

*For Immediate Release*  
*Oct. 13, 2008*

**Merriman's Waimea Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
20 Nights to Benefit 20 Non-Profits**

*Kamuela, Hawaii*—Merriman's Waimea celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special 20/20 celebration: During the course of 20 evenings, 20 island non-profits will receive 20% of all nightly food sales.

The event spans the evenings of Nov. 1-19, from 5:30-9 p.m., with a culminating celebration on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Merriman's Culinary Scholarship Fund which supports students studying the culinary arts at local colleges and universities.

Benefiting non-profits include North Hawaii Hospice, Punana Leo o Waimea, the Hawaii Island Food Bank, Hawaii Island Humane Society, Hawaii Island United Way and several area schools (see complete list and calendar below).

Chef Peter Merriman and Executive Chef Neil Murphy will create special menu items during the 20/20 Celebration. Guests can support local non-profits by simply dining at the restaurant nightly, Nov. 1-19. Merriman's will then send each non-profit a contribution of 20% of all food proceeds at the end of the celebration.

Merriman's Waimea was opened by Chef Merriman 20 years ago, on Dec. 21, 1988, as the flagship home of Hawaii Regional Cuisine.

Merriman worked closely with local farmers, ranchers and fishermen to create Hawaii Regional Cuisine, a type of now widely recognized cuisine that showcases fresh and local foods. Needing a home base for this growing endeavor, Merriman opened the Waimea restaurant. Since that time, Merriman's Waimea has consistently earned top honors for its outstanding menu and service, including Best Big Island Restaurant by *Honolulu* magazine for 12 consecutive years; Award of Excellence, *Wine Spectator*, for five

consecutive years; and Best Hawaii Island Restaurant by the *Honolulu Advertiser* for 10 consecutive years.

Today, Merriman's uses 90% local product in its menu, an accomplishment that Merriman is especially proud of.

"Local produce and foods are fresh and flavorful and as each of us learns to prefer and shop for foods grown in Hawaii, we help our island economy and promote sustainability," Merriman says. "We hope our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration creates awareness of the benefits of shopping locally while supporting island non-profits who contribute to our communities."

Here is a list of benefiting non-profits and their corresponding evenings:

### **Merriman's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

#### **Schedule of Benefit Evenings for Twenty Island Non-Profits**

Nov. 1, Hawaii Preparatory Academy

Nov. 2, North Hawaii Community Hospital

Nov. 3, Hawaii Island Land Trust

Nov. 4, Hamakua County Farm Bureau

Nov. 5, Waimea Country School

Nov. 6, Kawaihae Canoe Club

Nov. 7, North Hawaii Hospice

Nov. 8, Hawaii Island United Way

Nov. 9, Parker School

Nov. 10, TREE Hawaii

Nov. 11, Kanu o ka Aina

Nov. 12, Kohala Hospital

Nov. 13, Waimea Elementary School

Nov. 14, Kahilu Theatre

Nov. 15, The Food Basket/Hawaii Island Food Bank

Nov. 16, North Hawaii Women & Children's Services

Nov. 17, Punana Leo o Waimea

Nov. 18, Hawaii Island Humane Society

Nov. 19, Tutu's House

Dec. 12, Culminating Celebration to Benefit Merriman's Culinary Scholarship Fund.

Merriman's restaurant in Waimea accepts reservations at 808/885-6822 or at [info@merrimanshawaii.com](mailto:info@merrimanshawaii.com). For more information, visit [www.MerrimansHawaii.com](http://www.MerrimansHawaii.com).

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*Special Note to Editors*

*Event Summary for Calendar Listings:*

**Nov. 1-19. Merriman's Waimea 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** Merriman's Waimea celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by providing 20% of all food sales to 20 island non-profits. 5:30-9 p.m. nightly. See [www.MerrimansHawaii.com](http://www.MerrimansHawaii.com) for details and list of benefiting non-profits. For reservations, phone 808.885.6822.

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*Visit the Merriman's web site at:  
[www.merrimanshawaii.com](http://www.merrimanshawaii.com)*