



## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU

APRIL 2009

OAHU – The Island of Oahu, known as the Heart of Hawaii®, sets the rhythm of the islands and leads by example with new improvements, changes and additions on an ongoing basis. Below is a glimpse of what's new on Oahu:

### Hotels & Resorts

The island of Oahu has fabulous hotels and resorts for people of all ages and budgets. Oahu's hotels are constantly updating and adding an array of activities and packages that are sure to make any trip to Oahu unforgettable.

- **The Royal Hawaiian, A Luxury Collection Resort** held its grand reopening on March 7, 2009 as a member of Starwood Hotels & Resorts' elite Luxury Collection. The Royal Hawaiian's multimillion-dollar transformation included a redesign of the reception area and 529 guestrooms to incorporate 21st-century upgrades with classic design elements. The resort features new restaurants, **Azure** and **Surf Lanai**, that highlight contemporary Hawaiian cuisine. The Royal Hawaiian's **Abhasa Waikiki Spa** also received a refresh as a result of the property-wide enhancements.
- **The Grand Waikikian by Hilton Grand Vacations Club**, which opened to guests and owners on Dec. 20, 2008, celebrated the completion of its new \$7 million Paradise Pool in February. The 5,000-square-foot family activity pool boasts the longest slide in Waikiki and overlooks the resort's landmark Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon. It is comprised of a two-tiered heated, freshwater swimming pool bordered by lava rock formations, meandering streams and bridges, and lush, tropical landscaping. The pool features four slides including a 77-foot lava tube slide, three waterfalls and two heated spas. The freeform design of the pool's perimeter offers poolside loungers privacy while sunbathing, reading or napping. The

-more-

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 1

Paradise Pool is open to guests of the Grand Waikikian and Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa.

- **The Kahala Hotel and Resort** is celebrating its 45th anniversary with all new rooms, suites and public spaces. Following a \$50 million renovation, the resort's guestrooms and suites now take on the resort's signature "Kahala Chic" design, a contemporary look with an open and airy tropical feel reflecting the elegant lifestyle of residential Kahala. The Presidential Suite has been redone to include an office/conference room with drop-down projection screen and wet bar. Five new Spa Suites have also been added, and includes a men's retreat with a high-end barber's chair and another suite for manicures and pedicures.
- Beginning in mid-2009, ResortQuest Hawaii will rebrand itself under its former name, **Aston Hotels & Resorts**. The change comes as the Hawaii-based management company celebrates its 61st year in the hospitality industry as one of the state's largest hotel and condominium resort management companies. The name change is the centerpiece of a complete rebranding campaign that encompasses a new image, including a contemporary logo that embodies the Aston reputation.
- The **Outrigger Reef on the Beach** has opened its brand new Pacific Tower, marking the beginning of the final phase of the hotel's \$110 million transformation project. The Pacific Tower includes 403 guestrooms and 33 suites with modern amenities, full-sized tubs and made-in-Hawaii bath amenities in every room. The Outrigger Reef also recently completed its porte cochere and driveway that includes a historic, restored century-old canoe. In Spring 2009, the property will welcome several more shops, a new pool deck, and the **Kani Ka Pila Grille**, a casual poolside restaurant highlighting Hawaii's rich musical legacy with live performances by legendary island musicians and up-and-coming talent.
- The **OHANA Waikiki Beachcomber** recently completed an extensive \$21 million renovation that included redesigning its 495 guestrooms, lobby and porte cochere. In February, the hotel will welcome **Jimmy Buffett's at the Beachcomber**, a 22,000-square-foot dining, entertainment and retail venue offering a full menu, cocktails and live entertainment. The new **Honolulu Surfing Museum and Bar** will offer cocktails and showcase surfing collectibles and memorabilia. Additional upgrades to the hotel include a new business center and fitness room.

