



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

Aloha! There's always something new and exciting happening in the Hawaiian Islands. From hotel openings and meeting venue renovations, to new and engaging activities and creative programs, there are myriad opportunities to incorporate Hawaii and a diversity of cultural programming into your next gathering. As always, we invite you to enjoy the Hawaiian Islands and "come back better" – that is, return home feeling inspired and recharged by the Aloha Spirit.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEETING VENUES**

All meeting spaces at **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa** were recently refreshed, including modernizing the resort's 25,000 square feet of indoor meeting space. Two brand-new meeting spaces at the Kauai resort offer planners additional options, including an outdoor garden for small receptions in one of the new spaces. Additional guestroom renovations for 2019 include benches at the foot of beds, ottomans, Nespresso machines and refrigerators. New carpeting and lighting enhancements are planned for 2020. [www.kauai.grand.hyatt.com](http://www.kauai.grand.hyatt.com)

The former St. Regis Princeville Resort has been rebranded as Princeville Resort (Kauai), following its November 2018 acquisition by Starwood Capital Group. The investment firm intends to invest more than \$100 million to renovate the Kauai property, which will be renamed **1 Hotel Hanalei Bay** upon project completion. Princeville Resort currently includes among its guest offerings the Halele'a Spa, four dining establishments and 10 distinctive meeting and event spaces ranging from 351 to 17,000 square feet. [www.princevilleresorthawaii.com](http://www.princevilleresorthawaii.com)

As part of **Hilton Waikoloa Village's** (island of Hawaii) commitment to reduce its environmental impact, the island of Hawaii resort recently announced the conversion of four of its canal boats to fully-electric propulsion systems upgraded with new features. Operating on full electric power, the canal boats will no longer require the 4,320 gallons of gas consumed annually by each boat. Operating on zero carbon emissions, the canal boats will also welcome guests with improved air and water quality, and nearly-silent motors as they navigate the resort's tropical surroundings. [www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com](http://www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com)

Opening this summer, the nine-suite **ESPACIO The Jewel of Waikiki** (Oahu) will, according to its management company Aqua-Aston Hospitality, "redefine the luxury hotel experience in Waikiki for guests who seek the ultra-exclusive with personalized service and privacy." Each of the hotel's nine floors will be home to a single three-bedroom suite with a dedicated butler, Italian-marble bathrooms, dry sauna and other amenities. The hotel's public spaces will feature a restaurant and a rooftop infinity pool and spa. ESPACIO's in-room guest experience will include in-room iPads equipped with remote controls for lighting and temperature, and a messenger service for service requests. [www.espaciowaikiki.com](http://www.espaciowaikiki.com)

**The White Sands Hotel** (O'ahu) is set to reopen in July following the completion of a full restoration designed to return the property to its original 1960s glory. One of Waikīkī's last remaining walk-up hotels, the White Sands, according to its management company Aqua-Aston Hospitality, "will be a funky, fun return to the Hawai'i that everyone remembers." Its public spaces will include a new garden and pool courtyard oasis with a bar-adjacent hot tub, and a culinary and cocktail concept created by Honolulu-based Fete restaurant group reimagining continental cuisine and serving modern takes on 1960s menu items. [www.whitesandshotel.com](http://www.whitesandshotel.com)

## **ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS**

**Mauna Kea Resort** recently introduced a new partnership with air tour company Blue Hawaiian Helicopters offering hotel guests on-property helicopter access from the resort's helipad. The partnership's customizable VIP experience is tailored to guest preferences. Guests seeking romance- and wellness-themed adventure can fly off in search of waterfalls or an ideal outdoor picnic spot, while guests hoping for more of an adrenaline rush can seek out the ideal cave for spelunking or get a close-up view of the island of Hawai'i's legendary volcanoes and lava flows. [www.maunakearesort.com](http://www.maunakearesort.com)

**KapohoKine Adventures** has partnered with Polaris Adventures to launch a new ATV zipline combo tour operating the newest models of the Polaris ATV (all-terrain vehicle) and UTV (utility task vehicle). Designed to also accommodate corporate meetings, incentive groups and team building exercises, the partnership's new Maunakea Trails ATV and Zipline tour can handle groups of up to 300 participants, and the ATV activity up to 120 participants. The off-road vehicle tour features 6 miles of trails, while the 8-mile zipline course offers nearly 2 miles of emerald tropical river gorges on the island of Hawai'i. [www.kapohokine.com](http://www.kapohokine.com)

The island of Hawai'i's **Mauna Kea Resort** recently partnered with Stargaze Hawaii to offer on-property stargazing sessions for groups. Visiting groups unable to make the 90-minute drive to the 13,803-foot elevation summit of Maunakea volcano – home base to an international array of telescopes – are invited to enjoy on-property sea-level stargazing on Stargaze Hawaii's finely-tuned telescopes with astronomers on hand to guide them. Seaside stargazing is offered on Sundays and Wednesdays in The Westin Hapuna Beach Resort's Kohala Garden parking lot. [www.maunakearesort.com](http://www.maunakearesort.com)

## **FOOD, DRINK AND DINING**

Chef Michael Mina's **Stripsteak** (O'ahu) bills itself as "a classic steakhouse with a modern twist," offering an "elegant and contemporary atmosphere." The Waikīkī steakhouse is able to host leisure or business events, with a private space accommodating up to 42 guests for a seated dinner or 70 guests for a standing reception. The restaurant can also be reserved in its entirety for up to 300 guests for a seated dinner or 400 guests for a standing reception. Stripsteak's menu combines local and global flavors, and can also accommodate group events. [www.stripsteakwaikiki.com](http://www.stripsteakwaikiki.com)

## **FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

**Anna Ranch Heritage Center** (island of Hawai'i) is offering classes in crafting *lei po'ō* (lei worn on the head) taught by Waimea town florist Ainahua Florals. Classes are open to the public and held on a Sunday afternoon monthly. Complimentary tours of the property's historic ranch home are offered before classes for crafters interested in learning the history of the ranch, its founding

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family and ranch namesake Anna Lindsey Perry-Fiske. Private lei-making classes for groups can be scheduled with advanced notice. [www.annaranch.org](http://www.annaranch.org)

The 49th annual **Ukulele Festival Hawaii**, happening July 21 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand in Waikīkī, will once again bring together *ukulele* performers and groups from around the world to showcase the versatility and virtuosity of the ever-popular Hawai'i-born musical instrument. The O'ahu fest will also offer up favorite local eats, *ukulele* displays and giveaways, an *ukulele* workshop and children's activities. [www.ukulelefestivalhawaii.org](http://www.ukulelefestivalhawaii.org)

**Surfjack Hotel and Swim Club (O'ahu)** is throwing it back for its third Summer at the Swim Club series of pool parties. Groups are invited to relax and enjoy the hotel's Old School by the Pool event – a silent disco featuring hit music from the '70s, '80s and '90s – before or after their meetings, on the third Saturday evening of each month. The series' The Big Chill event – a laidback daytime hangout featuring music from the '50s and '60s – happens every first Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. [www.surfjack.com](http://www.surfjack.com)

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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](http://MeetHawaii.com).

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