

## **Aqua Hotels & Resorts welcomes Aqua Waikiki Pearl**

### **Former Honolulu Prince completes upgrades and is born anew**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii – Aqua Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce the addition of Aqua Waikiki Pearl to its Aqua Boutique brand, effective July 13, 2009.



Previously known as Honolulu Prince Hotel, Aqua Waikiki Pearl is located at 415 Nahua Street. The hotel recently completed a \$5 million refurbishment which completely changed its status to a fresh new boutique hotel.

According to Richard Mandel, President of Ramsfield Hospitality Finance, the New York-based owner of the hotel, “It was exciting to watch the Aqua Waikiki Pearl evolve from a neglected property into a stylish, modern hotel in central Waikiki. It was literally a top to bottom refurbishment process including the lobby and elevators.”

Local interior designer Kory Wong-Oglesby oversaw the design elements and said, “The challenge was to take dated and tired guest rooms and infuse them with some energy and warmth – as well as bring them up-to-date through the finishes and furnishings. Although not located on the ocean, every effort was made to bring the ocean and tropical flavor to this small property. Keeping simple clean lines were also inspirations throughout – from the carpet, to the furniture and finally to the bath vanity design.”

Wong-Oglesby also used warmer wood tones and paint colors which added to the overall warmth she wanted to achieve, accentuated with bright tropical patterns on the bed scarf. “The upholstery patterns have very organic, free flowing designs that help to balance the clean lines of the furnishings and cabinetry – this fluidity is also carried over into the artwork, where various surf and ocean scenes were utilized and printed in a sepia tone on a gallery wrapped canvas.” The resulting décor plus open layout of the room creates a very spacious and comfortable environment.

New roofing, exterior paint and renovation of street-front retail spaces were completed early on. Retail tenants will start moving in this summer.

“The changes and improvements were all-encompassing and totally renovated the hotel,” added Elizabeth Churchill, Aqua’s VP Sales & Marketing. “Aqua Waikiki Pearl is an excellent addition to the Aqua Boutique brand.”



“Aside from rooms in the standard category, Aqua Waikiki Pearl offers some of the largest rooms in Aqua’s inventory and excellent options for families and extended stay guests,” commented Churchill. “There are spacious 451 sq. ft. rooms, 722 sq. ft. 1-bedroom suites and very generous 986 sq. ft. 2-bedroom suites. Many rooms also have sizeable lanais.”

Current free amenities at the hotel include WiFi in the lobby, daily local newspaper and use of the in-room safe. Guest room amenities feature free high-speed Internet access, free local calls, blackout drapes, mini-refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker or a full-kitchen. Aqua Waikiki Pearl is pet-friendly (dogs under 20 lbs) and a non-smoking hotel.



“Ramsfield Hospitality Finance continues to show tremendous commitment to Waikiki’s revitalization,” said Churchill. “In late 2006, Ramsfield completed the upgrade and transformation of Aqua Waikiki Wave at an investment of over \$7 million which was long overdue for a hotel with a very popular Waikiki location.”

“Similar to cultured pearls that are created manually under controlled conditions, we had a vision and initiated a renovation process to produce this wonderful little gem of a hotel,” remarked Mandel.

To celebrate the ‘new’ boutique hotel, Aqua Waikiki Pearl is offering the “Pearls of Summer” **value-added** specials that are available until September 30, 2009.

- **“Pearl in the Oyster at Pick a Pearl”** special: Receive 50% off a ‘pick-a-pearl’ opportunity (three convenient Waikiki locations – International Market Place, Royal Hawaiian Center and Waikiki Beach Walk) for each booking. Coupon available at the front desk. Quality pearl guaranteed. Pearl setting additional.
- **“Cultured Pearl”** special: Receive an exclusive discount on "Creation: A Polynesian Journey" dinner show. Retail price: \$85 per adult. Enjoy traditional Hawaiian food and be taken on a theatrical excursion to witness the mythical

creation of Polynesian man and woman along with their spectacular voyage through the Pacific (through song and dance). Nightly except Mondays and Wednesdays. Reservations required. Coupon available at the front desk.

- **“Fresh Water Pearl”** special: When purchasing Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii admission only, Aqua Waikiki Pearl guests receive unlimited Body Board Rides on ‘Da Flowrider’— a multi-million dollar wave machine which challenges surfers with consistent wave action. No minimum admission purchase required. Check in at the ticket office and present your Aqua room key card. Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii was named the #1 family attraction.

For room reservations, see your preferred travel agent, book online or call Aqua toll-free from the U.S. at 1-866-406-2782.

High-rez DIGITAL IMAGES of the guest rooms (pictured) are available by clicking on the following links:

View of the kitchen: <http://bit.ly/Qoryg>

King bed detail: <http://bit.ly/2XWWeP>

City view queen-double: <http://bit.ly/4324Qc>

### **About Aqua Hotels & Resorts**

Aqua Hotels & Resorts is a management company founded in 2001 by Hawaii hotelier Mike Paulin. The company provides independent hoteliers and individual owners with full-service administration including revenue management, Internet distribution, sales, reservations, as well as individualized and brand advertising and marketing for maximum profitability.

Currently representing contemporary hotels and resorts located on Oahu, Maui and Molokai where there are eight properties in the Aqua Boutique Collection, each with their own unique identity and features. The Lite line represents the company’s transitional and value product with six comfortable and affordable hotels.

In 2007 and 2008, Aqua Hotels & Resorts was ranked the #8 ‘Fastest 50’ growing Hawaii Company by Pacific Business News.

Headquartered in Waikiki, Aqua became Hawaii’s first employee-owned hotel company in 2008 when it executed an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. For more information on the company and individual hotels, visit [www.aquaresorts.com](http://www.aquaresorts.com) or call 1-808-943-9291.

For reservations, see your preferred travel agent, book online or call Aqua toll free from the U.S. at 1-866-406-2782. From Hawaii, call 808-924-6543. Aqua is represented in Australia and New Zealand by Travel Reflections, by ARM International in Japan and Pacific Air Agency Group in South Korea.

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