

April 2010

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ **Kaua'i's Makai Golf Club at The St. Regis Princeville Resort** recently reopened following a multi-million dollar renovation and now features two distinct courses: the 18-hole **Makai Course** and the 9-hole **Woods Course**. The teeing areas, fairways and greens now feature Seashore Paspalum turf, the bunkers have been reshaped, and the practice facility upgraded. In addition, the golf carts will be equipped with GPS systems by the end of April. The resort renovations also included an upgrade of the adjacent tennis complex, with the four tennis courts being resurfaced. For more information, visit MakaiGolf.com.
- ◆ **Four Seasons Resorts Lāna'i at Manele Bay** is now providing complimentary amenities for parents traveling with infants and toddlers. The "Keiki Welcome Package" consists of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, diapers, and baby wipes. Parents can have their rooms equipped with cribs, toddler beds, bed rails, playpens, baby monitors, and vaporizers, and also borrow jogging strollers and car seats to use when exploring the property and the island. Babysitting services are also available. For more information, visit FourSeasons.com/ManeleBay.
- ◆ iPhone users can now take advantage of two new travel applications (apps) to help plan their Hawai'i itinerary. Photographer **Douglas Peebles** recently released a **Hawaii's Best Beaches** app, which allows users to search photos of Hawai'i's beaches by location or activity. The app also comes with a map to guide users to the beaches. Peebles is creating a second app, **Seeing Maui**, with more projects to follow. For more information, visit DouglasPeebles.com.

The second Hawai'i app is called **What Chefs Eat** and was created by Melanie Kosaka of ShareYourTable.com and Eric Nakagawa of ADAM (App Dev and Mktg). The app offers recommendations on restaurants and favorite foods by highly acclaimed Hawai'i chefs and purveyors, such as Roy Yamaguchi, Alan Wong, and D.K. Kodama. It also provides information on travel specials, dining deals, and fun events. For more information, visit WhatChefsEat.com.

- ◆ Visitors wanting to be reimbursed for airline baggage fees can now look to three Hawai'i resorts for help. On Hawai'i's Big Island, the **Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort and Spa** will credit guests \$25 per bag with a minimum two-night stay through December 24, 2010. For more information, visit WaikoloaMarriott.com.

On Maui, the **Napili Kai Beach Resort** will deduct airline baggage fees up to \$125 from the total cost of each reservation, with a minimum five-night stay. For more information, visit NapiliKai.com.

Aston Hotels and Resorts is also offering its customers a \$50 luggage credit at all of its Hawai'i properties, with a minimum five-night stay. For more information, visit AstonHotels.com.

- ◆ For Maui visitors wanting to stay fit while on vacation, **Hotel Wailea Maui** now offers a "**Sunrise Yoga**" package. Guests enjoy a five-night stay in an oceanview suite and daily private yoga sessions with a personal instructor. For more information, contact yogi@hotelwailea.com or visit HotelWailea.com.
- ◆ Couples seeking a romantic getaway on Kaua'i can now make plans for a complimentary vow renewal ceremony when staying at the **Outrigger Kiahuna Plantation**. The ceremony takes place every other Thursday afternoon and begins with an exchange of lei followed by the *kahu* (priest) giving a Hawaiian chant with English translation. Couples then learn about *Hā*, the breath of life,

before exchanging vows. The vow renewal special is good through June 30, 2010. For more information, visit Kiahuna-Plantation.com.

- ◆ **Aqua Hotels and Resorts** has launched a newly redesigned website that is rich in content, easy to navigate, provides social media connections, and offers image galleries and 360 degree virtual tours for all of its properties on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Moloka'i. For more information, visit AquaResorts.com.
- ◆ **Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort and Spa** has significantly reduced its energy consumption from 30,000 watts to 12,000 watts per day, the result of a newly installed grid-smart solar lighting panel. **Marriott Resorts Hawaii** plans to add similar energy-saving systems at its other Hawai'i properties. For more information, visit MarriottWaikiki.com.
- ◆ In support of **The Fairmont Green Partnership Program**, **The Fairmont Orchid** on Hawai'i's Big Island is helping to protect endangered fish species, by having chefs at its **Brown's Beach House** restaurant showcase seafood entrées featuring 100 percent sustainable fish caught in Hawai'i's waters under strict guidelines set by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** and **Pacific Regional Division**. For more information, visit Fairmont.com/Orchid.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ A national stand-up paddling festival featuring many of the sport's elite will make its Hawai'i debut, June 12-13, at historic Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikīkī (O'ahu). The **Rainbow Sandals Gerry Lopez Battle of the Paddle Hawaii** is bringing stand-up paddlers of all ages and skill levels together to participate in races and demonstrations. The best-of-the-best will compete in a championship style race to win cash prizes totaling more than \$25,000, the largest purse of any stand-up paddling event. A free expo will allow guests to meet the world's best shapers and manufacturers and see the newest designs and innovations. For more information, visit RainbowSandals.com.

