



*Line-up of Chefs and Schedule of Events Announced for
20th Annual Maui Onion Festival*

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Kā'anapali, Maui – Lisa Donlon, Marketing Manager for Whalers Village Fine Shops & Restaurants announced the line-up of well-known island chefs and schedule of events for their signature event, Maui Onion Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 2 from 10 am - 8 pm. Special promotions and pre-event festivities start on April 27 and include great retail offers, gift with purchase promotion and Maui Onion Pairing Dinner on May 1.

"2009 marks the 20th anniversary for the Maui Onion Festival and we're very pleased to have Guy Hagi of KGMB 9 as our emcee, along with a great group of celebrity chefs participating in a festival that honors Maui's most famous export," said Donlon. "The combination of top Maui and O'ahu chefs make for great cooking demonstrations and also creates an air of friendly competition during the Maui Onion recipe contest. Last year's recipe contest winner, Chef Russell Siu, is returning and hopes to make it two in a row. Entries will be judged by Rick Browne, host and executive producer of the PBS series "Barbeque America," Chris Speere, coordinator with Maui Culinary Academy, Carla Tracy, dining editor at Maui News and Shannon Waineki, dining editor at Maui No Ka Oi magazine. It's a great family event and, as an added value, parking will be FREE all-day!"

Chef Participants:

- Patrick Callarec of Chez Paul in Olowalu*
- James McDonald from Pacific'O and I'O restaurants in Lāhaina*
- Russell Siu of 3660 on the Rise in Honolulu*
- Colin Nishida from Side Street Inn in Honolulu*
- David Paul of David Paul's Island Grill in Lāhaina*

Center Stage: The schedule of activities start at 10 am with opening remarks from Guy Hagi followed by chef demonstrations – along with samples for the audience after each presentation, raw Maui Onion Eating Contests (keiki and adult divisions), Polynesian Hula Show, Maui Onion Recipe Contest and Tahitian Dance Show.

Beach Lawn Stage: At this stage, the schedule also starts at 10 am with a Tahitian show followed by TV Celebrity Chef Cutty Cutler showing kids how to make fresh Hawaiian Smoothies, Maui Onion Growers Association representatives taking story about the history and cultivation of the famous Maui Kula Onion and performances by The Air Force Band of the Pacific, Beniot Jazz Works, Polynesian Hula Show, Island Sounds by Ray Gooliak and closes with a hana hou by The Air Force Band of the Pacific.

Booths: Throughout the day, booths will be offering food, refreshments, produce and products for sale. The list includes:

- *Grown on Maui Farmers Market – variety of fresh produce*
- *Maui Onion Growers Association – crispy, fried Maui Onion Rings and boxed Maui Kula Onions*
- *Ali'i Kula Lavender – wonderful lavender products*
- *Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar – 'ono plate lunches*
- *Roy's Restaurant – taste-tempting food items*
- *Maui Jelly Factory – jellies, jams, syrups and more*
- *Kona Brewing Company Beer Garden at Leilani's Kapalua Room*
- *Whalers Village – event t-shirts and other logo items (proceeds from the sale of all Maui Onion logo items benefit Habitat for Humanity)*

Specials Offers and Maui Onion Pairing Dinner: "We're excited to have the festivities kick off on April 27 with special merchant offers and our 'gift with purchase' promotion where anyone spending \$150 or more receives a handy canvas tote bag which they pickup at the Marriott kiosk located next to the ABC store," said Donlon. "The Maui Onion Pairing Dinner, sponsored by Hula Grill, is one of the week's highlights. Last year was the first time this pairing dinner

was presented and everyone had a wonderful time. The dinner offers great Maui Onion-inspired dishes and each course is paired with local beers from Maui Brewing Company." For more information, or tickets for the dinner, contact Hula Grill directly at 808-667-6636.

Sponsors: An event like the Maui Onion Festival has many sponsors to make it happen and this year, they include Bargreen, Island Air, Kona Brewing Company, Hawai'i magazine, Honolulu magazine, Marriott Ocean Club and Kā 'anapali Beach Resort Association.

About Whalers Village

Recognized as Maui's premier oceanfront shopping destination, Whalers Village Fine Shops & Restaurants is part of the master-planned, award-winning Kā 'anapali Beach Resort and hugs the famed three-mile long strip of Kā 'anapali Beach. Set on 8.5

tropical acres, diverse, carefree, and sophisticated at once, the three-level open-air village comprises 111,222 square feet of retail space with a vibrant variety of shops and restaurants.

Open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 10 p.m., Maui's premier

beachfront shopping center also features a whale museum, a

center stage for cultural entertainment, and celebrated Maui Onion Festival. It's the place to shop, dine, and play. Whalers Village offers three hours of free parking with validation.



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