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President and Chief Executive Officer

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

### **RE: Hawai'i Open Bringing World-Class Women's Tennis to O'ahu**

**HONOLULU** – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement regarding today's news that the Hawai'i Open, a Women's Tennis Association tournament, will be held November 20-27, 2016, at the Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park.

"HTA is proud to serve as presenting sponsor of the Hawai'i Open and bring this world-class women's tennis tournament to O'ahu. This will be the most significant tennis tournament Hawai'i has held in decades, featuring 32 world-ranked players. It will be a great opportunity for residents and visitors to see up-close top-flight players from around the world in competition.

"The Hawai'i Open will generate incredible global exposure for Hawai'i, both as a tennis venue and as a destination, as the tournament will be viewed by tens of millions of tennis fans worldwide via live streaming and television.

"It's absolutely fitting the Hawai'i Open is being held at a venue named in honor of Patsy T. Mink, whose enduring legacy is being a champion of equal opportunity for women in sports."

#### **About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawai'i, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure the sustainability of tourism's success.

For more information about HTA, please visit [www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org](http://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org). Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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