

SHERATON KAUAI: Fresh Style, Same Aloha

\$15 MILLION RENOVATION BLENDS THE STYLISTIC FLARE OF A BOUTIQUE HOTEL WITH THE AMENITIES OF A FULL-BLOWN RESORT ON THE GARDEN ISLAND



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KAUAI MAY NOT BE THE FIRST HAWAIIAN ISLAND PEOPLE VISIT, but increasingly it's the one they return to year after year. Ever since 1968, when the Sheraton Kauai Resort opened on the golden sands of sunny Po'ipu, Garden Island devotees have been coming back to stay here for its welcoming island ambiance and heartfelt Aloha spirit.

The resort's name has remained unchanged while ownership changed hands twice. In 1972, Sheraton Corp. sold the property to the Obayashi Corp. of Japan, which owned it until 2004, when it was purchased by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. Last autumn, Starwood announced the completion of a \$15 million room renovation project, giving Kauai's favorite established resort a brand-new look, feel and appeal.

Whether visiting for the first time or returning for an annual stay, visitors find the road into Koloa town and approach to the Sheraton Kauai is one of Hawaii's most beautiful short drives. Descending through a tunnel of eucalyptus trees, the road into Po'ipu is studded with flowering cacti and punctuated with patches of brilliant magenta bougainvillea. A sweeping view of the dazzling blue sea signals your arrival at the Sheraton Kauai Resort.

"The goal of the design is to transport the guest from the everyday to an exotic island destination," said Peter Brown, senior manager of design for Sheraton. "The tropical lifestyle design is meant to speak to the global island culture. We worked with regional influences from many island cultures and incorporated them into a design package that gives that island retreat feeling."

OPPOSITE: The property fronts one of Kauai's best beaches.

ABOVE: The open air lobby on the ocean-side greets guests and begins the transition from everyday world to a private tropical retreat.

The garden-side lobby is filled with covered ratan seating. The property offers the stylistic flare of a boutique hotel coupled with the amenities of a larger resort.



ABOVE: Custom made, hand-blown glass chandeliers hang from the cathedral ceilings in the garden-side lobby.

Following local building practices, the Sheraton Kauai is a low-rise property with no building higher than the tallest coconut palm. The 20-acre resort fans out into lush tropical garden grounds criss-crossed by pathways lined with red ginger, green ti and heart-shaped anthurium. The ocean-side of the property fronts one of Kaua'i's finest stretches of sandy beaches, earning its reputation as a little Mecca for surfing, swimming and sun-worshiping.

Walk barefoot across the sands that hug the resort or stroll the shady paths through the garden side and it's hard to believe the Sheraton Kauai was devastated by hurricane 'Iniki on September 11, 1992. Then-owners Obayashi Corp. spent some \$42 million reviving the seaside resort, which reopened in December 1997.

No hurricanes have hit (or even come close) to Kaua'i since 'Iniki, but being perched by the sea has gradually weathered the rooms over the last 14 years. Accordingly, the resort has been given a thorough overhaul by Starwood, infusing new vibrancy into the longtime island favorite as the Sheraton Kauai Resort redefines what a classic open-air Hawaiian hotel should be.

As of last September, all 394-guest rooms (including eight suites) have been renovated and are among the first of the Sheraton brand "tropical lifestyle" motif resorts around the world.

What were adequately comfortable rooms before have now been transformed into private tropical retreats, offering the stylistic flare of a boutique hotel coupled with the amenities of a larger resort.

Each guest room has been redesigned with a distinctive surf and sand color scheme with crisp, sharp lines that are distinctly more contemporary than past décor. Walls are painted in a warm yellow-cream color, which, with sand-hued plush carpet and azure accents, mirror Po'ipu's inviting waters.

All furniture has been replaced with dark native hand-hewn maple hardwood pieces, like the credenza, which houses a 32-



RIGHT: Following local building practices, the Sheraton Kauai is a low-rise property with no building higher than the tallest coconut palm. A large pool surrounded by tropical plants creates an oasis for families.



inch LCD flat screen television. Sleek and modern, the furniture is accented with bamboo detailing that contrasts effortlessly with the warm, natural colors of the surrounding décor while enhancing the overall island look.

Older paintings have given way to oversized framed photos of swaying palms and waves breaking on lava, pulling weary travelers into an island state of mind as soon as they step across the threshold of their room.

To ensure maximum comfort, every bed in the resort was replaced with Sheraton Sweet Sleeper brand beds which feature a nine layered 11-inch Sealy Posturepedic Plush Top mattress, allergy sensitive down pillows and crisp cotton sheets. Blue duvet covers mirror the views from ocean side rooms.

Four and two poster bedded rooms boast white linen canopies, an elegant nod to tropical beach cabanas as they flutter lightly upon opening the door to the lānai, now equipped

“We are excited to unveil the new look of Sheraton Kauai Resort,” said general manager Angela Vento. “We are able to connect our guests to their destination by surrounding them with island beauty, both inside and outside their guest room.”

ABOVE: “The hotel’s newly renovated room and signature bed truly delivers an experience that is welcoming, relaxing and indicative of our island lifestyle,” said Vento.

with inviting rattan furniture. Oceanside lānais are fitted with textured fiber mats by Bolon of Sweden that beckon bare feet and make for a room-side whale-watching and sunset viewing platform.

Oceanside bathrooms have also been fitted with new sand-toned granite counter tops, double vanities, American Standard bath fixtures, bath tiles and elegantly curved shower rods that make for more spacious bathing.

Ordinary hotel towel bars have been replaced with whimsi-



ABOVE & LEFT: The suite comes complete with living and dining room, with access to the lānai and ocean views.

cal teak ladders and new full-length mirrors have been added. The Sheraton Kauai’s new décor is consistent throughout all 500 square foot ocean rooms and 400 square foot garden rooms.

Designated a four star resort, the Sheraton Kauai has garnered countless devoted return guests over the last four decades because, perhaps more than any other property on the Garden Island, the Sheraton Kauai has retained its honest Hawaiian hospitality and warmth. This is a Hawaiian resort that is classy, but casual; a place where luxury and local sit side by side on the sand.

Above all, what makes this property an established favorite is its comfortable island ambiance, an unmistakable Kaua’i vibe generated by the friendly staff. And great staffing, with dedicated, life-long employees who don’t just say “Aloha” but live it, is something that even \$15 million dollars cannot improve on. 🌺

Sheraton Kauai Resort
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