



1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 943 3500
kelepa'i fax 808 943 3099
kahua pa'a web meethawaii.com

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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.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEETING VENUES

The **Aston Aloha Beach Hotel** on Kaua'i is undergoing a major renovation as it prepares for a reopening under the **Hilton Garden Inn** brand in early 2016. Improvements are being made to the 216 guestrooms, lobby, meeting space of approximately 5,000 square feet, exteriors, fitness center, indoor pool and 24-hour business center. Under the new partnership as Hilton Garden Inn Kaua'i/Wailua Bay, the beachfront property will offer guests its signature elements, like Hilton's pressure-reducing "Garden Sleep System" bed, "hospitality center" featuring a mini refrigerator and Keurig single-cup coffee brewer in every guest room, and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. Once completed, the renovated property will be the only Hilton-brand on Kaua'i and the second Hilton Garden in Hawai'i. AstonAlohaBeachHotel.com

Blake Entertainment has secured exclusive rights to book events at **Villa at Wailea Point**, an oceanfront paradise in beautiful Lanikai, O'ahu. This stunning property is perched literally at water's edge, with the famed Mokulua Islands and Lanikai's azure waters in view from the entire compound. Perfect for up to 60 guests, the extremely private setting offers a luxurious, intimate seaside experience guests will never forget. BlakeEntertainment.com

The long awaited and newly reimagined **Four Seasons Resort Lanai** reopens Feb. 1, 2016, the resort is now accepting reservations from March 1, 2016 for travelers who wish to be among the first to experience the new resort. The comprehensive lobby-to-roof renovation features 217 redesigned guestrooms including 51 suites, newly refurbished lobbies and seating areas for contemplation. Perfect for small conferences or events for up to 500 people, the resort offers event space both indoors and out in a number of flexible settings. FourSeasons.com/Lanai

Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa refreshes the resort with new looks from the walk to guest rooms, beds, workout facilities and dining. Guest room hallways offer an elegant custom designed carpet. All guest rooms now offer new GrandBeds™. Anara Spa's fitness center has been refreshed with rubber mat flooring and the latest in Precor cardio and weight training equipment. For dining, a \$1.2 million renovation refreshed the poolside restaurant, added a sushi bar to Stevenson's, modernized the buffet at Ilima Terrace and turned Po'ipū Bay Clubhouse into a quick take-out spot. GrandHyattKauai.com

Soaring 37 floors above Waikīkī, **Altitude@37** is the **Hilton Waikiki Beach's** (O'ahu) most private and most stunning meeting or event option on property. This room was designed for

-more-

privacy and offers a more intimate setting for small meetings or events up to 30 people. Ideal for dinner receptions or all-day business meetings, Altitude@37 can accommodate all your business and event needs including audio/visual equipment, Wi-Fi Internet access, and catering menu options. Seating configurations are flexible and guests will be able to enjoy the spectacular ocean views from any part of the room. HiltonWaikikiBeach.com

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa has refreshed paradise with recently completed property updates, including the most recent revealing of the new Lāhainā Ballroom. Offering nearly 5,000 square feet of function space divisible into up to four breakout rooms, this new venue features a clean and sophisticated design that captures the essence of native Hawaiian culture and the environment. The debut of the recently-completed ballroom follows refreshments to the resort's open-air Swan Court restaurant, Drums of the Pacific Lū'au and Sunset Terrace, Grotto Bar, 21 Ocean Suites, seven Deluxe Ocean Suites, three Premiere Suites, and the addition of four new pool areas available for guest use at the next-door Hyatt Residence Club, all part of a resort-wide transformation. Maui.Hyatt.com

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on Hawai'i Island recently completed a \$4.5 million renovation project that involved the revitalization of the resort's Copper Terrace, the iconic gathering place at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel and the former Kauna'oa Bar & Grill, which has been transformed to become one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Kohala Coast. The new ballroom offers floor to ceiling windows framing stunning views of Kauna'oa Bay, boasting nearly 4,000 square feet of indoor function space, expansive outdoor pre-function areas, as well as an adjacent boardroom. PrinceResortsHawaii.com/Mauna-Kea-Beach-Hotel

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa (O'ahu) has completed a \$22 million transformation featuring innovative touches for the millennial market. The highlights of the renovation include a newly named Nanea Lobby, porte cochère, front desk registration, new interior design and furniture, lighting fixtures, water features, main ballroom and meetings and special events room. The crowning touch of the multi-million dollar transformation is the 60 x 20 feet carved wooden artwork made by artist Kaiwi Nui Yoon of Honolulu. The concept of the artwork called "Ka Maka Hinu," or "The Bright Face," is intended to reflect Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani's love for the people of her kingdom. "Ka Maka Hinu" is designed to interpret and encapsulate Hawaiian values and have an overarching concept of hope as well as to remind people of where they are in this unique place, and educate, and communicate values in order to leave feelings of hope for a bright future. MarriottWaikiki.com

