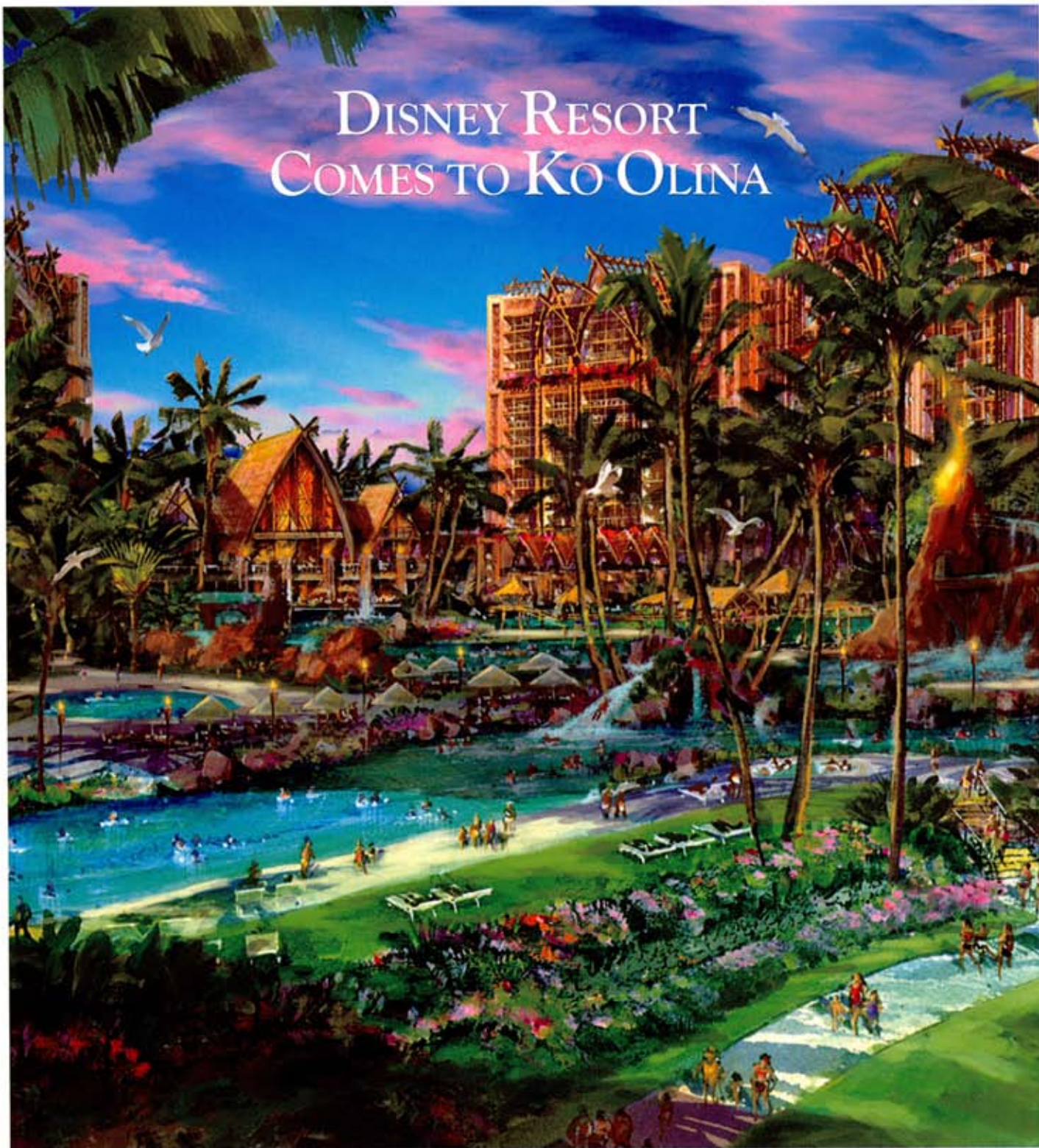


LIFE & Style

KO OLINA LIVING

DISNEY RESORT
COMES TO KO OLINA





The Magical World of Disney Reaches Hawai'i's Shores

By Lauren Kawana

Photos courtesy of Disney Vacation Club and Resort Hawai'i

Pairing one of the world's most beloved corporations with one of the world's most beloved vacation destinations, a brand new Disney experience will be hosted by the Hawaiian Islands, bringing people from around the world to O'ahu's beautiful Leeward coast.

Since the 2007 announcement of their intention to construct a family resort at Ko Olina, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts has created incredible buzz and excitement within the local community. The Hawai'i location will join a family of 38 resort hotels and will be the first Disney resort to be located outside of a theme park.

This past fall, after a year of consulting with local architects and cultural experts, Walt Disney Imagineers released a preliminary design and model for the Disney Vacation Club and Resort, Hawai'i. Shortly after, Walt Disney executives kicked off the

groundbreaking ceremony and now one of the most anticipated developments to come to Hawai'i is fully underway.

