

Hilton Celebrates and Updates



Hilton Waikoloa Village

A delegation from Hilton Hawaii was in town this week to celebrate 100 years of the Hilton brand—and to update the trade on Hilton's diverse offering across the island group.

Hilton Hawaii's vice president and commercial director Duke Ah Moo, who was in Auckland for the festivities, made a special mention about the strong business from the Kiwi market. The company currently has a number of offers in the market, including a fifth night free offer at its Hawaiian properties.

... Big Opportunity

Ah Moo also urged agents to ensure clients are aware that Hawaii Island offers a huge range of activities to appeal to clients of all agents and interests.

Overall travel to the so-called Big Island, including from New Zealand, dipped in the wake of the recent Mt Kilauea eruptions, but Ah Moo says while the lava may not be flowing the island's tourism industry is in top shape.

From exploring the lava fields to zip-lining, hiking, snorkelling and swimming with manta rays, Hawaii Island has numerous commissionable activities for active travellers—through to slower paced self-drive options and plenty for families. The island's dual destinations of Hilo

and Kona complement each other, adds Ah Moo. And as well as offering a Hilton property at both locations, Hawaiian Airlines reports that an increasing number of Kiwis are opting for open jaw air tickets between the two towns.

... Winners

In true Hawaiian fashion, the Hilton trade event held this week included lots of 'Aloha', as well as a host of prizes. Among the winners was Let's Travel Gary Dickson, who won five nights at the Hilton Hawaiian Village; VSL's Simon Brady won five nights at the Hilton Garden Inn Kauai; Chris Climo from Lifestyle Holidays won a five-night stay at the Embassy Suites Waikiki By Hilton; and Manase Travel's Poppy Way won five nights at Hilton's Grand Naniloa Resort. The grand prize winner was C&I's Winnie Fong who won 160,000 Hawaiian Airlines miles and five nights in a one-bedroom Palace Suite at the Hilton Waikaloa Village.

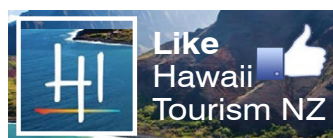
Fong, who booked a group of 400 to the Big Island last year (which she says was a great success) is already planning her own trip—with Hawaii Island, Maui and Lanai on the itinerary. "The biggest decision is when to go," quips Fong—who incidentally, is currently quoting a Hawaii Island trip for another group.

Sustainable Coastlines

As voluntourism continues to take off, agents are reminded of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, a grassroots non-profit with a mission to care for Hawaii's coastlines through fun, hands-on beach clean-ups.

Clients visiting the Hawaiian Islands are welcome to join in the beach clean-ups in Oahu, which also include live music.

Hawaii Tourism says the initiative is a wonderful way to give back and make a positive impact, adding that clients will really see the impact of their efforts at the end of a clean-up project. For more details, see sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org



Rock The Lagoon

Hilton Hawaiian Village is celebrating Independence Day (04 Jul) with Rock the Lagoon. Held on the resort's beachfront Great Lawn from noon the event will feature live performances, favourites from the grill, lawn games and a 'prime view' of the annual fireworks. Admission is free. See hiltonhawaiianvillage.com/events

Kauai Road Closure

Agents with Hawaii-bound clients are reminded that Kauai's Kuhio Highway will close 2100 12 Jul-0500 15 Jul for bridge work.



Hilton Hawaii Says Aloha To Kiwi Trade

1: Team Hawaii from back left: Hilton's David Givens, Duke Ah Moo, Hawaii Tourism's Megan Hornblow, Rusty Williss from Hawaiian Airlines, Hilton's Justin Habel and Darragh Walshe from Hawaii Tourism. Front row, from left, Hilton's Natalie Caceres, Cynthia Rankin, Valerie Okamoto, Debra Crivello, Jamie Choi, Maria Sung and Lindsey O'Neil from Hawaiian Airlines. **2:** From left Hilton Waikiki gm Henry Perez with Lindsey O'Neil from Hawaiian Airlines and Hilton's Duke Ah Moo. **3:** Hilton Waikoloa's David Givens is pictured on left with Hilton Hawaii VP and commercial director Duke Ah Moo, grand prize winner Winnie Fong from C&I and Hawaiian Airlines' Rusty Williss.

Aloha Hawaii

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