

Pacific Beach Hotel Redevelopment



The Pacific Beach Hotel on Waikiki is to undergo a USD115 million redevelopment which will see it completely transformed and relaunched into the market as Alohilani Resort at Waikiki Beach.

The hotel's exterior, 839 guestrooms and suites, and public areas including the hotel's famous aquarium will be 're-conceptualised'. The oceanarium's interior will feature new coral that mimics the reef formations found in the waters of Waikiki Beach, and education will play a key role in the new experience.

A destination pool deck with two new pools, including a saltwater infinity pool overlooking the shoreline, will be added; and celebrity chef Masaharu Morimoto will create two new restaurants exclusively for the hotel. Morimoto Asia will serve as the hotel's signature restaurant, while Momosan Waikiki, a more casual dining experience at street level, will feature yakitori, ramen, and a wide

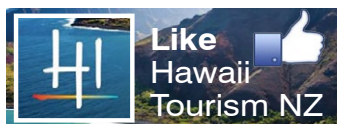
variety of small plates for lunch and dinner, along with a beer garden.

Renovation of the guestrooms is underway with a select number of new rooms already available to book. Work on the public areas will start in the coming weeks, and the hotel will stay operational during the 18-month transformation, expected to be complete in the northern autumn of 2017.

The hotel's new name is Hawaiian for 'the heavenly brightness' and was chosen to honour Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch.

New Artist Exhibition

The Honolulu Museum of Art is set to exhibit the lifework of Hawaii-based Japanese-American artist Harry Tsuchidana. Opening 14 Jul at First Hawaiian Centre, *Harry Tsuchidana: A Retrospective* will showcase examples of his early work, such as printmaking and drawings in ink, charcoal and watercolour from the 1950s and 1960s which have never previously been exhibited, as well as a large abstract painting that helped him win a John Hay Whitney Fellowship, and more. See honoluluuseum.org



Hale'iwa Lots Complete

The newly renovated Hale'iwa Store Lots on the North Shore is now complete with the opening of Fatboy's Hale'iwa, says the company. Fatboy's is the final tenant to open at the lots, an open-air retail centre in the heart of Hale'iwa Town. It features 20 locally-operated businesses, including Fatboy's, which offers a plate-lunch menu of favourites like garlic chicken and hamburger steak, as well as gourmet options such as crab stuffed mahi mahi.

Beach Boys Concerts

The Beach Boys are set to perform two shows in Hawaii later this year. Local reports say the first concert will take place 02 Sep at the Kauai Marriot Resort with the second show to take place the following day at Oahu's Blaisdell Concert Hall. Tickets prices start at USD49.

Run For World Peace

The SPOCUA Foundation, which promotes world peace and unity through sports, cultural and academic events, is hosting a 10km World Peace & Unity Road Race around Waikiki, says the Hawaii Tourism Authority. The race will be held 08 Oct, and starts at the Ala Moana Beach Park. Entry is from USD30pp. For details see fregister.com/176

HA's Staff Are Top

Hawaiian Airlines is thrilled to have won best airline staff for North America in the Skytrax World Airline Awards for the first time. "Hawaii is a special place with a rich history and unique culture of aloha. Our employees deliver authentic Hawaiian hospitality to over 11 million guests every year," says HA boss Mark Dunkerley. "On behalf of our entire 'ohana, I'm honoured to accept this award."



New Hike To Reach Lava Flows At Kilauea

Hawaii Forest & Trail has revived its Kilauea Lava Hike after news that an active lava flow from Kilauea has reached an area accessible to hikers. Kilauea is one of three active volcanoes on Hawaii Island, and has been erupting for more than 30 years, sometimes bringing lava flows into reach of hikers. Hikers will arrive at the edge of the molten lava flow—an experience that has been out of reach for several years, says the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

The challenging 3.5 hour hike covers more than 6 miles of rugged lavascape, with hikers accompanied by professional guides. It's rated difficult and guests need to be able to hike on uneven terrain. The hike (priced from USD192 plus tax) begins at the Hawaii Forest & Trail Kona headquarters with an additional guest pickup available at Queen's Marketplace in Waikoloa. Rain gear, water and flashlights are provided. After the hike, guests head out for a local-style dinner in Hilo. See hawaii-forest.com

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