

December 2008

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ **The Kahala Hotel & Resort** recently unveiled its newly renovated ballrooms and meeting spaces. The hotel's Waialae Ballroom and Maile Ballroom have been outfitted with orchid patterned carpeting and walls adorned with elegant, traditional Hawaiian prints and designs. The ballrooms' new buffet tables are hand carved and custom made with special furnishings unique to The Kahala and the Golden ballroom chairs are now plush with an Asian twist. By year's end, each ballroom will also be outfitted with a 6'x9' LCD screen for presentations. For more information, visit KahalaResort.com.
- ◆ Visitors can now explore **Parker Ranch's** new hunting web site (Hunt.ParkerRanch.com) for more information on its hunting program including available hunts, various biographies on the ranch's professional guides, questions and answers, a hunting game, and important information on Hawai'i's hunting rules and regulations. For more information, visit Hunt.ParkerRanch.com.

- ◆ Following a four-month remodel, the **Maui Brewing Co.** has reopened with renovations featuring new skylights with natural lighting, ceiling fans, and energy efficient upgrades. Maui Brewing Co. also has Hawai'i's first and only "Frost Rail" bar that includes more seats and TVs with a new sound system and more local ingredients have been included into the menu, which has lowered prices on the food items. For more information, visit MauiBrewingCo.com.

- ◆ **Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach** and **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** are offering its guests a variety of free amenities and services under the **Fee Free Escape program**. The renovated **Pacific Tower** at **Outrigger Reef** has installed free high-speed Internet access and free direct-local and long-distance phone calls to the United States and Canada. The Fee Free Escape program will provide guests with complimentary wireless Internet access, the use of an in-room safe, fitness center, daily newspaper, Hawai'i postcards, daily activities, and a Hawaiian Vow Renewal ceremony available twice-weekly. Children ages 5-10 years old staying a minimum of three nights with their family, will receive a complimentary Island Explorer Kit (colorful backpack with an activity guide and kid-friendly edible treats). Other free services include fundamental surf lessons on land and a Hawaiian Airlines kiosk to assist guests with check-in and boarding passes for their return flight. For more information, visit Outrigger.com.

- ◆ The \$110 million renovations at **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** have been completed with its new **Pacific Tower**. The tower includes 403 guestrooms and 33 suites with full sized tubs. New amenities include 32" flat-panel LCD TVs, free long-distance telephone calls, and free Internet access. Arriving guests may also take in the stunning collection of Polynesian canoe art by renowned historian Herb Kane and view the newly restored Polynesian inspired canoes, the Ho'aloa. For more information, visit Outrigger.com.

- ◆ **Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa** has completed its \$28 million guestroom renovation to its **Kealohilani Tower**. The renovations feature 605 guestrooms and suites with granite tops and wood furnishings, wireless high-speed Internet access, and a 37-inch flat screen TV. For more information, visit MarriottWaikiki.com.

- ◆ The **Sheraton Waikiki** has reopened its **Hawaii Ballroom**, Waikīkī's largest hotel ballroom area, after a \$5 million renovation. While adhering to the "contemporary Hawaiian sophistication" theme, the new ballroom has been completely transformed and includes state-of-the-art lighting and signage, an energy-efficient kitchen, new digital reader displays, carpeting, wallpaper, and restrooms. For more information, visit Sheraton-Waikiki.com.

- ◆ The **Four Seasons Hualālai at Historic Ka'ūpūlehu** has a new wedding option for couples looking to be "eco-friendly" on their special day. The **Sustainable Nuptials Package** is a ecological experience for couples who don't want to sacrifice elegance and sophistication. This package includes a Wedding planner's eco-expertise, choice of outdoor wedding location to save electricity, a solo acoustic musician for an hour, two-hour photography package, bridal bouquet and groom's boutonniere, two-tier wedding cake, and a 50-minute Couples Massage at The Hualālai Sports Club and Spa. For more information, visit FourSeasons.com/Hualalai.

- ◆ **Ihilani Spa** at the **Ihilani Resort and Spa** on **O'ahu** has debuted its **new organic spa products** (bath salts, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, and wash) from 'Ōhi'a 'Ai Mountain Apple where all products are paraben free. For more information, visit Ihilani.com.

- ◆ **The Shack's** newest location in the **Waikiki Trade Center** offers guests a new sports bar featuring dancing, live music, pool tables, arcade games, food and daily happy hour. For more information, visit ShackWaikiki.com.
- ◆ **Hula Grill Waikiki at Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach** now offers a new menu called "**Sunset Dinners by the Beach.**" Cost is \$24.75 from 5-6 p.m. and features fresh and local ingredients with a choice of starter, entrée, and dessert item. For more information, visit OutriggerWaikikiHotel.com.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** and **Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach** will offer free activities and island holiday events this Christmas season. Outrigger Reef's most popular events are the Tree Lighting Ceremony, scheduled for December 1, 2008 at 6 p.m., and Outrigger Waikiki's Hawaiian Santa Clause, scheduled for December 13, 2008 at 9 a.m. The Hawaiian Santa Clause will make his stop at Outrigger Reef on December 23 at 9 a.m. During the month of December, hotel guests will be offered island-style holiday activities with their Polynesian Christmas Craft Sale featuring hands-on crafts; Hawaiian ornaments, kukui nut bracelets, and more. Carolers will be singing Hawaiian Christmas songs and there will be ukulele and hula lessons and Hawaiian Christmas storytelling. For more information, visit Outrigger.com.
- ◆ **Star of Honolulu** will start its daily **2.5-hour Premier Whale Watch Cruise** from December 15, 2008 to April 30, 2009. The cruise will feature a whale narration, whale-sighting guarantee from January 2 to March 31, 2009, and a Polynesian sunset dinner. For more information, StarofHonolulu.com.

