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THE RITZ-CARLTON MAUI, KAPALUA HOSTS FINAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS, APRIL 18-19

KAPALUA, MAUI, HI (March 11, 2025) – The Ritz-Carlton Maui proudly hosts the 33rd annual Celebration of the Arts, set to take place on April 18-19, 2025, marking the final year of this cherished event. Recognized as one of Maui's premier cultural experiences, the celebration brings together artisans, educators, entertainers, and cultural practitioners to honor and perpetuate all things Hawaiian.

Over the years, the Celebration of the Arts has offered residents and visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Hawaiian culture. This year's theme "I Kou Makana ... The eyes of the beholder" focuses on how we view the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands and its people.

"We are filled with excitement and anticipation for what promises to be an extraordinary event," said Jon Gersonde, general manager of The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua. "We invite everyone to join in the festivities, witness the beauty of Hawaiian arts, and pay homage to Clifford Nae'ole as he concludes his remarkable journey. Through his dedication and passion for preserving Hawaiian culture, he has left an indelible mark on The Ritz-Carlton Maui, shaping it into the beloved hotel it is today."

"It has been an honor and a pleasure to bring Celebration of the Arts to life each year with the support of The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua and the greater community at large. I am immensely proud of the connections fostered, the knowledge shared, and lifelong memories created with everyone who has been involved in this event," said Clifford Nae'ole, event chair since 1992, who recently retired. "I humbly ask all guests to take the time to ask questions, share, learn from, and embrace this special weekend. Then, uphold the values that make Hawai'i nei the finest."

Daytime event highlights will include an E Ala E sunrise ceremony, opening ceremonies with traditional Hawaiian *oli* (chants), thought-provoking panel discussions and films, lively hula performances, a local marketplace with over 50 artisans and crafters, and more. During the opening ceremony, the annual Namahana Award of Excellence will be presented to *kūpuna* (elders) who have served the culture with a zest for life. During the weekend, guests can participate in an excursion to plant native trees at Pu'u Kukui Watershed, the largest private nature preserve in Hawai'i.

The Celebration of the Arts will showcase live music by Nā Hōkū Hanohano award-winning local artists Eric Gilliom, Waipuna, and the legendary Mākaha Sons in the evenings. On April 19, the Celebration of the Arts Lū‘au offers up an incredible feast of island cuisine, accompanied by dazzling vignettes depicting moments in Hawaiian history by the cast of Tales of the Kapa Moe, the new lū‘au at The Ritz-Carlton.

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua is pleased to offer a special kama‘āina rate for Celebration of the Arts. Kama‘āina rates are available by calling 808-669-6200. Rooms are based upon availability and a valid Hawai‘i ID is required at check in.

The 33rd annual Celebration of the Arts is made possible by sponsorships from The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua, Kapalua Resort Association, Hawaiian Airlines, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Honua Consulting, Ledcor Maui, Pilikahakai Foundation, Maui Now, Maui Printing, and Speedi Shuttle.

Daytime admission to the 33rd annual Celebration of the Arts is complimentary and open to the public. For the full event schedule and to purchase tickets for the Celebration of the Arts Lū‘au, visit www.celebrationofthearts.org.

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About The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua

The luxurious Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua showcases a stunning, destination resort offering 468 newly reimagined guestrooms, including 107 residential suites, with all new décor capturing Kapalua’s rich heritage and natural aloha. The Ritz-Carlton Spa® Maui, Kapalua beckons with treatment rooms framed by private garden showers, volcanic stone grottos, steam, sauna and whirlpool therapies, outdoor couple's *hale* (cabanas) and a fitness center and movement studio with spectacular ocean views. Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program offers all interest levels an array of outdoor activities from land to sea, led by trained naturalists. The breathtaking island resort also features six dining experiences, enhanced indoor/outdoor meeting space, an inviting children's pool and new, custom luxury cabanas. The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua is nestled on 54 acres and enveloped by the 22,000-acre Kapalua Resort, renowned for two championship golf courses, award-winning restaurants and the site of historic pineapple fields. For more information about The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua, visit www.ritzcarlton.com/maui.