Scheduled to open in 2017, **The Westin Nanea Ocean Villas** is a 26-acre oceanfront resort. Ideally located on Kā'anapali Beach in Maui, the resort will feature 390 luxurious villas and a variety of world-class resort amenities, including an expansive lagoon-style pool and beach bar. The new resort will also pursue the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for high-performance buildings. Westin.com

Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas unveils refreshed villas and more. Located on Kaua'i's North Shore, the resort has recently completed a refreshing of its 346 spacious villas, lobby, and WestinWORKOUT Fitness Studio pool areas. Highlights of the villas' rejuvenation include new sleeper sofas and seating, new Blue-Ray DVD players, new carpeting, new drapes, lighting and more. The resort's lobby offers new furniture, area rugs and chandeliers, with the Main Pool, and Maile and Na Pali plunge pools resurfaced and retiled. The Fitness Studio has been

updated with Life Fitness treadmills, strength machines, free weights and mats.

WestinPrinceville.com

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Ala Moana Center (O'ahu), the world's largest open-air shopping center with 2.4 million square feet of retail space, recently opened its highly-anticipated, new **Ewa Wing Expansion** and completed its mall-wide refresh that included new finishes, lighting, flooring, and updated color palettes throughout the Center. The new Ewa Wing Expansion project transformed the *Ewa* (west) end of the Center into an expanded three-level retail space, featuring 650,000 square feet of new retail, including a 167,000 square-foot Bloomingdale's department store, large format retailers, dining, entertainment and 200,000 square feet of inline retailers.

AlaMoanaCenter.com

Recently opening on O'ahu in early 2016, **Blue Note Hawaii** serves as the state's premier venue for world-renowned artists, from jazz and blues to Hawaiian favorites. Located in the former Society of Seven showroom inside **Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort**, Blue Note Hawaii features a wide range of musical entertainment – from local talent to international sensations – for limited engagements. The 9,000 square-foot facility was designed by local architecture and interior design firm InForm Design, and seats over 300 patrons, showcasing two performances nightly in an intimate setting – seven days a week, 365 days a year. The venue is also available for private event bookings. BlueNoteHawaii.com

Fairmont Kea Lani on Maui recently launched **Inspire Your Energy**, a curated fitness and wellness program designed to motivate and challenge all from the experienced athlete to those embarking on a new personal journey. Led by the resort's Energy Ambassador, American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Certified Personal Trainer Ty Roberts, Inspire Your Energy pushes the wellness concept by offering energizing and personalized wellness experiences along with an expanded schedule of daily fitness classes. Featured fitness classes designed to inspire and maximize the ideal location of the resort include Yoga, Mind Body Barre, Boot Camp, Meditation Breathing, Aqua Fitness and more. Personal training sessions with Ty and a team of professional instructors are available to provide customized experiences and seasonal well-being excursions including Floating Yoga. For a complete wellness retreat, complemented by award-winning wellness inspired food and beverage offerings, guests can also rebalance their energy with restorative treatments at the Willow Stream Spa.

Fairmont.com/Kea-Lani-Maui

Fair Wind Cruises on Hawai'i Island is set for a fun-filled 2016 as the award-winning snorkel cruise company embarks on its 45th year in business. Throughout the year, Fair Wind will offer unique anniversary specials with great discounts and fun events for everyone. The company's entire fleet of vessels recently exited dry-docks with excellent upgrades, a spectacular new paint theme, and, on the Fair Wind II catamaran, a new shade called Bimini. Fair-Wind.com

Join the ocean ambassadors of Alaka'i Nalu (Hawaiian for leaders of the waves) at **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka'upūlehu** (Hawai'i Island) for an ocean adventure to remember. Take advantage of complimentary snorkel equipment (including prescription masks) to explore the world under the sea, or zoom over the reef with the help of a scooter snorkel. Guests can pick their paddle and experience the six-man outrigger canoe, or gain a

whole new perspective of the ocean on a stand up paddleboard. For the ultimate Alaka'i Nalu adventure, hop aboard the ribcraft - a private charter allowing visitors to explore secluded beaches and secret snorkel spots - and watch in awe as manta rays glide, spinner dolphins twirl or humpback whales breach alongside the vessel. AlakaiNalu.com

