



Waikiki Wiki Wiki Wire

OHANA Waikiki Malia Completes \$6.6 Million Renovation of Rooms and Lobby

Style and value unite with upgraded accommodations and free amenities

OHANA Waikiki Malia rings in the New Year with a new, alluring look and fresh island ambiance. From the handsome reception area to the serene accommodations, the completion of a \$6.6 million lobby and guest room transformation has elevated this hotel to a place of well-being in paradise. Kamaaina are invited to experience the new OHANA Waikiki Malia at rates starting at just \$89 per night, plus 50% off overnight parking.

“The OHANA Waikiki Malia now communicates a new standard of quality and style for the OHANA brand, which is already synonymous with exceptional value and comfort,” said Tom Wakita, sales and marketing director for OHANA Hotels & Resorts.

Inspired by the hues of Hawai'i's foliage and florals, all guest rooms in the Malia Tower have been remodeled to evoke the graciousness of Hawai'i's past, while incorporating the modern amenities of today. A pattern of tropical leaves cover the plush new Serta beds and rich cherry-toned woods bring warmth to the custom headboards, dressers, and vanity. The custom wood pieces are complemented by granite countertops and textured draperies that add to the welcoming feeling of the rooms.



A seamless flow of indoor-outdoor ambiance continues with a dramatic wall-covering, bamboo-framed vanity mirror and lively shower curtain, adding tropical zest to the overall look of the bathrooms. The spacious accommodations include new 32-inch LCD televisions, complimentary high-speed Internet access, refrigerator, safe and state-of-the-art energy-efficient air conditioning system.

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... and MORE

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Throughout the hotel, artwork by local artists known for their tropical flair is displayed, offering unique viewpoints of Hawaiian scenic beauty. The new hotel lobby has a sophisticated feel, with a cut glass, pineapple-shaped chandelier and curved wooden lamps. Guests will be greeted by vivid wall colors, distinctive fabrics and textures, offering an inviting and fun start to their Hawai'i vacation.

Centrally located on Kūhiō Avenue, OHANA Waikiki Malia is a quick five-minute walk to the stylish and spirited Waikiki Beach Walk®, featuring over 40 merchants including award-winning restaurants and diverse shops. Guests can present an OHANA room key to any second floor merchant at Waikiki Beach Walk and receive a "Just for You" coupon booklet with valuable discounts on food and merchandise.



OHANA Waikiki Malia is a much-desired property for kama'āina who prefer large hotel rooms, as well as families and friends traveling in groups thanks to its selection of connecting rooms, an extensive inventory of guest rooms with double beds, and the popular family-friendly IHOP restaurant located off the hotel lobby. The adjoining low-rise Luana Tower also offers spacious one-bedroom suites featuring kitchenette facilities.

All OHANA Hotel & Resort guests can also take advantage of the popular Waikiki Connection – a great value, which offers a long list of free amenities including:

Free Internet access

- Free local phone calls
 - Free U.S. and Canada phone calls (for the first 15 minutes)
 - Free use of the in-room safe
 - Free in-room coffee and tea
 - Free daily local newspaper at the reception desk
 - A free OHANA drawstring beach tote (one per room) perfect for toting sunscreen and a towel to Waikīkī Beach
- Free rides aboard the Waikiki Trolley's Pink Line which takes travelers throughout Waikiki and to Waikiki Beach Walk and Ala Moana Center.

These added-value benefits are in addition to a selection of services and amenities including daily maid service, a 24-hour reception desk and an onsite coin-operated laundry facility, making OHANA Waikiki Malia a smart choice for consumers seeking both style and value.

For reservations or additional information on OHANA Hotels & Resorts, call your preferred travel professional or call OHANA Hotels & Resorts toll-free at 1-800-462-6262 or visit www.OhanaHotels.com. E-mail reservations are also available at reservations@ohanahotels.com.

