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Hawai'i Night at the STAPLES Center Celebrates L.A. Clippers Return to Honolulu

HONOLULU – With the L.A. Clippers returning to Honolulu for training camp this fall to start the 2018-2019 NBA season, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) staged Hawai'i Night, a festive celebration held tonight at the STAPLES Center in Los Angeles to welcome the team and its fans.

Hawai'i Night featured stellar 'ukulele performances by two modern-day legends of Hawaiian music, along with a hula hālau performance before and during the game, giveaways of fresh flower lei and Aloha Clippers hats, and a contest giveaway of a free surfboard.

Daniel Ho, a six-time Grammy Award winner, performed a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem on the 'ukulele joined by 21 members of Hālau Hula Keali'i o Nālani under the direction of Kumu Hula Keali'i Ceballos.

At halftime, Taimane Gardner wowed the packed house with her phenomenal artistry on the 'ukulele, performing a medley of songs including *Misirlou*, *Pipeline*, *the Hawaii Five-0 theme*, *Walk Don't Run*, and *Wipeout*.

Kekaiulu Hula Studio and Hāloa Band greeted arriving fans in front of the STAPLES Center with beautiful hula and Hawaiian music and also performed on-court before the game and during a timeout in the first quarter. The first 10,000 fans received a fresh flower lei or Aloha Clippers hat created special for tonight's event. Additionally, fans sitting behind the baseline were given foam "shaka" hands.

At the end of the third quarter, Wayne Hung, a UCLA student from Taiwan, sunk a free throw to win a Downing Surf Hawai'i Surfboard in the Hawai'i Shoot or Pass Contest.

Courtesy of Pleasant Holidays, residents in Southern California have been participating in an online contest, DreamHawaiiSweeps.com, to win one of four trips to O'ahu.

"Hawai'i Night was an opportunity to say mahalo to the Clippers and show their fans what makes being in the Hawaiian Islands such an amazing experience," said Leslie Dance, HTA vice president of marketing and product development. "The entire Clippers organization really embraced the aloha spirit during their first training camp last year and we are thrilled to welcome them back this fall."

Adding to the night's enjoyment for Clippers fans, the Clippers came back with a big fourth quarter to beat the Orlando Magic by the score of 113-105.

The Clippers will travel to Honolulu in late September and hold training camp at the University of Hawai'i. Details and dates for training camp and other events will be announced at a later date.

About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://HawaiiTourismAuthority.org) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawai'i, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure the sustainability of tourism's success.

For more information about HTA, please visit www.hawaiiauthority.org. Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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