

December 2005

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ Hawai'i is a state that celebrates seasons. There is whale-watching season, big surf season, and even canoe racing season. But don't forget about the "Hawai'i Arts Season." From February 23 to May 14, that Season is in full swing offering a "snapshot" of Hawai'i's great year-round culture and arts pursuits. Beyond the great beaches and outdoor adventures, there are hundreds of cultural attractions, events and performances waiting to be discovered. On every island the arts thrive. The theme of the 2006 Hawai'i Arts Season is "Celebrating the Pacific." It is a state-wide opportunity to experience the most traditional hula, dating back a thousand years, catch a way off-Broadway production, see an opera, or wander an exhibit of antiquities; the list is endless. Curtains rise on world-class entertainment. Gallery walls are crowded with art, from ancient to new. For a complete listing of Hawai'i Arts Season events, visit GoHawaii.com/Arts.
- ◆ "Waikiki by Moonlight – Vintage meets Vogue" is an exciting new festival conceived by the Waikiki Improvement Association to showcase the very best of Waikiki's and Hawai'i's alluring past and ever popular present. The event will take place on Kalākaua Avenue on May 13, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There will be music, food, unique and one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, special exhibits and a Vintage Meets Vogue aloha wear fashion show. The festival is free and open to the public with hotel specials and packages offered during the event. For more information visit WaikikiImprovement.com.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ The new Bishop Museum Science Adventure Center opened on November 19 offering an engaging, hands-on educational experience, featuring volcanology, oceanography, and ecology of the Hawaiian Islands. Be among the first to explore an active volcano, see molten lava glowing right before your eyes, control a deep-sea submersible rover, walk on a rainbow hidden in mist and transform into a rainforest bug. For more information call Shaun Chillingworth at 808-848-4171 or visit BishopMuseum.org.

- ◆ Hawaiian Airlines and Outrigger Hotels and Resorts have teamed up to offer travelers remote web check-in from Waikīkī. Visitors staying at Outrigger Hotels and Resorts will be able to check in for flights before leaving for the airport using Hawaiian's self-service kiosks. The hotels featuring this innovative service in its lobbies are the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, Outrigger Reef on the Beach, OHANA East and OHANA Maile Sky Court. For more information, visit HawaiianAir.com or Outrigger.com.

- ◆ The Royal Kona Resort of Hawai'i's Big Island announces the conversion of its Tropics Café to its new signature restaurant called Don the Beachcomber. The upgrades to the restaurant and the name change are part of their multi-million dollar renovation project and represent the resort's continuing efforts to provide guests with an authentic Hawaiian experience during their stay. For more information, visit RoyalKona.com.

- ◆ ResortQuest Kaanapali Shores in Maui, formerly Aston Hotels & Resorts, has completed the final phase of a \$15.5 million renovation. The only full-service condominium resort on Maui was renovated to bring Maui's tropical ambiance indoors with contemporary, island inspired décor and furnishings. The renovation included guest rooms, common areas, the pool area, and the Beach Club Restaurant and was restored to have a more upscale tropical feel. Guests will also be able to enjoy conveniences such as tennis courts, a beauty salon with a full service spa, a sundry store, flower shop, activities desk, and fitness center. For more information, visit ResortQuestHawaii.com.

- ◆ Destination Hotels and Resorts will manage the Wailea Beach Villas on Maui. The ocean front resort, with 98 two- and three-bedroom oceanfront villas, is scheduled to open in February 2006. The villas will have kitchens, plasma televisions, wireless capability and use of on-property swimming pools, business center and 24-hour concierge. For more information, visit DestinationHotels.com.

- ◆ Aqua Hotels and Resorts announces that a new group, Aqua Boutique Hotels, is being formed to comprise several of the company's Waikīkī properties. There are three distinctive Waikīkī hotels that are being repositioned to launch the Aqua Boutique Hotel collection later this year. They are Aqua Palms, a 260-room hotel, Aqua Bamboo & Spa, a 93-room property location, and Aqua Aloha Surf, which consist of 202 rooms. For more information, visit AquaResorts.com.

- ◆ The Old Lāhaina Lū'au announces their exciting new cultural morning event called Ho'omana'o, meaning "To Remember," which is now offered every week on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lāhaina Town in Maui. This new cultural morning program provides a Hawaiian-style breakfast buffet and is geared towards visitors interested in learning about the life and culture of the native Hawaiians. Guests will then take part in three Na Kūlana, interactive hands-on demonstrations with the ancient art of hula, Hawaiian warfare, and ahupua'a which means Hawaiian land boundary. For reservations or more information, call 808-667-1998 or visit OldLahainaLuau.com.

- ◆ The Honolulu Power Pass, a new "Smart Card" by Travel Fun Card, enables travelers to skip lines and save money at sights and attractions throughout Honolulu. Some of the activities included are Dole Plantation, USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor Tour, Kualoa Ranch, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, Hanauma Bay snorkel excursion, Paradise Cruisers Moped Rentals, and Hawaiian Islands Eco-Tours Diamond Head Hike. One-, two-, three-, or five-day cards are available. For more information, visit PowerPassCard.com.

