



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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THE KAHALA HOTEL & RESORT AND KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS HONOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL CARETAKERS AT MEMORIES OF THE MAILE ROOM GALA

HONOLULU, September 15, 2022— On Wednesday evening, The Kahala Hotel & Resort and Kamehameha Schools honored individuals and groups dedicated to environmental and cultural stewardship of Maunalua Bay at the first ever Memories of the Maile Room Gala. This event was part of The Kahala Initiative for Sustainability Culture and the Arts (KISCA), a resort initiative to protect and preserve O‘ahu’s land, ocean and culture.

Award recipients included Nainoa Thompson, president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society; Celeste Connors, CEO of the Hawaii Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub; Kaimuki Middle School’s Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program; the late Laura Thompson, co-founder of the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center; Chris Cramer, executive director of the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center; JC Watson, manager of Ko‘olau Mountains Watershed Partnership; and Ann Marie Kirk, founder of Maunalua.net. Award sponsors included HEI, Carlsmith Ball, and Hawaiian Airlines.

Rai‘ātea Helm and the Kamehameha School Ensemble performed at the event. Hawai‘i’s “Ambassador of Aloha” Danny Kaleikini, who had an unprecedented 30-year residency at The Kahala, legendary musician Nina Keali‘iwahamana and Marlene Sai also joined the celebration.

“This unique gala allowed The Kahala and Kamehameha Schools to bring together our community and honor friends and neighbors who are working to protect Hawai‘i’s land, ocean and culture for our next generation,” said Joe Ibarra, general manager of The Kahala Hotel & Resort. “We are grateful for our partners, guests and local businesses for their continued support of the Kahala Initiative for Sustainability, Culture and the Arts program and its efforts to persevere our beautiful home.”

Through KISCA, a program launched in 2018, The Kahala has planted over 14,000 trees in Malaekahana on the North Shore of O‘ahu. KISCA also facilitates guest participation in cultural activities at the resort, including the Mālama I Ke Kai program which includes ocean-

The Kahala Hotel & Resort and Kamehameha Schools honor environmental and cultural caretakers at Memories of the Maile Ballroom Gala

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conservation activities for keiki, and the Sunset Seminar Series which hosts community talks about preservation by local researchers and professionals.

As a partner of Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Mālama Hawai'i, The Kahala also offers discounted stays in exchange for participation in one of the sustainability initiatives offered by Travel2Change and KISCA. Activities include beach cleanups and resort-guided cultural activities.

To learn more visit <https://www.kahalaresort.com/KISCA>

About The Kahala Hotel & Resort

The legendary Kahala Hotel & Resort is an oceanfront, destination luxury property known for its gracious Hawaiian hospitality. Located just minutes from Waikīkī, The Kahala offers an exclusive ambiance of a neighbor island experience. The Kahala has been Honolulu's social address for weddings and gatherings since its opening in 1964. World leaders, royalty, rock bands and Oscar winners call the 338-room resort their Hawaiian home-away-from-home. The Kahala is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World and Preferred Hotels & Resorts. The resort is home to The Kahala Spa, lush tropical gardens and a natural ocean-water lagoon with the hotel's own resident dolphins cared for by Dolphin Quest. The Kahala also has five restaurants: Plumeria Beach House, Seaside Grill, The Veranda, Arancino and the award-winning Hoku's restaurant. Stay connected with The Kahala via www.kahalaresort.com, on Instagram at @kahala_resort or on Facebook at The Kahala Hotel & Resort and Twitter at @KahalaResort. Share your Kahala moment #AtTheKahala.

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