Hawaiian Surfing Adventures on Kaua'i is now offering 90-minute SUP Yoga classes on the Hanalei River. All classes are taught by Yoga Alliance certified instructors who have trained at Yoga Hanalei under the well-renowned Bhavani Maki. HawaiianSurfingAdventures.com

Join **Kohala Tours'** (Hawai'i Island) intimate whale-watching cruise into the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary on the modern, eco-friendly catamaran LavaKai II. Expect a friendly crew, informative naturalists, seasoned skippers and complimentary shuttle rides from Waikoloa and Kona Coast resorts. The tour is available through April 15, 2016. KohalaTours.com

Limahuli Garden and Preserve on Kaua'i presents the Sustainability Tour, exploring the garden and its treasured plants through the lens of modern sustainability challenges. NTBG.org/Gardens/Limahuli

The Beach Club at **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** (Hawai'i Island) is now offering **Glow SUP**, an incredible and unique experience for all ages. Stand up paddle on the peaceful evening waters of Kauna'oa Bay, stargaze and enjoy views of ocean life - possibly even manta rays - via LED lights illuminating the water 15 feet around the board and five feet beneath it. The hour-long experience is offered every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m., or by reservation for private excursions. PrinceResortsHawaii.com/Mauna-Kea-Beach-Hotel

Ocean Sports on Hawai'i Island is excited to celebrate the annual return of the humpback whales to Hawai'i's waters with the introduction of five distinct cruises to see whales! Combining great service, expert naturalists, an underwater hydrophone and stable spacious catamarans, Ocean Sports is the only company on Hawai'i Island offering two dedicated morning whale watch cruises - a Snorkel and Whale Watch Adventure Cruise and a Sail with the Whales Cruise - along with a Whales and Cocktails Sunset Cruise. Morning whale-watch trips offer guaranteed sightings - see a humpback or cruise again for free through April 15, 2016. HawaiiOceanSports.com

With a partnership between **Oceanic Time Warner Cable** and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, free public wireless internet is now readily accessible in Waikiki on O'ahu. Near Kapi'olani Park Bandstand and under cover from rain, this new service provides residents and tourists one free hour of WiFi Internet while venturing throughout Waikiki. Honolulu.gov

Paradise Helicopters' waterfall helicopter tour will take you on a search for red hot lava sightings on Hawai'i Island before venturing deep into uninhabited valleys, showcasing Hawai'i's wild, untamed beauty and cascading waterfalls that seem to drop infinitely. Once on the ground, your guide will share the rich history of Hawai'i Island's Kohala district - birthplace of Kamehameha the Great - while you enjoy a relaxed trail walk. You'll even have the opportunity to fulfill any dreams you have of swimming beneath a waterfall. It's the perfect adventure for guests looking to experience a bit of Old Hawai'i. ParadiseCopters.com

The **Princeville Makai Golf Club** (Kaua'i) now offers sunset golf tours. The new tour offers a unique and fun way for guests to experience the scenic vistas of the famed Makai Course at sunset, which was named one of the "Top 5 Great Golf Settings in the U.S." by National Geographic Traveler in 2011. Guests follow the cart paths meandering through the 18 holes, stop and linger to take photos and watch the sun set over Hanalei Bay. MakaiGolf.com

Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay (Hawai'i Island), the Kona Coast's Gateway to the Bay, is now offering scuba lessons, with Keauhou Bay Adventures and Jack's Diving Locker, in its oceanfront saltwater pool. SheratonKona.com

Tasting Kaua'i now offers four newly created food tours for the best bites on Kaua'i's North Shore, East Side and South Shore. All tours allow for interaction with Kaua'i farmers, chefs and artisans. In addition, their newly created Farmers Market Tour teaches visitors about picking the best fruits while meeting the farmers. A portion of the proceeds from all tours benefits the Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i Branch. TastingKauai.com

The **USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park** (O'ahu) is a member of the **Pearl Harbor Historic Partners**, four separate organizations that cooperate in telling the story of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the history of the War in the Pacific. Bowfin Park is a privately operated non-profit institution that relies on admission fees and gift shop sales to maintain the historic World War II submarine USS *Bowfin* and the adjacent Pacific Submarine Museum. For 2016, the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park has teamed up with Events International to provide exclusive evening events for incentives groups coming to O'ahu. The USS *Bowfin's* Visitor Center can handle up to 600 delegates for cocktail parties or 250 visitors for a sit-down themed dinner. Bowfin.org