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- ◆ Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has begun offering weeklong interisland cruises that originate and end at Kahului, Maui. The decision to start and end on Maui came from numerous customers expressing interests in starting on Maui and studies showing that 75 percent of cruise ship passengers spend several more days on land. For more information, visit NCL.com.

- ◆ Aloha Horseback Rides located in Kōloa has opened its stable doors on Kauaʻi, offering morning, afternoon and sunset rides on trails that meander through 200 acres of private land on Kauaʻi's beautiful south shore. Aloha Horseback Rides specializes in personalized attention and small groups. During the ride, guides discuss the history of Kauaʻi's south shore, from ancient days to present while pointing out native Hawaiian plants, and coming across many beautiful photo opportunities that can't be experienced any other way. For reservations or information, call 808-742-2010 or visit AlohaHorsebackRiding.com.

- ◆ A \$214 million project to redevelop Coco Palms, a hotel made famous by Elvis Presley's "Blue Hawaii" in 1961, will begin in 2006 and welcome guests by winter 2008. The complex will include 104 hotel rooms and 200 condominium units. The lobby will be rebuilt to be identical with the original, and the restaurant and nightclub areas along ancient Hawaiian fishponds will be retained. Bungalow 56, where Elvis regularly stayed, will be restored as an Elvis museum to look exactly as it did during the "Blue Hawaii" days. For more information, visit Coco-Palms.com.

ACCOLADES

- ◆ For the twelfth consecutive year, Maui was voted "Best Island in the World" in the 18th *Conde Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards Poll. With a score of 91.6, Maui captured the "Top Pacific Rim Island" category, scoring higher than runner-up Kauaʻi and third place Bora Bora. The magazine's annual Readers' Choice Awards poll analyzes the travel preferences of their readership in various categories including cities, islands, airlines, cruise lines, hotels, spas, resorts and rental cars. For more information, visit CNTraveller.com.

- ◆ Israel "Iz" Kamakawiwo'ole's Album "Facing Future" became Hawai'i's first ever Certified Platinum album as recognized by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Having sold more than 1 million CD's in the United States, Iz's music continues to enhance products, films, and TV shows around the world. For more information, visit MountainAppleCompany.com.

- ◆ By region, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai of Hawai'i's Big Island was named first place by readers on *Travel + Leisure Family Magazine's* list of Family-Friendly Resorts in Hawai'i. The resorts were rated by the amount of services they had that appealed to different age groups such as rooms that are baby-proof, hotels that offer hangouts for hard-to-please teenagers, healthy kids' food and spas. For more information of the list of family resorts, visit TLFamily.com.

- ◆ Fodor's Choice Winter 2006 List named Maui's Ho'oilu House one of the "Best and Not-To-Be-Missed Hotels" in the world. Mauna Kea Stargazing on Big Island Hawai'i was one of the "Best Sights and Experiences Not-To-Be Missed." Among Fodor's "Best and Not-To-Be-Missed Restaurants" in the world for 2006 was O'ahu's Chef Mavro Restaurant. Fodor's Choice lists are a part of Fodor's Travel Publications, the world's largest English-travel guide publisher with more than 440 guides published. For more information, visit Fodors.com.

- ◆ *Conde Nast Traveler Magazine* and *Zagat* issued a survey on Best Domestic Airline Quality and ranked Hawaiian Airlines higher than any other carrier offering service to Hawai'i. *Conde Nast Traveler* published its 2005 Readers' Choice Awards in November and rated the airlines on the basis of cabin comfort, cabin service, entertainment options, food and beverages, ticketing and ground services. *Zagat Survey* issued its findings on airlines based on comfort, food, service and Web site. For more information or to see complete survey results, visit CNTraveller.com and Zagat.com.

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AIR LIFT UPDATES

- ◆ Hawaiian Airlines is adding a nonstop daily service connecting San Diego and Maui to its flight schedule starting June 9, 2006. Hawaiian Airlines flight 37 will depart the San Diego International Airport daily and arrive at Maui's Kahului Airport. Hawaiian Airlines will service the route with its 260-seat wide-body Boeing 767-300ER aircraft. For reservations or more information, visit HawaiianAirlines.com.
- ◆ Continental Airlines is making a schedule change that could bring Maui more visitors from California. Continental will discontinue its daily nonstop flights from Houston to Kahului, replacing it with a daily nonstop flight between Los Angeles and Kahului. The changes will be effective February 16, 2006. For reservations and more information, visit Continental.com.
- ◆ Island Air is now a code share partner with United Airlines. The agreement means that passengers booked to the islands through United Airlines will not have to recheck-in for interisland flights when flying Island Air. The interisland locations include to and from Honolulu, Kapalua, Kahului, Hilo, Kona, Līhu'e, Lāna'i City and Moloka'i. For more information, visit IslandAir.com.
- ◆ BaggageDirect, the service that enables travelers to transport bags from their home or office to their hotel rooms including locations such as Honolulu or Maui, is now operating out of Orange County, San Diego and Los Angeles airports. Aloha Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, ATA and Continental Airlines are participating carriers. The prices for the transport of bags begin at \$30 for one person and \$15 for each additional person. For more information on services, visit BaggageDirect.com.

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