



**PATA – Hawai‘i Chapter &
TTRA – Hawai‘i Chapter
Present**

2026 Annual Outlook & Economic Forecast Forum

**Prince Waikīkī
Pi‘inaio Ballroom**

Friday, February 6, 2026

PROGRAM

- 7:00 am** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 am** **Welcome**
Jennifer Chun, *Director of Tourism Research, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. Chair, PATA Hawai'i; Board PATA International; Treasurer, TTRA Hawai'i; Board, TTRA International*
- 8:00 am** **Session I: Economic Trends & Forecasts**
- **Moderator: Chris Kam**, *President, Omnitrak Group. Board, PATA Hawai'i; Board, TTRA Hawai'i.*
 - **Erik Evjen**, *Executive Vice President, Tourism Economics*
 - **Dr. Seth Colby**, *Acting Director, State of Hawai'i Department of Budget & Finance, State Chief Economist*
 - **Dr. Paul Brewbaker**, *Principal, TZ Economics*
- 9:35 am** **Session II: Lodging and Air Ticket Booking Trends**
- **Moderator: Daniel Nāho'opi'i**, *Lead, Industry Data and Research, Global Tourism & Destination Advisory, JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group. Board, TTRA Hawai'i; Past Chair TTRA International*
 - **Jeffrey Eslinger**, *Senior Director of Market Insights, Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau. Chair, TTRA Hawai'i; Past Chair TTRA International*
 - **Bianca Porto Baga**, *Senior Sales Manager, Destinations, Agencies, Airlines, and Airports, Amadaeus*
- 10:45 am** **Session III: Condo-Hotel Trends**
- **Moderator: Justin Nakaahiki**, *Managing Director, Destination Marketing Hawai'i, Board, PATA Hawai'i*
 - **Matt Bailey**, *President & CEO, Castle Resorts & Hotels*
 - **Carly Clement**, *Vice President, Hawai'i Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER*
- 11:55 am** **Announcements**
- Session IV Luncheon: Airport Modernization Plan Updates**
- **Ford Fuchigami**, *Airports Administrator, State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation*
- 1:00 pm** **Session V: Hawai'i Tourism Authority Updates**
- **Jill Byus Radke**, *Public Affairs Officer, Hawai'i Tourism Authority*
- 1:30 pm** **Session VI: International Market Trends**
- **Moderator: Daniel Nāho'opi'i**, *Lead, Industry Data and Research, Global Tourism & Destination Advisory, JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group. Board, TTRA Hawai'i; Past Chair TTRA International*
 - **Jennifer Chun**, *Director of Tourism Research, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism.*
 - **Akari Goto**, *Director of Sales, Honolulu Branch, Rakuten Travel Hawai'i LLC.*
 - **Kelly Strickland**, *Regional Director of Leisure Sales, Hilton Hawai'i*
- 2:30 pm** **Networking with PATA Hawai'i Student Chapter**
- **Moderator: Dale Carstensen**, *Board, PATA Hawai'i*





Bianca Porto Barga is a senior hospitality and travel-technology professional with more than 23 years of experience working at the intersection of destinations, data, and digital strategy. She is currently a Senior Sales Manager at Amadeus, where she works on market strategies for Destinations, Airlines and Airports, helping partners optimize marketing performance and leverage travel intelligence across the West Coast of the United States and Mexico. Having lived and worked in Brazil, Egypt, and the United States, Bianca brings a truly global perspective to her work, combining cultural insight with a strong analytical mindset. She is deeply passionate about travel and its potential to create meaningful connections, foster cultural understanding, and generate positive economic and social impact for destinations around the world. Throughout her career, she has collaborated closely with DMOs and leading hospitality brands such as Visit California, LA Tourism, Visit Mexico and Accor, developing data-driven and technology-led solutions that enhance visibility, drive demand, and support long-term destination growth in an increasingly competitive global market.



Matt Bailey is President & CEO of Castle Resorts & Hotels. With more than 40 years of hospitality management experience, Matt oversees day-to-day operations and the strategic direction of Castle Resorts & Hotels. Prior to joining the company in 2023, he served as General Manager of the Montage Kapalua Bay. He also previously served as President & Chief Operating Officer COO of Aqua-Aston Hospitality and held executive positions with the Sundance Resort, The Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa, and Carmel Valley Ranch. Matt earned his bachelor's degree in hotel administration from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.



Dr. Paul H. Brewbaker is the Principal of TZ Economics, a consultancy involved in corporate work and litigation support in Hawai'i. His background in research on the Hawai'i economy and financial risk analytics stems from a 25-year affiliation with Bank of Hawaii, concluding as its Chief Economist. He is a graduate of Stanford University, did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, and received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Hawai'i. He has lectured extensively in international, monetary, and financial economics. He is a member of the American Economic Association, the American Finance Association, and the National Association for Business Economics, from which he received the Certified Business Economist designation.



Jennifer Chun is the Director of Tourism Research for the State of Hawai'i Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), leading the Research & Economic Analysis Division's Tourism Research Branch, which provides strategic analytical information about Hawai'i tourism and conducts special research that supports the state's marketing and product development efforts, planning by industry partners, and policy making. The Tourism Research Branch works closely with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Jennifer was named DBEDT Manager of the Year for 2021. She has a masters degree from Cornell University School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration, a bachelors degree from Dartmouth College, and is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools.



Seth Colby is the Acting Director of the Department of Budget & Finance. He previously served as the Chief State Economist, where he oversaw economic and statistical analysis for the state of Hawaii. He also served as Tax Research & Planning Officer for the Hawaii Department of Taxation, overseeing research on the state's revenue system, macroeconomic forecasting, and the fiscal impacts of proposed legislation. Earlier in his career, Seth focused on economic and social development in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, working with the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and Johns Hopkins University. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish and holds a PhD in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University.