Hawaiian Diacritical Marks

Waikīkī Improvement Association recognizes the use of diacritical marks (i.e., glottal stop (ʻ), macron (ā)) in place names of Hawai'i, such as Waikīkī and Kalākaua Avenue and will include them whenever possible. We also respect the individual use (or not) of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

There will also be times when we may not have a chance to add or change the markings in all of the articles submitted and when that happens, e kālā mai.

Aqua Waikiki Wave housekeeper, Leticia Gamiao, named HHLA's "Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year"

Leticia Gamiao, housekeeper for the 247-room Aqua Waikiki Wave hotel, was named "Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year" for 2010 at the Hawai'i Hotel and Lodging Assn.'s 20th annual Na Poe Paahana (the hardworking people) awards ceremony on Friday, January 15. Gamiao was selected on the basis of her outstanding and exceptional service to hotel guests, the community and co-workers.

Capturing the top honor, Gamiao is HHLA's nominee for the national American Hotel & Lodging Association "Stars of the Industry Awards" this summer.

"We are so proud of Leticia winning this prestigious industry award. Her hard work is consistently outstanding and she is our shining star," said Lynette Eastman, Area General Manager and also the one who nominated Gamiao. "Leticia is recognized several times a week for her cleaning skills, friendliness and her detailed care of guests and their families. She was acknowledged by name on more than 100 comment cards and notes we received in 2009."



Gamiao has been a Waikiki housekeeper for more than 12 years. She started at the Coral Reef and remained with the hotel throughout its renovation – a process which transformed it into the Aqua Waikiki Wave. Gamiao volunteers regularly for her Church's community outreach programs and is an active participant in the annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk and Aloha United Way campaigns.

Originally from the Philippines, Gamiao and husband, Amado, live in Kalihi where they raised 6 children.

Na Poe Paahana honors deserving Hawai'i hotel and lodging industry employees in nine categories: Bell/Valet, Engineering/Maintenance, Food & Beverage, Front Office, Housekeeper, Manager, Security Officer; plus Allied Member of the Year and Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year. The winners are pictured below.



1st row, left to right: Noemi Joy Corpuz, Halekulani (Housekeeper of the Year); Frani Forde Denny, Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas (Front Office Person of the Year); Leticia Gamiao, Aqua Waikiki Wave (Outstanding Lodging Person of the Year); Viola "Binkie" Tanita, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows (Food & Beverage Person of the Year)

2nd row, left to right: Jared Takayesu, Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa (Engineer/Maintenance Person of the Year); Christian Alexander, Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa (Security Officer of the Year); Walter "Wally" Marciel, HFM FoodServices (Allied Member of the Year); Sheldon Masuda, The Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Ka'anapali (Bell/Valet Person of the Year); Gary Nushida, Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki and Golf Club (Manager of the Year)

Photos courtesy of ACES XP, Photos by Chaz

Hale Koa Hotel announces new General Manager

Hale Koa Hotel Change of Responsibility Ceremony hosted by MG Rueben Jones on Wednesday 20 January at 2:00 o'clock was the official ceremony where Mr. John Jefferis, current General Manager, passed the reigns to the new General Manager Mr. Richard E. LeBrun.

Mr. LeBrun was born in Orleans, France, of American parents, educated throughout Europe and recently left Garmisch, Germany where he has been the General Manager of the Armed Forces Recreation Centers and the recently opened Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

Mr. Jefferis held the position of General Manager for 16 years and is credited with many achievements throughout his tenure. Mr. Jefferis is scheduled to retire in early March 2010. Mr. Jefferis was born and raised in Goodwell, Oklahoma. He graduated in 1971 from Oklahoma Panhandle State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He had a successful career in the United States Army, during his tenure he earned his Master's Degree in Hotel and Food Service Management and ran military club operations in Thailand and Germany. He then was assigned to Dragon Hill Lodge as the military liaison and upon his retirement from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1991 he was appointed as the General Manager. In 1994 he took the helm as General Manager at the Hale Koa Hotel.

