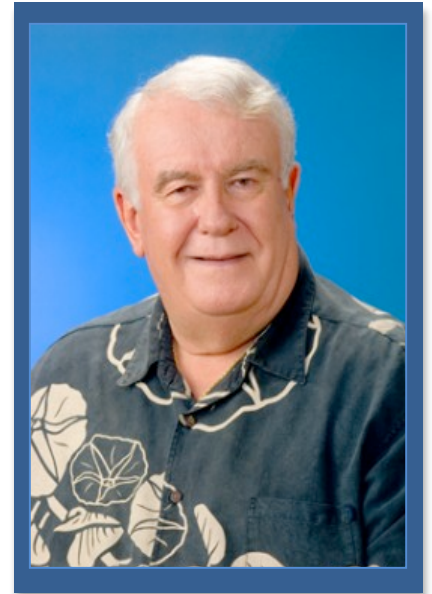


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Planner Chris Hart Asks Hawaiians to Support Lahaina District 1 Restoration**

*Feb 3, 2012, Waikapu*—On Tuesday evening February 14th at Maui tropical Plantation, Chris Hart will appeal to Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce members to support a 49-year-old historic restoration plan that needs to be completed. A panel of Lahaina historians also will comment on historical sites in Lahaina, which Hart calls “the cultural watershed of Hawaii.” Lahaina was capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the favored re-provisioning port for the Pacific whaling fleet and site of the first Christian mission to Hawaii. This MNHCC general meeting and forum is open to the public, with cocktails and networking at 5:30pm, followed by dinner and forum at 6:00pm.



Chris Hart, who worked on the Lahaina Historic District 1 Plan, is a former Maui County Planning Director, and CEO of Chris Hart and Partners Landscape Architecture and Planning Firm in Wailuku. A panel of 4 Lahaina historians involved in restoration work in Lahaina will join in the discussion of specific sites that still need restoration.

Lahaina Historic District 1 was conceived in post WWII Maui, when Honolulu tourists rarely visited neighbor islands and local people could not find work on Maui. A few Lahaina residents wished to preserve Lahaina's historic land sites and promote historic Lahaina as a tourist destination. In 1962, Maui County Council formally created Lahaina Historic District 1. Since then, Maui County, Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Na Kupuna o Maui and other organizations have implemented parts of the district plan, but many Hawaiian sites still await attention. Besides preservation goals, restoration has the potential to increase the uniqueness and Hawaiian authenticity tourists seek in Lahaina. The Feb 14<sup>th</sup> MNHCC forum will address specific sites and opportunities for Hawaiian and community support of Lahaina Historical District 1.

MNHCC members are encouraged to invite friends who would benefit from or offer support for this important restoration initiative. Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of

Commerce is organized to promote, and sustain Hawaiian culture and enhance the socio-economic status of Native Hawaiians in business and as individuals. Every month members convene to hear community and state leaders report on important topics that affect business on Maui, and for “talk story” meetings that keep members up to date on business strategies, business law, and Maui trends. Membership is open to all who share and practice Hawaiian values and MHNCC’s mission.

The MNHCC Business Fest every September at The Grand Wailea offers free workshops and networking with Hawaii’s top industrial, scientific, commercial and political leaders—all with a focus on preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture and values in today’s world.

To attend the February 14 meeting, RSVP by February 9th to Kai Pelayo, 874-2426; email: [Kai.Pelayo@grandwailea.com](mailto:Kai.Pelayo@grandwailea.com). For further information, interview or photo op requests, call Katherine Smith, 268-0787.

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Attachment: Photo