



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2015

Chef James Aptakin Takes Two Honors at the Taste Awards' Battle of the Chefs

HONOLULU, HAWAII (June 11, 2015) – James Aptakin, executive chef of MAC 24/7 Bar + Restaurant wins two honors at the second annual Taste Awards' Battle of the Chefs competition by the Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association (HFMA). Aptakin and his team won Best Presentation and Best Display of HFMA Products.

Ninety-five percent of the ingredients on Aptakin's winning "trio of islands" menu was sourced from HFMA and incorporated over 50 individual products from 28 of its local vendors/members. The menu showcased Kualoa prawns and Kona lobster three ways.

- Kualoa prawns, Kona lobster tom yum shots
- Kualoa prawns, Kona lobster popcorn truffle mousse, finger lime caviar, sea asparagus, pop rocks, Kona coffee salt
- Kualoa prawns, Kona lobster with Kahuku corn savory flan, smoked with lemongrass, shrimp powder, bubu arare, cebiche, shrimp oil

"Our goal was to spotlight and show our appreciation of Hawaii's natural and unique offerings, flavor, quality and variety," said Aptakin. "It's a privilege to work with such outstanding local vendors who take pride in harnessing the best our land and sea has to offer.

I'm also thankful to our great team who volunteered their time to share their passion for culinary and highlighting our locally-grown food."

Awards for the Battle of the Chefs competition was decided by more than 300 HFMA members and supporters who attended the Taste Awards. At the inaugural event last year, Aptakin also took home two awards for Best Taste and Best Presentation.

MAC 24/7 is nestled inside the Hilton Waikiki Beach hotel at 2500 Kuhio Drive. Valet parking is only \$3 when dining. The private Dining Room is available to groups and reservations are highly recommended. For reservations, call 808-921-5564. A full menu of MAC 24/7's offerings is available at www.mac247waikiki.com.

About MAC 24/7

MAC 24/7 is a recipient of numerous honors including "Best Gourmet Comfort Food" Hale 'Aina Awards by the readers of Honolulu Magazine and four "Taste Awards" by the Hawaii Food Manufacturer's Association. MAC 24/7 offers local and traditional American "gourmet comfort" food and is featured on the Travel Channel's hit show "Man v. Food"

for its delicious, giant pancakes. It is located inside the Hilton Waikiki Beach hotel at 2500 Kuhio Ave. Valet parking is only \$3.00 when dining at MAC 24/7. For more information, call (808) 921-5564 or visit www.mac247waikiki.com

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