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HONOLULU: AN UNBEATABLE MEETINGS LOCATION

HONOLULU – Honolulu, the capital and economic center of Hawai'i, has served as the location for some of the U.S. and Pacific Rim's largest and most notable meetings including the 2011 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting (APEC) and the 2010 and 2015 International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies (Pacifichem), among others.

Home to the Hawai'i Convention Center, Honolulu is a place of shared convenience where meetings attendees from around the world gather in a highly productive atmosphere, and feel right at home in one of the most multi-cultural cities in the U.S. Honolulu's mid-Pacific location enables people to conduct business with New York and Shanghai in the same day with the resources from a robust hospitality industry capable of accommodating a high volume of visitors – more than 8.2 million statewide in 2013 alone.

"HAWAII GETS AN A-PLUS"

Compared with other states that have hosted APEC or similar international economic meetings, "Hawai'i gets an A-plus," U.S. Ambassador for APEC Kurt Tong told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser newspaper in November 2011. "Hawai'i definitely has proven it's ready for the big time, ready for the big leagues." During APEC, there was plenty of Internet bandwidth for the thousands of delegates, Tong said, and Hawai'i's famous aloha spirit showed through, allowing delegates to work productively amid a backdrop of efficient service and hospitality.

Tong told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "When people are relaxed, they think more clearly, and when they think more clearly, they're more likely to come to conclusions that result in agreements. ... It's really important that Hawai'i was able to convey a sense of being an effective place to do business -- they did that. Hawai'i was successful in conveying a unique sense of welcome and was successful in conveying a sense of respect for the environment."

HONOLULU'S NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- **Satisfaction Guaranteed:** Hawai'i was named the "Destination with the Highest Client Satisfaction in the U.S." in TravelAge West's 2013 WAVE (Western Agents Votes of Excellence) Awards, recognizing the travel industry's outstanding partners.

- **In-Demand Destination:** In 2013, Hawai'i received Travel Weekly's Readers Choice Award for "Best Destination in the United States."
- **Tops in Business Travel:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), one of the largest country analysis teams, ranked Honolulu the fourth best city for business travel in the world in 2009.
- **Green Features:** In 2012, Honolulu was a finalist for a national green city award, recognizing the city for excellence in communication and promotion of its recycling program. The city also ranked third in the Business Courier of Cincinnati's 2010 Green Cities Index, which rated 43 U.S. metropolitan areas on variables such as commuting habits, fuel use, LEED-certified projects, green jobs and air and water quality.
- **Breathe Easy:** The American Lung Association's State of the Air 2013 report lists Honolulu as one of the cleanest U.S. cities for ozone layer pollution, making it a great location for fresh, breathable air.
- **Making Strides:** Honolulu was named one of the nation's "Best Walking Cities" by the American Podiatric Medical Association and Prevention magazine. Honolulu ranked seventh out of 500 cities.

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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.

Special note to media: HTA recognizes the use of the 'okina ['] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the (modern) Hawaiian language; and the kahakö [ä] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai'i such as Lāna'i). However, HTA respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

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For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit MeetHawaii.com.