

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Chef James Aptakin of MAC 24/7 Joins The Chefs of Aloha Team**

**September 29, 2014, Honolulu, HI** – The Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA) recently held their Eight Annual Hall of Fame Induction, and Chefs of Aloha Dine Around at the Dole Cannery Pomaikai Ballroom. Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel on Kuhio and MAC 24/7 Executive Chef James Aptakin joined the exclusive group as one of 10 Dine Around Chefs selected for the event.

Chef Aptakin was asked to participate as one of the specially invited guest chefs as a result of his renowned cooking skills which include being a gold medal award winner on the Food Network prior to coming to Hawaii and MAC 24/7 a few years back. And, he recently won two of the top honors for the HFMA (Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association) TASTE AWARDS including *best taste* and *best presentation*.

“We were honored to have our very own Chef James Aptakin join this group of incredible chefs. It says a lot about how talented our chef is and how committed MAC 24/7 and the Hilton Waikiki Beach is to providing some truly amazing cuisine,” said Mark Nelsen, Director of Restaurants at the Hilton Waikiki Beach.

“This was a festive event where attendees enjoy food prepared by luminary Island Chefs and the finest beverages. Everyone honors the new inductees and proceeds benefit culinary students who are the future of Hawaii’s food service industry. All that just for buying a table or a ticket. We were pleased to add Chef James Aptakin to a list of our truly outstanding chefs representing the success of Hawaii’s food service and restaurant industry,” said Roger Morey, HRA Executive Director. Inductees are dedicated to the growth, quality, and image of Hawaii’s restaurant and food service industry

**The 2014 Hall of Fame inductees are:**

- **Joey Cabell, Chart House Waikiki**
- **Peter Canlis, Canlis Restaurant**
- **Chuck Furuya, D.K. Restaurants**
- **Tadao Nezu, Futaba Restaurant**
- **Sasaki Family, Lihue Barbecue Inn (Kauai)**

- **Alan Suzuki, Young's Market Company**
- **Archie and Hifumi Tanaka, Archie's Restaurant (Maui)**
- **The Uchida Family, Two Ladies Kitchen (Big Island)**

**The Dine Around includes food stations hosted by ten distinguished island Chefs are:**

- **James Aptakin, MAC 24/7, Hilton Waikiki Beach**
- **Freddie Billena, Pomaika'i Ballrooms**
- **Tushar Dubey, Hokulani Bakeshop**
- **Marc Anthony Freiberg, Mariposa, Neiman Marcus**
- **Vikram Garg, Halekulani**
- **Thomas Ho, 53 By The Sea**
- **Praseuth "JJ" Luangkhot, JJ Bistro & French Pastry**
- **Ken Mackenzie, Morton's The Steakhouse**
- **Jon Matsubara, Japengo, Hyatt Regency Waikiki**
- **Joseph "JJ" Reinhart, Bali Steak and Seafood, Hilton Hawaiian Village**

MAC 24/7 (and LBLE Lounge with limited hours ) serves delicious local and traditional American ("gourmet comfort") food 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The menu is created by Food Network Gold Medal Winning Celebrity Chef James Aptakin who has made Hawaii, and the Hilton Waikiki Beach his home. Valet parking is available for \$3 when dining at MAC 24/7/ LBLE. For more information, please call 808-921-5564.

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