



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

KYO-YA HOTELS & RESORTS, LP, ALONG WITH STARWOOD HOTELS AND RESORTS HAWAII, ANNOUNCE \$500,000 GIFT TO POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY'S WORLDWIDE EXPEDITION

HONOLULU – November 25, 2013 – Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts LP and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawai'i proudly announce a \$500,000 makana (gift) to the Polynesian Voyaging Society's worldwide expedition. The gift consists of \$250,000 cash contribution and another \$250,000 contribution through in-kind support and individual fundraising efforts. The partnership and support is to span the next five years, culminating in a total of \$500,000 in support to the organization by 2018.

The Hokule'a (Star of Gladness), which is a doubled hulled Polynesian voyaging canoe, launched the Hawai'i leg of its worldwide voyage in June of 2013 and is preparing for the next year's global journey to promote preservation of native cultures, earth sustainability and education of Hawai'i culture to future generations.

"We wanted to lead the effort on behalf of the hospitality industry to support this culturally significant initiative. Tourism is strengthened through education and appreciation of local culture. The Hokule'a journey represents this for us and the entire tourism industry. We hope other hotel groups will join us in this effort," said Ernie Nishizaki, executive vice president & COO of Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP.

Cheryl Williams, regional director of sales & marketing for Starwood Hotels and Resorts Hawaii and French Polynesia, said, "Starwood Hawaii's sponsorship of Hokule'a furthers our programs to protect and preserve Hawaii's extraordinary environment and unique culture locally, and to share this remarkable journey while marketing the Hawaiian Islands as a visitor destination globally."

Hokule'a, which set sail on her first voyage to Tahiti from Hawai'i in 1976, reawakened the Native Hawaiian culture by embracing its seafaring heritage around the Pacific. Malama Honua (caring for earth), the worldwide voyage spans nearly four years, 46,000 miles and includes visits to 21 countries

with 65 currently planned landfalls. Hokule'a will serve as a floating classroom with minimal amenities and green technologies.

As part of Starwood Hotels Hawaii's in-kind contribution, the hotel group will assist the Polynesian Voyaging Society with several fundraising initiatives and will incorporate their education elements into Keiki programs and in-room educational materials at all 11 of their properties. In addition, Starwood has plans for promotional support and will even include a "Hokule'a Tracker" on their websites so guest and customers can track the worldwide voyage.

"We are humbled and appreciative of Starwood and Kyo-ya's commitment to our mission to inspire young people in Hawai'i and throughout the world to malama (care for) the resources of our planet," said Clyde Namu'o, chief executive officer of the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

About Polynesian Voyaging Society

The Polynesian Voyaging Society was founded in 1973 on a legacy of Pacific Ocean exploration, seeking to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging and the spirit of exploration through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their communities to respect and care for themselves, one other, and their natural and cultural environments. For more information about Hokule'a, please visit <http://hokulea.org>.

About Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP

Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP is the steward of six hotel and resort properties in Hawaii and California, including such historical and cultural treasures as the first hotel built in Waikiki, the Moana Hotel, A Westin Resort & Spa; the "Pink Palace of the Pacific," The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, a Luxury Collection Resort; and the landmark, century-old Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Kyo-ya also owns the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel and Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa. The company employs more than 4,000 people and is very active in giving back to the communities in which it does business. For more information, visit <http://KyoyaHotelsandResorts.com>.

About Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii

With 11 properties across the diverse Hawaiian Islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii offers the best hotel destinations to celebrate romance, reconnect with family, focus on business or launch an adventure. Located on or just footsteps away from the Islands' best beaches, Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Hawaii is a collection of iconic and historic hotels and resorts – properties with expansive and breathtaking backdrops, innovative guest programming and luxurious

amenities representing internationally renowned hotel brands from Sheraton, Westin, Luxury Collection and St. Regis. For more information about Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Hawaii, please call (866) 716-8140 or visit www.starwoodhotelshawaii.com.

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