



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

Aloha! Fall in the Hawaiian Islands offers the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and enjoy before the holiday season arrives. Whether sipping on locally crafted cocktails while watching an incredible sunset or adventuring on the water as North Pacific humpback whales make their annual return to Hawaiian waters, there are many great opportunities for groups looking to engage and connect with Hawai'i. Groups are invited to enjoy Hawai'i with an intention to "come back better" – that is, return home from the Islands re-energized by Hawai'i's invigorating spirit.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEETING VENUES

The all-new **Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection** is set to debut in January 2020 on the island of Hawai'i following a resort-wide reimagination and renovation. Branded as a "luxury lifestyle resort," the property will open with refreshed guest rooms and suites, five private bungalow residences, five restaurants and lounges, three distinct pools, and a signature spa and wellness haven, as well as the property's Kainalu active-pursuits program, Living Culture program and interactive Holoholo Kids Circle, all complemented by Auberge's "intuitive and gracious service." www.aubergeresorts.com/maunalani

'Alohilani Resort on the island of O'ahu recently debuted its brand-new 'Alohilani Ballroom, Waikiki's third-largest ballroom, with space for 1,000 people for receptions and 700 for banquet-style seating. The design elements of the brand new 'Alohilani Ballroom were inspired by the *'upena* (net); the ballroom serving as a place for bringing people together the way a net gathers. www.alohilaniresort.com

Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa recently embarked on the second phase of its resort transformation, with a multimillion-dollar renovation of its lobby, slated for completion in November. Guests will enjoy a new lobby bar and café, lounge and reception area in an open-air setting bringing in the ocean air and outdoors with an expansive *lānai* (balcony) and deck offering panoramic views of iconic Kā'anapali Beach. A new *'ohana* (family) game room will be introduced on the lower lobby level of the historic property, which was the first resort to open in Kā'anapali in 1963. www.sheraton-maui.com

Koloa Landing Resort at Poipu on Kaua'i offers 39,000 square-feet of indoor and outdoor flexible meeting space framed by native flora, palm trees, water pools, rock waterfalls and evening torch lighting. The property's new 12,000-square-foot Koloa Grand ballroom accommodates up to 1,000 guests and is available for conversion into three rooms – Poipu, Napali and Waimea – for smaller events. The Napali and Waimea rooms can also be converted into three breakout rooms. The ballroom extends out to the resort's East Event Lawn, adding 8,000 square-feet and accommodating an additional 800 guests, while the resort's 13,300-square-foot West Event Lawn can accommodate 800 guests. www.koloalandingresort.com

Beginning fall 2019, **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa** begins a multimillion-dollar renovation. The property's renovations are set to utilize the rich, Hawaiian spirit to drive the renovations as the property works to revamp guest rooms, implement energy saving systems and upgrade its technology. Elegant, casual textiles and contemporary lines will combine with traces of the authentic Kā'anapali Beach culture. By incorporating open closets, glass *lānai* and elevated furnishings, guest rooms will become brighter and more spacious. Hyatt Regency Maui and Wimberly Interiors anticipate the renovations to be completed by the end of 2020. www.hyattregencymaui.com

The Courtyard Marriott Kauai at Coconut Beach has converted to a full-service property and has rebranded as the **Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort**. The property, located on the east side of Kaua'i – the Royal Coconut Coast, underwent a complete renovation, including all their guest rooms, public space, pool and restaurants. All guest rooms feature high-speed Wi-Fi, mini-refrigerators and private *lānai*. With the transformation, guests can experience relaxation in the new infinity-edge pool, with separate sides for children and adults, surrounded by the new oceanfront bar, lounge chairs and fire pits. www.sheratonkauaicoconutbeachresort.com

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

Sea Quest Hawai'i recently introduced a Premium Morning Snorkel to its tour offerings on the island of Hawai'i. On the 4.5-hour adventure along the Kona Coast to Kealakekua Bay and Hōnaunau Bay, the captain and crew point out culturally significant sites and share the history of the locations, taught to them by *kumu* (teacher) Keala Ching. The Premium Morning Snorkel also offers guests locally sourced snacks, drinks and a farm-to-table gourmet lunch provided by Kailua-Kona restaurant The Feeding Leaf. www.seaquesthawaii.com

Ocean Sports on the island of Hawai'i will debut its Pau Hana Sunset with the Whales Cruise on December 1, offering the cruise daily, except Sundays, through April 15, 2020. Guests on the cruise will enjoy unlimited beverages from a complimentary tropical cocktail bar while watching humpback whales in waters within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Ocean Sports' onboard naturalist will offer interpretation of whale behaviors for guests to learn more about the majestic creatures. www.hawaii oceansports.com

Blue Hawaii Private Tours has announced plans to offer private hiking tours of Lē'ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument) led by a trained nature guide. While escorting tour guests on the 45-minute hike ascending to Lē'ahi's 763-foot elevation summit, guides will briefly share knowledge of Hawai'i's volcanic creation, Hawaiian cultural history, European settlement in Hawai'i, and early cattle ranching in the Islands. The summit of Lē'ahi offers a 360-degree panoramic view of Waikīkī Beach and O'ahu's south shore, the emerald Ko'olau mountains and the sparkling aquamarine water of the Pacific Ocean. Post-trek, hikers will enjoy a fresh pineapple drink or shave ice before returning to Waikīkī. www.bluehawaiiprivatetours.com

FOOD, DRINK AND DINING

Fairmont Orchid recently announced the opening date of its Binchotan: Bar & Grill, set for October 17. The resort describes the restaurant as "a place where handcrafted sushi, artisan cocktails and wagyu beef grilled to perfection blend together in an exciting social dining experience." A communal eatery, Binchotan features sushi, skewered delicacies and a craft cocktail bar offering signature creations alongside classics. Diners are invited to experience the

restaurant's locally sourced menu and Kohala Coast sunset views. www.fairmont.com/orchid-hawaii

Mauna Kea Resort recently partnered with **Kuleana Rum Works** to introduce the island of Hawai'i spirit producer's first private-label partnership: Mauna Kea Resort Signature Blend Kuleana Rum. Exclusive bottles of the rum blend will be available for purchase through the resort's In-Room Dining service, with signature craft cocktails set to debut on the menus of resort restaurant outlets this fall. Groups interested in learning more about the spirit producer's rums and taking a tour of Kuleana Rum Works' distillery and storefront restaurant Kuleana Rum Shack can set up a visit with tour operators Kailani Tours Hawaii. www.maunakearesort.com

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The **Hawai'i Island Steel Guitar Festival** is a free, open-to-the-public, family-friendly festival featuring performances by masters of Hawaiian steel guitar, alongside private workshops and jam sessions where festival guests can play steel guitar alongside the masters. The third annual edition is set for December 13-15 at Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection. www.hawaiisteelguitarfestival.com

The **2019 New Year's Eve Celebration at Po'ipū Beach Park** on the island of Kaua'i promises a family-friendly way to welcome 2020 at one of the world's most beautiful beaches, matched up with an outdoor movie screening and 'ono (delicious) eats from local food trucks. The sky lighting evening fireworks show happens right over Po'ipū Beach. www.poipubeach.org

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About Meet Hawai'i

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), HTA's Global Marketing Teams and the Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) to reinforce the brand of the Hawaiian Islands as a world-class destination for global business meetings, conventions, and incentive programs. The marketing efforts of the Meet Hawai'i team are overseen by 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.

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