Last Thursday, David Carey, Outrigger president and CEO, was honored with the first-ever Pineapple Award for Leadership in Hospitality Management, one of several categories in a new Pacific Business News awards program recognizing business excellence and community contributions in Hawai‘i’s visitor industry.

The award presentation cited David’s leadership in Outrigger’s growth from a collection of hotels on O‘ahu to a global hospitality company with nine world-class beachfront resorts reaching across Southeast Asia, the southern and western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Hawaiian Islands. David set the goal of becoming “the world’s premier beachfront hospitality brand” and is leading the team that is working to make it a reality.

The conversion of a collection of aging hotels on Lewers Street into the widely acclaimed Waikiki Beach Walk® is another tribute to David’s leadership. Highly successful not only from a financial standpoint, the destination beautifully showcases the look and feel of Hawai‘i.

Years back, in collaboration with former COO Perry Sorenson, David also undertook an initiative to create a unique form of hospitality combining Outrigger’s corporate culture with local values wherever we do business. With guidance from the late Hawaiian scholar George Kanahele, Ke ‘Ano Wa‘a — “The Outrigger Way” — was crafted. It connects the three pillars of the hospitality industry: employees, guests and destination. Outrigger’s distinctive values, blended into a series of local cultures, have set us apart and made us an industry leader.

The Pineapple Award also recognizes contributions to Hawai‘i’s community. In his “spare time,” David has been a tireless driver of programs that make Hawai‘i a vibrant community and a better place to live. His efforts include strengthening our public and private schools and assisting military personnel at all levels through his work with the Military Affairs Council of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i.

David has seen just about everything since that first day at Outrigger when Richard “Doc” Kelley assigned him to work the front desk at the OHANA Waikiki East on Kūhiō Avenue. Through it all he has risen to become a highly respected hospitality leader, not only here in Hawai‘i but worldwide.

Congratulations, David, on this great honor. ☺

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

David Carey honored with Pineapple Award

By Dr. Chuck Kelley

David Carey is recognized with the Leadership in Hospitality Management award
The Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort was selected as a Large Hotel of the Year finalist in the Pacific Business News Pineapple Awards. Clyde Min (far right) accepted the presentation on behalf of the many Outrigger hosts responsible for the Reef's success.

David Carey, Dr. Chuck Kelley and John Morgan

Ed Case, Dr. Chuck Kelley, Bitsy Kelley and David Carey

David Carey; Kelly Sanders, GM Sheraton Waikiki; Chip Bahouth, GM Sheraton Kauai Resort; Angela Nolan, area managing director, Vistana Signature Experiences; representative from Marriott Hawaii Resorts and Elliot Mills, vice president of hotel operations, Aulani, a Disney Resort and Spa

The Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort chosen as finalist