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HAWAI`I'S KŌLOA RUM COMPANY BRINGS HOME THE GOLD FROM THE MIAMI RUM RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

KALAHEO, HAWAI`I – May 7, 2014 – Hawai`i's Kōloa Rum Company from the Garden Isle of Kaua`i was awarded the *Gold Medal-Best in Class* for its recently launched *Kaua`i Coconut* in the *Flavored Rum Category* and *Gold Medals* for their *Kaua`i Dark and Gold Rums* in their respective categories at the *Miami Rum Festival's 2014 RumXP International Tasting Competition* held in Miami April 22-25, 2014.

Twelve members of the prestigious International Rum Expert Panel and twelve guest judges were secluded in a tasting room over a period of 3 days to conduct blind tastings and in-depth evaluations of rum in 17 major categories. All rums were grouped and judged in categories according to their style. The panel included an international all-star cast of Masters of Rum, journalists, consultants, historians, mixologists, lecturers, collectors and Cane Spirits Ambassadors.

According to the *Rum Renaissance Festival* (www.rumrenaissance.com), more than 80 rum producers showcased hundreds of award-winning and notable rums from around the world and were presented for evaluation at what is widely recognized as the largest cane spirits event in the Western Hemisphere and one of the most prestigious in the world.

Miami Rum Renaissance Festival founder and host Robert Burr said, "In a recent blind tasting competition, members of the International Rum Expert Panel (RumXP) were delighted to discover the most outstanding flavored spirit; Kōloa's Coconut Rum from Hawai`i earned their Best in Class award. According to this esteemed group of judges from around the globe, it simply is the very best tasting Coconut Rum. Kōloa Dark Rum, as well, has long been a favorite for its rich and flavorful profile, a key ingredient in tiki drinks. Kōloa White Rum, the Gold Rum and the Spice Rum are all well respected for their quality. Clearly the attention to detail and passion for quality sets this brand apart from others."

According to Bob Gunter, President & CEO of Kōloa Rum Company, "The Miami RumXP International Tasting Competition is widely recognized as being one of the most rigorous and prestigious competitions of its kind and receiving 3 Gold Medals is an unprecedented accomplishment for Kōloa Rum Company. These awards clearly reflect the skill, expertise and dedication of our employees and others associated with our organization and to have been recognized and acknowledged in this competitive international arena is exciting and extremely gratifying."

About Kōloa Rum Company

Kōloa Rum Company produces premium, artisanal, single-batch Hawaiian Rum at their distillery in Kalaheo, Kaua`i and operates Kaua`i's first and only distilled spirits Tasting Room & Company Store on the grounds of Kilohana Plantation, near Lihue. The Company's multiple award-winning portfolio includes Premium Kaua`i White, Gold, Dark, Spice and Coconut Rum in 750ml and 50ml bottles and Kōloa Ready-to-Drink Mai Tai and Rum Punch.

For more information about Kōloa Rum Company, please visit www.koloarum.com

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