



## HAWAII, THE BIG ISLAND – “INSPIRING”

### HIGHLIGHTS

Capital City: Hilo

Population: 190,000

2013 Visitor Arrivals: 1.4 million

Number of Confirmed Visitor Units: 10,821 / 6,387 of which are hotel rooms\*

Top Venue Regions: Kohala Coast, Kona, Hilo

### INSPIRING HAWAII ISLAND

Hawai‘i Island is a vibrant and magical place full of natural wonders and adventure experiences. The youngest of the Hawaiian Island chain, Hawai‘i Island is also the largest at 4,028 square miles – and still growing! Nicknamed the “Big Island,” all of the other Hawaiian Islands could fit, nearly twice, on the surface of Hawai‘i Island. The energy of the island is one of creation and discovery, a state-of-mind that provides the perfect foundation for a rewarding and productive meeting or event. Meeting attendees can take respite from daily routines and become focused and engaged by Hawai‘i Island’s sheer diversity. With all but two of the world’s climate zones found on one island, inspiration can be found at every turn – in the deep blue ocean and sandy beaches, at cultural and historical sites, or while hiking the lush valleys and rainforests in between. Hawai‘i Island is also a place to indulge in culinary adventures that please the palate and world-class spas that heal the spirit and soul.

### BIG MEANS BUSINESS

Planners will find meeting and convention options as distinct as the island itself from elegant ballrooms to oceanfront event space for corporate retreats. Hawai‘i Island has more than 6,000 hotel guest rooms (not including alternative accommodations such as retreats/lodges, vacation rentals, bed and breakfasts, and more) and the ability to meet the needs of all aspects of meetings, conventions, and incentive programs with an array of indoor meeting and outdoor event space options. While individual properties are equipped to accommodate meetings and events, the Kohala Coast is often referred to as the “convention center without walls,” with its

year-round ideal weather and numerous outdoor venues. Outside of the major resorts, off-property venues are available in equally diverse settings. Rolling upcountry pastures (Kahuā Ranch), amidst acres of coffee farms (Hōlualoa Inn), on manicured emerald green lawns surrounded by pitch black lava (Waikoloa Bowl), and more.

## **KOHALA COAST**

The sunny Kohala Coast is home to many fine resorts and meeting facilities, all located within a 20-minute drive from each other. Celebrate 50 years of timeless magic at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, through 2015. Groups can enjoy the hotel's beachfront wing for an unparalleled "hotel within a hotel" experience. The Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Mauna Kea's sister property sits on one of Hawai'i's most beautiful white sand beaches. The resort offers four conference rooms, two executive boardrooms, and 8,000 square feet of outdoor courtyard space.

To complement the recent full renovation of all meeting space and guest rooms, The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i refreshed all guest hallways, incorporating brand new furniture and fixtures. The 540-room property offers 36,000 square feet of indoor space and 76,000 square feet of outdoor venues.

Meanwhile, all guest rooms, suites, and bungalows were refreshed in 2014 at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows. Two new 1,040 square ocean view suites and a 20-person oceanfront whirlpool were also added. Indoor meeting space, including the 10,800 square foot Aloha Pavilion are complemented by several outdoor options.

All indoor meeting rooms at Hilton Waikoloa Village were renovated in 2014, including the island's largest ballroom, the 24,720 square-foot Grand Ballroom. Hilton's Makai Experience in Lagoon Tower can also accommodate groups from 10 to 170 rooms.

Meeting planners can opt to host their next event at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, offering an array of outdoor event areas and indoor meeting rooms. This resort is conveniently located at 'Anaeho'omalū Bay, home of Ocean Sports, offering an array of adventures right off the bay.

## **KONA**

Meeting planners can choose from indoor and outdoor venues at the Five-Star, Five-Diamond Four Seasons Resort Hualālai at Historic Ka'ūpūlehu in North Kona. Traveling south, historic Kailua-Kona is a lively seaside town in the heart of Kona and a destination for accommodations, dining, and great souvenir shopping all within walking distance along

historic Ali'i Drive. More than 20,000 square feet of flexible indoor and outdoor meeting and function space, including the oceanfront *Lū'au* Grounds await at The Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel. Nearby, Royal Kona Resort is home to 10,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space with breathtaking views, perfect for meetings and events from 20 to 500 people. Driving further south, next to Keauhou Bay, is the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa. With 17,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, the resort is perfect for larger groups, corporate seminars, and private functions.

## **HILO**

Flipside of the Kohala Coast is the district of Hilo. Hilo is blessed with dramatic waterfalls, lush tropical gardens, and is a gateway to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Banyan Drive, about a mile from Downtown Hilo is where you'll find the 286-room Hilo Hawaiian hotel. Offering stunning views of Mokuola (Coconut Island), Maunakea, and the Hāmākua Coast, this recently renovated classic has nearly 6,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space. The Queen's Court restaurant (5,600 square feet) can also be used as a private dining option for luncheon meetings.

## **HAWAI'I ISLAND'S EDGE**

Hawai'i Island is the youngest of the Hawaiian Islands with unique and inspiring land, sea, and sky experiences. Adventure can be found at every turn, from snorkeling the blue coastline (Hawai'i Island is home to 266 miles of coastline and the most marine conservation districts in the state) to exploring archaic fishponds. Learn the ancient methods of ocean navigation by the stars at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, interpret the natural science, culture, and history of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and surrounding marine environment at Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, and witness earth's remarkable creation at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

The island is spacious – roughly the size of the County of Los Angeles, with about two percent of the population—each of our towns have their distinctive flair and appeal – from the *paniolo* (Hawaiian cowboy) feel of upcountry Waimea to the artist vibe of Hāwī. Hawai'i Island truly has something for everyone.

Home to Maunakea, the world's tallest sea mountain; Maunaloa, the world's most massive mountain; and Kilauea, one of the planet's most continuously erupting active volcanoes, it's no wonder that many find their inspiration on Hawai'i, the Big Island.

###

**About Meet Hawai'i**

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of 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.

**Special note to media:** HTA 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, HTA respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

**Media Contacts:**

Darlene Morikawa  
Director – PR/Communications  
Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau  
[dmorikawa@hvcb.org](mailto:dmorikawa@hvcb.org)  
808-924-0259

Rebecca Pang  
Senior Account Supervisor  
McNeil Wilson Communications  
[Rebecca.Pang@AnthologyGroup.com](mailto:Rebecca.Pang@AnthologyGroup.com)  
808-539-3424

For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit [MeetHawaii.com](http://MeetHawaii.com).

*\* HTA 2013 Visitor Plant Inventory*