-more-

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 2

- **Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio** completed a \$2 million renovation of its 37<sup>th</sup> floor that includes a new five-bay concierge lounge overlooking Waikiki Beach and three two-bedroom suites with a personal concierge staff and state-of-the-art GuestLink™ system. The upgrade to the 37<sup>th</sup> floor was part of a \$65 million comprehensive renovation of the property.
- **Castle Resorts & Hotels** took over management of the former W Honolulu – Diamond Head on Jan. 9, 2009. The 51-room boutique hotel is now called **The Lotus at Diamond Head**. The hotel's signature restaurant, The Diamond Head Bar and Grill, will continue to operate as a fine dining restaurant and one of the island's hottest weekend nightspots.
- **Waikiki Parc's** new heated rooftop pool, Parc Blue, recently opened to hotel guests. The urban-chic pool and lounge area features plush chaise and covered lounges and firepits that are lit at night. On Tuesdays and Fridays, guests of the Waikiki Parc are welcome to Parc Blue for the Cityscape wine mixer hosted by the hotel's manager. At this free event, guests will enjoy Pacific-fusion canapés and Parc Chic wines. On Sundays and Wednesdays, movies are shown at Parc Blue, and free refreshments are provided.
- In December 2008, **Halekulani** unveiled **“The Orchid Suite at Halekulani,”** a 2,365-square-foot suite set apart from the hotel's main building and offering panoramic views of Waikīkī and Diamond Head. The suite's amenities include an exclusive Sea of Life Wellness Program designed by SpaHalekulani featuring treatments and therapies inspired by the sea, a full-service Sub-Zero Wolf kitchen with interactive cooking experiences by Halekulani chefs, daily market deliveries, a select La Mer menu, and Art in Motion luxury automobile program. Guests of the Orchid Suite will also be treated to the Premier Collection's complimentary services, including butler service, customized culinary programs, personal concierge and VIP privileges with the hotel's For You Everything, Program offering complimentary access to many of Oahu's best culture and art venues.
- **Trump International Hotel & Tower - Waikiki Beach Walk**, located on the corner of Kalia Road and Saratoga Road, is a 350-foot tower with 469 luxury hotel-condominium units and four stories of valet parking (230 stalls). Construction started in April 2007 and is expected to be completed in August 2009.

-more-

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 3

### Activities & Entertainment

The island of Oahu is brimming with fun-filled activities that everyone can enjoy. Visitors to Oahu can choose from a wide variety of outdoor or indoor activities or choose to explore the Hawaiian culture.

- The National Park Service began construction on the new visitor center to replace the current **USS Arizona Memorial** Visitor Center shore side facility at Pearl Harbor. The existing visitor center and tours to the USS Arizona Memorial will remain open throughout the two-year construction period that is scheduled to end in December 2010. The new \$58 million visitor center at Pearl Harbor will feature expanded facilities, including indoor and outdoor museum galleries and a central information and ticketing venue for all major Pearl Harbor sites.
- In celebration of Hawaii-born U.S. President Barack Obama, **Polynesian Adventure Tours** recently began operating a **Presidential Obama Tour** on Oahu. Visitors on the tour will travel to historical locations in President Obama's childhood, as well as other significant and scenic spots around the island, and learn about the Hawaiian culture and special events that have helped shaped the new President's life. The tour includes stops at Obama's birthplace, first home and high school, Nuuanu Pali Lookout, Halona Blowhole, Sandy Beach, Kailua Beach, Waiola Shave Ice, Zippy's restaurant, and more.
- The **Bishop Museum** will kick off its three-part summer concert series, **Moonlight Mele**, on June 25 with a performance by award-winning local musician Sean Naauao. The family-friendly concerts are presented under the stars on the Great Lawn at Bishop Museum on the last Thursday of each month from June to August. Acclaimed falsetto singer Darren Benitez and multiple Na Hoku Hanohano award winner Hoku Zuttermeister will perform on July 30, and Grammy nominee Raiatea Helm will grace the Great Lawn on August 27.
- On Aug. 8, 2009, **Bishop Museum** will reopen its acclaimed **Hawaiian Hall**, designed by Ralph Applebaum, which showcases the world's largest collection of Native Hawaiian and Pacific area artifacts, many of which have never been publicly displayed before. Hawaiian Hall's three distinct floors will include artifacts from various periods throughout Hawaii's history, stories and legends of old Hawaii, and quotes and art pieces from contemporary Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Hawaiian Hall will also include Polynesian Hall, which

-more-

traces the Pacific origins of the Hawaiian people, and an interactive resource center providing hands-on children's activities.

