



Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau  
Hawai'i Convention Center

1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815

kelepona tel 808 943 3500

kelepa'i fax 808 943 3099

kahua pa'a web meethawaii.com

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WHAT'S NEW IN HAWAII FOR MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS & INCENTIVES

*Aloha and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou* (Happy New Year)! With the New Year brings exciting updates and developments for meetings, conventions and incentives in the Hawaiian Islands. From hotel and meeting venue renovations to new and engaging activities and creative programs, there are endless opportunities to incorporate the Aloha Spirit into your next gathering.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS & MEETING VENUES

The former Pacific Beach Hotel recently debuted as the all-new '**Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach** following an extensive \$115 million transformation. As O'ahu's sophisticated new resort in the heart of Waikiki, 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach offers a stylish new way to stay and play in Waikiki, which is transforming with new cultural, culinary and shopping offerings. In addition to featuring five new culinary concepts, the 839-modern resort offers multiple meeting spaces ranging from a grand ballroom that welcomes up to 1,500 guests to meeting rooms that host two-dozen professionals, all with authentic design touches inspired by O'ahu's lush landscape and rich cultural heritage. [www.alohilaniresort.com](http://www.alohilaniresort.com)

**Aqua Kauai Beach Resort's** versatile indoor meeting spaces, conference facilities and pre-function areas have recently undergone a refresh. The property's exquisite 8,611 sq. ft. Jasmine Ballroom features moveable air walls and reconfigures to three flexible function rooms while also offering 1,744 sq. ft. of pre-function space. Whether planning a business meeting or a family celebration, the overall refresh features new carpeting throughout, wallpaper, chandeliers, and ceiling treatments, as well as a dynamic color LED system that creates a unique atmosphere and décor fit for every event. [www.kauaibeachresorthawaii.com](http://www.kauaibeachresorthawaii.com)

**Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa's** former nightclub, Kuhio's, has been refreshed and repurposed to encompass a 900 sq. ft. hospitality lounge for guests with early arrival/late night flights, a 1,166 sq. ft. meeting space and 2,600 sq. ft. of office space. Owners of the Grand Hyatt Kauai, Kawailoa Development, sought to retain the original look and feel of the entrance while being as "green" as possible, reusing materials to keep the Kuhio's feel alive. The departure lounge area at the forefront of the building features all original woodwork with the space designed to highlight this. [www.kauai.grand.hyatt.com](http://www.kauai.grand.hyatt.com)

Located along the white sands of Po'ipū Beach, the 19.5-acre **Sheraton Kauai Resort** announces a transformation of the resort's Ocean Wing guestrooms and suites scheduled for completion in April 2018. Boasting unparalleled views of the island's southern coastline, updated accommodations will feature modern furnishings with an island-inspired color palette. The 287-room oceanfront resort is perfect for groups of up to 40 rooms, featuring an array of flexible function spaces including the newly updated Poipu Ballroom, which offers 4,071 square-feet of

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meeting space, and oceanfront venues including the resort's signature RumFire restaurant.

[www.sheraton-kauai.com](http://www.sheraton-kauai.com)

**Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa's** multi-million-dollar investment, completed in summer 2017, features a new arrival experience, premium guestrooms, and modern interiors. Located on the pristine and protected waters of Anaeho'omalua Bay on the island of Hawai'i, the resort will debut a transformed luxury wing in 2018 with distinct furnishings inspired by its proximity to the water, and private open air showers on the ground floor room *lanai*. As part of the transformation, the resort also debuted Aka'ula Lanai, a new espresso bar that transitions to a cocktail lounge at sunset, and a refresh of its popular Hawaii Calls restaurant.