- ◆ Experience the sights and sounds of authentic Hawaiian music and hula at the **21st Annual Big Island Hawaiian Music Festival** held at the Afook Chinen Civic Auditorium in Hilo from **July 10-11**. This year's event is specially dedicated to one of Hawai'i's great *kumu hula* (hula teacher), the late Uncle George Na'ope, who co-founded the prestigious Merrie Monarch Festival. The two-day affair will feature live performances from some of Hawai'i's top entertainers, hula from Hawai'i's Big Island *hālau* (hula groups), and slack-key guitar and 'ukulele workshops. For more information, visit EHCC.org.

- ◆ **Huaka'i** is a new cultural program offered daily at the **Keauhou Beach Resort** on Hawai'i's Big Island that is free and open to resort guests and the public. Participants are immersed in the history and culture of Hawai'i through a variety of activities, including Hawaiian language classes, ancient Hawaiian games, hula and 'ukulele lessons, lei making, arts and crafts demonstrations, and property site tours offering insight into the surrounding landscape. For more information, visit KeauhouBeachResort.com.

- ◆ **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** (O'ahu) recently introduced **Canoe Hale**, a museum exhibit highlighting the traditions of Hawaiian canoe building and voyaging. The exhibit is a collaboration between **Outrigger Reef, The Friends of Hōkūle'a and Hawai'iloa, Mission Houses Museum, and Bishop Museum**. Featured exhibits include an actual steering paddle from the Hawai'iloa voyaging canoe; Kaiolahia, a traditional racing canoe; traditional mother of pearl fishing lures; and a *lei hulu* (feather lei) exhibit. Canoe Hale is free and open daily. For more information, visit Outrigger.com.

- ◆ **Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa** on O'ahu has introduced two new tours giving visitors and residents a unique perspective on its surrounding area. The **Historical Tour of Pualeilani** focuses on the cultural aspects near the hotel, with guests learning about Hawai'i's *ali'i* (chiefs) and other cultural elements such as the true meaning of *Aloha*. The second tour is called **Wednesday**

Wine Walk and is an excursion of wine tasting at four different venues: Nā Hō'ola Spa, The Elegant Dive, The Colony Restaurant, and Ciao Mein Restaurant. For more information, visit Waikiki.Hyatt.com.

TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ **Alaska Airlines** is expanding its service to Hawai'i with a new nonstop flight between **Portland**, Oregon and **Honolulu** (O'ahu), starting September 20. The airline currently offers a daily flight between Portland and Kahului (Maui). For more information, visit AlaskaAir.com.

- ◆ **Go! Mokulele** recently announced the start of its service to Lāna'i, scheduled to begin May 20 with two daily roundtrip flights between Honolulu (O'ahu) and Lāna'i City. For more information, visit MokuleleAirlines.com.

ACCOLADES

- ◆ The **Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau** has been nominated for three *TravelAge West* **WAVE Awards** (Western Agents' Vote of Excellence) by receiving editor's picks in the following categories:
 - ◆ Best Destination for Honeymoon/Romance Vacation
 - ◆ Destination with the Highest Client Satisfaction for O'ahu
 - ◆ Best of the West: Best City for a Foodie Vacation for Honolulu.

TravelAge West's editorial team selected Hawai'i for its outstanding qualities and service, based on product analysis, on-site visits, a survey of select travel agents, and online research. Winners of the WAVE Awards will be announced in June. For more information, visit TravelAgeWest.com.

- ◆ **Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa** is a star! For the second consecutive year, the resort has earned the prestigious **Energy Star** award presented by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** for eliminating greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of 91.5 households in one year. The

Energy Star recognizes businesses that protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. For more information, visit Waikiki.Hyatt.com.

- ◆ **Royal Hawaiian Center**, located in the heart of Waikīkī, has received a **Silver MAXI Award** from the International Council of Shopping Centers for the excellence of its advertising campaign, “**Mood of Waikīkī.**” The campaign emphasized the Center’s new sense of style, optimism, shopping opportunities, and showcase of Hawai’i’s cultural diversity. For more information, visit RoyalHawaiianCenter.com.

- ◆ *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine recently released its list of the world’s **Top Spas 2010** and 20 of Hawai’i’s resort spas were selected based on the quality of the treatments, staff, and facilities. The top six locations in rank order are as follows:
 1. **Four Seasons Resort Lāna’i, The Lodge at Koele**
 2. **Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea**
 3. **(tie) Four Seasons Resort Hualālai (Hawai’i’s Big Island)**
 3. **(tie) Hotel Hāna-Maui and Honua Spa**
 5. **Grand Hyatt Kaua’i Resort and Spa**
 6. **Halekulani (O’ahu)**

For more information, visit Concierge.com.

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Special note to media: The Hawai’i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of the ‘okina [ʻ] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the (modern) Hawaiian language; and the kahakō [ā] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai’i such as Lāna’i). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

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