A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD R. KELLEY TO OUR OUTRIGGER ‘OHANA

July 27, 2013

Aloha, Kelly!
By Dan Wacksman

I am pleased to join Human Resources in welcoming Kelly Smallwood to the Outrigger ‘ohana as human resources (HR) manager of call center operations based in Denver, Colorado. Kelly joins us today and reports to Anita Travis, director, CRO.

Kelly has 13 years of experience as an HR consultant and leader, specializing in directing human resources functions and initiatives often in call center environments.

As manager, employee relations and talent management at Jones International, a company that has created Internet, e-commerce, software, education, entertainment, radio and cable television companies, Kelly provided leadership and companywide direction on policies, programs and initiatives in support of their business objectives, in addition to recruiting and leader development. Prior to Jones International, Kelly was employee relations manager at Convergys Corporation, a company that focuses on helping companies enhance the value of their customer relationships and delivering consistent customer experiences across all channels and geographies. Kelly acted as a consultant on HR policies, procedures, employee relations, turnover and other HR-related issues for their 600+ person call center. Early in her career, Kelly was senior human resources client manager for Frontier Airlines; human resources manager for Cintas Corporation; and operations manager and training specialist for Amoco Oil Company's retail business unit.

"Kelly's experience and focus on employee engagement and development will be a great asset toward continuing the support of our Denver reservations team. We strive to provide ultimate guest and employee satisfaction and Kelly will be a key contributor of those efforts. I am very excited to have her join our team," said Anita Travis.

From the University of Utah, Kelly earned an MBA with an emphasis in international business and human resource management and a BS in management.

She enjoys spending time with her fiancé Dan and their three boys Anthony (14), Chris (11) and Josh (9). Their family has a black lab named buddy.

Kelly's education and broad range of experience in human resources will support our Denver ‘ohana as we continue to grow our global operations and customer base. Welcome, Kelly! ☀️

That’s a Wrap!
Waikiki Beach Walk® Welcomes its Biggest Visitor Yet
By Barbara Campbell

The calls started to come in beginning October 2012. The first one was from Randy Spangler, a location manager in Hawai‘i. "Would you consider hosting a film crew that’s coming in to shoot a major motion picture?" he asked. It was a major film studio, he told us, but gave us no specifics. Then in November, we received a call from Mike Fantasia, a supervising location manager on behalf of Warner Bros. With no further information, we were again asked if we were interested. You can probably guess what our answer was. Now, after eight months and a massive amount of planning and meetings, we’re thrilled to report that filming went off without a hitch and the production was a success.

Hawai‘i is a much-sought-after location for filmmakers, and last Wednesday night, after 85 days of shooting in Vancouver, British Columbia, and various locations on O‘ahu, Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures made Waikiki Beach Walk their stage as they wrapped Godzilla >> 14

Barbara Campbell touts Hawai‘i as the perfect location for films

Hawai‘i is a much-sought-after location for filmmakers, and last Wednesday night, after 85 days of shooting in Vancouver, British Columbia, and various locations on O‘ahu, Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures made Waikiki Beach Walk their stage as they wrapped
Happy Birthday!


Aug 8: Mercelino Baguyo, Elena B. Ballan, Aldrin M. Carbonell, Raymond S. Cruciana, Tatiana Daniels, Thum Leamvong, Li Yan Li, Riki Otsuka, Janice S. Shizumura and Tevola Vatunicoko.


OGM's Convenient Kiosk
By Lisa Lenckowski

The Outrigger Guam Resort (OGM) Lobby Kiosk was recently renovated. The kiosk now sports a new and expanded counter space, refrigerated display case and new coffee/espresso machine. With more fresh options for guests “on the go,” offerings include fresh fruit and salads; freshly made waffles, crepes and sandwiches; gourmet coffee; and smoothies.

Michelle Cardinas
OGM Host
The Hawaiian Steel Guitar is celebrated at Waikiki Beach Walk®
By Nancy Daniels

The lilting sounds of the Hawaiian steel guitar drew hundreds of spectators to Waikiki Beach Walk Saturday, July 20, for the 4th annual Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival. It was an afternoon filled with the distinct sounds of the steel guitar performed by some of Hawai‘i’s most legendary musicians alongside students new to the art form.