DINING

Wade Ueoka and Michelle Karr-Ueoka the husband and wife team behind the award-winning MW Restaurant, recently opened **Artizen** (O'ahu), the Hawai'i State Art Museum's (HiSAM) new museum restaurant. Located on the ground floor kitchen space, the restaurant is open Monday through Saturday serving lunch, special event meals and morning pastries. The concept for Artizen is "grab and go" meals featuring daily specials, salads and sandwiches on five different types of freshly baked bread along with artfully designed plated desserts by co-founder Michelle Karr-Ueoka. A new type of éclair will be featured daily. Outdoor seating is available in HiSAM's Sculpture Garden. SFCA.Hawaii.gov

Opened in January 2016 in Downtown Honolulu by award-winning mixologist Justin Park, **Bar Leather Apron** on O'ahu is a new cocktail lounge inspired by the speakeasy aesthetic of Osaka, Japan with interior design evoking speakeasies of old-style New York City. Able to accommodate up to 40 people, with two-dozen seats and a small private room for up to six, the interior design consists of leather furniture and dark woods with a gold touch. Cocktails range in price from \$12 to \$15 and are each paired with a small bite. The menu also boasts an extensive whiskey collection along with various wines, sake and beer. BarLeatherApron.com

Eating House 1849 (Kaua'i) by Roy Yamaguchi recently opened at the Shops at Kukui'ula on Kaua'i's South Shore. The new restaurant offers signature dishes made famous at the 30 Roy's

restaurants, but Eating House will mainly showcase new flavors, ingredients and dishes inspired by Portuguese, Filipino and Spanish influences. EatingHouse1849.com

The iconic **Copper Bar** (Hawai'i Island), a long fixture of Mauna Kea Beach Hotel with sweeping views of Kauna'oa Bay has undergone a transformation – embracing the finest elements of it's storied past whilst launching new traditions for the future. Copper plate and marine rope take their rightful place in the venue while restoration of the skylights allows natural light to beam through from the lobby above. Copper Captains and mixologists, versed in arts of mixology create memorable dining and beverage experiences. Craft cocktails, constructed from local and exotic ingredients along with tap beers and wine complement the creative and casual cuisine. Fresh products, a subtle blend of spices and exotic flavors combine with a variety of cooking methods to create an enjoyable tasting principle, based on abundance and sharing. PrinceResortsHawaii.com/Mauna-Kea-Beach-Hotel

Dining in Hāna reached new ocean- and farm-to-table culinary heights as **Travaasa Hāna, Maui** debuted its new signature restaurant, **The Preserve Kitchen + Bar**, a final phase of a property-wide restoration project. Executive chef Jason Johnson has created two distinct locavore-pleasing menu experiences for guests of the restaurant's lounge and dining room, incorporating high-quality ingredients sourced from the bounty of Hāna first, the rest of the island of Maui second, and finally, the remaining Hawaiian Islands. The Preserve Kitchen + Bar will feature two menus crafted by Chef Johnson – one for the resort's main dining room and a second for its adjacent lounge, reflecting gourmet seasonal fare and Hawai'i's cultural diversity. Travaasa.com/Hana

Enjoy delicious new additions to **Waikoloa Beach Resort** (Hawai'i Island). Creative coffee pub **Daylight Mind Coffee Company**, at Queens MarketPlace, serves brunch, happy hour and lunch in a comfy indoor-outdoor setting from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily. Specializing in coffees from Hawai'i and around the world, Daylight Mind roasts and grinds coffee beans in-house at its Kailua-Kona location, where it also bakes fresh breads and pastries daily. At the **Kings' Golf Course**, new **Mai Grille** features a menu highlighting Chef Allen Hess' house-cured bacon and smoked meats, and is open for breakfast and lunch daily, and brunch on Sundays. WaikoloaBeachResort.com

TRANSPORTATION

Island Air's new **Island Air Travel Pak** offers travelers two different interisland coupon packages to fit the needs of both leisure and business travelers. For leisure travelers, the Holoholo Package provides six one-way coupons while for business travelers the Ka 'Ele package provides 20 one-way coupons. To purchase a Travel Pak, visitors must be enrolled in Island Air's Island Miles frequent flier program and will receive 500 Island Miles for each segment traveled. IslandAir.com

CREATIVE PROGRAMS

Planners are especially excited about **Blake Entertainment's** new capabilities with real-time video and social media to entertain guests, serve as interactive décor and promote the company brand all at the same time. "**Eventsagram**" was a runway hit at the recent grand opening of SKY

Waikiki, an opulent rooftop nightclub and lounge. As guests waited in line and within the elevators, "experience agents" turned the excitement level way up with selfie-sticks that captured revelers en route to the party. Much to guests' very vocal delight, those same photos were up on video screens in real time as they stepped off the elevator. Additional photo stations were placed throughout the space, and event hashtags let guests send the party worldwide, making SKY Waikiki's opening a viral celebration. BlakeEntertainment.com