He has been an instrumental component in the expansion and success of the Hale Koa Hotel. He has orchestrated and overseen the construction of our 2nd Tower and the renovation of the original Ilima Tower just completed in April 2009. He is a community leader and supports many military and visitor industry projects. He is a member of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Hotel Association and the Waikiki Improvement Association.

The Hale Koa Hotel, AFRC is celebrating its 35th year of serving those who serve with a quality, affordable facility. The Hale Koa Hotel is listed as one of the top 150 businesses in Hawaii, the ninth largest hotel in Waikiki, and consistently has an average occupancy of over 90%.



Star Of Honolulu Valentine's Cruises

February 12, 13 and 14, 2010 / 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Star of Honolulu departs from Aloha Tower Marketplace, Pier 8

"Wow" your sweetheart this Valentine's Day aboard a Star of Honolulu sunset dinner cruise! It's a unique and romantic way to make this year special, with dazzling views of the Honolulu city lights as you enjoy a delicious dinner and live entertainment. Valentines packages include "Celebration Plan" of private window table and memory photo (per couple); cruises without "Celebration Plan" also available. For reservations or more information, please call 983-STAR (7827) or visit www.starofhonolulu.com.

Suggested Retail Rate (cruise with Celebration Plan): \$89.01 and up (tax and harbor fee not included)
Kama'aina / Military Rate: \$75.45 and up with valid Hawai'i ID (tax and harbor fee not included)

Photo courtesy of Star of Honolulu



King's Village offers new Farmers' Market on Fridays

The venue presents a unique experience for visitors and locals

King's Village Shopping Center and the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa invite the public to the new Friday evening *Farmers' Market* and *Changing of the Guard Ceremony* at King's Village Shopping Center, located at 131 Ka'iulani Avenue. The event is from 4 to 9 p.m. and includes the nightly *Changing of the Guard Ceremony* at 6:15 p.m. Admission is free.

"There will be several fresh produce stands as well as a variety of other booths that will appeal to our visitors," says Sheryl Siu, director of retail operations at Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa. "Many of our King's Village merchants are excited to be involved in something that combines a display of our Hawaiian culture with a traditional farmers' market," adds Siu.



Organizers expect to introduce locals and visitors to a unique shopping adventure by hosting the *Farmers' Market* in the late afternoon – a time reserved for the King's Guard who perform the *Changing of the Guard Ceremony* nightly in the Village. By combining the two activities, the event offers many an authentic cultural experience.

King's Village Shopping Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information about the *Farmers' Market*, please call Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa at (808) 237-6340, or visit King's Village Shopping Center online at www.kings-village.com.

Top Picks in Paradise for January 2010

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii announces the debut of new and exciting happenings in 2010 – rebranded resorts, new products, invigorating activities, farm-to-fork culinary tastes, live Hawaiian entertainment, and much more. You name it... Starwood's got it! Here's a brief look into what's hot at Starwood properties on Oahu in January 2010.

Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa presents *Wine Wednesdays at Beachhouse* at the Moana every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Moana Surfrider's resident certified sommelier James Maher guides you through several unique wines that are featured on Beachhouse's wine list. This event is open to everyone for a nominal fee of \$10 to \$25 per person, depending on the variety of wines and delicious appetizers created by Moana's talented chefs. For more information visit www.beachhousewaikiki.com or call (808) 921-4600.

The Rooyal Hawaiian, A Luxury Collection Resort and Azure present *The Royal Papa'aina*. The *Royal Papa'aina* (Royal Table) dining experience at Azure is an eight-course tasting menu, focusing on local ingredients, by acclaimed Executive Chef Jon Matsubara.

Complete with wine pairings, the intimate culinary affair is set within the billowing sanctuary of the private beachfront *Chef's Cabanas* at Azure. The *Royal Papa'aina* is available for \$150 per person including wine and cocktail pairings for a maximum of four guests. For more information or to book *The Royal Papa'aina* please call (808) 923-7311.

