

## Lei Day Leads HTO's Local Return

The month of Lei, which kicks off with Lei Day on 01 May, is coming soon and Hawaii Tourism is using it as a chance to remind Kiwis of Hawaii's unique appeal.

Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe says the month of May has always been an important month for Hawaii Tourism to showcase the destination in Australia and New Zealand, and this year is no different.

"In fact May will be the re-launch month for Hawaii in the New Zealand market as we look ahead to the re-start of flights from Jul," he says.

The Hawaiian Islands will also celebrate May with a range of festivities, including virtual celebrations.

### ... Virtual Agent Event

A Virtual Celebration for travel agents is being staged on 04 May, which



includes presentations from each of the island visitors bureaus.

Kicking off at midday, the event will provide both a refresher as well as the latest updates from the islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui nui and the Island of Hawai'i. Perfect for agents as they help their clients plan an upcoming holiday to Hawai'i, he adds.

The format will include an opportunity to learn more about Hawaiian culture and the concept of malama Hawai'i which provides visitors an opportunity to experience and play a positive role in activities that have an importance to the community and unique environment.

### ... Agent Incentive

Agents who attend will also hear about a new Hawaiian Airlines agent incentive and famil. Learn more, or register, [HERE](#).

### ... Lei Day

Lei Day has been celebrated in Hawaii since 1927, and this year's festivities start with an official Lei Day Celebration event 01 May at Kapi'olani Park in Waikiki, with pageants, competitions for Lei Queen and lei-making all set to feature. Details, including the physical event line-up, can be found [HERE](#).

### Yomie's At Ala Moana

This month Yomie's Rice X Yogurt is opening at in Ala Moana Center food court. It specialises in yoghurt-based drinks, see more [HERE](#).

## HA Free Wifi coming



Hawaiian Airlines is set to keep clients connected in the air for free, thanks to a new deal with Elon Musk's Starlink.

HA will offer Starlink's high-speed, low-latency broadband internet access on flights between the Hawaiian islands and the continental US, Asia—and Oceania! The complimentary wifi will feature on HA's A330 and A321neo aircraft, as well as an incoming fleet of 787-9s, with installation commencing next year. HA ceo Peter Ingram says the move means HA will have 'the best connectivity experience available in the air'. "We waited until technology caught up with our high standards for guest experience, but it will be worth the wait," he adds.

## Outlet Shopping Offers



New stores are opening at Waikale Premium Outlets and agents are reminded to urge clients register for the Online VIP Shopper's Club to get deeper discounts. The club offers access to deals from brands including Armani, Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors and more. 'Researchers' in Hawaii are gleefully reporting that there's some great sales on at the outlets, and products generally much cheaper than in New Zealand. See more details and register, [HERE](#).

## Diamond Head Bookings



Effective from 12 May, Hawaii-bound clients will need to make a reservation to visit Le'ahi Diamond Head State Monument, advises Hawaii Tourism.

The new reservation system hopes to reduce the environmental impacts sustained by foot traffic and reduce vehicle congestion around the monument, which is one of Oahu's most-visited attractions.

The system is open for bookings, and agents should note that those planning on driving to the monument must also book in two-hour parking time slots, which open from 0600.

This is the third Hawaii state park to require reservations, joining Kaua'i's Ha'ena State Park and Maui's Wainapanapa State Park.

For more details, or to reserve your clients spot, click [HERE](#).

## Quicker Through HNL

Daniel K Inouye International Airport is reportedly looking to expedite the screening process for international travellers by installing more facial recognition cameras on departure gates. According to KITV, the state plans to spend USD15 million on these facial recognition cameras, which will be similar to the ones Customs and Border Protection use to scan international travellers arriving at the airport. The cameras mean travellers will just need to pause for a photo at an inspection point, with the system then comparing that picture to a gallery of images travellers have already provided to the government to confirm their identity and information.

## Say Aloha To Loco Moco



Send clients looking for an authentic Hawaiian dining experience to ALOHA TABLE Waikiki. The Honolulu restaurant offers a laid back vibe and a variety of Hawaiian dishes, with the Premium Kobe Style Beef Loco Moco a must try.

A high-end version of the Hawaiian favourite, the dish features a Kobe Beef patty with rice and a special mushroom and onion demiglace sauce. Aloha Table is open from lunch until late, clients can get a 10% discount coupon [HERE](#).

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