Leading the musical afternoon was renowned artist, music teacher and director of Ke Kula Mele Hawai‘i Alan Akaka, together with fellow steel guitar masters Greg Sardinha, Casey Olsen, Bobby Ingano and Jeff Au Hoy. Joining these legends were Timi Abrigo and the Abrigo ‘Ohana as well as students from Akaka’s Ke Kula Mele Hawai‘i representing the next generation of steel guitarists. Each of the young performers impressed the audience with their skill but the crowd favorite was young Malie Lyman—the nine year-old great-granddaughter of the late Auntie Genoa Keawe. With only three months of lessons under her belt, Malie is already performing far beyond her years.

A big mahalo to everyone involved who made this year’s festival such a success: Conchita Malaqui, Blaine Kia, Bruce Musrasrik and Sheryl Yee.

Mark your calendars; next year’s festival date has already been set for July 19, 2014.®

Waikiki Beach Walk is the perfect setting for the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival

The crowd favorite at this year’s steel guitar festival was young Malie Lyman—the nine year-old great-granddaughter of the late and legendary Auntie Genoa Keawe
Another quarter has passed and as is custom, Outrigger takes timeout to honor and recognize our ‘ohana who have reached 30 or more years of service with Outrigger®. On behalf of Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, we congratulate and thank Melva Beter, Creighton Young, Gwendolyn Boyce, Abella Carroll, Carmelita Cascasan, Leonila Francisco and Peter Nonales for their milestone years of service with Outrigger.

By Kathy Oyadomari

Melva Beter
40 Years of Service

I was hired as a housekeeper just out of high school and have had opportunities to learn and advance my career from room cleaner to supervisor. Currently I oversee the Housekeeping PM operation at the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach. I enjoy working with my team and interacting with guests, the front desk team and concessioners to ensure a smooth operation. I have seen the company grow from a mama and papa operation to today’s enterprises in foreign countries and the increased technology for Housekeeping. I met my husband Norman at the Outrigger Waikiki while he was a carpet installer. This coming July 26 marks 35 years of a very happy marriage, and we have two children and a granddaughter. I love traveling, and have been “cruising” every other year.

- Bucket List – Retire and spend time baby-sitting my grandchildren and learning skydiving and stand-up paddle boarding. (I learned to surf at 50 and jet-skied at 55!)
- Words of Wisdom – Life is precious, so enjoy every moment you can spend with your loved ones.
- My Philosophy - Work hard and play hard.
- Most Proud Of – My 40 years of service with Outrigger. I am proud that we all contribute to the company’s success.

Carmelita Cascasan
40 Years of Service

I was hired as a housekeeper in June 1973 at the OHANA Waikiki East Hotel and three years later, I went to the OHANA Waikiki West Hotel where I currently work. I enjoy doing all aspects of my job – cleaning the rooms, meeting our guests and welcoming them with hospitality. And I appreciate the job opportunity and the excellent benefits for employees. A major career memory for me was the major renovation at the OHANA Waikiki West in 1985. I love going to Vegas with my family and my sisters. We love the slot machines and like to visit the mountain resort during winters. I will also visit my relatives and friends in the Philippines. In my spare time, I enjoy fishing and cooking native Filipino dishes.

- Bucket List – When I retire, I will travel and take a cruise to Europe with my son and daughter.
- Words of Wisdom – Enjoy life to the fullest day-by-day.
- Most Proud Of – My children and the long years that I have worked for the company.

Creighton Young
35 Years of Service

I started as a doorman at the Outrigger Waikiki and currently I work as both doorman and bellman. I enjoy working both positions. The significant changes I’ve seen are changing from a smoking environment to a non-smoking hotel (great!). And I’ve been through three or four hotel renovations. I retired from the Honolulu Fire Department in 2010 (34 years) and now enjoy traveling with my wife, surfing and fishing on my boat when there’s time.