Sheraton Waikiki completes its \$187 million transformation featuring gleaming new facilities and resort amenities, including several firsts in Waikiki. From the resort's beach level to the top of its 31-floor structure, the comprehensive renewal includes new guest rooms and suites, redesigned public areas with new landscaping and two brand new pools (including an adult-only infinity edge pool), an International Conference Center meeting facilities, new and exhilarating food and beverage outlets, and new back-of-house equipment to enhance service efficiency.

Concepts for the resort's renewal followed three key words: contemporary, sophisticated and Hawaiian. For more information, visit www.sheraton-waikiki.com or call (808) 922-4422.

Forget food, go for sensual this Valentine's Day

Na Ho'ola Spa gives all new meaning to chocolate and roses

This year, skip the box of chocolates and the bouquet of roses for Valentine's Day. Na Ho'ola Spa, on the fifth floor of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa, located at 2424 Kalākaua Avenue, offers a lovers' delight with the Valentine's Day *Chocolate Body Scrub with Rose Body Butter Massage package*. The two-hour package is available throughout the month of February for \$249.

The *Chocolate Body Scrub with Rose Massage Body Butter* at Na Ho'ola Spa is a sensually sweet treat that the mind and body will both enjoy. The luxuriousness aloha of this package comes from the soothing compliment of fragrances of chocolate and roses, and the cleansing exfoliation followed by a deep massage of the skin. The silky rose butter will serve to soften as well as give the body a beautiful healthy glow – a perfect prelude to a romantic dinner by candlelight.



To find out more, or to make a reservation, please call Na Ho'ola Spa at (808) 237-6330 or visit www.nahoolaspa.com.

Love - side by side at Mandara Spa



Celebrate love side by side at Mandara Spa at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa.

The spa is offering two Valentine's specials that you'll love. With a 75-minute chocolate body polish and massage, receive a complimentary conditioning foot treatment valued at \$30.

Or, double your pleasure by booking any 60-minute Elemis facial and receive a complimentary Frangipani nourishing hair and scalp treatment valued at \$30. Gift cards are also available.

Mandara Spa is located on the 4th floor of the Kalia Tower. Kama'aina receive 20% off any treatment.

To book an appointment, call (808) 945-7721.

Lisa Reasoner promoted to Sales & Marketing Manager

The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel recently promoted Lisa Reasoner to Sales & Marketing Manager.

Reasoner has been with The New Otani since 1997 and has worked in various areas of the hotel including Front Desk, Reservations, Sales & Marketing, Groups and Wedding Coordination.

The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel is a beachfront boutique hotel located at the quiet end of Waikiki in Kapi'olani Park at the foot of Diamond Head. For more information about the property, visit <http://www.kaimana.com/>



Valentine's weekend at The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel

Plan a romantic beachfront getaway with a room and dinner for the Valentine's weekend. Hau Tree Lanai will offer an exclusive dinner menu on February 14. Please call 923-1555 for reservations. Limited seating available.



Chef Rene's Special Valentine's Dinner Menu

Appetizer



(choice of one)

LOBSTER RAVIOLI WITH SAFFRON CREAM SAUCE

OR

SAMPLING OF ABALONE POKE AND OYSTERS CEVICHE



Soup du Soir

SPLIT PEA SOUP WITH HERB TOMATO and CHIVE OIL DRIZZLE



Salad

ENDIVE WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE



Entree

(choice of one)

