



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (November 16, 2009)

Unprecedented Outcome at Hawaii's Only Ice Sculpting Event

Lahaina Cannery Mall's international competition produces two champions

Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii – The competition was fierce as ice artists from Japan, Slovakia and Hawaii went head-to-head Sunday at Lahaina Cannery Mall's 2009 International Ice Sculpting Competition. When the ice chips finished flying and three judges tallied their individual scores, an unprecedented situation arose – there was a tie.

Japanese artist Toshinori Sato wowed judges with a frozen mermaid and her underwater friends, while Maui artist Darren Ho sculpted an eagle perched atop an icy spire.

While \$1000 had been reserved for top prize and \$500 for second, Lahaina Cannery Mall management decided to bestow the artists with co-champion honors and \$1000 each. Both names will likewise be immortalized in the competition's perpetual trophy and Lahaina Cannery Mall lore.

The victory marked Ho's sixth time being honored at the competition, with wins in 1993, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2008. The 2009 event was Sato's first appearance.

The "carver's choice" award, as decided by the artists, went to Hideo Fujiyama from Tokyo, Japan, who opted to donate his \$100 prize to a Maui charity.

The Lahaina Cannery Mall event is the only annual ice sculpting competition in Hawaii and includes a freestyle ice-carving exhibition on Saturday.

Lahaina Cannery Mall is Maui's only fully enclosed, air-conditioned shopping complex. Open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (7 p.m. Sundays), Lahaina Cannery Mall has more than 50 shops and restaurants and is located on the north end of Lahaina Town fronting Honoapi'ilani Highway and Front Street. Management and leasing handled by CB Richard Ellis. For more information, call (808) 661-5304, or visit www.lahainacannery.com.

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