



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANA COAST GALLERY

Hana Maui Resort

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HOLLYWOOD LANDLORD TRIPLES MAUI GALLERY RENT

Hana Coast Gallery of 33 years Forced to Close

144 Maui Artists Lose Marketplace

(Hana, Maui, Hawai'i) The landlord of the Hana Coast Gallery increased its rent 300% two weeks after the Lahaina fire, which has forced it to close its doors after 33 years in business.

The Mani Brothers, Hollywood real estate developers, bought the Hana Maui Resort in 2020 and with it the long-term lease of the Hana Coast Gallery (www.hanacoast.com).

The gallery has been a tenant of the resort since 1990. It is rated as one of the ten best galleries on Maui and is often referred to as "*The Cultural Art Gallery of all Hawai'i*".

Founder and owner Gary Koeppel explained "the huge rent increase was a shock. It is not a tenable rent and has forced us to close and vacate by December 31, 2023.

Gallery Administrator since it opened, Kay Dreves, explained "Vacating on short notice will be challenging as we need to return hundreds of artworks and find homes for all the Koa displays, furniture and fixtures".

Alesiamae Chow, the Art Director for 24 years said she was devastated. "God will take care of us, but my heart goes out to our artists, clients, the Hana community and the art culture of Maui."

Koeppel elaborated, "We are a small business with a staff of four who represent 144 Maui artists, many of whom lost everything in the 13 art galleries destroyed in the Lahaina fire. Their only surviving artworks were on display in the Hana gallery, and now they have no gallery at all".

When asked his plans, Koeppel said, "For some, money is more important than culture, but in Hawai'i, money will never replace the hallowed and blessed spirit of Aloha. We will miss what we and our artists have created".

NOTE: Since 1971 Gary and Emma Koeppel have owned six Coast Galleries in Wailea, Hana, Kaanapali in Maui and Big Sur, Carmel and Pebble Beach in California. They have produced 40 art events in 5-Star Resorts around the world, including the popular Maui Marine Art Expo event in Wailea for 14 years.