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WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ The perfect time to take that dream vacation to Hawai'i is approaching. From August 16-31, **Pleasant Holidays** will offer its best prices of the summer travel season with its **August Blowout Sale** to O'ahu and Maui. Packages start at **\$269** per person and include roundtrip airfare, three-day car rentals and three nights' hotel stay. For more information, visit PleasantHolidays.com.
- ◆ The first of **EDITION Hotels'** international chain of luxurious boutique properties introduced by **Ian Schrager** and **Marriott International** will premier in Waikīkī, O'ahu in October 2010. The **Waikiki EDITION** will open in a former wing of the Ilikai Hotel and will offer a restaurant by the world-renowned *Iron Chef*, **Masaharu Morimoto**, an exclusive nightclub **Crazybox**, and various bars and lounges including the **Private Sunset Beach** with a lagoon and imported sand from the neighboring Hawaiian islands. Other guest amenities include a full-service spa and fitness center, individually designed Surf and Bikini Boot Camps for the ultimate physical fitness enthusiast, an outdoor movie theater, a retail shop and much more. For more information, visit EditionHotels.com or MarriottNewsCenter.com.
- ◆ After nine months and a \$50 million renovation, **Marriott Resorts Hawaii** has revealed the new **Kauai Marriott Resort on Kalapaki Beach**. Highlights of the resort's new features include completely transformed guest rooms and Presidential Suite with modern island elegance, the renovated open-air **Kukui's on Kalapaki Beach** restaurant, the new **Toro-Tei** sushi restaurant, an enhanced

Kauai Ballroom, and a newly built children's pool featuring a slide and water spouts. For more information, visit KauaiMarriott.com.

- ◆ Executive Chef Eric Lelinski of the **Sheraton Keauhou Resort and Spa** on Hawai'i's Big Island keeps the **Dining Under the Stars** menus fresh by taking advantage of the local resources found at the nearby Keauhou Farmers Markets. Kohala field greens, Hawai'i grown basil, Pahole ferns, Hāmākua spring tomatoes and mushrooms are some of the island grown ingredients featured on four different menus. For more information, visit SheratonKeauhou.com.
- ◆ To celebrate its 50th anniversary at Maui's Napili Bay, **Napili Kai Beach Resort** is holding an online contest to win a week-long trip for two to Maui. The grand prize winner and a guest will receive an Oceanview Studio at Napili Kai with welcome lei, roundtrip air transportation, seven-day car rental, private oceanfront Nā Hōkū dinner for two at the resort, two roundtrip tickets on EXPEDITIONS ferry to the island of Lāna'i, two tickets to the Grammy-award winning slack key guitar concert series and a slack key CD. For more information, visit NapiliKai.com.
- ◆ Stay at the newly available **Kīpuka Cottage** on Hawai'i's Big Island. A *kīpuka* can be described as a home within the forest. Only a seven minute drive from the entrance of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, this custom-designed vacation home features floor-to-ceiling windows looking upon the forest, cabinetry and flooring made from local woods, a sleeping loft surrounded by windows and a fully-equipped kitchen. For more information, visit Kipuka-Cottage.Squarespace.com.
- ◆ After a great day at the beach, guests can unwind with **Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort and Spa's "4-5-6" pau hana** happy hour specials while enjoying the view overlooking O'ahu's Kūhiō Beach. From now until August 31, the **Moana Terrace** is serving its happy hour menu daily from 4-6 p.m. featuring four draft beer selections at \$4 each, five pupu items including Kalua Pig Nachos, Calamari Rings,

Garlic Fried Chicken, Island Vegetable Crudites, and Sweet Potato Fries for \$5 each, and \$6 Mai Tais, Pina Coladas, Lava Flows, Blue Hawaiis, Daiquiris or Margaritas. For more information, call 808-922-6611.

- ◆ Spice up your corporate meetings and social functions with Chef Chai Chaowasaree's award-winning Hawai'i regional cuisine at **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** and **Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach** on O'ahu. From formal dining to lighter fare, Chef Chai uses fresh fish and local produce for his Pacific Rim inspired menu to satisfy guests of all palates. For more information, visit Outrigger.com/ChefChai.

- ◆ **The Queen's Court Restaurant** at the **Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel** on Hawai'i's Big Island recently unveiled a new look and menu following a major renovation. A new seating design allows guests to take in scenic views of Hilo Bay while they dine on a menu featuring local produce from the Hilo Farmer's Market and other local providers. For more information, visit CastleResorts.com.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ Grammy-nominated singer **Henry Kapon** and **The Wild Hawaiian Experience** are now playing at **Hilton Hawaiian Village's** Super Pool Stage (O'ahu). Kapon's newest musical production embraces and celebrates his passion for his Hawaiian roots. From Hawaiian classics to a mix of rock and hip-hop, the show highlights a variety of musical styles. Adding excitement to Kapon's performance, additional entertainment is provided by Kenny Endo (taiko drums), one of Hawai'i's leading persons in contemporary percussion and rhythm, Au Shaolin Arts Society (Chinese Lion Dance) and Tihati Productions (fire knife and hula dancers, torch lighter). Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with The Wild Hawaiian Experience beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit HiltonHawaiianVillage.com.

- ◆ Hawai'i's newest marine facility is now open to the public for guided tours beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The **Living Art Marine Center** is located near Honolulu International Airport on O'ahu and features approximately 75 liters of displays including a variety of tropical fish tanks, do-it-yourself workshops, an aquatic touch tank, shark museum and more. During the "**Tour The Six Oceans Display,**" visitors experience six different marine aquatic environments including Hawai'i and the Christmas Islands, Australia, Philippines and Indonesia, Baja Mexico, the Caribbean and the Red Sea. For more information, visit HawaiianSeaLife.com.

