef at the St. Regis Princeville. This culinary romp through paradise introduces guests to farmers, chefs and food artisans via an exclusive guided tour centered around the regional cuisine of Hawai'i, where the host community lives, eats and plays. A portion of the proceeds from all tours benefits the Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i Branch. TastingKauai.com

Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods LLC (HLH), a sustainable forestry company based on Hawai'i Island, offers groups the opportunity to give back to the community through its forest restoration efforts. To date, the company has planted more than 300,000 endemic *koa* trees on the Hamakua Coast uplands of Hawai'i Island's Maunakea volcano. The work so far marks a quarter of the company's overall goal of planting 1.3 million total trees across the Hawaiian Islands. HLH has set aside more than 1,000 acres of its historic Hawai'i Island acreage – which, in the past, was both a majestic *koa* forest and the personal property of King Kamehameha the Great – for permanent reforestation, as well, establishing the world's first Hawaiian legacy forest. HawaiianLegacyTours.com

**Kūhiō Beach Pavilion** in Waikīkī is a new site for free Hawaiian cultural lessons, including 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language), hula and hana noe'au (art), offered Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Located next to the popular Waikiki Grass Shack Bistro, among the area's hotels and resorts, the free classes, taught by staff of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation, will run through Nov. 4, 2015. Honolulu.gov/Parks

Voted the best lū'au on Kaua'i, **Lūa'u Kalamakū** at historic Kilohana Plantation has renovated its showroom areas and installed a new state-of-the-art sound system with amplified lighting to enhance guests' overall experience. Kilohana Plantation is also the only place on Kaua'i where groups can ride a train, hike through a rainforest, taste locally made spirits, shop, dine or relax at a spa, all in the same day. The evening lū'au takes place on Tuesdays, Fridays and select Mondays during winter months. <u>LuauKalamaku.com</u>

**Twogood Kayaks Hawaii, Inc.**, a paddle sports company in Kailua on Oʻahu, offers exciting tours for groups, including its reintroduced Kualoa Beach Park Day package. Included in the package is roundtrip transportation from Waikīkī to Kualoa Beach Park, kayak rentals for kayaking to offshore Mokoliʻi islet (also known as Chinaman's Hat), and additional ocean activities, including snorkeling, stand-up paddle boarding, beach volleyball and a picnic lunch. <a href="TwoGoodKayaks.com">TwoGoodKayaks.com</a>

**Outfitters Kauai** and **Kipu Ranch Adventures** have partnered to offer exhilarating outdoor multi-adventure itineraries for groups. Planners can customize a special day for groups by combining ziplining, kayaking, stand up paddling, ATV rides, hiking and swimming. Once home to Hawaiian royalty, Kipu Ranch spans 4,000 acres and offers scenic views of Kaua'i's southeast side. New on site is a grand venue for picnics, complete with bathroom facilities, a BBQ and an entertainment area. The collaboration provides groups with multiple choices and various ways to customize events to meet the interests of attendees. <a href="OutfittersKauai.com">OutfittersKauai.com</a>

At the Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i resort, members of the Hui Holokai Beach Club Program hand guests a walking stick and guide them on the same lava footpaths traveled by early Hawaiians, as they share the stories, lore and history of *Kalāhuipua'a* ("the gathering place"), now known as Mauna Lani Resort. Ranging from visits to early Hawaiian lava cave dwellings, petroglyphs (lava etchings) and sacred 'ahu (shrines), the guided hikes take guests to inland fishponds once reserved for ali'i (royalty), along oceanfront trails and more. Fairmont.com/Orchid-Hawaii

Representing an authentic cultural experience by staying true to the history of the horse and the Hawaiian people, **Nā Lio Maui** is Maui's newest visitor attraction, performing weekly on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. While attending the performance at Kahalawai Farms and Stables, a private ranch in Lāhainā with a seating capacity of up to 100 people, guests experience the story of the horse throughout Hawaiian culture. The live show is accompanied by Hawaiian music and includes riding demonstrations; campfire storytelling by "Uncle," an old *paniolo* (Hawaiian cowboy); and a Nā Lio Taster Box of locally made treats to enjoy before or during the show. **NaLioMaui.com** 

# **DINING**

Formerly selected as one of "America's 25 Best Wine Bars" by Travel + Leisure magazine, **Vino Italian Tapas & Wine Bar** recently reopened its doors next to its original location in Honolulu's Waterfront Plaza. Able to host up to 65 guests in its dining room and bar, the D.K. Kodamaowned restaurant puts executive chef Keith Endo back in its kitchen and incorporates a new wine program run by master sommelier Chuck Furuya. Maintaining its charming and casual bistro atmosphere, and original Mediterranean-inspired menu, the restaurant has evolved its cuisine by adding traditional pasta dishes served family style. The restaurant also offers two private dining rooms accommodating up to 30 people. **VinoHawaii.com** 

The Honolulu Coffee Experience Center, which opened in October 2015 at the gateway to Waikīkī, offers the world's only multi-dimensional Kona coffee experience from farm to cup. At the center of the facility's open floor-plan design is a vintage roaster where visitors can see active roasting taking place. Murals and installations crafted by local artists tell the story of Kona coffee. The Cupping Room features see-through glass walls where visitors can observe coffee being evaluated and certified baristas participating in daily training sessions. Guests can relax in the Experience's piazza-style café seating while watching baristas prep coffee behind the counter and bakers craft pastries from scratch through a 14-foot glass exhibition window. The Honolulu Coffee Experience Center also has a gift shop where visitors can purchase take-home Hawai'i-grown coffee year round. HonoluluCoffee.com