- Bucket List – Work part-time at the Outrigger Waikiki and travel more. I’d love to win the mega bucks in Vegas and spend time with grandkids soon.
- Words of Wisdom – Life is short – so enjoy life with friends and family.
- Little Known Fact – I will turn 64 in September and will keep going strong.
- Most Proud Of – Being a part of the Outrigger family and of the friends I have met during my time here.
I started with FIT (leisure) Reservations at Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach in 1983. Now I am a wholesale groups specialist taking care of groups for both beachfront properties. I LOVE coming to work and interacting with my co-workers. There have been many changes over the years from properties changing hands to people coming and going. I love taking my annual cruises each year to see various parts of the world. My favorite routes are Alaska and Panama.

• Bucket List - I’m able to find time to pursue my passion of “cruising” and that’s more than I can ask for. The main thing on my bucket list is to see the Terra Cotta soldiers in China.

• Words of Wisdom - Do unto others as you would have done to you.

• Little Known Fact - I’m married to THE “Santa Claus” and there was a time that five of my children were employed by Outrigger. Two of them still work for Outrigger, and we share a combined 90 years of service.

• Most Proud Of - All my children and their accomplishments.

I started with Outrigger as a housekeeper at the Waikiki Surf Hotel and currently work at the Embassy Suites – Waikiki Beach Walk. I enjoy meeting people from different countries. The hardest part of my job is unscheduled late checkouts. The significant changes I have seen are nicer rooms, nicer beds and more supplies. On my days off, I like to ‘clean-yard,’ watch court TV shows and read the newspaper until I fall asleep.

• Bucket List – To visit the Philippines again; the last time I was there was 1982. And I hope to purchase a condominium for me, my husband and son, and to have grandchildren and spend time with them.

• Words of Wisdom – Work hard to achieve your goals and you will see the blessings of your hard work.

• Little Known Fact – I’m a quiet person with a lot of thoughts about living a good and honest life.

• Most Proud Of – Working at Outrigger. Outrigger has helped me with my family goals. I’m also proud of my husband Kenneth and our son Kenneth Jr.

I started with Outrigger Waikiki Village Hotel in 1983 as a housekeeper, and then worked at Maile Sky Court and The Courtyard by Marriott (managed by Outrigger Hotels Hawaii) over the years. I currently work at the OHANA Waikiki East Hotel. I enjoy every part of my job, especially talking to guests, and making their stay happy and comfortable. I have seen the company expand with the increase in the properties all over the world. I have also seen the increase in training opportunities for employees to acquire more knowledge in housekeeping. I like baby-sitting, cooking, going to church, shopping and walking during my leisure time.

• Bucket List - I am planning for my retirement and traveling after that. And I want to buy my own house.

• Words of Wisdom - It’s better to give than to receive.

• Little Known Fact - I have four children and six grandchildren. I am a religious person.

• Most Proud Of - I am most proud of having my family; they fully support my work in the hotel.
My first job was houseman at the Outrigger Waikiki Surf Hotel under the management of Mrs. Mildred Courtney. Currently, as an assistant bell captain at the OHANA Waikiki Malia, I make sure our bell staff warmly and professionally welcomes and entertains our guests. I most enjoy greeting our guests with Aloha and take pride when bags are correctly delivered and accounted for each day. The major change I’ve seen at Outrigger is the expansion to the Pacific, Australia and Asian countries. It is an honor to work with a local family-owned company – going strong locally and globally – with great employee benefits. On my days off, I enjoy taking my wife and her clients to the beach, driving them around the island and enjoying the scenery.

- **Bucket List** – Help my three boys buy their own places; travel to Europe and The Holy Land; and help raise my grandchildren, if God grants me grandchildren.
- **Words of Wisdom** – I believe that if you seek first the kingdom of God, “all these things will be added unto you,” and that hard work can fulfill your dreams.
- **Little Known Fact** – I’m grateful that I migrated to the United States, even though the culture shock was hard. It’s where I met my wife and had a family.
- **Most Proud Of** – My wife who lives the Word of God and being able to provide a college education for my children.

**Milestones Recognized**

**Peter Nonales**

**30 Years of Service**

**Celebrating the 6 Paddles Process**

**OHANA Waikiki Malia Celebrates Paddle 1**

**By Les La’a**

Our Ke ‘Ano Wa’a process is ongoing and the theme for Paddle 1 2013 is “‘Aha ‘aina, sharing our celebration of harvest.”