- **Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa** premiered its new **Waikiki Starlight Luau** on Feb. 23. The luau takes place on the resort's rooftop garden five nights a week and features hula and Polynesian dancing by Tihati Productions. The luau includes a dinner buffet featuring a modern twist on traditional luau fare.
- The **Sullivan Estate** recently began offering day spa services at its 5.2-acre private property on Oahu's North Shore. The JK7 Spa at the Sullivan Estate offers 7 Sense OlaLoa SPA Packages that includes spa treatments to stimulate and revive your senses, and fresh food items prepared with organic ingredients at its OlaLoa Health Gourmet Café. Guests who book at the Sullivan Estate & SPA Retreat will not be booked with other parties, offering total privacy and access to the entire estate and its amenities, including a saltwater swimming pool, 12-person jacuzzi, yoga and meditation room, sauna, and workout facilities.
- "Artists of Hawaii," the state's oldest, most prestigious juried exhibition, returns as a biennial exhibit to the **Honolulu Academy of Arts** from May 14 to Aug. 16, 2009. The juror of the exhibition's 58th installment is Laura Hoptman, Senior Curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York.
- From March 21 to June 21, 2009, **The Contemporary Museum** will celebrate its 21st anniversary by honoring contemporary Hawaiian artists during "20 Going On 21: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Looking to the Future – An Exhibition of Hawaii Artists." The exhibition displays hand-selected pieces by twenty-one different local artists.
- Japanese artist Yoshihiro Suda's works will be on display at **The Contemporary Museum** in Honolulu from July 11 to Oct. 25, 2009. Suda is internationally known for his installations of delicate carved and painted wooden plant life. Suda's sculptures of indigenous Japanese plants and flowers are meticulously created with surprising realism and in true-to-life scale that, at times, borders on the miniscule. This will be Suda's first solo exhibition in the United States.
- The **Hawaii State Art Museum (HiSAM)** will feature "**Live from the Lawn,**" a monthly event occurring every first Friday of the month. On May 1, the locally renowned Cruz family will perform live Hawaiian music with special guests. In June, "Live from the Lawn" will celebrate contemporary dance with performances by Hawaii Ballet, Tau Dance, Iona,

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 5

Convergence Dance Theatre, Upside Down Dance, and independent choreographers and dancers. The July 3 program features capoeira, live Latin jazz, Flamenco dancing, and Brazilian Batacuda percussion and dancing, and in August, the gymnastic artists of Samadhi will perform aerial dancing with Makana accompanying on guitar.

- **Waimea Valley** reopened to the public on Jan. 19 following an extensive cleanup of the valley. Activities at the valley, including “The Magnificent Alae Ula Walk,” “The Native Plant Walk,” “Moololo o Waimea – History of Waimea Walk,” Hawaiian games, and “Visit with Kupuna” will also be open to the public. On the first and third Sunday of each month, Waimea Valley Botanical Collections Specialist David Orr will provide walking tours through the valley, highlighting different plants and fruits along the way.

### Restaurants & Cuisine

Oahu is known for its diverse culture, which is exhibited by the island assortment of foods. With wonderful choices and an array of cuisine options, there's sure to be a restaurant for everyone.

- **Tropics Bar & Grill** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village is undergoing an expansive renovation and will open in Spring 2009 with a contemporary new island design, featuring glass tiles, warm wood tones and floral fabrics. The main architectural highlight is the new outdoor fire pits around the restaurant's perimeter that front the beach. Tropics Bar & Grill will be significantly expanded with more indoor and outdoor seating, a larger kitchen and new menu.
- The Outrigger Reef on the Beach introduced its new restaurant, **Kani Ka Pila Grille**, in March 2009. The poolside bar and grille offers casual and tasty lunch and dinner fare daily, but its specialty is live nightly entertainment by renowned Hawaii musicians as well as the island's hottest up-and-coming artists. Kani Ka Pila means “to make music,” and the new restaurant is the latest example of Outrigger Hotels & Resorts' long-time commitment to supporting and sharing Hawaii's rich musical heritage.
- Coinciding with **The Royal Hawaiian's** grand reopening were the openings of the resort's two new restaurants, **Surf Lanai** and **Azure**. Surf Lanai offers casual, oceanfront dining alongside The Royal Hawaiian's pool, offering al fresco breakfast and lunch service. The menu features classic mainland dishes with tropical accents. **Azure**, led by renowned local chef Jon Matsubara, offers sophisticated dinner service along Waikiki Beach. Azure specializes in fresh island seafood and fish, handpicked daily from the Honolulu Fish

-more-

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 6

Auction. In addition to Surf Lanai and Azure, The Royal Hawaiian welcomes back its famous Mai Tai Bar.

