



ISLAND MATTERS *Mufi Hannemann*

Visitor Industry Stars Shine

The brightest stars will shine March 1. I'm speaking, of course, of the cream of the crop of the state's visitor industry. These noteworthy individuals will be feted at the second annual Aio Media Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Awards, a partnership between Aio Media and Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association. The event will be held at Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort's Great Lawn. (Ticket information is available online at hawaiiimagazine.com/section/hawaii-lodging-tourism-awards.)

The many contributions of the visitor industry often go unrecognized or unappreciated, and the hard work, creativity and dedication of so many individuals go unheralded. These awards salute the people and companies that enable the islands to be an unparalleled destination to visit, relax and have fun — and make tourism our largest and most important private industry.

Duane Kurisu and Susan Eichor of Aio Media helped me create the awards. One of our goals is to demonstrate the need to engage in more collaborative endeavors between Kalakaua Avenue and King Street because when it comes to a prosperous economy, we are all in this together. Aio Media is a diverse business empire that includes *Honolulu Magazine*, *Hawai'i Business*, *Hawai'i Magazine*, and many other publications, websites, social media accounts, email newsletters, radio programming, videos, podcasts and events.

This year, public nominations were accepted for 17 awards in six categories: agri-tourism, food and beverage,



Local hospitality professionals shared their experiences and various industry careers with faculty and staff from Waipahu High School as part of Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism's school-based outreach. PHOTO COURTESY JARED HIGASHI

hotels and accommodations, industry leadership, tourism events, and attractions and activities.

An addition this year will be the Tourism Legacy Award, which will be presented to Dr. Chuck Gee, dean emeritus of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's School of Travel Industry Management, for a lifetime of significant contributions to tourism.

He has been credited with developing UH's prestigious travel industry management program, which has produced scores of top executives and tourism leaders in the state and throughout the world. I had the honor of first getting to know him when I was head of the state Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. We collaborated on bringing the prestigious PATA convention to Hawai'i.

Through other projects we worked on, I experienced firsthand his leadership, vision and graciousness. This is a well-deserved tribute to a highly respected individual who has become so closely identified with the success of tourism here and abroad.

“Tourism Tuesday” and *Tourism 101*

I invite readers of this column to tune in to “Tourism Tuesday” on *The Mike Buck Show*, which runs from 7 to 8 a.m. on KHNH AM 690 and FM 94.3. We expose listeners to the opportunities and challenges facing local hospitality through discussions with leaders in the industry.

We also share viewpoints on ThinkTech Hawai'i's *Tourism 101* (Spectrum OC16 or YouTube), in which we discuss tourism-related matters with industry leaders.

Waipahu High School Focuses On Hospitality

I have been working with Waipahu High School principal Keith Hayashi for several years on establishing the first nationally accredited tourism and culinary arts academy in the state. HLTA facilitates internships, externships and mentoring opportunities for Waipahu students and faculty, with the end goal of helping them earn their accreditation.

Just recently, I brought a cohort of hospitality and culinary executives to Waipahu

High to share their perspectives and experiences with nearly 200 teachers and staff. They talked about the importance of our industry and the emphasis that we place on workforce development. We covered four topics: lodging, restaurants, event planning and professional organizations.

Featured speakers were Glenn Vergara, HLTA chairman and general manager of Waikiki Resort Hotel; Christina Gabriel, director of operations for Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club; Bulla Eastman, senior director of security for Aqua-Aston Hospitality; Michelle Whitton, assistant general manager of Duke's Waikiki; Dante Kea, manager of Duke's Waikiki; Lee Ann Choy, principal of Pacific Rim Concepts; and Waipahu alumnus Rick Egged, president of Waikiki Improvement Association.

The speakers described their personal experiences working in tourism and shared career opportunities available for graduates. What's key is the wide variety of fields and professions in the industry, such as finance and accounting, information technology, human resources, culinary arts, management, engineering, maintenance and more. Another point to be made is that jobs can range from entry-level, unskilled labor to work requiring college degrees and/or technical experience. The bottom line is the sheer variety of jobs available in the hospitality industry.

We hope to do more of these sessions at other schools, and encourage career counselors and teachers to contact HLTA at 923-0407 to arrange a visit.

mufi@mufihannemann.com

Akamai PEST Solutions

THINK GREEN. LIVE GREEN. TREAT ORANGE!

Ground Termite Treatment Available

100% ORGANIC Orange Oil Drywood Termite Treatment

Hawaii's Orange Oil Pioneers Since 2005

NO TENTING

Servicing All Islands Free Estimates

693-PEST (7378) • akamaipestolutions.com

Expires 2/28/19. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

\$500 OFF Orange Oil Treatment & Any Subterranean Termite Control

KIT 2000 Co-Grass, Co-Orange LUBRINSE OR PEST-11 95% Pure Orange Oil

HAWAII'S BEST 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

PCO 924

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Are your teeth ...

Killing You?

- * Is your mouth dying? And you don't even know about it?
- * Learn the 16 myths about your teeth that could save your life, & that most dentists never tell you.
- * Research shows a link between the health of your teeth & gums and heart attack, stroke, diabetes, and premature babies...whew!

7 Questions Every Honolulu Resident Must Ask:

1. Do you have bad breath?
2. Gums bleed when you brush?
3. Do you have gaps, crooked, or overlapped teeth?
4. Does it hurt to chew or do you have loose teeth?
5. Do you have dark teeth or teeth that may be infected?
6. Do you feel guilty or fear going to the dentist because of this?
7. Do you feel embarrassed about your smile?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions there is still hope for you. Call (877) 796-1816 for a free report entitled: “Are Your Teeth Killing You? 16 Myths About Your Teeth That Could Save Your Life, & Most Dentists Never Tell You.” Go to <http://bestdentisthonolulu.com/our-services/gum-disease-treatment> for more information and to reserve a free consultation online, 24 hrs/day or Call 206-7885 to schedule a free exam now.

Limited to the first 9 people to call.

- Free Exam (a \$200 value)
- Free X-rays
- Free Consultation
- Free 2nd Opinion
- Limited to the first 9 people
- Call now! 206-7885

If lines are busy, please call again.

A Downtown Dental Group
1139 Bethel St., Hon., HI 96813
www.bestdentisthonolulu.com

8 Reasons Why You'll Love Our Office

1. No guilt dental office. We never scold.
2. Non-surgical gum care.
3. In house gum specialist.
4. Pain free dental care. Sleep dentistry available.
5. Dentistry for diabetics.
6. Implants at 1/2 price.
7. Same day emergency care.
8. Flexible payment plans.

Christie I, of Waialae says:

“I cannot thank you enough for the fabulous work you did in seeing me through my dental procedure. I am so grateful to have my confidence, my self-esteem and most importantly my beautiful smile! My dental problems started when I was 12 years old. Since that time I've never been back to the dentist until I got the courage to come into your office. Growing up, I never had any friends. The boys called me “corroded”. I never smiled and when I'd talk I would cover my mouth: People could not understand me because I would not open wide enough to speak clearly. It wasn't until my teeth were falling out that I knew I had to do something. I could not continue living this way. Today, I smile more and a better person to be around. My husband has noticed how much happier I am. So, with that said, thank you Dr. Miyasaki for your patience and never making judgments.”

—Much Aloha, Christie