

February 2008

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

ACCOLADES

◆ **TripAdvisor**, one of the world's largest travel Web sites, has announced the winners of its **2008 Travelers' Choice Awards**. Seven Hawai'i hotels were recognized in various categories of the Best Hotels in the U.S. Four awards went to the **Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea** and two each to **Aloha Pualani Hotel** on Maui and the **Four Seasons Resort Hualālai at Historic Ka'upulehu** on Hawai'i's Big Island. Additional Hawai'i winners below.

- ◆ Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa – #1: Top 10 Best Hotel Pools
- ◆ Halekulani – #3: Top 10 Best Hotels for Romance
- ◆ Aloha Pualani Hotel Boutique – #5: Top 10 Best Hotels for Romance, #8: Top 10 Best Hidden Gems
- ◆ Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea – #2: Top 10 Best Hotels for Romance, #2: Top 10 Hotels for Best Service, #4: Top 10 Best Luxury Hotels, #5: Top 10 Best Hotel Pools, #64: Top 100 Luxury Hotels in the World
- ◆ Four Seasons Resort Hualālai at Historic Ka'upulehu – #3: Top 10 Best Hotel Pools, #9: Top 10 Best Hotels for Romance
- ◆ Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel – #1: Top 10 Best Hotels for Romance

For more information, visit TripAdvisor.com.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ Commemorate 25 years of Kīlauea's ongoing eruption as **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) National Historic Park, and Haleakalā National Park** offers the **Tri-Park Pass**. Experience how volcanoes create and impact the Hawaiian Islands and learn about the native culture at all three parks with the \$25 pass, which allows entrance to all three for a year from the date of issue. For more information, call 808-985-6151.

- ◆ Experience the latest diving trend of going black and blue. **Konaquatica Dive Center** takes divers out in the day to experience pelagic marine life of the deep Pacific for **blue water diving**. At night divers are taken out for **black water diving**, a great adrenaline rush as strange, unearthly invertebrates swim through beams of powerful dive lights. Divers are secured to a line connected to the dive boat and drift suspended 60 feet below the surface, never touching the ocean's bottom. For more information, visit Konaquatica.com.

- ◆ Maui's renowned **Kapalua Resort** has launched **Kapalua Adventures**, which offers the island's visitors a rare, outdoor experience. **Kapalua Adventure Center and Mountain Outpost** opened January 7, 2008 and features the largest and longest zipline system in North America with eight dual-track ziplines, two suspension bridges, a high rope challenge course, and a four-station climbing tower. Mountain Outpost also gives guests the opportunity to learn about geological, natural, and cultural history of the area from knowledgeable guides trained in guest service, and the history, culture, flora and fauna of the area. For more information, visit Kapalua.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ The **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** will reopen in December 2008 after a \$150 million renovation to repair structural damage resulting from the October 2006 earthquakes. The refurbishments focus on the interior of the hotel including the guest rooms, lobby, restaurants, and common areas. Retail shops, a spa, and fitness center will also be introduced onto the property. The **Mauna Kea Golf Course** has also begun restorations and will reopen in November 2008. For more information, visit PrinceResortsHawaii.com.

- ◆ Take a dip at the **Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa's Maluhia Serenity Pool**, the crowning touch of the two-year \$60 million property-wide transformation. The new serenity pool offers sunset and ocean views and features health-promoting saline filtered water and six over-the-water cabanas for spa treatments. For more information, visit WaileaMarriott.com.

- ◆ Artifacts, artworks, and island literature honor Hawai'i's heritage in the newly redesigned lobby of the **Outrigger Reef on the Beach**. Unveiled as part of the hotel's extensive makeover, the lobby now houses an impressive collection of museum-quality artifacts and original works along with a sitting area where guests are encouraged to browse Hawai'i's great literary works. For more information, visit OutriggerReefWaikikiBeachWalk.com.

- ◆ **Kelea Surf Spa** is the newest addition to **O'ahu's North Shore**. Located in a beautiful "Hawaiian-style" home, the surf spa is steps away from the beach and only five miles from the historic town of Hale'iwa. Founded by two women who love the sport of surfing and being active outdoors, Kelea offers single and double rooms with private bathrooms as well as activities such as surfing lessons, yoga sessions, and relaxing massages. For more information, visit KeleaSurfSpa.com.

