



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FAMILY FUN FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART
IN AND AROUND THE WAIKIKI BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA**

HONOLULU, Hawaii – A visit to Waikiki is a great way for families to reconnect and make new memories. Whether it's parents with their children or multi-generations, including grandparents, there's something for everyone, including:

- Splashing around on Kuhio Beach
- Making lei at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
- Visiting the petting zoo at the Honolulu Zoo
- Getting up close with sea life at the Waikiki Aquarium

Kuhio Beach

One of the reasons people visit Hawaii is the beach. One of the most popular is Kuhio Beach in Waikiki, which was recently widened by the State's sand replenishment project. And the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa fronts one of the best spots.

"The completion of the State's sand rejuvenation project has no doubt made this stretch of beach the best along the 2.5-mile Waikiki Beach," said Chris Tatum, general manager of Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

Associate Julie Leong says Kuhio Beach is a great place for all members of the family.

"My daughter loves to go there. She takes pieces of bread and feeds the fish," she added.

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Head Concierge Laurie Danford says her number one question from guests is how to entertain their toddlers. Danford often recommends going to Kuhio Beach, digging a big hole in the sand and letting their kid play in it.

“I have so many parents thank me for that recommendation,” she said.

Kuhio Beach is also a great place to take surfing lessons. Former professional surfer Tony Moniz shares his expertise at his Faith Riding Company Surf School, conveniently located in the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Open to riders of all levels, it’s a safe and nurturing way to try one of Hawaii’s most popular sports. You can bet you’ll hang ten by the end of the session with surf champion Moniz who holds more than 50 international big wave trophies.

Lei-making and Craft Lessons

Family fun doesn’t have to be just an outdoor activity. The Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa hosts regularly scheduled Hawaiian craft sessions for its guests, such as lei-making and Hawaiian quilting, conducted by local crafters.

“These classes are great for all of our resort guests, from children to adults,” said Auntie Leimomi Makanani, who teaches both the hula and lei-making classes. “Everyone walks away with a handmade souvenir and a story to share with friends and family back home.”

Honolulu Zoo

Only a few blocks away from the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa is the Honolulu Zoo, a favorite for many associates. The 43-acre zoo features a wide variety of species and attractions. A must-see is the African Savannah, a 10-acre wildlife preserve exhibit that is home to more than 40 species of uncaged African birds and mammals. For children, the petting zoo is recommended, with its distinctive red barn and friendly animals.

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Waikiki Aquarium

Exit the zoo and walk toward Diamond Head along the beach to find the Waikiki Aquarium. Known for its collection of tropical fish, the Waikiki Aquarium showcases marine life around Hawaii and the South Pacific. It also features interactive exhibits that let kids get their hands wet and feel coral and other sea life.

*Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa boasts the best stretch of Waikiki Beach. The resort hotel is located across from exciting, and newly restored, Kuhio Beach and is in the pulse of Waikiki. The hotel offers 1,310 refurbished guest rooms and suites with a private lanai providing a spectacular view of world-famous Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach; Kuhio Beach Grill, featuring the best in Pacific Rim cuisine; Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and d.k Steak House; Arancino di Mare Italian Restaurant; Restaurant Run, contemporary sushi bar; Moana Terrace, offering live Hawaiian entertainment nightly; Seattle's Best Coffee; Paul Brown's Spa Olakino * Salon; Faith Riding Company Surf School; two freshwater, heated, swimming pools; 10-person whirlpool; 24-hour fitness facility; business center with 24-hour Internet access; high-speed and wireless Internet access throughout the resort's guest rooms and public spaces; shops and boutiques; and Hawaiian cultural activities.*

The hotel is located within walking distance from the International Marketplace, Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu Zoo, Diamond Head, Kapiolani Park and Kuhio Beach, which was recently re-nourished and rejuvenated with 10,000 cubic yards of sand pumped from waters off Waikiki.

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