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**Leanne Kamekona, Executive Chef
Sheraton Kauai Resort – opens Lavas on Poipu Beach and prepares for
RUM FIRE at the newest Playground on Poipu Beach**

HAWAII, KAUAI, POIPU BEACH – August 2011 – The Sheraton Kauai Resort, a collection of Starwood Hotels and Resorts introduces Leanne Kamekona Executive Chef and the opening of Lavas Poolside Grill and Bar, and shortly following RUM FIRE at the Sheraton Kauai Resort in Kauai, Hawaii. Leanne leads the property's 45 person kitchen staff and oversees the property's two newest dining venues on Kauai – RUM FIRE restaurant and lavas poolside restaurant and bar.

Kamekona joined Sheraton Kauai Resort in 2011, she brought with her 20 years of experience cultivated in some of the top resort kitchens in California and Hawaii, including more than 10 years with other properties under KSL Resorts management.

Most recently, Kamekona served four years as executive chef of Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage, California. Before that, she spent five years as

Executive chef for her second tenure at The La Quinta Resort & Club in La Quinta, California. Leanne returned home to Hawaii two years earlier as executive sous chef of the Grand Wailea Resort & Spa.

A native of Hawaii's Big Island, Kamekona is an American Chef's Association certified executive chef and a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Executive Chef Leanne Kamekona has instinctive culinary talents and brings with her a humor and personality to the team that is extraordinary and contagious. Devoted to the creation of distinct flavor and innovative trends Leanne focuses on her Asian-Hawaiian ethnicity and brings it to life in her worldly cooking creations. Kamekona has enjoyed many culinary achievements such as; Top 12 Recipe chosen by the Alizes Culinary Mentorship competition for professional chefs in 2001, Best of Show & People's Choice Awards at California Date Chef Competition in 2005 and has also cooked at the James Beard House in New York in 2004.

About The Sheraton Kauai Resort. *The Sheraton Kauai Resort is the South Shore's iconic gem. Spanning over 20 acres and offering 394 rooms, including 8 suites that span across the pristine shores of Poipu Beach – a true oasis for those who embrace sun and waves – ocean front pools, and tropical gardens flowing with winding waterways and romantic bridges that create a sense of serenity. Fusing in Sheraton Kauai Resorts fresh revitalizations and introducing the trendy Rum Fire Restaurant and lavas at Poipu Beach, Pool Side Restaurant and bar -The Sheraton Kauai Resort is the ultimate gathering place. Within walking distance are championship golf courses and two shopping centers. Where hospitality and vacation was born and providing it's genuine aloha service, the resort prides itself on being "The playground of Poipu Beach™." Visit www.sheratonkauai.com*

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