In days past, the Hawaiians used to have lūa‘u to celebrate or honor royalty, their warriors, weddings, birthdays and even baby lūa‘u. The celebration of harvest was also as important because it sustained life and brought everyone together, just as it does today. For our 2013 Paddle 1, we asked our employees to share one of those moments with us. It could be a time with family, friends or both! Or it could be with co-workers after an afternoon of volleyball, bowling or even cycling—whatever the moment, we wanted our employees to make it a standout moment.

Each employee was given a paper plate to decorate and capture their “moment.” We encouraged everyone to keep it simple and to have fun; we shared our creative moments at a potluck celebration on July 23. The food was amazing but the fellowship was priceless.

Immediately following the event, we went into a brainstorming session for Paddle 2. We love doing things – the Outrigger Way – through our Ke ‘Ano Wa’a Paddles process.

**Celebrating the 6 Paddles Process**

Alvina Leon, Pam Milligan, Les La’a and So'o Tana
Celebrating the 6 Paddles Process

Marilou Casilla, Mary Rose Tabin, Ho Soon Kang and Hak Soon Song

Heró Fernandez and Antonio Salvador

Ho Soon Kang, Agatha Kim and QiQi Tong

Sui-Lan Fong, Jun Ling Lu and Lai Chee Lum

So'o Tana, Kaipo Ho, Primie Marzan, Nora Weatherwax and Divina Garcia

Yeu Shiu, Ai Jin Li and Yuan Ni Lei Lin
What better way to share our many cultures in Hawai‘i with our visiting guests than to have employees of the Outrigger Reef on the Beach do so themselves. We spent the day sharing crafts and cultural delicacies and concluded with a fabulous Fashion and Talent Show Wednesday, July 17.

A new feature we call “Exhibit at the Reef” was unveiled featuring keepsakes and heirlooms of our employees and their cultures. The exhibit is on display in the E Ola Kawaiulii Library until the end of the year. We invite everyone to come by and learn more about our ‘ohana.

Many hands working together made this event a fun, educational and fulfilling experience said Mandy Cruz and Janice Shizumura, MCs and Lūna (leaders) for Paddles 1 and 2 of our Ke ‘Ano Wa’a process. We were pleased to welcome our guests to this event and share Who We Are and Where We Come From!
CHEF GUIDO ULMANN: Of Swiss descent, Chef Guido remembers the day he left Switzerland for America. He was presented this Swiss watch by his father who had it while serving in World War II. The Edelweiss flower, also on display, is a national symbol of Switzerland.

STANLEY LOUIS–CHARLES: Of Haitian descent, Stanley remembers this style of shirt called Guayabel. Men would wear them for special occasions and families would wear the same design and color. It was common to send a Guayabel to someone leaving Haiti overseas.

TERESA SHEPHERD: Teresa’s parents immigrated to Hawaii from the Philippines. Her dad arrived on the SS Maunawili in 1946 as a sakada or contract laborer for the Waialua Sugar Co. Her mom (as taught by her mother and her grandmother) wove multi-colored material on a bamboo loom and hand-stitched the cloth to create linen and blankets for her new home in America.

MONICA WONG: Of Chinese descent, Monica shares this rare and aged Chinese Mahjong set. The case is made of mahogany wood and the tiles of ivory. Monica learned how to play at a very young age by watching her elders. It is said that a Chinese philosopher developed the game back in 500 BC.

TINO GERONIMO: Of Tahitian descent, Tino’s roots takes us to Tautira, Tahiti, where canoe paddling is a traditional sporting event. Competition between canoe clubs and districts is fierce. This paddle is from the Maire Nui Canoe Club, given to Tino’s family by his uncles Po’ira and He’ere who were on the winning canoe club that raced in the Moloka’i to O’ahu race in 1976.

KAY AN: Of Korean descent, Kay is reminded of her hometown in Busan City, South Korea, with this figurine of the boy & girl sitting behind 4 Onggi pots. For hundreds of years, these pots were used for storing and fermenting food and is still commonly found throughout Korea. The origin of Onggi dates back to 4000 B.C.

