

June 2008

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

### ACCOLADES

- ◆ **TripAdvisor** has ranked two of Hawai'i's cities on its 2008 Travelers' Choice U.S. Destination list. **Po'ipū** on **Kaua'i** ranking fourth and **Lahaina** on **Maui** ranking ninth. The survey was based on the TripAdvisor travelers' favorite places and overall popularity, and to honor the most adored destinations that keep travelers coming back for more. For more information, visit [TripAdvisor.com](http://TripAdvisor.com).
- ◆ **Stephen Leatherman** (aka. Dr.Beach) recognized two of Hawai'i's beaches on his list of America's Best Beaches for 2008. **Hanalei Beach**, on **Kaua'i** ranked second and **Hamoa Beach** on **Maui** ranked seventh. The survey was based on water and sand quality, facilities, and environmental management. For more information, visit [Dr.Beach.com](http://Dr.Beach.com).

### EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ The much-anticipated theatrical show "Waikiki Nei" opens this summer at the **Royal Hawaiian Center** in the heart of **Waikiki**. Surrounding guests with the story of Waikiki, Hawai'i's most famous destination, with its rich and historic past to its dynamic and modern present. Guests will enjoy stunning live performances of acrobatic routines, catawalks, and the amazing effect that requires the roof to be raised off the fourth-floor facility from 30-50 feet, 100-foot landscapes as backgrounds, and surfers gliding 30 feet above your head. Once the show concludes, the venue turns into the "ultra lounge" **Level 4** featuring aerialists, interactive tables, special drinks, and dramatic lighting. For more information, visit [WaikikiNei.com](http://WaikikiNei.com).

- ◆ **Hanalei Colony Resort** is partnering with **Limahuli Gardens** to offer **The Beach and Botany** package combining vacation fun with volunteer opportunities.

Guests are required to make a minimum commitment of two four-hour volunteer sessions per person at Limahuli Garden. This package includes a five or seven night stay at Hanalei Colony; picnic basket lunch for two, a one-day kayak rental for two on the Hanalei River, oceanside massage for two at Hanalei Day Spa, annual membership to the National Tropical and Botanical Gardens, and a special arrival gift. The volunteer activities will take place at 8 a.m., three times a week. For more information, visit

[HanaleiColonyResort.com](http://HanaleiColonyResort.com) or call 1-800-628-3004.

#### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ The **Royal Hawaiian Center** in **Waikīkī**, has completed its \$115 million renovation and will host a week-long grand open house celebration, “Nou Ka Hale: Our House is Your House,” June 14-20. Festivities include entertainment from local artists and cultural programs as well as lomi lomi massage, ‘ukulele, hula, and lei making classes. The four-level center has been expanded to 310,000 square feet and hosts 110 shops and restaurants from around the world. The transformation allows local residents and visitors to experience the largest public gathering place for entertainment and culture. For more information, visit [RoyalHawaiianCenter.com](http://RoyalHawaiianCenter.com).

- ◆ **The Royal Hawaiian Hotel** has closed for a \$110 million renovation that will enhance guests with the experience of Hawai'i hospitality with a modern luxury and romance theme. The rejuvenation will have guests personally greeted by its friendly staff and offered to sit and relax before being escorted to their room. The Royal Hawaiian will open up with a brand new pool and water experiences, new regional cuisine menus, and additions to the **Abhasa Waikiki Spa**. Several service enhancements will be offered, from private beach cabana attendants to personal butler service. For more information, visit [Royal-Hawaiian.com](http://Royal-Hawaiian.com).
  
- ◆ **Aqua Coconut Plaza in Waikīkī** completed its \$2.6 million upgrade renovations which has resulted in a non-smoking hotel and offers many complimentary amenities including daily continental breakfast, the local newspaper, local and toll-free phone calls and access of the in-room safe. The 81 guest rooms have mini-refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, safe, 40" or 42" LCD HD TV and wireless Internet. Aqua Coconut Plaza also provides an intimate pool area with a wrap around deck and a fitness room that will opening soon. For more information, visit [AquaResorts.com](http://AquaResorts.com).

#### TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- ◆ **Pleasant Holidays'**, take advantage of its "Summer Sale" to **Hawai'i** as they offer low airfares and added values for travelers from **Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles** and **Oakland**. The added values include reduced hotel rates on all islands, free upgrades, dining credits and breakfasts, as well as free kids' stays and wedding and honeymoon upgrades. The starting rate includes air and accommodations for a three-night summer vacation. The special deals run through August 14, 2008. For more information, visit [PleasantHolidays.com](http://PleasantHolidays.com).

- ◆ **Alaska Airlines** is expanding its service to provide year round once a day service between **Seattle** and **Kona** beginning November 17. The only carrier to offer non-stop service between Seattle and Kona, flights leave Seattle at 8:40 a.m., arriving in Kona at 1:00 p.m. Returning flights will depart 2:00 p.m. and arrive at 9:40 p.m. Seasonal service between **Anchorage** and **Kahului** are also expanding to three times weekly from October 31, 2008 to April 25, 2009. For more information, visit [AlaskaAir.com](http://AlaskaAir.com).
  
- ◆ Easy summer traveling to the Hawaiian Islands will be rewarded through **United Airlines** new codeshare agreement with **Hawaiian Airlines**. The codeshare service on Hawaiian Airlines inter-island flights offers, United's Mileage Plus members the opportunity to increase and redeem their frequent flyer miles on flights. United's codeshare flights will start at the end of the summer. For more information visit, [HawaiianAir.com](http://HawaiianAir.com) or [UnitedAirlines.com](http://UnitedAirlines.com).
  
- ◆ **Hawaii Superferry** has partnered with the following rental car companies enabling vehicles to be transported between O'ahu and Maui: Hertz, Dollar/Thrifty Automotive Group, Alamo/National Rent A Car, Avis Budget Group, U-Haul, Ryder and JN Car and Truck Rental. Shuttle service between rental car locations and Hawaii Superferry ports are available through the car rental company. For more information, visit [HawaiiSuperferry.com](http://HawaiiSuperferry.com).
  
- ◆ **Delta Airlines** has started direct flights from **LAX** to **Kaua'i** and **Hawai'i's Big Island**. To promote its new direct routes to Hawai'i, Delta Airlines has partnered with Starwood Hotels to offer travelers 30 percent off regular rooms and suite rates and also offering triple sky miles. For more information, visit [StarwoodHotels.com](http://StarwoodHotels.com) or [DeltaAirlines.com](http://DeltaAirlines.com).

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**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.

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