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HVCB EARNS GOLD SERVICE AWARD FROM MEETING PLANNERS

HONOLULU – One of the meetings industry's top publications, *Meetings & Conventions* magazine, has presented the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) with its 2008 Gold Service Award.

Magazine subscribers, consisting of planners and other professionals in the meetings and conventions industry, voted for HVCB to receive the honor based on their experience when holding events in the islands.

This marks the 19th consecutive year HVCB has earned the Gold Service Award, a distinction that speaks to the consistency of high-quality service that Hawai'i delivers, according to Michael Murray, CMP, CMM, CASE, HVCB's vice president of sales and marketing for corporate meetings and incentives (CMI).

"Our island chapters and industry partners are equally responsible for this award as they do everything possible to ensure that groups enjoy a successful and productive meeting experience," said Murray. "Planners know that our statewide industry has a solid reputation for collaborating our efforts to help groups make the most of their time and money in the islands."

Criteria used by the planners in casting their votes included professionalism of staff; support on hotels and site inspections; assistance with ground transportation planning; guidance on local attractions; and liaison with local vendors and services.

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 Lānaʻi). 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 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 or call (808) 943-3500.

For additional information about SMG, visit www.SMGWorld.com.