



WHERE BUSINESS AND ALOHA MEET™

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**NEW HVCB PROGRAM SHOWCASES LOCAL EXPERTS FOR VISITING GROUPS**

**HONOLULU** – The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) has introduced a new program utilizing the talents of elite business and industry leaders in Hawai'i by offering their expertise to groups meeting in the islands.

Called the Hawai'i Speakers Bureau, the program has commitments from more than 20 Hawai'i-based leaders willing to present their views on topics that include business, high technology, finance, Asian affairs, medicine, and scientific research.

Michael Murray, CMP, CMM, CASE, HVCB vice president of sales and marketing for corporate meetings and incentives, said the program offers associations, as well as corporate and incentive groups, the opportunity to hear an insightful perspective on contemporary issues involving Hawai'i and the Pacific Rim.

"Hawai'i has leaders who have made their mark in the world and we're fortunate they are willing to share their knowledge with groups doing business in the islands," said Murray. "It makes having a business meeting in Hawai'i that much more valuable knowing that they can tap into the wisdom of these world-class professionals."

Included among those who have signed on for the Hawai'i Speakers Bureau are Walter Dods, chairman of First Hawaiian Bank and former president of the American Banking Association; David Cole, president, CEO and chairman of Maui Land & Pineapple Company; and Dr. Allen L. Clark, senior fellow of the East-West Center and senior program development specialist of the Pacific Disaster Center. The complete list of participants can be seen at [BusinessAloha.com](http://BusinessAloha.com).

"Meeting planners considering Hawai'i as a destination for their next meeting or convention will see the opportunity to have these leaders address their group as a significant benefit to the entire experience," said Murray.

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Murray also noted that the program provides the added benefit of enhancing Hawai'i's image as a business destination, while emphasizing its unique ties to the economies and cultures of the Pacific Rim and Asia.

"This program and the stature of the leaders taking part is another way for us to show how Hawai'i is the ideal venue to bring companies on either side of the Pacific together to expand their business opportunities," said Murray.

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**Special note to media:** The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings (e.g. glottal stop [ʻ], macron [ā] in place names of Hawai'i such as Lāna'i). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

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For information about hosting corporate meetings and incentives in Hawai'i, visit HVCB's website at [BusinessAloha.com](http://BusinessAloha.com) or call 1-888-424-2924.

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For more information, meeting planners may visit the Hawai'i Convention Center's website at [HawaiiConvention.com](http://HawaiiConvention.com) or call (808) 943-3500.

For additional information about SMG, visit [SMGWorld.com](http://SMGWorld.com).