- ◆ **Starwood Vacation Ownership** will open its third vacation ownership resort, the **Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas** on Kaua'i in April 2008. The resort is located on the North Shore of the island on an 18.5-acre, oceanfront property perched 200 feet above famous 'Anini Beach. The property will have 179 two-bedroom villas each with a fully-equipped kitchen or kitchenette, four pools, three whirlpools, a two-story clubhouse, restaurant, and general store. Villas may also be rented nightly for visitors seeking larger accommodations for family travel. For more information, visit StarwoodHotels.com/Hawaii.

- ◆ **Mauna Lani Resort** has partnered with **Hawaii Forest & Trail** to offer the **Mauna Lani Resort Volcano Package**, which includes accommodations at the resort and two passes for Hawaii Forest & Trail's Kīlauea Volcano Adventure. Available February 14 – December 23, 2008, the volcano adventure begins in Kona traveling by car up the coast over desolate lava flows and into the rolling pasturelands on the flanks of Mauna Kea. Next, stop for a short break and breakfast, then continue on through Hilo and begin the climb to Kīlauea's summit and the entrance to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. On the way back, travel along the Hāmākua Coast and pass through Waimea before returning to Kona. For more information, visit MaunaLani.com.

- ◆ **Destination Resorts Hawaii** is helping vacationers go green. This spring, the luxury vacation rentals company will be offering the **Honua Makuahine (Mother Earth) vacation package**, which contributes to preserving Hawai'i's beautiful environment. The package includes five nights lodging, Dollar rental car, free parking, and a \$250 carbon credit. The carbon credit donation will benefit the Rainforest2Reef organization whose mission is to protect biodiverse ecosystem services and slow climate change. For more information, visit DRHMaui.com.

- ◆ Valentine vacationers are invited to renew their wedding vows in a free **Hawaiian Vow Renewal Ceremony** being offered by the **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** and **Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach** properties. Registered guests of the two hotels may participate in this affirmation of love and commitment on February 14, 2008 on the sands of Waikīkī Beach. The ceremony follows the ancient Hawaiian custom of Ho'ao Pa'a, including a welcoming Hawaiian chant by the kahu (priest), traditional hula and song, and a gentle seawater blessing before the couple recite their vows in the Hawaiian language. For more information, visit OutriggerReef.com or OutriggerWaikiki.com.

- ◆ **RumFire** heats up **Starwood Hotel & Resorts' Sheraton Waikiki**. The new restaurant is set against the alluring backdrop of Diamond Head and offers the largest selection of vintage rum in the U.S. with an exotic blend of tapas-style cuisine and fire pits adorning the 7,000-square-foot interior. With over 101 rums, the food and nightlife provide something for everyone. For more information, visit RumFireWaikiki.com.

- ◆ **Doraku Sushi** opens its flagship location at the **Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center** in Waikīkī. Overlooking The Royal Grove, the restaurant is open for dinner and late-night dining and is the second location for the ultra-hip, Florida-based restaurant. Featuring unique Pan-Asian cuisine and blending the Latin flavors of South Beach, the restaurant is a new, unique dining option to Waikīkī and the shopping center. For more information, visit ShopWaikiki.com.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- ◆ **Hawaiian Airlines** has announced plans for their new **non-stop service between Honolulu and Manila** beginning April 14, 2008. Flights will leave Honolulu four times a week, departing Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12:30 p.m. and will arrive in Manila at 5:15 p.m. the following day. Return flights will depart Manila Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., arriving in Honolulu on the same day at 11:15 a.m. For more information, visit HawaiianAirlines.com.

- ◆ **Qantas Airways** is increasing its **Australia to Honolulu service** from three to four flights per week beginning in April. The additional flight will depart Sydney at 7:45 p.m. on Saturdays and arrive in Honolulu at 9:30 a.m. the same day. The return flight will depart Honolulu at 10:50 a.m. on Saturdays and arrive in Sydney at 5:30 p.m. the following day. For more information, visit Qantas.com.au.

-pau-

Special note to media: The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings (e.g. glottal stop [ʻ], macron [ā] in place names of Hawai'i such as Lānaʻi). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

Media Contacts:

Darlene Morikawa
Director, PR/Communications
Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau
E-mail: dmorikawa@hvcb.org
Phone: 808-924-0259

Nathan Kam
Vice President
McNeil Wilson Communications
E-mail: Nathan.Kam@MWC-Anthology.com
Phone: 808-539-3471