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GRAND WAILEA PROPOSING NEW INTERACTIVE NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL CENTER AND GARDEN

WAILEA, Maui, Hawai`i – Grand Wailea is proposing a new, interactive cultural center to highlight and perpetuate the native Hawaiian culture and practices with its guests and the local community. The new cultural center will be located in the space formerly occupied by the Tsunami night club and the adjacent gardens.

The cultural center will be interactive and focused on educating its visitors about the Hawaiian culture, local marine biology and the environment. Grand Wailea will work with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and artists to develop the curriculum offered at the interactive cultural center and gardens.

The proposed cultural gardens will feature a living classroom environment for participants in the center's programs. Native and indigenous Hawaiian plants will be utilized for the landscaping, with a focus on plants used for specific purposes such as canoe building, medicinal purposes and taro lo`i. There will also be a hula mound and natural amphitheater feature for instruction and special events.

"The cultural center will strengthen and grow the long-standing relationship Grand Wailea has with the community," said Matt Bailey, managing director of Grand Wailea. "The Hawaiian culture distinguishes us from other tropical destinations. We are thrilled to perpetuate the true spirit of Aloha."

Grand Wailea, opened in 1991, is the largest employer in Maui County. It became part of The Waldorf Astoria Collection in 2007. For more information about Grand Wailea, call 808.875.1234 or visit www.grandwailea.com.

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