



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KAUAI CELEBRATES *THE DESCENDANTS*, HONORS KAUI HART HEMMING

LĪHU'E, KAUAI – Inspired by the artistic triumph of *The Descendants* in literature and film, Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr., today honored author Kauai Hart Hemmings at a special media reception hosted by the County of Kauai and Kauai Visitors Bureau (KVB) in Los Angeles.

Mayor Carvalho presented Ms. Hemmings with a proclamation from the County of Kauai recognizing the achievement of her best-selling novel that has been adapted into the critically acclaimed and award-winning film of the same title.

Mayor Carvalho commented, "This is such a beautiful story and authentically depicts life in Hawaii. We know that the film adaptation will not only generate more interest in Kauai as a vacation destination, but it will promote greater understanding of our unique culture and experience."

The Descendants is nominated for five Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Actor (George Clooney), Best Director (Alexander Payne), Film Editing, and Adapted Screenplay, with the Oscars being presented February 26. The movie has already won the Golden Globe Awards for Best Motion Picture and Best Actor, as well as the Writers Guild of America Award for Adapted Screenplay.

KVB hosted the reception for travel, entertainment and consumer media in California to promote Kauai's magnificent natural beauty, which is at the center of the movie's storyline.

Unspoiled Kipu Kai on the island's south shore is shown as the huge parcel of spectacular oceanfront land being contemplated for sale by Matt King (George Clooney).

In addition, a series of defining scenes for King and his two daughters take place at beautiful Hanalei Bay on Kauai's idyllic north shore. The two-mile crescent-shaped bay is lined with palm trees and features a gorgeous white-sand beach and the famous Hanalei Pier, all of which is framed by a backdrop of luxuriant mountains with cascading waterfalls and fertile valleys.

In another scene, King meets his cousin Hugh (Beau Bridges) at Tahiti Nui Restaurant, a quaint and popular real-life restaurant and cocktail lounge in Hanalei.

"We congratulate Kauai Hart Hemmings for her literary success with *The Descendants* and Alexander Payne for taking this work of art and creating one of the year's best movies," said Sue Kanoho, KVB executive director. "I am especially pleased that movie audiences are seeing Kauai and the lush, tropical beauty that makes coming to our beautiful and serene island so rejuvenating."

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Adding to the ambience of being in Kaua'i at the *Descendants*-themed media reception was the music performed by Cyril Pahinui, son of the legendary Gabby "Pops" Pahinui whose artistry graces the film's soundtrack, and Jeff Peterson, a Grammy Award winner whose music on the slack-key guitar is also heard in the film.

The beautiful Garden Island of Kaua'i has served as a location site for Hollywood filmmakers and TV producers for decades in more than 60 major movies and TV shows, including *South Pacific*; *Blue Hawaii*; *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; *Jurassic Park*; *The Thorn Birds*; *Six Days, Seven Nights*; *Tropic Thunder*; *Avatar*; and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

Kaua'i – Hawai'i's Island of Discovery

Nicknamed the Garden Island, Kaua'i is green and flourishing with lush flora that runs from the mountains to the ocean. Kaua'i offers more than 50 miles of white-sand beaches – more beach per mile than any other island in Hawai'i. Other natural wonders include the 3,567-foot deep Waimea Canyon, dubbed "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific," and the 3,000-foot towering mountain cliffs overlooking the Nāpali Coast along the northwest shoreline.

Kaua'i's abundance of outdoor activities, including kayaking, snorkeling, hiking, mountain tubing, horseback riding, ATV adventures, zipline tours, and helicopter and boat tours, offer memorable vacation experiences for the whole family.

For more information about Kaua'i – Hawai'i's Island of Discovery – please visit www.kauaidiscovery.com or call the Kaua'i Visitors Bureau toll-free at (800) 262-1400. Follow Kaua'i via Twitter (@kauaidiscovery) and as a fan on Facebook (Kauai Visitors Bureau).

The Kaua'i Visitors Bureau is a division of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau, which is contracted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the State of Hawai'i's tourism agency, for marketing management services in North America. The HTA was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai'i's economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.

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