DESIGN REFLECTS MAGIC OF HAWAI'I

With a goal to combine Disney spirit and Hawaiian culture, Walt Disney Imagineers have created a Hawaiian-themed design for the new resort, which will feature a variety of unique landscaping and architectural elements. "We are very excited to share the early designs of our resort, which we believe will offer a base for families to discover the wonders of Hawai'i and connect with the local culture," said Jay Rasulo, chairman of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, when he presented the plans to Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman.

Disney has 21 acres allotted for development on oceanfront



Polynesian-influenced architecture and lush, tropical landscaping with the use of indigenous plants will be the basis of the resort's Hawaiian-themed design.

property directly behind the sparkling blue Kohola—the first of Ko Olina's four lagoons. On this property, 350 traditional hotel rooms, along with 480 timeshare resort villas for Disney Vacation Club members, will be constructed.

The architecture of the two planned hotel towers will feature thatched roofs and the use of other Pacific-inspired materials such as coral and lava rock. The lobby, or Hale Aloha, will be presented as a traditional canoe house, featuring window and wall designs that share ancient Hawaiian stories and legends. Centered around three signature gardens, the landscaping will include indigenous plants, a real *lo'i kalo* (taro field), and picturesque fishponds.

The small-scale model that was presented to Mayor Hanneman accentuates the centerpiece of the resort: an expansive water-play area consisting of several large pools, with a striking volcanic caldera at its center from which waterslides will originate. The water-play area will also include rapids, waterfalls, whirlpools, and even a manmade salt water lagoon for snorkeling which may potentially showcase native fish species.



The open-air lobby, "Hale Aloha," will be modeled after a traditional Hawaiian canoe house.

ENCHANTING EXPERIENCES FOR ALL

Apart from families, the resort will strive to cater to business travelers and couples who wish to have a beautiful Hawaiian wedding with a touch of "Disney magic." A wedding lawn with amazing views of the Pacific Ocean is included in the plans, as well as an 8,000-square-foot conference center to accommodate all business conference needs. For those who wish to indulge in an extra relaxing and replenishing vacation experience, an expansive 18,000-square-foot, full-service spa will also be erected.

Children, Disney's number one fans, will be in for a treat courtesy of a special kid's club, similar to those existing at other Disney resorts. The kid's club will offer a variety of custom activities for children who are up for an adventure. The resort also hopes to provide a wealth of cultural and educational programs focusing on Hawaiian music, dance, history, and arts & crafts.

Last but not least, two new restaurants will also be included on the resort grounds, and both will feature menus of food unique to Hawai'i. One restaurant will specifically serve as a perfect vantage point for watching Hawai'i's world famous sunsets.



The center of the resort will feature an exciting and expansive water-play area flanked by an arrangement of scenic gardens and fishponds.

GROWTH OF THE DISNEY VACATION CLUB

As timeshare villas will make up a significant part of the new resort, Disney Vacation Club members can soon take advantage of timeshare opportunities in the Hawaiian Islands. By purchasing a real estate interest in a Disney Vacation Club resort, families can become members and enjoy vacations at Disney destinations worldwide. The Vacation Club has grown to serve more than 350,000 individual members from more than 100 countries and all 50 U.S. states. The hundreds of new villas to be built at Ko Olina range from studios with convenient kitchenettes to one-, two-, and three-bedroom accommodations which will include full-size kitchens, washers and dryers, and luxury whirlpool tubs.

EXCITEMENT AHEAD

The groundbreaking and traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony for the Disney resort was held on November 19, in the attendance of community leaders who included Hawai'i's Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona and State Senate President Colleen Hanabusa.

Reintroducing Hawai'i as a magical vacation destination, the Disney resort will bring new excitement and energy to O'ahu. "I am looking forward to the grand opening of this resort," said Mayor Hanneman, "because Disney is committed to being a good corporate citizen and will help develop a stronger community by creating new jobs and offering promising career paths to many local residents." The grand opening of the property is slated for late 2011.

The company has already begun its hiring process, focus-

REINTRODUCING HAWAI'I AS A MAGICAL VACATION DESTINATION, THE DISNEY RESORT WILL BRING NEW EXCITEMENT AND ENERGY TO O'AHU.

ing first on construction positions. In late 2010, recruiters will move onto filling leadership, support and sales roles in early 2011, they will hire for guest service and hospitality positions. At the end of the process, they expect to create an estimated total of 1,000 new jobs resort-wide.

In addition, Disney has made a huge impact on local schools; to celebrate and commend the growth and education of Hawai'i's future leaders, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts executives presented \$100,000 to four West O'ahu high schools at the groundbreaking ceremony. Wai'anae High School's Searider Productions program, Nanakuli High School's theatre program, Campbell High School's engineering and robotics program, and Kapolei High School's Science and Technology Academy will each receive \$25,000 as a result.

All in all, the new Disney Vacation Club and Resort will be a magical and animated addition to O'ahu's already well-established "Place of Joy," the English translation for Ko Olina.

"We hope the magic of Disney storytelling and service will combine with the rich history, heritage and natural beauty of Hawai'i to create a special experience the whole family can enjoy," says Disney chairman Rasulo. ♦