Carly Clement is currently Vice President for Hawaii Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER. Joining OUTRIGGER in 2019, Clement served as Resort Manager for OUTRIGGER Reef Waikiki Beach Resort and then General Manager at OUTRIGGER Waikiki Beach Resort. With over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry in Washington, Hawai'i, and California, Clement has held management roles on at the 4-Diamond Resort at Squaw Creek in North Lake Tahoe, 5-Star/5-Diamond Four Seasons Resort Hualalai and the 4-Diamond The Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas. Clement holds leadership roles with several philanthropic and industry organizations in Honolulu, including Young Leader Board member with Make-A-Wish Hawai'i and O'ahu Chapter Chair with Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association.



Jeffrey Eslinger has over 25 years of destination, tourism, and commercial aviation research and marketing experience across numerous destinations, hotel and airline companies on a variety of research, strategy, segmentation, and branding projects. Jeffrey's passion for travel and research has fueled his 25+ year career in market insights and competitive intelligence. He's honed his skills with diverse clients like HTA, Visit Florida, and Marriott, bringing a wealth of brand and customer research expertise from U.S. Airways and luxury marketing experience from Ralph Lauren. Over his 6.5 years at HVCB, his insight has helped to guide the organization through the complexities of the myriad factors impacting the leisure, MCI, and global air service to Hawai'i. Eslinger earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Dayton.



Erik Evjen is the Executive Vice President at Tourism Economics, a global tourism forecasting and quantitative analysis firm. At Tourism Economics, Erik developed and manage SYMPHONY, a customized business intelligence platform designed to help companies quiet the noise of complex data and compose crystal clear intelligence to help guide their sales, marketing, and advocacy strategies. A 20-year tourism industry veteran Erik frequently speaks at industry conferences and stakeholder events, and currently serve on several national tourism related boards and committees, including the Travel & Tourism TRA International Board of Directors.



Ford Fuchigami is the Airports Administrator for the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation. As the Administrator, he is responsible for the overall administration, management, operations, safety and security, and development of all airports within the State of Hawaii. He also provides a relationship with the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, State Legislature, TSA, FAA, USDA, CBP, Airlines Committee of Hawaii and Airlines 4 America as it relates to the State Airport System.



Akari Goto is Director of Sales for the Honolulu Branch at Rakuten Travel Hawaii, LLC. Joined Rakuten Group in 2017. Began career in the travel division as an Internet Travel Consultant for Hokkaido. Following this, assumed the role of Manager for the Kyushu area. Participated in projects including post-pandemic travel promotion and the launch of Rakuten Travel's inbound website. Appointed to current position in May 2025.



Chris Kam is President & COO, Omnitrak Group, Inc. Chris's expertise in marketing research and forecasting spans more than 30 years in both the public and private sectors. He heads Omnitrak's Travel Marketing Insights and Development team, which includes statistics, analysis and reporting, data processing and consulting services. As a noted travel industry forecaster and speaker, Chris' insights appear in national, business and trade media including Forbes, Travel Weekly and more. An avid runner, Chris' passion for running—or “madness,” as he describes it—has led him to compete in dozens of marathons and half-marathons. He logs more than 1,500 miles a year, which he credits with clearing his mind and keeping him moving forward.



Daniel K. Nahoopii is a highly respected tourism leader with over 25 years of extensive experience in strategic tourism research and sustainable destination management. As Interim President & CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority he guided Hawai'i's tourism sector in a critical transition towards regenerative tourism. Prior to HTA, he led tourism consulting for SMS Research & Marketing and managed large-scale research projects for various tourism boards, including the HTA and Fiji Government.



Justin Nakaahiki is the Managing Director of Destination Marketing Hawai'i. Justin is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in advertising, promotions, marketing, and sales. In his current role, he operates a marketing and media rep firm that serves Hawaii's travel industry to connect them with global audiences from around the world. With a decade of experience in the tourism sector, Justin previously held a marketing director role at a hotel management company spanning the Hawaiian Islands, continental U.S., and Central America. Before his tenure in hospitality, Justin gained valuable experience in account service positions at a Honolulu-based advertising agency and at a regional office's advertising department for a national retailer. Justin earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Hawaii.



Jill Byus Radke is the Public Affairs Officer for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, bringing more than two decades of experience in public affairs, community engagement, and strategic communications to her role. She held communication and leadership roles at Disney's Aulani Resort, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i, Bishop Museum, Historic Hawai'i Foundation, and Simon & Schuster. She earned a master's degree in management from Harvard University, a bachelor's degree in journalism from Indiana University, and studied historic preservation at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Outside of work, she is an avid outrigger canoe paddler with Lanikai Canoe Club.



Kelly Strickland is the Regional Director of Leisure Sales for Hilton Hawai'i. In this role, Strickland oversees leisure sales efforts for Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, Hilton Waikoloa Village, and DoubleTree by Hilton Alana - Waikiki Beach with a focus on driving business from key domestic and international markets. Her responsibilities encompass managing relationships with wholesale partners, luxury consortia, and retail travel agencies, as well as developing strategic sales initiatives to increase leisure demand across the region. Strickland most recently served as director of group & catering sales at The Kahala Hotel & Resort, where she led the sales team and exceeded the property's 2024 catering goals by \$1 million. Strickland holds a bachelor of science degree in Travel Industry Management from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and has served on the board for UH's Travel Industry Management School.