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The Kauai Marathon Jeff Sacchini's Vision Evolves Into A World-Class Event

The Kauai Marathon's race founder, Jeff Sacchini, long had a vision of bringing an elite marathon to Kauai. He knew that with great leadership and Kauai's generous support, the island's aloha spirit would be shared with visitors from around the world while enhancing the local economy.

After extensive research on marathon courses, Sacchini finalized the Kauai racecourse to run throughout Poipu, Omao and Kalaheo. Fortunately, the full and half marathon courses share the same finish line at the Sheraton Kauai Resort. Sacchini then selected Kalaheo resident Bob Craver as race director. Craver worked with the Maui Marathon for 12 years and had the experience, tenacity, and connections to help bring Sacchini's vision to a reality.

The inaugural event did not disappoint as it hosted over 1,700 runners from Hawaii, 40 mainland states, and 9 countries. According to county statistics, the race brought in over \$2.75 million dollars to Kauai's economy through hotel stays, car rentals, activities, and restaurants. Additionally, several of Kauai's charities and non-profits benefited from the event including Kauai High School, Kapaa High School's Project Grad, and The Kauai Independent Food Bank.

The second annual Kauai Marathon was just as successful in terms of numbers and economic impact. But it was the elite runners' stories from last year that received national media attention when Michael Wardian missed the \$15,000 speed challenge by 52 seconds, and two Kenyan racers had to be pulled from the course due to dehydration and heat exhaustion. The Kauai Marathon became the race to enter for 2011.

The third annual Kauai Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, September 4th. The registration numbers are on pace to exceed the number of runners from last year. Additionally, several well-known runners have confirmed their participation including 2010 winner Michael Wardian, inaugural winner JT Service, and several elite runners from around the world.

The 2011 event offers the full and half marathon, as well as a new 4-person relay team option. The relay exchange points are as follows: Leg 1: Start to Omao Road and Highway 50 (8.6 miles). Leg 2: Omao Road and Highway 50 to Lawai Cannery (5.1 miles). Leg 3: Lawai Cannery through the Kalaheo loop back to Lawai Cannery (7.4 miles). Leg 4: Lawai Cannery to Finish (5.1 miles).

The half, full, and relay marathon courses begin in Poipu and run the first 11 miles together. The courses travel up through the 100 year old Tree Tunnel, which offers spectacular views of Kauai's breathtaking mountains. After runners make their way down Highway 50 and Omao Road, the half marathon course enters Kukui'ula Resort where spectacular ocean views highlight the last few miles. The full marathon heads out to the neighborhoods of Lawai and Kalaheo before heading down a gradual decent back into Poipu.

Upon completion of the event, all finishers are greeted with lei and a commemorative medallion. They also have the opportunity to receive a healing massage by one of the event's outstanding massage therapists. From 8:00 am to 1:30 pm The Kauai Marathon and Sheraton Resort host a party and awards ceremony. Live local entertainment, ice-cold beer, and plenty of food are provided for the runners. Kalapaki Joe's in Poipu hosts the after-party.

To register for this world-class event, please visit www.thekauaimarathon.com.

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