



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWELVE HAWAII EXECUTIVES EARN MEETINGS INDUSTRY'S  
HIGHEST DESIGNATION – CERTIFIED MEETING PROFESSIONAL (CMP)**

HONOLULU – Twelve Hawai'i executives (below) have earned the meetings industry's highest designation – Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) – enhancing their credentials to secure new business opportunities for their organizations and the State of Hawai'i.

**Josette Murai**, CMP, Convention Services Manager, Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau  
**Lynn Reyes**, CMP, Senior Event Manager, Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort  
**Angela Gosling**, CMP, Senior Event Manager, Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort  
**Michelle Nakahara**, CMP, Sales Manager, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Waikiki  
**Doreen Nozoe**, CMP, Sales Manager, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Waikiki  
**Brent Lausterer**, CMP, Account Director, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Waikiki  
**Dida Hernandez**, CMP, Director of Food & Beverage, Turtle Bay Resort  
**Kelly Hamlett**, CMP, Catering and Convention Services Manager, Aulani, A Disney Resort  
**Randy Clark**, CMP, Sales Manager, Four Seasons Lāna'i  
**John Anderson**, CMP, Program Designer, Island Partners Hawai'i  
**Roxann Hendrickson**, CMP, Vice President, Hawai'i Meeting Builders  
**DeAnna Moxley**, CMP, Manager of Administration, ICOM

"On behalf of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, I would like to congratulate the twelve individuals who obtained their CMP credentials," said Mike McCartney, president and CEO of Hawai'i Tourism Authority. "CMPs are important in supporting our visitor industry and the meetings, conventions and incentives market, which has been gaining significant momentum. Their achievement comes at an opportune time as we prepare for the APEC Leaders' Meeting this November where we can showcase our islands as an ideal global meetings destination."

The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB), with support from the Aloha Chapter of Meeting Professionals International, secured the hosting of the CMP exam on June 8 at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Test results were announced last week.

The CMP exam is conducted only a few times each year in different cities nationwide. This marked the first time it was held in Hawai'i, a coup for the state's meetings industry.

According to the Convention Industry Council (CIC), comprised of 31 meetings industry organizations, CMP is the industry's foremost certification. It is the only meetings industry certification endorsed by all 31 CIC member organizations and is recognized globally.

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Michael Murray, CMP, CMM, CASE, HVCB vice president of sales and marketing, said, "I congratulate my fellow CMP honorees for earning this esteemed certification and taking the initiative to improve their standing in the industry. It was important to bring the CMP exam to Hawai'i and make it easier for our local meetings professionals to enhance their credentials. I can speak from personal experience that adding the CMP designation is a stamp of approval that meeting planners value when considering Hawai'i for their business.

"For example, our own Josie Murai has done a great job for HVCB in managing our convention services department and supporting groups doing business in the islands. And she has an impressive background with 20 years of hotel and catering sales experience, and serving as president of the Hawai'i Chapter for the National Association of Catering Executives. Despite all that, earning the CMP designation demonstrates Josie's dedication to the meetings industry and helps HVCB in selling the destination and promising groups a high quality of service they can expect when choosing Hawai'i for their programs," said Murray.

Taking the CMP exam has stringent requirements. Applicants must have a minimum three years work experience in the meetings industry, have participated in an approved internship or apprenticeship for a minimum 200 hours, and accrued 25 hours of industry continuing education credits within the past five years. The 3.5-hour CMP exam consists of 165 multiple-choice questions covering five areas of the meetings process: strategic event planning, financial and contract management, facilities and services, logistics, and program.

HVCB is contracted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the state of Hawai'i's tourism agency, to provide marketing management services for the conventions, meetings and incentives market segment. 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.

**Special note to media:** HVCB recognizes the use of the 'okina ['] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the (modern) Hawaiian language; and the kahakō [ā] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai'i such as Lāna'i). 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](http://BusinessAloha.com) or call 1-888-424-2924.

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For more information about the Hawai'i Convention Center, visit [www.hawaiiiconvention.com](http://www.hawaiiiconvention.com) or call (808) 943-3500. For additional information about SMG, visit [www.smgworld.com](http://www.smgworld.com).