

AJA BENCHMARK

A Publication of the American Judges Association • Vol. 31, No. 1 • Spring 2008

Maui to Welcome AJA this Fall

Judge James McKay

As most of you know, the 2008 annual conference is in Hawaii. For those of you who have never been, it is certainly something spectacular. The 50th state should be on your list of things to do before you cross over (“bucket list”). What better time to accomplish this than with the American Judges Association at our annual conference at the Westin Maui, September 7-12, 2008. This is especially true when one considers that we have a room rate of \$200 per night, whereas the Westin Maui’s regular room rate can go over \$500 per night.

Maui is the second largest island in the Hawaiian chain. Once you arrive you will quickly understand why it is called “The Magic Isle.” Its population of 140,000 makes it the smallest populated island for its size in the chain.

Polynesians from Tahiti and the Marquesas were the original people to populate Maui. In 1790 King Kamehameha I conquered Maui and made Lahaina its capitol. For the next 100 years, Lahaina served as the center of government for all Hawaii.

In 1893 Queen Liliuokalani’s monarchy was overthrown and the Republic of Hawaii was founded. In 1898 the United States annexed the Hawaiian chain, and it was made a territory in 1900. In 1959, Hawaii became our 50th state.

The two major industries on Maui are agriculture and tourism. As one would expect in paradise, the average yearly temperature ranges between 75 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit, and it rains only occasionally late at night or early in the morning.

AJA has many interesting and useful educational sessions planned, but also has allowed for enough free time to do all the exploring that you desire.

There is much to see in Maui, and if you care to see more than the surrounding hotels, you should rent a car. The easiest way to rent one (and cheapest) would, of course, be at the airport, but if you do not want it for the whole time, you can make arrangements with your hotel to have one available for the times you wish.

If you are in a car, there are a few “must do” activities. Of course, there is the famous “Road to



The Westin Maui

Hana,” which winds through the mist with views of the sea, the mountains, and many waterfalls. It is about a three-hour drive one way. At the end of your journey, another “must do” are the “Seven Sacred Pools” in Haleakala National Park, which I think most would agree is well worth the ride. Obviously, this outing will take most of the day.

For the more typical tourist venue you can visit Lahaina, with its numerous shops, restaurants, and boat harbor and one of the best luaus on the island. You can see some of the world-class wind surfers at Hookipa Beach, located along the way.

The most-asked question for those visiting Hawaii is what to wear. Because of its mild climate, the answer is always “travel light.” The normal dress code from breakfast to formal affairs is “casual.” Shorts and comfortable Hawaiian-type shirts are seen most. If you travel to Hana or up to the volcano you might want to bring a light jacket or windbreaker, as it can cool down at the higher elevations.

Remember you’re still in the United States, so a passport is not needed, just a picture ID, preferably a U.S. driver’s license. You will want to bring your passport if you’re traveling before or after the conference.

I promise that your experience in Maui will be unique and unforgettable, and I’m sure on your return flight the major topic of discussion will be your return visit. **bm**