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Maui's Newest Luxury Resort is Only Resort with a Wetland Pond *Honua Kai Resort & Spa Nurtures Nature's Gifts*

Kaanapali North Beach, MAUI (May 1, 2009) – Only one Maui resort has its own wetland pond right on the property.

[Honua Kai Resort & Spa](#) on Kaanapali's North Beach, is Maui's newest luxury beach resort. Before the resort opened in January 2009, the pond was smothered with thickets of invasive mangrove. Now, that has all been removed and replaced with indigenous beach plants, creating a healthy habitat that is drawing increasing numbers of migratory and water birds.

Protecting the pond is a priority, says Honua Kai's Lance Gilliland, a man with a pretty neat title: Director of Sustainability. "We feel that our patch of shoreline is special, and it's our *kuleana* (responsibility) to nurture it," he says.

Sheltering the pond on the ocean side is a natural sand dune formed by countless seasons of wave action. Archeologists have found ancient Hawaiian artifacts buried here, including an *ulu maika*, the stone disc used in an ancient Hawaiian game of skill. The resort has removed non-native trees, and planted low-lying indigenous plants that hug the sand and are spreading their dense root systems to protect the dune from wind and ocean erosion. Regular monitoring of the dune's elevation by shoreline experts confirms how well it's being preserved.

Some other experts – endangered green sea turtles often seen snoozing in the sun by the dune – clearly agree that all the effort is worthwhile.

This spirit of sustainability at Honua Kai ("Earth & Sea") extends beyond protecting the natural resources. Gilliland shares this philosophy with guests during his behind-the-scenes tour, when he shows all the ways Honua Kai is incorporating sustainable practices into the resort's operations. These efforts range from installing energy-saving (and yes, stylish) Bosch appliances, to using heat generated by the air-conditioning system to warm the pool. Gilliland also shows guests the solar-powered trash compactor, and the sprinkler system that automatically measures rainfall and only waters the grounds when needed.

In these ways, Honua Kai Resort is both cutting-edge and firmly grounded in local island values – because in Hawaii, to *malama* (care for) the environment is a tradition as solid as a sand dune – and as modern as Maui's newest resort.

About Honua Kai Resort & Spa (<http://www.honuakaimaui.com/>)

Honua Kai offers a uniquely contemporary Maui experience. Nestled on 38 oceanfront acres of Kaanapali's pristine North Beach, the resort is designed as two U-shaped buildings with ocean and mountain views, lush landscaping and expansive open spaces. This openness is mirrored in each of the 628-guest suites (one-, two-, and three-bedroom) with professionally equipped kitchens, spacious and homelike floor plans, and luxury resort services. An imaginative aqua

network of pools, hot tubs, natural pond bridges, waterslide, waterfalls and fountains allows for privacy and play.

Honua Kai Resort & Spa is opening in phases through early 2010:

OPEN – Hokulani building (318 guest suites, `Aina Gourmet Market, pool, fitness center, concierge desk, Family Fun Club, pool & beach activities operation)

Late 2009 – Duke’s beachside restaurant

Early 2010 – Konea building opens (310 guest suites, lobby café, two pools, spa)

For reservations and information, please contact a travel professional, or call the Resort directly at 1-888-718-5789 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hawaii Time, or visit www.honuakaimaui.com.

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Resort photography available upon request.

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