MYRA KUBOYAMA: Of Japanese descent, Myra shares a tradition that starts at the birth of one’s child. This Okinawan doll was given to Myra’s daughter Kari by her aunts. It is also common that a child would receive a doll from other close relatives on Girls or Boys Day and weddings.
LUANA MAITLAND: Of Hawaiian descent, Luana inherited this BAIBALA HEMOLELE – HOLY BIBLE written in Hawaiian, once owned by her great grandmother Alice Piinui Papaia. Over 100 years old, the Bible will be passed on to her son Barry “Kealoha Kupono A Paulele I Ke Akua” (the righteous & trusting love in God). His Hawaiian name was given to him at birth, a verse taken from the Bible, in the Book of Proverbs 22:18-19.

Sharing cultural dishes - Jo-Ann, Leigh, Chef Guido (back), Lorna, Alohalani and Kahoaka

Intern Sohee represents the Japanese culture

Rockin’ the Red!

By Nancy Brunner on behalf of the Executive Office

The Ke ‘Ano Wa’a value for August is Aloha. Aloha is expressed by treating each other as we want to be treated - with love, compassion and dignity.

August 1996 was my first journey to O‘ahu. Leaving Florida and arriving in Honolulu thirteen hours later, I was anxious to deplane and filled with anticipation and excitement.

My husband Keith and I felt Aloha when we entered the airport terminal. Greeted by two representatives from a local tourist company holding a sign saying “Congratulations on your wedding, Keith and Nancy,” we were literally showered with lei and hugs. I can still remember that welcome – that love.

Our experience throughout our honeymoon at the Outrigger Reef Hotel was overflowing with Aloha. It is this feeling that brought us back every year until we finally moved to O‘ahu in October of 2007.

As a “former tourist,” I can say with confidence that it is the Aloha that brings our guests here time and again.

Now that I work for Outrigger, I continue to feel the spirit of Aloha shared in the compassion and companionship of co-workers through the love and care they show for one another and for this beautiful Island.

As corporate receptionist, I now have the privilege of sharing that love, compassion and dignity with our visitors, guests and employees.

So as we celebrate Aloha this month, let’s be mindful of how we might better share Aloha with those around us – family, friends, coworkers, guests, the stranger on the street. As the song says, “Love makes the world go round,” and so it is with Aloha.

Show your solidarity for the value of Aloha by wearing red each Friday during the month of August. Rock the red, Outrigger!
Saturday, July 20, Outrigger ‘ohana Waikīkī wide volunteered to work at a fundraiser car wash at Wai‘alae Chevron gas station to benefit various local charities through the Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association’s Visitor Industry Charity Walk.

Enthusiastically armed with hoses, scrubbers, sponges, squeegees and towels, volunteers “kept those rags and machines hummin’” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with “cars that never seemed to stop coming.”

With 150 happy customers and clean vehicles driving off the lot, we raised much needed money for Hawai‘i charities! This was in addition to the monies raised at this past May’s Charity Walk; another record-breaking walk with $1.67 million contributed and 14,736 walkers on O‘ahu, Maui, Hawai‘i island, Kaua‘i, Lāna‘i and Moloka‘i participating. Since its inception in 1978, the Charity Walk has brought in more than $26.3 million for local charities.

Mahalo to the following who donated much-needed supplies – food, water and other donations: Barbara Campbell, Blane Yokota, Bob Yeoman, Charlene Goo, Danette Bolosan, Elizabeth Cambra, Jamie Wong, Jerry Dolak, Kaipo Ho, Lorry Ijima-Sato, Milton Lafitaga, Monica Kauhane, Nancy Brunner, Napua Ho, OHANA Waikiki East, OHANA Waikiki Malia, Sandy Kaleohano, So‘o Tana and Wil Bethel. Your support is very much appreciated.

