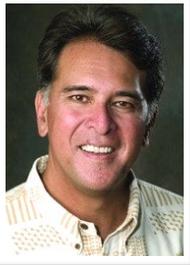


**Ka 'Ikena 'Ō'iwi : Native Wisdom
 King Kamehameha Golf Club, Waikapū, Maui
 Speaker Biographies**



Keynote Speaker, United States Senator Brian Schatz is the senior senator from the great state of Hawai'i and co-sponsor of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act or the NATIVE Act. He has dedicated his career to public service as a strong advocate for Hawai'i's middle-class families, a clean energy economy, seniors, our veterans, and Native Hawaiians. He believes tourism is not only an important economic driver, it brings people from all over the world together to promote greater understanding of other cultures. He will speak about the intent behind the NATIVE Act and his hopes and aspirations for the Native Hawaiians it will benefit.



Opening Speaker, Hawai'i State Senator Brickwood Galuteria serves as Vice Chair of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. He is a member of the Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology Committee and Government Operations Committee, as well as the Ways and Means Committee. He will set the tone for a day of inspirational talks by Native speakers who have successfully combined their culture with careers in tourism without sacrificing authenticity or their values.



Native Alaskan Speaker, Camille Ferguson is the Executive Director of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA). She began her 26-year career in the visitor industry working for Sitka Tours before rising to become president of the Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB). She also created, organized, fundraised and managed the annual Alaska Heritage and Cultural Tourism Conference. She will speak about AIANTA as the first organization to request funding through the NATIVE Act and how Hawaiian organizations can do the same.



Native American Speaker, Ben Sherman is Chairman of the World Indigenous Tourism Alliance (WINTA). He is a member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation, from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, USA. Ben has been a national leader in the development of American Indian tourism in the United States. He is a popular speaker at international Indigenous Tourism Conferences. He will speak about the unique relationship between Natives and their lands and how they can enrich the visitor experience.



Native Hawaiian Speaker, Ramsay Mahealani Taum is the founder and president of the Hawai'i based Life Enhancement Institute (LEI) of the Pacific LLC. He is the former Director of External Affairs and Community Partnerships at the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He will speak about his work in Hawai'i's visitor industry where he integrates Native Hawaiian cultural values and principles into contemporary business models. He is a sought-after keynote speaker at international conferences on indigenous issues and a respected Hawaiian cultural practitioner.



Roundtable Facilitator Mark Nerenhausen is a professor at New York's Syracuse University where leaders of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy invited him to become a member of the Networking Iroquois (a consortium of cultural centers representing the Six Tribes of the Haudenosaunee). He is an advisor to the Skā-noñh Great Law of Peace Heritage Center and the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation & Museum. He is a preferred facilitator for national think tanks and roundtables on heritage/cultural tourism and visitor/community engagement. He is one of 20 national thought leaders who serve on the Americans for the Arts Think Tank on cultural tourism.