- In February, Chef Wolfgang Zweiner opened his first Hawai'i restaurant, **Wolfgang's Steakhouse**, at The Royal Hawaiian Center. The restaurant, which is styled after Wolfgang's classic New York steakhouses, specializes in hand-selected USDA Prime Grade Black Angus beef steaks but also offers veal, lamb and seafood to please every palette.
- **The Counter**, a new restaurant specializing in create-your-own gourmet burgers, opened in February at Kahala Mall. The Counter offers more than 300,000 possible burger combinations in three different sizes and specialty meats, including Angus beef, grilled chicken, turkey, veggie, and seafood burgers, as well as an array of cheeses, toppings and sauces. The Counter is owned by Ed Robles, Pablo Buckingham, renowned local chef, D.K. Kodama, and *Lost* actor Daniel Dae Kim.
- Hawaii's first Jimmy Buffett restaurant, **Jimmy Buffett's at the Beachcomber**, opened at the **OHANA Waikiki Beachcomber** in February 2009. Unique technology allows for beautiful sunsets, crashing waves and majestic mountains to blend seamlessly with the "Hot Spot Bar," the Ocean Waves Dining Booths, and the music of Jimmy Buffett and the Islands. The restaurant offers regional cuisine and signature cocktails, and features nightly live entertainment by local up-and-coming musicians.

### Shopping

Oahu is a shopping mecca with something for everyone. Home to hundreds of fashionable designer stores as well as markets that carry locally made crafts, visitors are sure to love the shopping experience no matter where they go.

- **Ala Moana Center** will welcome seven new merchants in Summer and Fall 2009. Two new retailers, **Aeropostale**, a specialty retailer for young men and women, and **Miu Miu**, Prada's sister brand, will open their first Hawai'i locations in May 2009. **Goma Tei Ramen**, offering authentic Japanese ramen, noodles and specialty dishes, and **Wetzel's Pretzels**, which specializes in soft pretzels, will also open in May. Summer store openings will include **Kate Spade** and **Michael Kors** in June. This will be Michael Kors' first stand-alone store in Hawai'i. Fall will commence with the highly anticipated opening of Hawaii's first **Victoria's Secret**.

-more-

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 7

- **Ward Centers** added six new merchants to its family of over 135 shops and eateries. In January, **In4m Boardshop**, a skateboard specialty store by the owners of In4mation, opened its doors at Ward Warehouse. February welcomed the opening of **Brian's Hawaiian Kitchen** and **Expressions Portrait Studio** at Ward Warehouse, and marked the opening of popular surf brand **Hurley's** first retail store on Oahu at the Ward Entertainment Center. Later this spring and throughout the summer, Ward Centers will be busy with the opening of **Blazin' Steaks** at Ward Warehouse, **Taco Del Mar** at Ward Centre, and the completion of **Sports Authority's** newly expanded Ward Gateway Center store. Several popular Ward Centers stores will also be reopening in new locations in the next few months, including **Marukai 99 Store** and **Pictures Plus**.
- As part of its \$115 million revitalization, **Royal Hawaiian Center** recently introduced 15 new merchants to its 110 shop and restaurant offerings. **Wolfgang's Steakhouse by Wolfgang Zwiener**, a restaurant from New York, opened its first location in Hawaii at the Center in February. **7 For All Mankind**, a luxury denim retailer, also opened its first Hawaii location at Royal Hawaiian Center. The **Paina Lanai** food court now has nine options including the Grove Bar, Monkey's, Paradise Café, Ezogiku, Kenny's Hawaiian Express, Sbarro, Yummy Korean BBQ, Maui Tacos, and the first Taccone Flavor Grill to open in Hawaii. In addition, **Little Hawaiian Craft Shop**, which sells made-in-Hawaii products, has relocated to a new location on the third floor, and **Ai Amour Luxury Lingerie** opened its doors with high-fashion designer lingerie separates. Select specialty carts like **Lotus Natural Beauty** feature new skincare products, while **Komang Jewelry** and **SoHo** offer accessories. The Center also continues to offer free entertainment and cultural classes, including lessons in hula, lei making, Hawaiian quilting, and ukulele.
- In November 2008, local residents Liz Lerner and Kai Cost opened **Guava Shop**, a women's boutique in Haleiwa on Oahu's North Shore. Guava Shop is located in the Haleiwa Town Center and carries popular mainland brands, including Indah, Splendid, C&C California, Frankie B, and several others. The boutique is also an exclusive carrier of Red Flower and Salt Swimwear and offers handcrafted Kaila jewelry by Kai Cost and items from local green companies, including Plastic Free Haleiwa and Defend Oahu Coalition.

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**Festivals and Events**

Oahu is home to the largest number of festivals and events in Hawaii. Each year, visitors have the opportunity to connect with the local community and experience renowned events that showcase the island's rich arts and culture scene, the world's top amateur and professional sporting competitions and championships, and the many ethnic celebrations that are exclusive to Hawaii.