And to the “muscle” of the car wash: all the other dedicated and hard-working volunteers who provided the labor and the laughs and made this event a huge success: Aitogi Totemese, Alvina Leon, Amante Castro, Ashley Cabradilla, Barry Wallace, Ben Starbuck, Brian Takenaka, Bruce Schneider, Carnita Encomienda, Charlene Goo, Chuck Shishido, Cindy Quaine, Cynthia Feng, Danny Wang, Dean Nakasone, Denise Torres, Emily Sato, Ethan Chang, Grace Mello, Helina Wong, Herman Lam, Ivy Kwok, Jacky Zheng, Jerry Dolak, Jessica Thomas, Jojo Yonamine, Joel Ono, Julie Dueno, Junior Tateyama, Karen Villarmia, Kathy Foley, Kimo Miguel, Kyle Richards, Les La’a, Lianne Bryant, Lori Ishiyama, Lorry Ijima-Sato, Manny Nichols, Marilyn Castillo, Marsha Kapu, Michael Feng, Milton Lafitaga, Nancy Brunner, Nancy Daniels, Nora Weatherwax, Peter Nonales, Pono Umuiwi, Reggie Molina, Robert McConnell, Ruthann Yamanaka, Sandy Tran, Sean Ling, Shae Gallardo, Shawn Usami, So‘o Tana, Suzanne Lee, Tante Pascual, Teresa Shepherd, Terri Escritor, Val Tanaka, Wil Bethel and Yuet Oy Au. We couldn’t have done it without all of you!

“Talkin’ about the car wash, girl” – that would be coordinator extraordinaire Danette Bolosan who pulled off yet another successful Outrigger effort! Mahalo to Danette and to all those who worked it The Outrigger Way!
Successful Fiji Famil!
By Talei Tora

Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji hosted another successful US media familiarisation (famil) showcasing why the 5-star resort is one of the premier properties in Fiji.

Four US journalists were invited by Fiji Airways in its bid to promote Fiji as a holiday destination in North America. The journalists from the Huffington Post, Fodor’s, Premier Traveler and Travelmindset.com spent a week visiting resorts and sights in Fiji on the promotional tour.

Their last stop was the Outrigger Fiji where they were treated to an array of restaurants, spa and activities.

One of the organised activities was to attend a Sunday morning church service at Korotogo Village to allow the journalists to experience the beautiful choral singing Fijians are renowned for as well as life in a Fijian village. Janet Forman of Premier Traveler said the interaction with the children during the church service and the beautiful singing was worth the trip to Fiji and it was an experience that she will remember for the rest of her life.

Outrigger on the Lagoon - Fiji General Manager Peter Hopgood said the resort always looks forward to the media famils as it gives the resort an opportunity to highlight its property as well as contribute to the efforts to increase Fiji’s visitor arrivals from North America. “Media famils offer our resorts a great opportunity to showcase what we do best here in Fiji but most importantly it affords us a fantastic chance to showcase Fiji as a destination. As Fiji Airways industry partners, we just add the icing to the experience that Fiji Airways creates for us the minute our guests step onto an A330.”

Wedding Couple Give to Village School
By Talei Tora

Wedding couple Samantha Brighton and Daniel Saunders of Perth, Australia, spent the day before their nuptials creating a bond and friendship with the children of Balenabelo primary school.

Samantha and Daniel had decided to give their wedding guests a memory of a lifetime by taking them to a village school to donate sporting equipment and stationery.

“In Perth I’m a teacher and our students get quite a lot of resources and we spend a lot of money for their resources and we’re getting married tomorrow (Thursday 11th July) and we thought it would be nice to take our guests out to have a bit more of a real experience and to see a little bit of what life is like in a Fijian village,” said Samantha. “None of us have been to Fiji before so it was an experience for all of us. We thought it would be nice to take some gifts to show our appreciation and it was very enjoyable,” she added.

The groom to be said it was a fantastic experience and opened their eyes to schooling in other countries. “The kids were beautiful and welcoming and really you could see how important they felt education is here and it was an amazing experience,” Daniel stated. “As well as the school visit we visited the local village and we were welcomed with a kava ceremony and that was a really fantastic once-in-a-lifetime trip that I will never forget,” he continued. “We felt like we didn’t just want to spend our time in the more touristy areas, we wanted to give something back to the people that don’t necessarily reap the benefits of tourists coming to their country, especially the kids, and we are very happy that we did,” Daniel added.

The couple, who wed at the Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji, asked the resort to help them identify a village to donate their gifts. Activities Manager Kini Sarai organized and escorted the group to visit Balenabelo Village. “We are very appreciative of our guests who donate gifts to our village schools. These gifts go a very long way in the education and well being of our children and the Outrigger on the Lagoon - Fiji is very proud to help facilitate this assistance to our local schools,” Kini shared.
Godzilla << From 1

up the filming of a massive remake of the classic motion picture “Godzilla.”