***LOVER'S DUET
BAKED CARIBBEAN LOBSTER TAIL WITH CITRUS LEMON BUTTER SAUCE**

or

CORNISH GAME HEN STUFFED WITH HERB SEASONED WILD RICE, SERVED WITH APPLE BRANDY SAUCE

**PORTERHOUSE STEAK*

SERVED WITH AU GRATIN POTATO AND CREAM SPINACH

***SAUTEED OPAKAPAKA SNAPPER SERVED WITH PUREED CREAM OF CAULIFLOWER AND VEGETABLE FETTUCINI PASTA**



Dessert

RASPBERRY CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

or

**TIRAMISU with MACAROONS
Kona Coffee or Tea**

\$79

Waikiki Community Center
25th Annual Ala Wai Challenge
Presented by Hawaiian Electric Company
Sunday, January 24, 2010, 8:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M.
Celebrating the ancient sports of Hawai'i's past

Special honorees Hannie Anderson and Tay Perry

The Annual Ala Wai Challenge will hold its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, January 24, 2010, from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Ala Wai Neighborhood Park. The Ala Wai Challenge is a fun filled community event for Hawai'i residents and visitors featuring outrigger canoe racing and ancient Hawaiian Makahiki games. This cultural event showcases how the Hawaiian people competed in these unique sport games that can only be found in Hawai'i.

Each year the event honors two living water sports legends of Hawai'i. The 2010 honorees are Hannie Anderson and Tay Perry. Hannie is one of the founders and race director of Na Wāhine O Ke Kai, race commissioner, Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, and past president of OHCRA. Tay is a master builder and restorer of koa canoes, paddled 44 Molokai Hoe, and VP of Friends of Hōkūle'a and Hawai'iloa. Both are legendary canoe paddlers, and have perpetuated the legacy of native Hawaiian canoe racing in the community.

The Ala Wai Challenge is made possible through generous community support and presenting sponsor Hawaiian Electric Company. Two co-ed teams comprised of employees from across the company are practicing to compete in this years challenge and top their second place category win from last year. In addition to the canoe races, the event also features a variety of handmade Hawaiian crafts, free entertainment, food vendors, fun activities to learn how to create a green and sustainable community and the traditional hand pounding poi. Participants can also make their own smoothies by peddling a bicycle powered blender, also Friends of Hōkūle'a and Hawai'iloa will demonstrate building an outrigger canoe (hands-on). Children can make and participate in ancient Hawaiian land games while you can experience authentic Lomi lomi (Hawaiian massage). Admission to the event is free for residents and visitors.

The outrigger canoe race is a mile race along the Ala Wai Canal, which is open to all skill levels. The race is a double elimination, having winners and consolation brackets so all teams race twice.

The Hawaiian games feature the 'ulu maika (bowling a round stone through pegs), 'ō'ō ihe (spear throwing), moa pahee (dart sliding), pōhaku hooikaika (stone throw) and huki kaula (tug of war). This is one of the few events on O'ahu where you can experience the ancient sports of Hawaiian culture known as Makahiki.

The event kick offs with a double-hulled canoe procession, in oli (chant) and Kahiko (ancient hula and song) by Hula Halau Ka Liko O Ka Palai and Kumu Hula Ainsley Halemanu.

2010 EVENT SCHEDULE

8:00 am	Official Welcome and Blessing Double-Hulled Canoe Procession
9:00 am	Canoe Races Start Tree planting dedication Makahiki Games Start Hawaiian Farmers Market and Food Open
11:00 am	Free Hawaiian Entertainment begins
12:00 pm	Completion of Canoe Races and Games Begin Huki Kaula (tug of war) Event
12:30 pm	Award Presentations

Parking will be located in the surrounding neighborhood and at nearby parking structures such as 'Iolani School at 563 Kamoku St., Tokai University at 2241 Kapi'olani Boulevard, and Ala Wai Community Park at 2015 Kapi'olani Boulevard. From Waikiki, you have a variety of options. The organizers have set up the famous Canoe Taxi Service in specially marked double-hulled canoes. Look for the Canoe Taxi Service pick-up at Ala Wai Blvd. and Olohana Street.

Waikīkī Hula Show at the Kūhiō Beach Hula Mound

Authentic Hawaiian music and hula shows by Hawai'i's finest hula *hālau hula* (dance troupes) and Hawaiian performers. Opens with traditional blowing of conch shell.

