

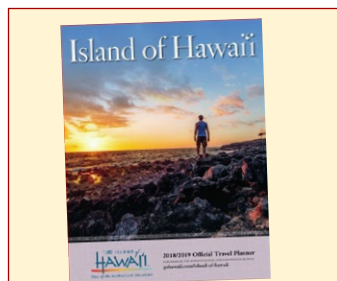
## HA Kiwi Team Takes Out Global Title



Rusty Williss and the New Zealand-based Hawaiian Airlines sales team last night took out the top performing sales team award at the airline's Global Sales and Alliances Conference held at Kona. The Kiwi HA team was recognised for 'punching above its weight and an outstanding performance among its peers in the US Mainland, Japan, China, Korea and Australian teams'. Williss, HA's New Zealand country manager, says he was thrilled with the

New Zealand team performance—and noted that the win was also due to the great support given by Kiwi agents. "I couldn't be more proud of the team and their hard work," says Williss. "We hold great relationships at the heart of all that we do, and feel the award is one for not only our team, but for all those in the industry whom support our effort."

The award was presented by HA chief executive Peter Ingram and Theo Panagioutoulis, HA's senior vp global sales and alliances in front of more than 100 attendees at the conference. The awarding winning Kiwi team is pictured at HA's HNL head office. From left Alka Thapar, Rusty Williss (holding up the award for Mischa Knox who's on maternity leave), Linsey O'Neil and Nick Dew.



### What's In? What's Out?

The official new 2018/19 Island of Hawaii Travel Planner is now out, featuring must know details, insider tips and rich local insights into Hawaiian adventures on land, in air or on sea as well as cultural experiences, dining and shopping. To find out what's in for tourists in Hawaii, as well as what's out [CLICK HERE](#).



### Dive'n'Movie Night

Wet'n'Wild Hawaii's Dive'n'Movie night is back, featuring movies such as *Justice League*, *Thor Ragnarok* and *My Little Pony*. The waterpark will feature movies on 24 Mar, 16 and 30 Jun, 07, 14, 21, 28 Jul, 18 Aug, 02 Sep, 13 Oct and 15 Dec. For details, see [wetnildhawaii.com](http://wetnildhawaii.com)

### Festivals For Foodies

Hawaii is home to a number of festivals which showcase the island state's local foods and agricultural products.

Some of the top festivals, include the Hawaii Food & Wine Festival in Hawaii, Maui and Oahu in Oct, and the Kapalua Wine & Food Festival in Jun on Maui, both feature world-class chefs and wine makers.

Also on offer is the Annual Kona Coffee Cultural festival in Nov which celebrates all things coffee with nearly 50 events over 10 days and the Kauai Chocolate and Coffee Festival in Oct which celebrates all things cacao and coffee.

### The Last Straw

Hilton Waikoloa Village on Hawaii Island is replacing plastic straws with sustainable alternatives, in an effort to care for Hawaii's ocean environment.

The resort says is the first on the island of Hawaii to implement an initiative of this kind.

### LA Clippers HNL-bound

The LA Clippers basketball team is returning to Hawaii for training camp late Sep, kicking off the 2018-19 NBA season, advises Hawaii Tourism. Dates and ticket details are yet to be released.

### Cruise Through Easter

The Star of Honolulu is offering Hawaii bound clients an egg-cellent Easter cruise with its annual Easter Champagne Brunch Cruise on 01 Apr. The family friendly voyage departs from Aloha Tower Marketplace at 1200 noon, and features Easter festivities such as an egg hunt and prize giveaways for children, a number of Hawaiian cultural activities, and whale watching from the 18m high observation deck. Highlights also include the Taste of Hawaii buffet with Alaea salt roast beef, teriyaki chicken and lomilomi salmon as well as a dessert and coffee station and champagne toast. The cruise starts at USD71 for adults and USD10 for children under 11 with accompanying adult. See [starofhonolulu.com](http://starofhonolulu.com)



### Waikiki Lantern Festival

Every year on Memorial Day, 28 May, thousands of people gather at Magic Island Ala Moana Beach Park to honour their loved ones and ancestors who have passed away advises Hawaii Tourism. The ceremony will see over 1200 candle lit lanterns set afloat over the ocean, as well as hula, the Japanese Shomyo Choir and Taiko drums. See [lanternfloatinghawaii.com](http://lanternfloatinghawaii.com)

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