

Kiwis Key To Coastal Clean Ups



Hawaii Island's southeast coast is a hot bed for plastic waste, but this is about to change thanks to New Zealand non-profit Sea Cleaners.

The Hawaiian Sea Cleaners initiative was devised by The Walshe Group's Darragh Walshe and began with a conversation with Hayden Smith who heads the non-profit Sea Cleaners organisation.

Darragh, who is pictured above (right) with Hayden in action, says the concept was based around recognising the connection Kiwis have with Hawaii across the Pacific, and the impact that plastics are having, 'not only in our own back-yard but throughout the Pacific Ocean as they are carried by wind and tide'.

Last year, in conjunction with Hawaiian Airlines, a group of Kiwi youth ambassadors travelled to Hawaii to participate in International Coast Clean-up Day and also to talk to schools to focus on the issue and share ideas; with a group from Hawaii then coming to New Zealand earlier this year.

Darragh says the initiative made an impact with other Hawaii Tourism offices, with Australian and Japan also joining in—as well as the Hawaiian Airlines ohana.

"Nat Geo also came on board, filming

the initiative as part of an *Eco Traveller* series focussing on responsible and sustainable tourism," he adds.

The itinerary included beach cleans on a remote coast on the Island of Hawaii, school visits and aligned tourism experiences including a visit to Puuhonua o Honaunau an Waipi'o Valley and the group was hosted by Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa Keauhou Bay.

... For The Kids

Hayden says the Sea Cleaners work is for 'our children and our children's children'. "We must make changes now to the way we operate our daily lives without wasted consumption," says Hayden. HA echoes these sentiments. "As the hometown carrier for 90 years, we understand the tremendous responsibility we have in caring for these Islands," says Debbie Nakanelua-Richards, HA's director of community and cultural relations. "Our hope this International Coastal Clean-up Day is to bring people together to malama honua (care for our Island Earth) and inspire others." HA's Rusty Willis (left) was also up on Hawaii Island for the initiative and is pictured planting a native 'Ulu tree (or bread-fruit) 'with aloha' in Waipi'o Valley on the island's northern coast.

HA Hours Change

Hawaiian Airlines reminds agents that its New Zealand reservations hours of operations have changed. The team is available Mon-Fri 1000-1900, with those who call after hours to be directed to Manila.



Pasta La Vista



Clients can get an authentic taste of Italy in Hawaii with Pasta La Vista, an Italian six-course dinner held as part of the Hawaii Food & Wine Festival. Hawaiian Airlines says the Italian dinner is on 10 Oct at Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa, with tickets from USD275. See hawaiiifoodandwinefestival.com/events/pasta-la-vista

Kauai Folk Festival



The inaugural Kauai Folk Festival takes place 28-29 Sep at Grove Farm Museum. The festival is designed to bring together the best performers in blues, bluegrass, old time and country music as well as musical legends of Hawaii. The festival kicks off from 1000. See kauaifolkfestival.com

Ala Moana Update

The Ala Moana Center is set to open Gianvito Rossi, Herve Chapelier and Morphe stores later this year. Other recent additions included Alexander McQueen, Dior Café, Dior Mens, Hope & Henry and Vaextra.



Carnival Games And Festive Foods In Maui

Featuring rides like the Wave Swinger, an array of multi-cultural foods, a parade with marching bands, carnival games, horticulture, livestock, live music and entertainment and more is the Maui Fair. On for the 97th time, this year's Maui Fair is on 03-06 Oct and is set to attract nearly 90,000 people. Entry for adults is USD10 and children USD5. See mauifair.com

Aloha USA

AKL to HNL to 13 US Cities

On sale now till 04 Oct. Book H class. Stopover in HNL permitted. See GDS for details.

