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**KO`A KEA HOTEL & RESORT ANNOUNCES
EXECUTIVE CHEF OF RED SALT RESTAURANT**

Chef Seamus Mackenzie Brings International Culinary Flair to Kauai's Authentic Hawaiian Flavors

KAUAI, HI – Ko`a Kea Hotel & Resort is pleased to announce the appointment of Seamus Mackenzie as the executive chef at Red Salt restaurant, named for the island's uniquely colored salt. With more than fifteen years of experience in the culinary industry, Chef Mackenzie will build upon the restaurant's existing reputation as one of Kauai's premier dining destinations for upscale contemporary cuisine with a cool Hawaiian ambience. Set against the backdrop of one of the world's most beautiful beaches, Red Salt's relaxed and sophisticated design accented with unique touches of local inspiration continues to be an idyllic island culinary experience.

“Since Red Salt's debut in 2009, the restaurant has quickly become an island favorite for guests and residents alike,” says hotel General Manager Chris Steuri. “We are thrilled to welcome Chef Mackenzie to our team and look forward to showcasing his creativity and culinary experience with a dynamic and innovative menu that is ideally suited for Red Salt.”

Chef Mackenzie joins Ko`a Kea after most recently serving as chef de cuisine of Luc Bar and Bistro in Seattle, Washington, following his role as sous chef at Poppy restaurant, also in Seattle. Prior to this, Mackenzie served at a number of distinguished restaurants across the United States.

Most notably, Chef Mackenzie worked at the acclaimed Spago restaurants in Maui and Beverly Hills. Mackenzie was hired as part of the opening team for the restaurant in Maui in 2001 before transferring to the iconic Beverly Hills location. After three years in Beverly Hills, Mackenzie returned to Spago Maui as executive sous chef to oversee kitchen operations and an expansion that aided in solidifying the restaurant as one of the best on Maui and throughout all of Hawaii.

Before working at Spago, Chef Mackenzie was recruited to the culinary team at the acclaimed Roy's Kihei on Maui. The experience at both Spago and Roy's provided Mackenzie with more than four years of Hawaiian culinary experience, giving him a solid understanding of the unique flavors and cuisine known throughout the islands.

In addition to his professional chef experience, Mackenzie received noteworthy training at Le Bernardin in New York City, Le Pied de Nez in France, Gap's Thai Art Culinary School in Thailand and Oaxaca Cultural Institute in Mexico.

"I am thrilled to be returning to Hawaii to join the talented culinary team at Red Salt," says Chef Mackenzie. "By combining my culinary experience with my previous knowledge of the unique flavors and ingredients so prevalent in Hawaii, I look forward to showcasing a menu that is exciting to the palate while capturing the essence of the destination and experience of Ko'a Kea."

About Ko`a Kea Hotel & Resort

Ko`a Kea Hotel & Resort, located on Kauai's beautiful Po`ipu Beach debuted in 2009 after an extensive reconstruction. The beachfront resort includes a fresh new design by renowned interior decorator, Anita Brooks, including 121 guestrooms and suites, as well as the stunning restaurant, Red Salt, and luxury spa facility. The intimate spa offers five treatment rooms including a room for couples massage as well as a comprehensive menu, geared to soothe the body after a day of activity.

Kauai, Hawai`i

Kauai, nicknamed the Garden Isle, is a 40-minute flight from O`ahu, and is beloved for its lush tropical greenery and sparkling sand beaches. The location for many Hollywood films including Jurassic Park and Harrison Ford's "Six Days Seven Nights," Kauai's diverse terrain and scenery lay an ideal foundation for an array of activities including golfing, hiking, ocean kayaking and horseback riding. Located on the south coast of Kauai, Poipu Beach is blanketed with white sand and is known around the world as a premier destination for diving, surfing, boogie boarding, snorkeling and swimming. Kauai is accessible daily by inter-island jet flights between Lihue and Honolulu International Airport on O`ahu, as well as nonstop service from several major US cities including Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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