Hawai'i's culinary pioneer of Hawaiian fusion cuisine, Chef Roy Yamaguchi, is partnering with Turtle Bay Resort on O'ahu's North Shore to open **Roy's Beach House** in 2016. The restaurant, situated in the former Ola at Turtle Bay Resort, will overlook Kuilima Cove. The menu's unique culinary concept and design of Roy's Beach House are currently being conceptualized, with details planned for release at a later date. TurtleBayResort.com

The Grand Wailea is now offering its special Ka Malama Dinner hosted at the resort's restaurant, Humuhumunukunukuapua'a on the third Thursday of each month. The dinner has Chef Mike Lofaro and Grand Wailea's Hawaiian Cultural Ambassador Kainoa Horcajo foraging and fishing for the five-course dinner inspired by the Hawaiian moon calendar. The duo venture into lush, remote valleys and partake in ocean excursions, gathering ingredients such as *mālolo* (flying fish), 'ōpelu (mackerel), 'opihi (limpets), pohole (fiddlehead fern), foraged shoots, ocean salt and mountain spring water for dinner, while Sommelier and Beverage Manager Yeshua Goodman creates cocktails and wine pairings. The dinner package is \$150 per person and advance reservations are required. GrandWailea.com

Overlooking Waikīkī Beach, **SKY Waikiki** is Honolulu's newest rooftop bistro and lounge, located on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the Waikiki Business Plaza. The 7,000 square foot restaurant offers handcrafted cocktails by mixologist Jennifer Ackrill and a mouth-watering menu created by award-winning executive chef Lance Kosaka. In addition to unobstructed views of Lē'ahi volcanic tuff cone (more famously known as Diamond Head) and O'ahu's south shore from its SKY Deck, the space features a 30-foot video wall, three full-service bars and a custom fire pit. SkyWaikiki.com

Chef Lee Anne Wong, who was among the final four contestants on Bravo cable network's first season of "Top Chef," has opened her second O'ahu restaurant, *Hale Ohuna* (meaning "secret house"), in the Honolulu neighborhood of Kaimukī. Open for dinner service only, the two-level venue is billed as Honolulu's first sake restaurant and features a menu spotlighting Wong's made-from-scratch noodle dishes. The restaurant offers a 25-seat dining and bar area on its first floor and private 10-seat "green room" lounge area on its second floor. Wong also owns Koko Head Café. Twitter.com/HaleOhuna

Chef and restaurateur Peter Merriman is bringing his fine dining restaurant **Merriman's** to Honolulu, with an opening slated for June 2017. The 200-seat restaurant will be located on the ground floor of the Anaha condominium at Ward Village, and offer lunch and dinner service. True to Merriman's locations on Hawai'i Island, the menu at Merriman's on O'ahu will showcase the island-farmed beef, lamb, sustainably caught seafood and fresh-picked produce of local farmers, ranchers and fishermen. MerrimansHawaii.com

Widely known for its pineapple wine, Tedeschi Vineyards, located at the 'Ulupalakua Ranch in Upcountry Maui, has rebranded as **MauiWine** after 41 years of business. As part of the transition, the vineyard has redesigned its logo and packaging, and launched a new website. MauiWine will continue to grow grapes on its 23-acre vineyard and source local Maui Gold pineapples from Hali'imaile Pineapple Company. MauiWine.com

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Hawaiian Airlines officially launched its new website design on HawaiianAirlines.com – offering customers simplified navigation, convenient booking features and rich travel content set against a clean backdrop of Hawai'i's spectacular scenic beauty. The site delivers an intuitive online experience and valuable new services such as weeklong fare holds, a robust HawaiianMiles dashboard and Island Guides filled with insider tips to help customers plan and customize their Hawai'i getaway.

Hawaiian Airlines is honored to promote breast cancer awareness and raise funds for education and research through a new 'Time is Precious' partnership with watchmaker Fossil to support 'Imi Hale, the Native Hawaiian Cancer Network. In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, co-branded Hawaiian Airlines/Fossil watches featuring a pink ribbon design will be available for purchase from October 15 to October 31 aboard Hawaiian flights between Hawai'i and North America, Australia and New Zealand. The limited-edition watches may also be purchased online. Newsroom.HawaiianAirlines.com

**Virgin America** will begin air service between San Francisco and Honolulu beginning Nov. 2, followed by San Francisco to Maui service on Dec 3. Special promotional round-trip airfares are being offered as part of Virgin's introductory Hawai'i service. Virgin Atlantic will deploy its newest aircraft, the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, for the routes. VirginAmerica.com

#### **AWARDS & ACCOLADES**

Meetings & Conventions magazine (M&C) has awarded the **Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau** a Gold Service Award for 2015. The award honors the top domestic and international tourism boards servicing meeting professionals. Based on extensive industry experience in both corporate and association markets, M&C's readers made their selections based on professionalism of staff, support site inspections, assistance with ground transportation planning, guidance on local attractions and liaison with local vendors and services. Meetings-Conventions.com

Maui, Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i ranked first, second and third, respectively, in the category of "Top 10 Islands – United States" in **TripAdvisor's 2015 Travelers' Choice Awards**. The awards were voted on by the millions of traveler utilizing the TripAdvisor website for reviews of hotels, resorts, flights, vacation rentals, travel packages and more. TripAdvisor.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. For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit MeetHawaii.com.

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