

August 2007

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

The first-ever Hāmākua Alive event will be on display October 27 and showcase the agriculture of Hāmākua Coast on Hawai'i's Big Island. The event will feature the producers of coffee, honey, vanilla, mushrooms, beef, taro, and more with participation by Big Island's top local chefs. Hāmākua Alive takes place at Pa'auilo School, admission is \$15 with children under five free. For more information, contact Jim Reddekopp at 808-776-1771.

Elvis has left the building, but has returned to the lawn of The Neal S. Blaisdell Center. A statue of the famous rock-and-roll icon now stands at the 1973 telecast site of *"Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii via Satellite."* The all-rerun channel, TV Land has been erecting statues of famous TV characters around the nation and has unveiled the bronze Elvis at the Blaisdell to exactly replicate his 1973 persona and jumpsuit. For more information, visit TVLand.com.

C&K, the legendary performers Cecilio Rodriguez and Henry Kaponu, bring Hawaiian musical renaissance back to the stage with a one-night-only concert at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. The resort is offering premier room and ticket packages for the night of the concert on Saturday, September 29. The packages start at \$345 per room for the one-night stay and include two tickets to this amazing event. For tickets or information, visit HiltonWaikoloa.com.

Honoring the 10th anniversary of Hawai'i's own Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole's death, Hawai'i-based Mountain Apple Company has recently released IZ's second album "Wonderful World." IZ's songs have helped to make Hawaiian music mainstream and has touched the world through commercials, television shows, and movies. The album is a compilation record of his best work set to a complete orchestra of music, which includes his famous recording "Over The Rainbow/What A Wonderful World." For more information, visit MountainAppleCompany.com.

GB Adventures, a VW Westfalia camper van rental company, has come to the islands. Adventurers can cruise and sleep comfortably in these fully stocked vehicles with all the amenities imaginable for the most luxurious camping/RV trip around. Possibilities are endless as campers can be lulled to sleep by the crashing of waves and awake to beautiful beach sunsets. For more information, visit GB-Adventures.com.

Executive Cup X has moved to the Mauna Kea Resort on Hawai'i's Big Island and is scheduled for November 5-10, 2007 at the Mauna Lani's Francis I'i Brown and Hapuna Golf Courses. Executive Cup X is America's only national tournament of private club champions with more than 150 participants. For more information, visit ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Seven of the top 25 resorts in Golf Magazine's exclusive list of "Gold Medal Resorts" are found here in Hawai'i. The next closest state features three on the list. The Hawai'i courses named are the Four Seasons Resort Hualālai at Ka'ūpūlehu (Hawai'i's Big Island), Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i at Manele Bay, Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, The Lodge at Koele, Grand Wailea Resort (Maui), Kauai Marriott Resort and Beach Club, Mauna Lani Resort (Hawai'i's Big Island), and Princeville Resort (Kaua'i). For more information about these resorts and golf in Hawai'i, visit GoHawaii.com/Golf.

The Shops at Mauna Lani on Hawai'i's Big Island are filled with new entertainment. Tommy Bahama Tropical Café at The Shops at Mauna Lani offers excellent food and live, local entertainment each evening from 5 – 10 p.m. The Shops also offers a free award-winning Hawaiian mythology show "Ho'olina – The Legacy" every Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit ShopsAtMaunaLani.com.

Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center has reopened three of its anchor restaurants, as well as many longtime merchant stores, with renovations to improve each visitor's dining experience.

Restaurant Suntory, the only original tenant of the center, has been serving authentic Japanese cuisine for 27 years. The restaurant is now over 6,000 square feet, boasts beautiful views of The Royal Grove, and features natural wood elements throughout the dining room and bar. The ambiance has been updated to offer a variety of seafood, shabu-shabu and teppan-yaki in a contemporary Japanese setting.

Beijing Chinese Seafood Restaurant has undergone extensive renovations and offers a luxurious dining space with traditional Chinese surroundings and live seafood-viewing tanks. Patrons will enjoy dim-sum lunches and prix fixe dinners in this elegant antique Chinese style setting complete with a gold-plated Emperor Chair display room.

Okonomiyaki Chibo Restaurant is located on the center's third level, Building A, and has completed a \$900,000 renovation. This authentic Japanese restaurant has made it's home here for the past 17 years and features "Okonomiyaki" dishes which originate from Osaka, Japan. Each dish is customizable with seafood, meats, and vegetables prepared in an egg batter that loosely resembles a giant pancake. Aside from the newly finished dining area, large groups may choose to dine in private tatami (traditional Japanese-styled) rooms.

For more information, visit RoyalHawaiianShoppingCenter.com.

Señor Frogs Restaurant & Bar, the world-renowned place for its energetic party atmosphere and anything goes attitude, has hopped into the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. The largest *casa* in the shopping center, the restaurant and bar is almost 16,000 square feet and is located on the third level overlooking the “Waikīkī strip,” otherwise known as Kalākaua Avenue. The restaurant is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. For more information, visit RoyalHawaiianShoppingCenter.com.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

The Alakai, Hawaii Superferry's first vessel serving the islands of Maui, Kaua'i, and O'ahu is set to begin service late this summer. Hawaii Superferry will offer daily service between Maui and O'ahu and between Kaua'i and O'ahu Sunday through Friday with a travel time of three hours each way. A second ferry is scheduled for 2009 with service between Hawai'i's Big Island and O'ahu, a four-hour and fifteen-minute voyage, and a second daily O'ahu-Maui roundtrip will also be offered. For more information, visit HawaiiSuperferry.com.

ATA has expanded service to Hawai'i to include Kona and Līhu'e and is now serving more Hawai'i destinations non-stop from the Mainland than any other airlines. ATA's code-share agreement with Southwest connects 40 Southwest Airlines cities to Hawai'i with three non-stop flights per week from Oakland to and from Kona. ATA also offers four non-stop flights per week from Oakland to and from Līhu'e as well as daily non-stop flights from Las Vegas to and from Maui. For more information, visit ATA.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 Lāna'i). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

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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: nkam@mcneilwilson.com
Phone: 808-539-3471

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