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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **TUCCIARONE TO LEAVE KONA BREWING COMPANY**

*Kailua-Kona, Big Island of Hawaii* — Kona Brewing Company recently announced that after 12 years, VP of Brewery Operations Rich Tucciarone will be leaving Kona Brewing in summer 2011. Tucciarone cites personal reasons for relocating back to the mainland United States with his family to begin the next chapter in his craft brewing career. Kona Brewing is currently taking steps to fill Tucciarone's many roles and responsibilities within the company.

Tucciarone joined Kona Brewing Company in September 1999. Under his leadership, Kona Brewing Company increased its beer production from less than 10,000 barrels in the year 2000 to more than 142,000 in 2010, a 1,320 percent increase. It was the fastest growing craft brewery in 2008 and grew to the 13<sup>th</sup> largest craft brewery in the country in 2009. Tucciarone has been responsible for all aspects of Kona's brewery operations, including developing new beer styles and brands, brewing the first certified organic beer in Hawaii, garnering numerous national and international beer awards, overseeing several brewery expansions, representing the brewery at national and international events and festivals, co-organizing the Kona Brewers Festival for 12 years, assisting with pub staff training, administrative, accounting and regulatory/ compliance duties. He also has represented Kona Brewing Company as a judge at Great American Beer Festival and World Beer Cup for many years.

"My family and I have had an amazing 12 years here in Hawaii," said Tucciarone. "We love the islands, and I enjoy working for Kona Brewing Company, but it is time to be closer to our extended families on the mainland. I absolutely plan to stay involved with the craft beer industry!"

"We will all miss working with Rich," said Kona Brewing Company's President Mattson Davis. "He has led the brewery for three-quarters of its existence, and as such, knows the ins and outs better than anyone. We wish him well and look forward to seeing what he does next in the craft beer industry."

In order to ensure a smooth transition, Tucciarone is working closely with the leadership team at Kona Brewing Company to help the brewery put strong leadership in place before he leaves.

### **About Kona Brewing**

*Kona Brewing Company was started in the spring of 1994 by father and son team Cameron Healy and Spoon Khalsa, who had a dream to create fresh, local island brews made with spirit, passion and quality. It is a Hawaii-born and Hawaii-based craft brewery that prides itself on brewing the freshest beer of exceptional quality, closest to market. This helps to minimize its carbon footprint by reducing shipping of raw materials, finished beer and wasteful packaging materials. The brewery is headquartered where it began, in Kailua-Kona on Hawaii's Big Island. It has grown into Hawaii's largest brewery, has three restaurant sites in Hawaii and beer distribution reaching 28 states and Japan. It is the 13th largest craft brewery in the country. For more information call 808-334-BREW or [www.KonaBrewingCo.com](http://www.KonaBrewingCo.com).*

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