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Statement by George D. Szigeti, President and CEO, Hawai'i Tourism Authority

RE: Hawai'i Celebrates the 'Eddie'

HONOLULU – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement commenting on The Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau big wave event held today at Waimea Bay on O'ahu's North Shore.

"Today, the 'Eddie' celebrated the ultimate stoke of surfing and its greatness to Hawai'i's legacy. The whole world saw the world's most prestigious surfing event at the world's premier surfing mecca on O'ahu's magnificent North Shore.

"Mahalo Quiksilver for staging the 'Eddie' and to the organizers, lifeguards and volunteers for making this a safe and glorious event. Congratulations to Hawai'i's John John Florence and all the surfers who competed –you are the envy of surfers worldwide!

"Most importantly, the 'Eddie' perpetuates the memory and honor of the legendary Eddie Aikau and all that he meant to surfing and the renaissance of Hawaiian culture. His life-saving skills, bravery and gift for riding the biggest waves on the North Shore will never be forgotten."

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