Tues-Thurs-Sat-Sun, weather-permitting from **6 -7 p.m.** at the Kūhiō Beach Hula Mound, near Duke Kahanamoku statue, beachside at Uluniu & Kalākaua Ave. in Waikīkī.

FREE and open to the public. Outdoors, casual, seating on the grass; beach chairs, mats, etc. okay. Cameras welcome. Presented by the City & County of Honolulu, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Waikīkī Improvement Association.

For information, call Marnie Weeks, Producer, Kūhiō Beach Hula Shows, 843-8002.

Week-nights

Every Tuesday - Ainsley Halemanu and Hula Hālau Ka Liko O Ka Palai

Every Thursday - Joan "Aunty Pudgie" Young and Puamelia

Weekends

Saturday, January 23 - Shirley Recca and Halau Hula O Namakahulali

Sunday, January 24 - Twyla Mendez and Halau Na Pua A Lei



Waikīkī Improvement Association

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If you would like to share news with other members of WIA, please send your info to editor@waikikiimprovement.com.

Check out our website at:
www.waikikiimprovement.com

Kumuola Foundation
presents:

Waikiki Revival:
-Na Kumu O Ke Ola
Saturday, January 30, 2010
10 am - 8pm

Ongoing Hawaiian Music, Dance, Arts, Craft
Demonstrations & Ono Local Foods.

Featuring
The Master Artisans & Practitioners of Hawaii

International Market Place

We are honored to present Cultural Masters Kaipō Kaneakua,
Paulette Kahalepuna, Ainsley Haleamanu, Keoki Fukumitsu,
Mililani Hanapi, Alapa'i Hanapi, and more.

Enjoy the nahenahe music of
Melveen Leed & Rodney Cazimero,

Tony C & Brother Noland, Keale

KumZ & Halau I Ka Wekiu,

Mailani, Waipuna

 KUMUOLA Serenaders & much more.

For more information email: kukinavales@kumuola.com.

THE TREE OF LIFE



Sponsored by Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Paddler



25th ANNIVERSARY WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER ALA WAI CHALLENGE

presented by the Hawaiian Electric Company

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Ala Wai Neighborhood Park

FREE ADMISSION!

The Ala Wai Challenge is a great way for residents and visitors to enjoy a fun morning of ancient Hawaiian Land Sports, food, crafts, and free entertainment while providing support for the Waikiki Community Center. Event starts at 8:00am with a blessing and canoe procession and is followed by hours of canoe racing. You can also try your luck at the Hawaiian Makahiki games. Experience a real Hawaiian sport festival!



Entertainment, Food & Local Craft Booths



Makahiki Games (Hawaiian Land Sports)



Non-Stop Competitive Canoe Racing

Free Parking Locations

PARKING FOR ALA WAI CHALLENGE

1. Entire Ala Wai Community Park
2. Floors 2,3,4,5,6 of Tokai University (on Kapitolani)
3. Iolani School (on Kamakoa)
4. Team drop-off (outside parking lot)
Craft drop-off on field (6⁰⁰-6⁰⁰ am only)

KAPITOLANI BLVD

1

ALA WAI
COMMUNITY CENTER
(Entire Parking Lot)

2

TOKAI
UNIVERSITY
Park on 2nd, 3rd, 4th,
5th, & 6th Floor

3

TEAM
DROP-OFF
(Outside Parking Lot)
CRAFT DROP-OFF (On Field)

4

IOLANI
SCHOOL

ALA WAI CANAL



**RUNS FROM
9 AM - 1 PM**

Ala Wai Challenge Canoe Taxi
Pick up on Ala Wai Boulevard
and Olohana Street (behind former Niketown)
(great for visitors who come from Waikiki)

CALL 923-1802 FOR INFORMATION

A Benefit for the Waikiki Community Center