



Grand Wailea Opens Pālaha Hawaiian Cultural Center
A Gathering Place to Share, Deepen and Connect



Maui, HI (February 6, 2020) – Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort, is honored to announce the opening of Pālaha Hawaiian Cultural Center. An immersive environment for Hawaiian learning, lifestyle, and connection, Pālaha will host daily cultural experiences and showcase cultural works of art alongside collections of pre and post-contact artifacts on a rotating basis.

“For the first time since opening our doors in 1991, Hawaiian Culture has a physical home here at Grand Wailea,” said Kainoa Horcajo, Director of Culture at Grand Wailea. “In ‘olelo Hawai’i, Pālaha means to spread out, encompass, to share far and wide. From here, culture spreads and permeates throughout the resort and beyond, hosting authentic experiences for guests, integrating and enhancing culture within every department, and encompassing connections into the greater Maui community.”

Pālaha currently boasts the Na Aloha ‘Aina portrait series by renowned artist Guillem “Avi Molinas” Bort, depicting in great detail and grand opulence, portraits of our Hawaiian royalty and significant figures in history. Complementing the portrait collection are select artifacts on loan from the Hale Ho’ike’ike at the Bailey House Museum, including the Dr. Arthur C. Rothrock Oak Bench, a replica of a traditional Chief’s helmet and weapons, and an actual pre-contact Lei Niho Palaoa, one of five in existence from Maui.

“Hawaiian culture and the perpetuation of our ways is not just what defines us and makes us unique in all the world, it is what sustains us,” says Horcajo. “We are honored and humbled to display such precious pieces and iconic portraits within Pālaha at Grand Wailea and beyond grateful to Avi, his ‘ohana, and Hale Ho’ike’ike for their partnership and trust.”

Pālaha’s doors officially opened on February 6, 2020 with a Grand Opening reception and intention setting ceremony called Kuku Kumu, led by the Grand Wailea cultural team and invited kumu. The center is open to guests Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm. For information on currently displayed art collections and cultural activities, please visit the Hawaiian Culture section at grandwailea.com.

About Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort

This iconic, landmark resort consistently ranks among the world's best in leading travel and consumer reports. Nestled on 40 acres of lush, tropical gardens fronting Wailea Beach, Grand Wailea provides a diverse range of memorable experiences: open spaces for the active vacationer, beauty and seclusion for romantic getaways, and family fun – ranging from cultural activities to rope swings and a jungle-style river pool. Guests also have access to the luxurious Spa Grande, a standard-setter in the world of resort spas, as well as eight restaurants, including the award-winning Humuhumunukunukuapua'a. Accommodation options include Grand Wailea's 830 rooms and suites and an enclave of luxury villas, Ho'olei Villas at Grand Wailea, ranging from 3,200 to 4,000 sq. ft., located adjacent to the resort with access to Grand Wailea amenities. For reservations and information, call 1-800-888-6100 or visit www.grandwailea.com

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Media Contact:

Chelsea Livit
Director of Public Relations
Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
(808) 891-3383
chelsea.livit@waldorfastoria.com

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