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## **CLIFFORD NAE'OLE HONORED WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT**

KAPALUA, MAUI, HI – May 24, 2021 – On Friday, May 21, Clifford Nae'ole, community advocate and Hawaiian cultural advisor for The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua was recognized with a Historic Preservation Award from the Historic Hawai'i Foundation during its 47<sup>th</sup> annual Preservation Honor Awards.

The awards recognize and celebrate excellence in historic preservation in the Hawaiian Islands, and Nae'ole's individual award honors his exemplary achievements in advocacy, education, programming, and preservation efforts.

"Clifford is an integral part of our mission to support Native Hawaiian culture and history," says Andrew Rogers, general manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. "We are delighted that he has received this prestigious honor and we are lucky to count him as our cultural advisor, friend and colleague."

During the awards ceremony, Nae'ole thanked his friends, family, and colleagues who gathered for a virtual watch party at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. "I am happy to accept this on behalf of everyone involved with the protection and preservation of Honokahua past and present," he said. "This is *our* award."

As Hawaiian cultural advisor for The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Nae'ole has educated and advised thousands of employees, guests, and visitors for nearly 30 years. He is a pioneer in the development of educational programs for the visitor industry, hotel employees and guests on proper Hawaiian protocol, cultural traditions, and *mo'olelo* (storytelling).

Born and raised on Maui, Nae'ole is dedicated to creating bridges between the Hawaiian culture and the contemporary business world. He was part of the initial planning and serves as chairman of Celebration of the Arts, the annual festival recognizing the people, the art, and the culture of the Hawaiian Islands. A student of Hawaiian chant and hula, he is an active supporter of Maui's Hawaiian language immersion schools.

He is highly respected for his knowledge of Hawaiian culture, language, and history, and as an advocate for the preservation of burial sites and other sacred places. In the late 1980s, Nae'ole played an instrumental role in the preservation of an unmarked burial site at Honokahua. Now, the burial site is protected as a *wahi kapu* (sacred place) and listed on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places.

While Nae‘ole has been the dedicated steward of Honokahua for nearly 30 years at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, he believes that it’s everyone – past, present and future – that needs to learn about this sacred place and honor it now and forever.

Nae‘ole and The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua offer a weekly “Sense of Place” video, discussion and walk to the border of the Honokahua Preservation Site, which is open to the public as well as guests and visitors.

To see the full list of 2021 Preservation Honor Award recipients, visit:  
<https://historichawaii.org/awards-2021-2>

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### **ABOUT THE PRESERVATION HONOR AWARDS**

Historic Hawai‘i Foundation’s preservation awards have been presented annually since 1975. They are Hawai‘i’s highest recognition of projects that perpetuate, rehabilitate, restore or interpret the state’s architectural and cultural heritage. The honorees are selected by a committee comprised of professionals in architecture, history, planning, landscape architecture, architectural history and media. Each nomination is considered on its own merits and not in competition with others.

### **ABOUT HISTORIC HAWAI‘I FOUNDATION**

*Helping People Preserve Historic Places.*

HHF is the only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic buildings, sites, communities and objects that tell the unique stories of Hawai‘i’s multi-layered history. Founded in 1974, HHF has become the driving force behind historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, offering educational events and training for local communities and providing technical assistance to make preservation accessible.

### **ABOUT THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL COMPANY, LLC**

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, MD., part of Marriott International, Inc., currently operates more than 100 hotels and over 45 residential properties in 30 countries and territories. The Ritz-Carlton is proud to participate in the industry’s award-winning loyalty program, Marriott Rewards® which includes The Ritz-Carlton Rewards®. Members can now link accounts with Starwood Preferred Guest® at [members.marriott.com](http://members.marriott.com) for instant elite status matching and unlimited points transfer. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com), for the latest company updates, visit [news.ritzcarlton.com](http://news.ritzcarlton.com) and to join the live conversation, use #RCMemories and follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR).

### **ABOUT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KAPALUA**

The AAA Five-Diamond Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua showcases a stunning, destination resort offering 466 newly reimagined guestrooms, including 107 residential suites, with all new décor capturing Kapalua’s rich heritage and natural aloha. The Ritz-Carlton Spa®, Kapalua beckons with treatment rooms framed by private garden showers, volcanic stone grottos, steam, sauna and whirlpool therapies, outdoor couple's hale (cabanas) and a fitness center and movement studio with spectacular ocean views. Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program offers all interest levels an array of outdoor activities from land to sea, led by trained naturalists. The breathtaking island resort also features six dining experiences, enhanced indoor/outdoor meeting space, an inviting children's pool and new, custom luxury cabanas. The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is nestled on 54 acres and enveloped by the 22,000-acre Kapalua Resort, renowned for two championship golf courses, award-winning restaurants and the site of an historic pineapple plantation.