



*Hawaii's Premier  
Destination Management Specialists*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Two Brands, One Direction: MC&A AND ISLAND PARTNERS HAWAII MERGE**

HONOLULU, HI – Today, two of Hawaii’s leading destination and event management companies announced they have signed an agreement to join forces to secure growth and to capitalize on opportunities in the global conventions, meetings, incentives, events, and social marketplace.

Leveraging the strengths of two reputable, well-established leading travel brands creates a like-minded, strategically focused company that will deliver unparalleled creativity and design, with a “Hawai`i sense of place”, and best in class service for each segment of the hospitality and tourism business that it pursues.

With a combined 42 plus years of service to local, regional, national and international clients, MC&A and Island Partners Hawai`i share a philosophy that centers on building life-long, “raving fan” customer relationships and a driving commitment to excellence through continuous improvement.

“In view of the ever changing travel industry and the increasingly challenging global economic climate, Mary Beth (Kahn) and I decided to seek a strategic partner who could help secure steady growth and stability within Hawai`i, and provide a strong foundation and resources for expansion outside Hawai`i,” said Chris Resich, President and CEO of MC&A.

“Tony (Vericella) and I are excited about this strategic partnership that leverages the strengths of two extremely high quality organizations, IPH and MC&A, and believe that together we will generate sustainable opportunities for our customers, employees and vendor partners,” said H. S. Wright III. Wright, majority owner of Island Partners Hawai`i and SH Worldwide, will take a significant equity position in the unified company.

Clients will benefit from the shared best practices and integration of two of the industry’s most experienced, customer-driven teams of destination experts and event design and production professionals. With their combined base of long-term, repeat customers and over 100 full-time employees throughout the Islands, MC&A and IPH will continue to deliver “beyond expectations” service to their clients and generate a high quality and volume of business for their vendors. In addition, the partners will explore opportunities to expand their reach and services beyond Hawai`i, creating additional value for clients in multiple destinations.

(more)



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Page 2

MC&A and Island Partners Hawai'i will maintain their main offices on the Islands of O'ahu and Maui, respectively. The leadership team will include:

- Chris Resich, MC&A, who will continue as President and CEO.
- Mary Beth Kahn, MC&A, who will continue as Chief Sales Officer.
- Tony Vericella, Managing Director of Island Partners Hawai'i, will also lead the integration effort and assume the position of Chief Operating Officer.
- Leona Balthazar, founder of Island Partners Hawai'i, will continue in her key roles in sales and client relationships, and as Corporate Advisor for IPH.

“One of the most significant aspects of this integrated partnership,” said Resich, “is our `people’ – they are the single asset that will ensure the success of our brands. Their years of proven experience, their commitment to the very best practices, and their total dedication to client service will continue to fuel our philosophy of continuous improvement.”

The merger of MC&A and IPH officially closed on December 31, 2010.

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#### **About MC&A**

*Celebrating its 27<sup>th</sup> year in 2010, MC&A is Hawaii's largest destination and event management company, specializing in the corporate incentive, meetings, convention and association markets. The company also services several leisure travel wholesale clients and most cruise lines sailing in Hawaiian waters. With main offices on O'ahu and Maui, the company shares its Aloha spirit with corporate and leisure customers on all Islands.*

#### **About Island Partners Hawaii**

*Island Partners Hawaii, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, is a full service, single source Hawai'i event design and destination management company, specializing in corporate incentives and meetings; distinctive events and celebrations; and small, discerning private groups. With offices on Maui and O'ahu, the company creates and delivers exceptional experiences with a true "sense of place", throughout the Hawaiian Islands.*

#### **About SH Worldwide**

*With more than 30 years in the group hospitality industry, SH Worldwide consists of four full service, event and destination management companies, committed to providing unique guest experiences through award-winning hospitality services: Seattle Hospitality Services, Venture 2, Chrysalis Events, and Wellstream Events.*

*Seattle Hospitality Services was named one of "Washington's Best 100 Companies to Work For" by Washington CEO Magazine.*

*SH Worldwide companies have a strong, repeat customer base of Fortune 500 companies, which are recognized leaders within their sectors.*

Photos are available upon request.