- ◆ **Hawaiian Walkways** is now offering the “**Windward Coast and Waterfalls**” tour that takes guests through Waipi’o Valley’s cliffs and rainforest streams. Groups will take in beautiful sights on this tour and enjoy waterfalls, botanical gardens, an ocean-side picnic lunch, and a visit to the Laupahoehoe Train Museum. For more information, visit HawaiianWalkways.com.

- ◆ O’ahu’s **Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor** offers new exhibits and an aircraft, the **McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle** The **Attack Wall** exhibit features the Japanese Imperial Navy’s attack on December 7, 1941, with the engine design, aircraft restoration shop, Aviator’s Tour, and a free combat flight simulator. For more information, visit PacificAviationMuseum.org.

- ◆ **The Hans Hedemann Surf School** is offering two new tours, the **North Shore Tour** and the **Stand Up Paddle Surfing Tour**. The North Shore Tour includes transportation to the surfing location, a surfing or bodyboarding lesson, and sights of O’ahu’s famous North Shore. The Stand Up Paddle Tour will educate participants of the popular local sport of stand up paddle boarding. For more information, visit HHSurf.com

- ◆ **Elite Surf Lessons Hawaii**, where you learn to surf from the pros,” was created and instructed by professional surfers Randall Paulson, Kai Sallas, and Jason Magellens. Elite offers surf and stand up paddle lessons at uncrowded O’ahu locations and also have customized lessons for all skill levels. For more information, visit EliteSurfLessonsHawaii.com.

- ◆ **Blue Hawaiian Helicopters** is offering three new tours on O'ahu; **Waikiki by Starlight** is a 15-minute night tour over Waikīkī and Diamond Head; **Aloha Circle** is a 30-minute tour over Waikīkī Beach, Kāne'ōhe, and Nu'uānu Pali; and **Blue Skies of Oahu** is a 45-minute tour that takes visitors to rainforests, beaches, reefs, and valleys including Sacred Falls, Dole Plantation, and Pearl Harbor. For more information, visit BlueHawaiian.com.

- ◆ **Lava Ocean Adventures** has a new charter, the "Natural Wonders of Hilo" available through May 2009. This 2.5-hour cruise will visit waterfalls and lava caves, where guest will be able to view sights of dolphins, whales, and the Kilauea eruption. Admission for adults is \$125 and \$99 for children. For more information, visit LavaOcean.com.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- ◆ **Hawaiian Airlines** has acquired three new **Airbus A330-200 aircraft**, two of which will join the fleet in second quarter 2010 with the third coming a year later. The Airbus A330-200 carries 298 passengers, is fuel efficient, and has an operating range of 6,050 nautical miles, giving Hawaiian the capability to fly nonstop to all of North America and points in eastern Asia. For more information, visit HawaiianAir.com.

- ◆ **Alaska Airlines** has begun its seasonal service between Kahului, Maui and Anchorage, Alaska continuing until April 25, 2009. Anchorage flights will depart on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2:20 p.m. AKST, arriving at 6:35 p.m. HST. Return flights will leave Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 8:45 p.m. HST and arriving at 5:00 a.m. AKST. Travelers flying to Hawai'i will enjoy a Hawaiian themed beverage and meal service where main cabin guests will be offered complimentary Mauna Loa macadamia nuts and a Mai Tai or Passion Orange Juice, and a \$5 meal-for-purchase option. First class travelers will enjoy island inspired meals such as macadamia nut encrusted mahi mahi. Alaska Airlines in-flight service provides an Alaska Airlines' digEplayer, a personal entertainment system with various movies, television shows, and music. For more information, visit AlaskaAir.com.

ACCOLADES

- ◆ Two Hawai'i restaurants have made **Gayot's 2008 List** with **Chef Mavro** restaurant on the **Top 40 Restaurants in the United States** list, and **Ono Hawaiian Foods** on the **Top 40 Cheap Eats** list. Chef Mavro's was recognized for its Hawaiian regional cuisine and Ono Hawaiian Foods was recognized for its portion and combination plates like: Kalua pig, pipi kaula (Hawaiian beef jerky), lomi lomi salmon (tomatoes and onions), and lau lau (steamed pork within ti leaves), with a choice of rice or poi (made from taro). For more information, visit Gayot.com.

- ◆ **Orbitz** has ranked **Honolulu (4th)** and **Lāhaina (9th)** on its Top 10 Christmas Destinations for 2008. The rankings were based on the online hotel and package bookings on Orbitz.com. For more information, visit Orbitz.com.

- ◆ Eight hotels have made **ForbesTraveler.com's** list of America's 50 Best Hotels. On the list of the Top 50 Hotels are:
 - ◆ Four Seasons Resort Hualālai on Hawai'i's Big Island
 - ◆ Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, Manele Bay
 - ◆ Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, The Lodge at Koele
 - ◆ Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea
 - ◆ Halekulani Hotel on O'ahu

For more information, visit ForbesTraveler.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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