The action required the complete shutdown of Lewers Street at Waikiki Beach Walk – something that’s never been done before “Godzilla” stomped into town. Cut to around 300 extras, 200 crew members and 40 stunt people running away from a tsunami that devastates Waikiki in one of the film’s pivotal scenes.

Hawaii’s natural beauty has lured filmmakers for decades, bringing thousands of jobs to our islands and significantly boosting the economy. The film industry generated nearly $250 million for Hawaii in 2012 alone, according to the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). DBEDT also reports that the film industry has created more than 2,500 full-time jobs annually between 2007 and 2012. When “Godzilla” hits the big screen, the spotlight will shine brightly on Hawaii, reminding millions of moviegoers of the beauty of our islands. We hope it will attract not only more visitors, but new film productions as well.

“We are thrilled to have Waikiki be a part of the history of this cinematic icon, which has such a broad appeal across generations,” said Walea Constantinau, Honolulu film commissioner. “The filming activity was a huge success in large part because of the kōkua and great support of the businesses and the community in the area.”

Hawaii State Film Commissioner Donne Dawson agrees: “The production was incredible to work with, true professionals who understood what was necessary to make it work. The state is grateful to Outrigger and all the businesses in Waikiki who helped make it happen.”

When the iconic film is released in May, added Constantinau, “Waikiki will become part of science-fiction history.”

Some were understandably skeptical about the temporary closure of Lewers Street and the impact it would have on Waikiki Beach Walk tenants – the evening hours are the busiest, with up to 80 percent of daily sales taking place from 5 to 10 p.m. Still, Waikiki Beach Walk management and most tenants were enthusiastic about what the production would mean for business and fully supported the shoot, recognizing that the film would generate tremendous exposure for Waikiki.

“As a locally owned business with three stores at Waikiki Beach Walk, we were delighted to participate in last week’s filming of “Godzilla,”” said Roger Wall, vice chairman of the Sullivan Family of Companies. “Not only did the film offer a great opportunity to showcase the beautiful Waikiki Beach Walk complex and its retail tenants, it generated global awareness for Hawaii and Waikiki that is sure to benefit our community for years to come.”

Something else that might become part of Waikiki Beach Walk history was the midnight lunch. Yes, you read that correctly. The Godzilla film crew scheduled its 12 a.m. lunch hour at Roy’s, Cheeseburgers Waikiki Beach Walk and Ruth’s Chris.

Ruth’s Chris general manager Jon Kobashigawa reported, “Serving 147 steaks all at once at midnight was a first for Ruth’s Chris and it made for an interesting night. The production company was very easy to work with, and we were thrilled to be part of a very exciting night.”

“The crew of 250 had one hour for lunch and we set up five buffet lines and had everyone in and out in an hour,” said Robert Kaskie, Cheeseburgers executive vice president. “Everything went smoothly, and the staff had a great time. We’d love to do it again.”

“Roy’s was thrilled to host 180 crew members and VIPs for the midnight lunch,” said Rainer Kumbroch, president of Roy’s Restaurants Hawaii. “We’ll work with them again anytime. We showed the entertainment world that we can pull off a major film production.”

The production turned out to be an exciting community event as employees, managers and business owners watched the action unfold on Lewers Street.

A special mahalo to Bruce Musrasrik who was instrumental in working with Michael Louis and the film’s entire electrical and lighting team. Also, mahalo to Neil Murakami, Robert Ishihara and the staff at Embassy Suites - Waikiki Beach Walk and Wyndham who were incredibly accommodating.

We’d also like to say mahalo to Conchita Malaqui, general manager of Waikiki Beach Walk, for seizing the opportunity when Warner Bros. knocked on her door, and for the countless hours she spent to ensure that the production went smoothly.

We are honored to have assisted in the production of this phenomenal project, and thrilled with all the excitement it generated. We extend a “Godzilla”-sized mahalo to all the tenants of Waikiki Beach Walk for graciously accommodating the production schedule and for allowing their shops and restaurants to serve as a stage for this major motion picture.

It was the collective “can do” attitude that really made all the difference for this exciting experience. We welcome the opportunity to host another film shoot at Waikiki Beach Walk.