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Hawai'i Convention Center Receives National Recognition with 4th Stella Award

General Manager Teri Orton also receives statewide honors as Pacific Edge's Hospitality Executive of the Year

Honolulu, November 17, 2020 – The Hawai'i Convention Center has received its fourth consecutive <u>Stella Award</u> from Northstar Meetings Group, for Best Convention Center in the Far West Region (silver). Nearly 7,000 votes were cast from around the world for the 553 destinations, hotels and service providers nominated in 17 categories in six regions in the United States and worldwide. There were a total of 255 total winners and finalists for 2020.

The Stella Awards recognize hotels, convention centers, conference centers, airlines, cruise lines, DMO/CVBs, and DMCs that consistently deliver quality service and innovation to meeting and events professionals. Finalists in each category were determined by industry professionals during an open voting period, while winners were selected by an expert panel of judges overseen by the editors of Northstar Meetings Group's leading brands, Meetings & Conventions and Successful Meetings.

Winners were recognized for achieving overall excellence, superb food and beverage, professionalism of staff, technology innovations, and other critical aspects of the meetings and event experience.

"The Hawai'i Convention Center has recently been working with state agencies to provide space for important services such as unemployment claims processing, COVID-19 contact tracing, and vote counting," said Teri Orton, general manager of the Center, managed by ASM Global. "We have also conducted improvements, repairs and upgrades throughout the building. This has been an unprecedented year for the meetings industry, and we are pleased to be recognized for our efforts with the 2020 Stella Award."

Projects include cooling tower replacement, new facility equipment, enhanced security measures, energy-efficient lighting, and trellis replacement. The Center has also developed and implemented industry-leading health and safety protocols, and continues to follow the guidance of public health officials.

All of the Stella finalists and winners represent excellence in the meetings and events industry as suppliers, and we're thrilled to honor the best of the best – especially in a year when the industry has been impacted so significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Loren Edelstein, vice president and content director for Northstar Meetings Group.

In addition, on Nov. 12, 2020, Orton was named Hospitality Executive of the Year by Pacific Edge, a Hawai'i business and lifestyle magazine, in its 10th-annual Business Achievement Awards. Nominations were judged by an independent panel comprised of seven esteemed members of the business community, and winners were announced in 12 categories.

Honolulu was also included on meetings company Travmar's November list of the "Top 25 Convention Cities For 2020," judged by walkability, affordability, safety, exciting tourism options and city assets among 166 cities ranked nationwide.

Visit <u>HawaiiConvention.com</u> for the Center's latest updates.

About the Hawai'i Convention Center

"Where Business and Aloha Meet," the 1.1 million-square-foot Hawai'i Convention Center provides a spacious, modern and flexible meeting space in the heart of Honolulu – all with an award-winning team and renowned aloha spirit. Conveniently located between East and West, the Center is a global leader for a diverse array of meetings and events, just steps from 30,000 hotel rooms in iconic Waikiki. The Center is a state-owned facility opened in 1998, and is managed by ASM Global. For more, visit HawaiiConvention.com.

About ASM Global

ASM Global was formed from the merger of AEG Facilities and SMG in October 2019, creating a venue management powerhouse that spans five continents, 14 countries and more than 300 of the world's most prestigious arenas, stadiums, convention and exhibit centers, and performing arts venues. To learn more about ASM Global and the exciting new ways we can serve you, visit <u>ASMGlobal.com</u>.