



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourism authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

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

RE: Hawai'i Hosting First-Ever WTA Tennis Tournament, November 20-27

HONOLULU – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement regarding the Hawai'i Open, the first-ever Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournament held in the Hawaiian Islands. Featuring 32 top-ranked WTA players and rising stars, the Hawai'i Open is being played at the Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park, November 20-27.

“Starting this Sunday, a new chapter for women's sports in Hawai'i will be written with the start of the Hawai'i Open, the first WTA tennis tournament to be played in the Hawaiian Islands. The WTA has a strong, loyal fan following worldwide meaning the Hawai'i Open will generate excellent international exposure for our State as both a travel destination and venue to host top-quality tennis.

“HTA is proud to serve as presenting sponsor of the Hawai'i Open and support bringing world-class women's tennis to our State. Tournament organizers want to make the Hawai'i Open an annual event, so it's important for our community leaders and tennis fans to support this tournament and show their aloha to the players coming here from around the world to compete in this first-class setting.

“Hawai'i is quickly earning an enviable reputation for hosting world-class women's professional tennis. The warm and enthusiastic response the players received at the 2016 Fed Cup match last February in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawai'i led to the Hawai'i Open being introduced on O'ahu and the 2017 Fed Cup being played in Lahaina, Maui, next February.”

For information and to purchase tickets for the Hawai'i Open, visit <https://hawaii tennis open.com>.

About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://hawaii tourism authority.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.hawaii tourism authority.org. Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

Media Contacts:

Charlene Chan

Director of Communications
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
808-973-2272 (o)
808-781-7733 (m)
Charlene@gohta.net

Patrick Dugan

Senior Vice President
Anthology Marketing Group
808-539-3411 (o)
808-741-2712 (m)
Patrick.Dugan@AnthologyGroup.com