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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**8th Annual Life Is Sweet Fundraising Event
Returns to The Shops at Wailea on Sunday, November 12**

WAILEA, MAUI (October 27, 2017) – The 8th annual Life Is Sweet festival returns to The Shops at Wailea on Sunday, November 12 from 2 to 5 p.m. The fundraising event, presented by non-profit Best Buddies Hawaii, will be held on the lower floor Fountain Courtyard and feature a highly anticipated culinary challenge with Wailea’s most renowned chefs.

This year, seven chefs representing eight of Wailea’s top restaurants -- Four Seasons Maui, Grand Wailea, Hotel Wailea Relais & Châteaux, Fairmont Kea Lani, Mulligan’s, Longhi’s Wailea, Fabiani’s and Gannon’s-- will compete for honor of Best Pastry Chef in Wailea. Through voting, event-goers will help determine the people’s choice on the winning dessert. In addition to sampling the tasty creations, attendees of the 2017 Life Is Sweet celebration will be treated to gourmet appetizers, wine tasting, live Hawaiian entertainment, a silent auction, and more.

“Isn’t it wonderful for a community to come together over extraordinary food and a worthy cause? It gives us so much pride that this meaningful celebration continues to be held here,” said Brian Yano, general manager of The Shops at Wailea. “While supporting Best Buddies Hawaii, Maui residents and Wailea guests can enjoy an array of delectable food offerings from Wailea’s top chefs,” he added.

Proceeds from contributions and sponsorships of Life Is Sweet will benefit Maui schools, focusing on crucial student leadership development and scholarship funding programs. Best Buddies International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“We’re enthusiastic to bring back Life Is Sweet to The Shops at Wailea,” said Sarah Man, state director of Best Buddies Hawaii. “In 2016, more than 150 attendees joined in the fun and we are eager to see the attendance grow even more this year. That growth means more supporters will be contributing to aid up to 300 students.”

For tickets and more information about 2017 Life Is Sweet, please visit www.bestbuddies.org/lismaui or www.biddingforgood.com/bestbuddieslis.

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About Life Is Sweet and Best Buddies

Life Is Sweet provides vital funding for Best Buddies programs in Maui County high schools and intermediate schools including Baldwin High School, King Kekaulike High School, Lahainaluna High School, Maui High School, Seabury Hall, Iao School, Lokelani Intermediate and Maui Waena Intermediate. Established in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies is a worldwide volunteer organization that creates one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. More information can be found online at <https://www.bestbuddies.org/hawaii/>.

About The Shops at Wailea

The Shops at Wailea is Maui's premier shopping and dining destination with more than 70 distinct boutiques, shops, restaurants and galleries. It is nestled in the heart of Wailea Resort at 3750 Wailea Alanui Drive and is managed by The Festival Companies. The Shops at Wailea is open daily from 9:30am to 9pm and offers free parking for the first hour and validated parking with a purchase for the next three hours; then standard rates apply at \$6 an hour or \$3 for every 30 minutes. For more information, visit our website at TheShopsAtWailea.com or call (808) 891-6770. Follow @TheShopsAtWailea on Instagram and @ShopsAtWailea on Twitter and "Like" us on Facebook.

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