



## O'AHU – "THE HEART OF HAWAII"

### HIGHLIGHTS

Principal City & State Capital: Honolulu

Population: 983,000

2013 Visitor Arrivals: 5.1 million

Number of Rooms: More than 30,000

Top Venue Regions: Waikīkī, Kāhala, North Shore, Ko 'Olina Resort

### HAWAII'S GATHERING PLACE

The island of O'ahu, the heart of Hawai'i, is Hawai'i's political and economic center. O'ahu is home to Honolulu, the state capital, and iconic locations and attractions such as Waikīkī Beach, Pearl Harbor, Lē'ahi (Diamond Head), and more. O'ahu draws more meetings than any other island and offers a multitude of convention, meetings and incentive opportunities, including the Hawai'i Convention Center, world class hotels and resorts, exciting activities and iconic off-site venues to accommodate any sized group and program.

### ENHANCING EXPERIENCES

The "crown jewel" of meeting venues for the state is the award-winning Hawai'i Convention Center, conveniently located eight miles from the Honolulu International Airport and within a mile of more than 6,000 hotel rooms, as well as premier shopping, dining, and entertainment options.

Spanning 1.1 million sq. ft., the center's dedicated service and aloha spirit delivered by experienced staff, along with the facility's captivating architecture, inviting interiors, and open-air ambiance ensures productive and successful events.

The Center has been host to professional meeting organizations including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leader's Meeting in 2011, the Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit, and was most recently selected for the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in 2016.

## **WAIKĪKĪ**

Within walking distance of the Hawai'i Convention Center is Waikīkī, O'ahu's main hotel and resort area with more than 30,000 hotel rooms. Meeting attendees can choose from a myriad of options including international hotel brands, historic estates, contemporary boutique hotels, value properties, and family-friendly condominiums to create unforgettable and unmatched corporate or social gatherings.

O'ahu's two largest meeting hotels, Sheraton Waikiki and the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort respectively provide more than 25,000 sq. ft. and 43,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and numerous conference centers, elegant ballrooms, boardrooms, and function sites.

## **KĀHALA**

A five-minute drive from Waikīkī brings attendees to the luxury resort area of Kāhala, featuring quiet beaches and beautiful scenery. For an effortless and original meeting, The Kahala Hotel & Resort offers more than 13,000 sq. ft. of flexible indoor space and 11,000 sq. ft. of picturesque outdoor event space, suited for every meeting objective. The Kahala Hotel & Resort has served as the event venue selection for international diplomats, first generation tech geniuses, product launches, media presentations, and board meetings of the highest caliber.

## **COUNTRY GETAWAYS**

Other properties outside of Waikīkī have excellent indoor and outdoor meeting facilities for smaller groups. O'ahu's quiet countryside provides a nice contrast to the busy city life of Honolulu and Waikīkī and can be found just an hour out of town on the island's North Shore and West Side. Meeting planners can organize a group workation at the newly transformed Turtle Bay Resort on the fabled North Shore, which offers an array of group activity choices from tennis, golf tournaments on two championship golf courses, yoga retreats, group sky diving, kayaking, surf lessons, Segway tours, to horseback riding conducive to fostering team unity and communication. The resort works with each business on a tailored plan that encourages collaboration and promotes wellness.

For a different experience, embark on an excursion to Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa in Ko 'Olina Resort, where storytelling vividly brings the Hawaiian culture and connection to nature to life, allowing attendees to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Hawai'i, while basking in the excitement of Disney magic. The nearby Ko 'Olina Golf Club features a

challenging 18-hole course for seasoned golfers, which is a convenient two-minute ride via Aulani's complimentary shuttle, while the area is also perfect for exploration by land and sea, including guided hiking tours and swimming with wild dolphins.

One-of-a-kind attractions that are also available as meeting and event venues include the Bishop Museum, Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, Pacific Aviation Museum, Waimea Valley, Hawai'i State Art Museum, Kualoa Ranch, 'Iolani Palace, and Waikiki Aquarium.

### **O'AHU ADVANTAGE**

Centered between East and West, O'ahu's value as a meetings destination is unparalleled and plays a significant factor in luring members from all over the world. With nonstop airlift from major markets, bounty of delectable cuisine and diverse restaurants, and a variety of pre- and post-convention options make choosing O'ahu an easy decision.

Accommodations and meeting facilities are constantly being refreshed to provide meeting attendees with a first-rate experience. Recent updates include Outrigger Enterprises Group's announcement of its \$100 million revitalization of its oceanfront Outrigger Reef on the Beach in Waikiki slated for completion in 2019, Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa's \$100 million renovation including all guest rooms slated for completion in early 2015, and Turtle Bay Resort's restoration of its 42 beach cottages following its multi-million dollar extensive resort renovation completed in 2014.

Meetings and conventions on O'ahu inspire productivity and innovation and help to fulfill group's objectives with rewarding and successful programs.

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**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.

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