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

The **Westin Hapuna Beach Resort** will debut within Mauna Kea Resort in March 2018 following a nearly \$50-million renovation at the former Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel. With the Westin brand comes a plethora of wellness initiatives that can be incorporated into every meeting and event at the oceanfront Kohala Coast resort. In recently-refreshed meeting rooms, including the more than 8,000-square-foot ballroom, and in stunning outdoor venues, meeting planners can expect delicious and memorable meals, breakouts, and themed events that incorporate the island's beauty and sense of place. As part of the more than 1800-acre Mauna Kea Resort, home to Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, groups have the added benefit of two luxury hotels, two championship golf courses and two stunning white sand beaches, among just a few of the resort's amenities. [www.HapunaBeachResort.com](http://www.HapunaBeachResort.com)

## **ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS**

On Oahu, **Atlantis Adventures** now offers boat charters on the Majestic, providing the perfect venue to host and entertain groups ranging from 15 to 300 guests. In addition to the vessel's Seakeeper technology providing boat stability and comfort for guests, the Majestic's sleek, modern design boasts three large decks offering a variety of settings for guests to enjoy, including a contemporary dining room, a posh cocktail lounge, and an open-air deck. Atlantis offers floor charters as well as full boat charters and provides fully customized menus based on group preferences. [www.atlantisadventures.com/boat-charters/](http://www.atlantisadventures.com/boat-charters/)

The "Holo Moana: Generations of Voyaging" exhibition at the **Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum** on O'ahu celebrates the resurgence of the centuries-old, ancestral practice of long-distance ocean voyaging. Closely following the Hawaiian sailing canoe, Hōkūle'a and its return to Hawaiian waters, the exhibit is based on a collaboration between Bishop Museum and the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) and is on display in the J. M. Long Gallery through June 24, 2018. Cultural objects from Hōkūle'a's voyages are on display along with a variety of interactive stations. Visitors can step into a wind-based immersive experience that uses digital sensors and electronics to bring to life the winds used by voyagers and told of in Hawaiian cultural stories. Visitors can also enter a full-dome projection theater with audio narrated by PVS president Nainoa Thompson, master of the traditional Polynesian art of non-instrument navigation. [www.bishopmuseum.org/holo-moana/](http://www.bishopmuseum.org/holo-moana/)

The **Diamond Head Luau** at the Waikiki Aquarium on O'ahu has announced a new Farm To Table lū'au concept that features locally grown and locally sourced products, coupled with an award-winning show that takes guests on a journey through Polynesia. Caprese salad, hoison cru, vegan tofu curry, and kalbi short ribs are only a few of the items served up four nights a week. Located within walking distance from most hotels, The Diamond Head Luau Farm To Table is perfect for any group looking for amazing lū'au experience within the comfort of Waikiki. [www.diamondheadbeachluau.com](http://www.diamondheadbeachluau.com)

On Maui, **Fairmont Kea Lani's** professional meeting and events team expertly infuses elements of wellness and Hawaiian culture into group meetings and events to make sure attendees experience an authentic sense of place. Wellness breakout sessions along with fitness classes, spa experiences in the award-winning Willow Stream Spa, farm to table dining options highlighting the best of Maui and Hawai'i's agriculture and local fisherman are some of the key ways to share the culture of Maui and Fairmont Kea Lani with group guests. [www.fairmont.com/kealani](http://www.fairmont.com/kealani).

**Four Seasons Resort Hualalai's** Hawaii Island Coffee Farm Tour and Tasting is a perfect activity for groups to visit a working coffee farm in Kona followed by a coffee tasting and pastry pairing led by one of the Resort's coffee experts. For an athletic group, the One Wheel Turf Surf is the perfect morning activity to cruise around the golf course on the new One Wheel boards. Guests can also explore the golf course "waves" with panoramic ocean views. Make it a day with the Resort's Alaka'i Nalu (leaders of the waves) where group guests can have access to unlimited ocean sports equipment like outrigger canoes, stand up paddle boards, or even a snorkel scooter. [www.fourseasons.com/hualalai](http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai)

**Hawaiian Paddle Sports** offers whale watch outrigger canoe tours, kayak tours, and stand up paddle board lessons on Maui from January 1 to April 1, 2018. The personalized tours get guests away from noisy crowds, boats, and motors, and are perfect for small groups. Humpback whales are spotted regularly on the adventure company's tours, breaking the ocean surface to play and take in air. Should time allow, tour guests also get to have some ocean time to snorkel with marine life like *honu* (green sea turtles), manta rays, and tropical fish. Digital photography is included in all tours. [www.hawaiianpaddlesports.com/maui-whale-watching/](http://www.hawaiianpaddlesports.com/maui-whale-watching/)

**Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach** on O'ahu will launch a special walking tour centered around the cultural history of the area. This tour, "E ho'āla e" (Revive, Renew, Restore), will be held once a week to provide guests an in-depth look at the history and culture of the island, culminating in a visit to the onsite Historical Exhibit. In the warm spirit of Hawaiian hospitality, Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach will be offering a special group offer for select dates in 2018. Groups can have easy access to entertainment, shopping, dining, spa, and cultural immersion, with rooms starting at just \$215 per night. [www.waikiki.regency.hyatt.com/cultural-activities](http://www.waikiki.regency.hyatt.com/cultural-activities)

**KapohoKine Adventures'** Evening Volcano Explorer tour has added two new stops for its guests staying in Kona and further north through the Kohala Coast. The tour now starts at Bay View Farm in Honaunau with a coffee mill tour and tasting of 100 percent estate-grown Kona coffee. The tour also includes a stop at the Star of the Sea Painted Church, where Saint Damien first ministered before moving on to Moloka'i's Kalaupapa Peninsula. This tour, along with all of KapohoKine's tour offerings are available at a 25 percent discount for groups between 10-130 persons. [www.KapohoKine.com](http://www.KapohoKine.com)

**Kualoa Private Nature Preserve** on O'ahu introduces its most eco-friendly tour, the **eBike Adventure Tour**. Exploring Jurassic Valley on a guided tour on electric bikes allows guests to see some of the island's most popular landmarks from a unique vantage point. Guides lead a leisurely 90-minute trek through Ka'a'awa Valley where guests may enjoy the unspoiled natural beauty while seeing the movie sites of Jurassic Park, Jurassic World, Kong Skull Island, 50 First Dates, LOST, and more throughout the valley. State-of-the-art electric bikes are equipped with quiet engines that give a helping hand – or more of a push – whenever guests need a little assistance. This is a beginner level tour and will easily accommodate those who may not have the confidence or fitness level to go on a more strenuous mountain bike tour. [www.kualoa.com](http://www.kualoa.com)

## DINING

Rise and shine to the flavors of fresh juice blends made from the finest Maui fruits and vegetables with **Fairmont Kea Lani's** new juice bar. **Just Juice** at Kō Bar offers island inspired juice blends and a DIY juice bar to satisfy every craving. Just Juice at Kō Bar is part of Fairmont Kea Lani's Inspire Your Energy program, a curated fitness and wellness program designed to offer energizing and personalized wellness experiences. [www.fairmont.com/kealani](http://www.fairmont.com/kealani)

**Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** on the island of Hawai'i is excited to announce new menu options for meeting breaks and meals. A "Build Your Own Poke Bowl" station allows guests to choose from white or brown rice, quinoa, or mixed greens as the base, then select from three types of poke including locally caught spicy ahi, shoyu ahi, and mushroom topped with a selection of accompaniments including. For a healthy break option, an "Avocado Toast" station feature three types of local avocados, assorted breads, pickled onions, tomatoes, cilantro, radishes, sprouts, and smoked Hawaiian sea salt. Attendees can also "Build Your Own Acai Bowl" with granola, flax seeds, chia seeds, bananas, berries, and local honey to choose from. [www.fourseasons.com/hualalai](http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai)

On the island of Hawai'i, the newly opened **Hula Hulas** entertainment restaurant offers Hilo's newest meeting space with 270-degree panoramic ocean views. Groups can choose from two semi-private dining spaces with 12 and 14 seats, and 70 seats in a private dining space. Farm-to-fork contemporary cuisine options from custom buffets and specialty menus, tray passed appetizers and displays, cocktail mixers, plated dinners or any combination in-between, can be customized to incorporate group themes and events. [www.hulahulashilo.com](http://www.hulahulashilo.com)