SPECIAL OFFERS

Mauna Kea Summit Sunset and Stargazing by **Arnott's** (Hawai'i Island) continues to offer tour discounts to guests staying on Hawai'i Island's west side if they drive Saddle Road on their own to the Maunakea Access Road turnoff at mile marker 28. The tour stops at the Maunakea Visitor Information Station then proceeds to the summit for sunset. ArnottsLodge.com

Pacific Historic Parks now offers authentic personalized Navy Dog tags for incentive groups meeting on O'ahu and planning to visit Pearl Harbor. Each ID tag can be personalized with five lines of print each with 15 spaces on the line. Retail rates start from \$6.50 and group rates at just \$4.00 each. PacificHistoricParks.org

The iconic **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** (Hawai'i Island) and its sister property, the **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel** (Hawai'i Island), offer special group values to make group traveling hassle-free. Their exclusive package includes guaranteed ocean view rooms at special group rates, complimentary in-room internet access, a one-bedroom suite upgrade for every 50 room nights booked, one complimentary round of golf for a VIP group of four, and a 10 percent discount off banquet menus. The offer is valid for new group inquiries with a minimum of 25 rooms and a minimum three-night stay. Some restrictions may apply. The offer is valid through Dec. 15, 2016. PrinceResortsHawaii.com

In celebration of the resort's \$22 million transformation, the beachfront **Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa** on O'ahu, is offering a complimentary **Nanea Lobby Celebration Reception** to be held in the new and exciting venue that group meetings will enjoy. The Nanea Lobby, which is part of the \$22 million beautification to the 1,310-room resort, is a contemporary, modernized open-air setting that includes an 18' x 16' media screen should a group choose to highlight its company logo, corporate video or slideshow. When a group has a confirmed booking at Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, it will receive the complimentary Nanea Lobby Celebration Reception package. Groups can hold a one-hour reception or a group meeting breakout session that will include tropical fruit skewers, assorted mixed nuts, Maui style chips and fruit punch with sliced oranges. The complimentary Nanea Lobby Celebration Reception package applies to new group bookings that will turn definite in 2016. Group size minimum is 50. MarriottWaikiki.com

Waikoloa Beach Resort, a Golf Magazine silver-medal-winning golf resort on Hawai'i Island, invites visitors to take advantage of Multiple Round Packages. Play any time – with no tee-time restrictions – on either the Beach or Kings' Courses at \$218 for two 18-hole rounds; \$299 for three 18-hole rounds; or \$375 for four 18-hole rounds; with \$93.75 for additional rounds. Golfers will also receive a 10 percent discount on non-sale items and \$20 off rental clubs in the golf pro shop. WaikoloaBeachGolf.com

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Maui ranked first in Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards **Best Islands in the U.S.** category in 2015. CNTraveler.com

O'ahu was named as the **Best Beach Destination for Groups in 2015** by American Group Travel Awards. AmericanGroupTravelAwards.com/AGTA

Hilton Waikoloa Village received the Meetings & Conventions **Gold Key** (November) and **Gold Platter** (December) award in 2015. The Gold Key award is bestowed upon the world's finest meeting properties, while the Gold Platter is given to creative meeting property catering departments. Meetings-Conventions.com

With thousands of qualified properties and associations, **Smart Meetings** tipped its hat to 192 winning groups in 2015. Winners of the **Platinum Choice Award** have demonstrated exemplary standards of excellence ranging from ambience, amenities, breadth of resources, facility quality, guest services, meeting space and packages, recreational activities, restaurant and dining options, and technical support. Votes are cast by industry professionals, the Smart Meetings editorial team, and Smart Meetings readers. SmartMeetings.com

- Meet Hawai'i
- Andaz Maui at Wailea
- Four Seasons Resort Hualalai
- Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa
- The Modern Honolulu
- Montage Kapalua Bay
- The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort
- The Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Kā'anapali

Successful Meetings Magazine released their selections for the **2015 Pinnacle Awards**. The Pinnacle Awards are the mark of excellence for meeting destinations, hotels and conference centers. The award recognizes the recipient for an outstanding job servicing their meetings, incentive travel programs, trade shows and conventions during the previous year.

SuccessfulMeetings.com

- Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau – West Winner
- Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau – West Winner

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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. For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and

incentives, please visit MeetHawaii.com.

Media Contacts:

Meet Hawai'i

Nathan Kam

Anthology Marketing Group

808-539-3471

nathan.kam@anthologygroup.com

Michelle Hee

Anthology Marketing Group

808-539-3474

michelle.hee@anthologygroup.com