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Aloha from the Office of Governor Linda Lingle!

NASA and State Sign Agreement to Collaborate on Future Space Exploration

The State of Hawaii has formed a partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to explore opportunities for future collaborations in commercial space initiatives and innovative programs supporting research, education and workforce development in aerospace fields. This is the first such agreement signed between NASA and a state government.

"We are excited to partner with NASA to collaborate on future space exploration," said Governor Lingle, who signed the agreement with Dr. S. Peter Worden, director of NASA Ames Research Center.

Dr. Worden emphasized the significance of Hawaii's location at the crossroads of the Pacific Rim, adding, "I am really convinced that Hawaii is the next Silicon Valley, and part of that reason is that space is truly international today."

Paiolu Kaiaulu Shelter Provides Hope for Homeless Families in Waianae

Homeless families on the Leeward Coast are finding hope in the recently opened Paiolu Kaiaulu shelter in Waianae. When fully occupied, it will serve nearly 300 people.

Working with communities throughout the state, the Lingle-Aiona Administration has opened emergency and transitional shelters like Paiolu Kaiaulu, where the homeless are receiving services to become self-sufficient.

But shelters alone will not solve the homeless problem. The Lingle-Aiona Administration is also proposing to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in increasing affordable housing and enhancing homeless services.

Total Visitor Expenditures Reach \$1 Billion in January 2007 but Fell Short of Record High Set Last Year

Daily Spending Per Visitor Increased 4.8%

Total visitor expenditures in January reached \$1 billion, a decrease of 1.4% from last year. Average daily spending rose to \$177 per person compared to \$169 per person in January 2006. Ranked first in total spending for January 2007 was U.S. West visitors (+3.7%) at \$345.2 million, followed by visitors from the U.S. East (-9.3%) at \$336.7 million, Japan (-1.2%) at \$172.6 million, and Canada (+22.7%) visitors at \$69.9 million.

Total arrivals declined 5.7 percent to 561,691 visitors. Among the top four visitor markets, visitors from the U.S. West (+1.4%) and Canada (+4.5%) increased but arrivals from the U.S. East (-9%) and Japan (-12.3%) were lower than in January 2006. The overall decline in arrivals resulted in a 6 percent decrease in visitor days. Visitor arrivals were higher on Lanai (+7.5%), Kauai (+8.2%) and the Big Island (+1.5%) compared to January 2006.

Visitor spending on Oahu totaled \$441.1 million (-5.2%), followed by Maui at \$300.1 million (-1.3%), the Big Island at \$150.8 million (+6.4%) and Kauai at \$109.8 million (+1.3%).

Of the total number of visitors who came in January 2007, 45,024 visitors either flew to the state to board cruise ships or came by cruise ships visiting Hawaii, a 19.1 percent increase from last January. Cruise visitor days for the month rose 24.6 percent.

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