**International Market Place** is an iconic dining and shopping destination that also offers a variety of meeting options and event space for intimate or large group gatherings in the heart of Waikiki. Eight eateries on the third level Grand Lanai make up Waikiki's only open-air, multi-restaurant rooftop dining scene, with private and semi-private group dining options. The Grand Lanai recently welcomed Herringbone from Chef Brian Malarkey, which showcases fresh coastal cuisine. On the first level, The Street: A Michael Mina Social House features 13 food and beverage hawker stations, each inspired by international cuisine, making it the perfect destination for large groups with a variety of tastes. Every night just after sunset, guests can take part in the free nightly hula and storytelling performance in Queen's court honoring the history of this special gathering place. [www.ShopInternationalMarketplace.com](http://www.ShopInternationalMarketplace.com)

The world's largest open-air shopping center on O'ahu recently unveiled a new foodie destination, **Lanai @ Ala Moana Center**, a contemporary food hall featuring local favorites and eateries new to Hawai'i. The contemporary food hall offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and grab-and-go options, and features indoor and outdoor seating for up to 450 customers. [www.alamoanacenter.com/the-lanai](http://www.alamoanacenter.com/the-lanai)

## **FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

The annual **Waimea Town Celebration** will again commemorate the Kaua'i town's proud history and tight-knit community, from February 17 through 25. The nine-day festival features family-friendly cultural and recreational events, including hula performances, the Waimea Roundup Rodeo, a long-distance canoe race, a celebration of 18th century Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Chief Kaumuali'i, the Waimea Film Festival, kids games and rides, sports events and competitions, educational and cultural exhibits, food booths and more. The festival ends with a two-day finale highlighted by the Heritage of Aloha Ho'olaule'a celebration at Waimea's historic sugar mill. [www.waimeatowncelebration.com](http://www.waimeatowncelebration.com)

This February, and global artists will showcase their work in Honolulu during a widespread beautification and education of street art during **POW! WOW! Hawai'i**. The event will include gallery shows, live panel discussions, mural projects, concerts, live art installations and more. [www.powwowhawaii.com](http://www.powwowhawaii.com)

The **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Waikoloa 'Ukulele Festival** will take place on March 3, 2018 in the Kings' Shops and Queens' MarketPlace in Waikoloa Beach Resort on the island of Hawai'i. Hawai'i's top 'ukulele performers come forth for a special evening of entertainment in tribute to the popular instrument. Guests can enjoy a lineup of 'ukulele masters, take lessons, and enter 'ukulele giveaways. [UkuleleFestivalHawaii.org](http://UkuleleFestivalHawaii.org)

**Wanderlust**, the producers of the largest yoga lifestyle events in the world, is returning to Turtle Bay Resort on O'ahu's fabled North Shore in 2018 for Wanderlust O'ahu that will unfold over Mar. 1 – 4, 2018. This beach yoga and wellness retreat at Turtle Bay Resort will kick off Wanderlust's 2018 festival season and offer awe-inspiring experiences and settings for yoga enthusiasts, music lovers, foodies, surfers and seekers. [TurtleBayResort.com](http://TurtleBayResort.com)

Celebrating its 24th anniversary in 2018, the **Honolulu Festival** is one of Hawai'i's premier cultural events. The three-day O'ahu festival, set for March 9-11, shares the rich, vibrant cultures of Hawai'i and its Asia and Pacific Rim neighbors with attendees through educational programs and activities, craft fairs, arts and entertainment, and a grand evening parade through Waikiki. The festival culminates with the colorful and dramatic Nagaoka Fireworks show off Waikiki's beaches. [www.honolulufestival.com](http://www.honolulufestival.com)

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### **About Meet Hawai'i**

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of Hawai'i Tourism United States (HTUSA), managed by the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) to reinforce the brand of the Hawaiian Islands as a world-class destination for business meetings, conventions, and incentive programs. The marketing efforts of the Meet Hawai'i team are overseen by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the state of Hawai'i's tourism agency. HTA was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai'i's economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs. For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit [MeetHawaii.com](http://MeetHawaii.com).

### **Media Contacts:**

#### **Meet Hawai'i**

Nathan Kam

Anthology Marketing Group

808-539-3471

[nathan.kam@anthologygroup.com](mailto:nathan.kam@anthologygroup.com)

Chelsea Livit

Anthology Marketing Group

808-441-9720

[chelsea.livit@anthologygroup.com](mailto:chelsea.livit@anthologygroup.com)