- **The Chinatown Boardroom** presents its Surf Discussion Series on the third Sunday of each month from March to Oct. 2009. Surf Discussion Series provides a platform for famous local surfers to speak about their experiences and tell their stories.
- From April 28-May 30, Bishop Museum and PA'I Foundation present **Maoli Arts Month** (MAMo). Maoli Arts Month is a month-long, free group exhibition featuring the top Native Hawaiian contemporary artists of today. Events during Maoli Arts Month include MAMo First Friday in downtown Honolulu on May 1, MAMo Wearable Art Showcase on May 16 and Native Hawaiian Arts Market and Keiki Art Day at Bishop Museum on May 23 and 24.
- **Polynesian Cultural Center** will host the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual World Fireknife Championships** from May 13-16. For four days, participants from around the world will showcase the art of Samoan fireknife dancing and compete for the title of world's best. On May 16, hundreds of Hawaii's high school students will showcase their expertise at traditional Samoan skills, music and dance.
- From May 21-24, the Honolulu Gay & Lesbian Cultural Foundation will host the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival** at the Honolulu Academy of Arts' Doris Duke Theatre. The festival will showcase more than 25 features, documentaries and short subject films and will culminate with a Gayla Celebration at the Honolulu Academy of Arts on May 24.
- **The Honolulu Symphony** will conclude its Toyota Pops season on May 23 with a concert by smooth jazz legend Dave Koz at the Waikiki Shell. Koz will perform classic songs, including "Moon River," "Over the Rainbow" and "As Time Goes By" with the Pops orchestra and Maestro Matt Catingub.
- On Memorial Day, May 25, thousands of Hawaii residents and island visitors of various cultural and religious backgrounds will gather at Ala Moana Beach Park for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Lantern Floating Hawai'i Ceremony**. The ceremony serves to honor those who have sacrificed their lives in war, pay respect to ancestors and loved ones who

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 9

have passed away, and pray for a harmonious and peaceful future. More than 2,000 candle-lit lanterns will be set afloat on the ocean, a traditional Buddhist rite originating in Japan. The ceremony also features live entertainment by local and international musicians and inspiring speeches.

- Celebrity Chef Emeril Lagasse will bring his energetic cooking style and “New New Orleans” cuisine to The Kahala Hotel and Resort at **The Kahala Food & Wine Classic** on June 12 and 13. This two-day intimate dining event will feature gala dinners, cooking classes, wine tastings, and cigar seminars.
- During the summer months, the **Waikiki Aquarium** will host its “Ke Kani O Ke Kai” five-concert series on June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, and Aug. 13. Each oceanside concert will feature the islands’ top performers, including the Brothers Cazimero who will open the series on June 18. In addition to live entertainment, the concerts will feature food by various restaurant partners. Proceeds raised by the event will go toward future Waikiki Aquarium exhibits.
- On July 18, Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) will present “Ke Alana o Moanalua...the awakening of Moanalua,” the **32nd Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival** at Moanalua Gardens. The Prince Lot Hula Festival is the largest non-competitive hula event in Hawaii. It honors Prince Lot Kapuaiwa who reprised the once banned hula in the district of Moanalua and features various halau from Oahu dancing both hula kahiko (ancient hula) and hula auana (modern hula) on one of the few remaining pa hula (hula mounds) in Hawaii.
- For the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, **Ala Moana Center** will present Hawaii’s largest fireworks spectacular, taking place at Ala Moana Beach Park on Independence Day. The festivities will begin with a bang on July 4, and continue throughout the weekend with entertainment by Hawaii’s top musicians, shopping and savings for the entire family.
- **Ala Moana Center** is gearing up to celebrate its landmark 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug. 13, 2009. Spanning five decades from the first days of statehood to modern day Hawaii, this milestone marks how Ala Moana Center has served both residents and visitors alike as the Hawaiian Islands’ most highly revered gathering place to shop, dine and be entertained.

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW ON OAHU APRIL 2009

Add 10

### Miscellaneous

- Beginning on Feb. 23, **Hawaiian Airlines** began servicing a third flight between Honolulu and Las Vegas. Flight #6 departs Honolulu on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8 a.m., arriving in Las Vegas at 3:35 p.m. Return Flight #5 departs Las Vegas the same days at 5:05 p.m., arriving in Honolulu at 9:15 p.m.

All information is subject to change without notice. For more information, please go to [www.visit-oahu.com](http://www.visit-oahu.com).

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