- ◆ A new **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands** exhibit displaying species of fishes and corals found near these isolated Islands is scheduled to open in spring 2011 at O'ahu's **Waikiki Aquarium**. Located approximately 1,000 miles northwest of Ni'ihau and Kaua'i, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are home to over 7,000 life forms, a quarter of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. The 4,000-gallon public display will feature unique marine life such as table corals, masked angelfish, yellow barbell goatfish and Japanese pygmy angelfish and will also incorporate touch screens to provide additional information on the marine ecosystem. For more information, visit WAAquarium.org.

- ◆ Earlier this year, **Sea Life Park Hawaii** (O'ahu) welcomed a new baby male Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin, and the Park is inviting the public to participate in a contest to name the new baby. A panel of judges will pick the winning name based on its meaning and reasoning, and the lucky winner will receive a grand prize of a three-night stay at the **Sheraton Waikiki Hotel**, an in-water interaction with mother and baby and an invitation to attend the Baby Dolphin Event in the fall. The contest will end on August 31. For more information, visit SeaLifeParkHawaii.com.

- ◆ **Atlantis Submarines'** undersea adventure off Kona's Kailua Bay on Hawai'i's Big Island now features a captivating view of two sunken shipwrecks, which are

currently home to many tropical fish, underwater foliage and other fascinating marine life. For more information, visit AtlantisSubmarines.com/Hawaii.

- ◆ **Kau Kau Kailua Restaurant Week** is coming up soon from September 19 to 25 on Hawai'i's Big Island. The celebration kicks-off with a **Kokua Kailua Village Stroll**, where they will visit a pedestrian-only marketplace with various restaurant specials, vendors and live Hawaiian entertainment. For more information, visit KVBID.org.

- ◆ Be among the first to participate in the brand new annual **Maui Open Studios**. During the first two weekends of February 2011, visit the open studios and exhibition spaces of artists and artisans around the island as they display their work, talk story, connect and inspire the public. Enjoy pupus and live music and preview one or two pieces of the artists' work at the Opening Celebration. For more information visit MauiOpenStudios.com.

TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ Starting on October 3, **Hawaiian Airlines** will begin its first-ever nonstop service between **Maui** and **Las Vegas** with twice weekly flights. For more information, visit HawaiianAirlines.com.

ACCOLADES

- ◆ The **American Hotel & Lodging Association** honored **Aqua Waikiki Wave** housekeeper, **Leticia Gamiao**, with the **2010 Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year** award. Representing the state of Hawai'i, Gamiao was selected over all other national competitors based on her exceptional service to hotel guests and excellent housekeeping performance. For more information, visit AHLA.com.

- ◆ Two Hawai'i beaches, O'ahu's **Kahanamoku Beach** and Maui's **Hāmoa Beach**, earned spots on **Dr. Beach's** annual **Top 10 Beaches** list. Kahanamoku Beach near the Hilton Hawaiian Village is listed at **No. 6** and is noted as a great swimming

area for families with children as a shallow offshore reef protects the beach from big waves. Hāmoa Beach made the list at **No. 9** and was once named by Ernest Hemmingway at the “world’s best beach.” Dr. Beach, also known as Dr. Stephen Leatherman, has been compiling the country’s top ten beaches for 20 years, in which he considers factors such as water quality and temperature, cleanliness, weather, sand, safety and facilities in making his exclusive list. For more information, visit DrBeach.org.

◆ *Fodor’s Travel* recognized several of Hawai’i’s hotels in the **Fodor’s Choice Gold Awards 2010**, which honors the best hotels in the U.S. One hundred hotels were ranked as the top ten winners in each of ten travel categories. Out of the ten categories, Hawai’i hotels made seven:

- ◆ Best Hotels for Kids and Families
 - ◆ **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa**
- ◆ Most Romantic Hotels
 - ◆ **Halekulani** (O’ahu)
- ◆ Best Hotels for Destination Wedding
 - ◆ **Sheraton Kauai Resort**
- ◆ Best Design Hotels
 - ◆ **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** (Hawai’i’s Big Island)
- ◆ Best Hotel for Service
 - ◆ **Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea**
- ◆ Best Resort or Destination Spas
 - ◆ **Westin Maui Resort & Spa**
- ◆ Best Hotel Pools
 - ◆ **Grand Wailea Resort** (Maui)
 - ◆ **Hanalei Bay Resort** (Kaua’i)

The Fodor’s Choice Gold Awards caters to a range of budgets, experiences and interests. For more information, visit Fodors.com.

- ◆ This year marked the first annual *SmarterTravel* Editors' Choice Awards, in which Hawai'i was named **Best Value Destination**. The awards highlight the best values in travel, chosen by a team of editors who collectively have more than 100 years of traveling experience. For more information, visit SmarterTravel.com.
- ◆ Hawai'i's tourism industry consistently ranks well in *Travel + Leisure's* annual **World's Best Awards** and this year is no different. Some of the highlights of the **2010 World's Best Awards** include:
 - ◆ **Kaua'i** ranked **No. 2** of the **Top 10 Islands**. **Maui** and **Hawai'i's Big Island** were also named to the list at **No. 8** and **No. 10** respectively.
 - ◆ **Four Seasons Resort Hualālai** on Hawai'i's Big Island was rated the best of the **Top 25 Resorts in Hawai'i** and **No. 62** of the **Top 100 Hotels**.
 - ◆ **Hawaiian Airlines** ranked **No. 5** overall of the best **Domestic Airlines** which included nine other competitors.

For more information, visit TravelandLeisure.com.

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Special note to media: The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of the 'okina ['] 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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