

Aloha Friday

TRAVEL TODAY

Fri 30 Jan 15 p5

HA Finishes 2014 On A 'High Note'

Hawaiian Airlines saw improvements in passenger numbers, revenue and profitability in 2014, with HA boss Mark Dunkerley saying it finished the year on a high note.

HA posted its fourth quarter and full-year financial results this morning, showing net income of USD11.1 million in Q4, down from USD17m last year. Adjusted net income (removing the cost of fuel-hedging and paying off debts) increased USD14.1 million to USD26.1 million, and for the full year it grew from USD46.6m to USD97.1m.



Fireknife Champs

The We Are Samoa Festival at the Polynesian Cultural Center at Laie on Oahu (07-10 May) is also the venue for the World Fireknife Championship. The competition, in which dancers juggle with blazing knives, has been going for two decades and tickets sell out every year. Cost is USD10 for those 12 vears old and over and USD5 for those aged five to 11. To see the final two nights of the competition guests must buy a ticket to the Ha: Breath of Life evening show, which costs from USD39.95. Book early at polynesia.com

Operating revenue increased to USD575m for Q4 and USD2.3 billion for the year, which saw operating revenue per available seat mile (RASM) increase 5.6% year-over-year.

"2014 finished on a high note with the company posting much better results than a year ago," says Dunkerley. "We served more customers than ever before, grew revenues, improved profitability and strengthened our balance sheet."

HA is expecting RASM to decline between 3.5% and 6.5% in the first quarter compared with 2014—however Dunkerley says 2015 is expected to be 'another year of improvement as long as demand, fuel and industry capacity in our marketplaces remain as forecast'.

An Hawaiian Romance

Daily breakfast buffet for two, convertible rental car, free parking, USD100 dinner credit, chocolate 'amenity' and a bottle of sparkling wine are all included in The Romance Package, currently available from Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel and Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki. Cost is from USD345 p/n for an oceanfront room at the Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki. Three-night minimum stay required. Dates and other details, princeresortshawaii.com

Arts Festival

Traditional, contemporary and ethnic arts are all on display at the annual Haleiwa Arts Festival Summer Event in Oahu's historic town of Haleiwa in Jul. The event includes visual artists, musicians, singers, dancers, story-telling, demonstrations, student art displays, historic trolley tours and arts and crafts activities for children. Entry is free. See haleiwaartsfestival.org

Waikiki Block Party Fun

A block party in Waikiki is just part of the fun at the Pan Pacific Festival-Matsuri 12-14 Jun. The celebration includes a hula festival, entertainment and food and finishes with a grand parade along Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki. See pan-pacific-festival.com

HA's California Flights

Hawaiian Airlines will bring back its seasonal non-stop services from Lihue and Kona to Oakland and Los Angeles from 20 May, and is also adding a second non-stop flight between Los Angeles and Maui from 11 Jun. The seasonal services will add nearly 110,000 air seats to both travel markets over the 15-18 weeks of service, and will be operated by B767-300ER aircraft in a two-class configuration.



GO Hula To Hawaii

GO Holidays has Hula to Hawaii packages with Hawaiian Airlines flights on sale to 13 Feb, for select travel dates 06-31 Mar, 01 May-30 Jun and 04 Oct-30 Nov.

Four nights in Waikiki is from \$1449pp t/s, and clients receive free flights to one of the Neighbour Islands when booking a Waikiki package. Add on a Neighbour Island two-night package from \$99pp (based on two nights at the Aston Aloha Beach Hotel in Kauai). GO has details.

Capitol Self Guide

The Hawaii State Capitol offers self-guided tours Mon-Fri 0900-1530. The tour starts on the fourth floor where a map can be picked up as well as activity booklets for children. Entry is free.

Guided tours are also available on a first come, first served basis for the first 20 people, and take place at 1300 Tue-Fri. See capitol.hawaii.gov



Bubble Shack: Souvenirs With A Difference

For Hawaii-bound clients looking for souvenirs with a twist, Bubble Shack has opened a flagship store in Haliewa, on Oahu's fabled North Shore. Kiwi visitors can take home the scents of Hawaii with Bubble Shack's range of soaps, lotions and candles—and there's even pet-friendly shampoos. Bubble Shack Hawaii was founded in 2005 and is available at many local Hawaii stores including Long's Drugs, Dole Plantation, Kualoa Ranch and ABC stores. The focus is on natural and organic products which are free from chemicals such as parabens and other toxic ingredients. The store is 66-528B Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa. For more see bubbleshackhawaii.com



