Outrigger Honored by  
Waikiki Community Center  
By David Carey & Richard Kelley

A week ago Friday, it was a gala evening at the Coral Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, as the Waikiki Community Center presented Outrigger Enterprises with its prestigious Kahiau Award. There were lei, Hawaiian singers and dancers, good food, and lots of warm greetings among friends and community leaders. Joining Outrigger as a Kahiau honoree was Hawai‘i’s beloved songstress, Aunty Genoa Keawe.

TV personalities Kirk Matthews and Linda Coble acted as master and mistress of ceremonies. Na Hoku Hanohano winner and past Kahiau awardee, Amy Hanaiali‘i Gilliom, sang in her distinctively powerful style. Aunty Genoa, radiating energy even at 88, got into the spirit of things by coming onstage to sing and play the ‘ukulele, while a couple of her friends showed the audience that age does not matter and that kupuna (elders) can do a great hula too!

The Kahiau Awards are presented each year to one individual and one corporation who have made significant contributions to the visitor industry and the community in Waikiki. Kahiau is a Hawaiian word meaning “to give of oneself selflessly without expecting anything in return.”

Prior to our being called onstage to accept the award, a special video was shown that highlighted Outrigger’s history and growth through the years. It also showcased our commitment to ho‘okipa (hospitality) and the traditional Hawaiian values we have incorporated into every aspect of our company. The video included photos of our employees interacting with guests and working to better our community through volunteer activities like cleaning up Diamond Head and local beaches, building a float for the Aloha Festivals Royal Court, and making small repairs and helping maintain the grounds at Kapiolani Park.

We’ve come a long way since our founders Roy and Estelle Kelley opened their first hotel in Waikiki nearly 60 years ago. In just a few months, we’ll be opening the first phase of Waikiki Beach Walk™, the largest single redevelopment in the history of Waikiki. When done, Waikiki Beach Walk will transform the heart of Waikiki into a premier leisure destination, featuring name-brand accommodations, shops, restaurants, and an entertainment center—all in a Hawaiian-style, pedestrian-friendly setting.

Even though our company has grown and expanded across the Pacific, we remain committed to Waikiki. Our roots are here. And we want to do everything we can to ensure that Waikiki remains a very special destination for visitors and a source of pride for local residents. Just as the company has done successfully in Waikiki for six decades, Waikiki Beach Walk will continue to set the standard for excellence in the world’s favorite vacation destination.

But we are not alone in our desire to see that Waikiki is both a world-class destination and a vibrant community where people live, work, and play. The Waikiki Community Center does a tremendous job of enriching and improving the lives of the people who live and work in Waikiki. From its senior programs to childcare, from its emergency food pantry to its thrift shop, the Waikiki Community Center makes a real, measurable difference in the quality of people’s lives. Thanks to the Waikiki Community Center, the community that Outrigger calls home is stronger and healthier. It is very gratifying to partner with the Waikiki Community Center and to help in its vital work.

We are very proud to have been honored with this year’s Kahiau Award because it recognizes the continual effort, and hard work that each member of the Outrigger ‘ohana puts forth each and every day. Mahalo for your dedication and efforts on behalf of our company and our wonderful community.