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KEAUHOU RESORT AWARDED HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY'S HIGHEST CULTURAL AWARD

KEAUHOU, HAWAII—Keauhou Resort was awarded the Koa Award (Ku Kilakila Ka Ulu Koa I Ka Nahele—Standing Dignified, the Grove of Koa in the Forest), HTA's highest cultural award for its Ho'ihoi kulana wahi pana (restoring sacred places) program in Keauhou on Hawaii's Big Island. The Hawaii Tourism Authority honored Keahou for its deep commitment to preserving and perpetuating Hawaii's host culture.

Ho'ihoi kulana wahi pana includes the complete restoration of three significant heiau—Ke'eku, Hapaiali'i and Makolea, the documentation of the mo'olelo or the generational stories of Keauhou, plane table mapping of Kapuanoni heiau, the creation of the Keauhou Kahalu'u Heritage Center and the Puana ka 'ike Lecture Series, a monthly educational series centered on Hawaiian history, culture and tradition.

“Ho'ihoi kulana wahi pana is the foundation of our larger vision, where culture and education lead our business model,” said Greg Chun, President, Keauhou Resort. “We believe this translates to a deeper visitor experience and at the same time connects Native Hawaiians to the cultural practices of their ancestors.”

Hapaiali'i heiau, thought to be more than 600 years old, has been completely restored. Built on the ocean's shoreline and completely surrounded by water at high tide, Hapaiali'i measures 150 feet by 100 feet. The restoration team, comprised of noted archaeologists, cultural practitioners and Hawaiian experts in uhau humu pohaku (dry stack masonry), completed the restoration of Hapaiali'i in December 2007.

Currently, restoration work continues at Ke'eku and Makolea heiau. Planned completion of both heiau is expected by October 2008.

Keauhou Resort has previously won the 2008 Historic Hawaii Foundation's Preservation Award, 2008 Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce's Pualu Award for Culture and Heritage, 2008 Kona Outdoor Circle's Cultural Beautification Award for its Ho'iho'i kulana wahi pana (restoration of sacred places) program.

About Keauhou Resort

Kamehameha Investment Corporation, Inc., a subsidiary of Bishop Holdings, Inc. – the for-profit arm of Kamehameha Schools, is responsible for the cultural assets and planned development of Keauhou Resort, a 2,400-acre fully integrated destination community located five miles south of Kailua, Kona. Keauhou Resort includes Keauhou Beach Hotel, Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa, Keauhou Shopping Center, two golf courses, timeshare, residential and resort condominiums and single-family residences.

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To request a digital image of the restoration, please contact Laura Aquino at 808-326-7820 or email laquino@current-events.com