

Award-winning

Maui tour operator is honored
by ecotourism group | B8

go! secures 1st profit from Island service

\$500,000 in earnings¹ reverses \$6.6M loss in same quarter a year ago

BY RICK DAYSOG
Advertiser Staff Writer

go! today posted its first quarterly profit since it began flying in the interisland market more than 2½ years ago.



The low-cost carrier, a unit of Phoenix-based Mesa Air Group, reported earnings of \$500,000 during the three months ending Dec. 31, 2008, reversing a

\$6.6 million operating loss in the year-earlier quarter.

"We are encouraged by this quarter's performance and the strides we have taken to put some difficult hurdles behind



ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | March 2008

The first quarterly profit for interisland carrier go! came on revenues of \$11.6 million — an 87.1 percent increase from the year before. Passenger count for the quarter rose by 11.3 percent.

us," said Jonathan Ornstein, Mesa's chief executive officer.

"We are also very pleased to report go! achieved its first quarterly profit and we remain committed to our independent interisland operation."

The results came on revenues of \$11.6 million, an 87.1 percent increase from the year-earlier's revenue of \$6.2 million.

Mesa said its interisland operations benefited from lower fuel prices, higher passenger revenue and load factors.

Passenger count for go! rose by 11.3 percent during the most recent quarter while the number of departures jumped by 11.4 percent, as the company benefited from Aloha Airlines' shutdown on March 31, 2008.

Overall, Mesa reported a net profit of \$15.5 million, or 55 cents per share, during the October to December 2008 quarter, which is the company's fiscal first quarter.

The results compare with a net loss of \$4.2 million, or 15 cents per share, that Mesa reported in

the year-earlier quarter.

In its earnings release, Mesa noted that it entered into a licensing agreement with Aloha's former owner Yucaipa Cos. to operate go! under the Aloha brand name for 10 years.

The deal, which requires approval from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, calls for Mesa to pay a minimum of \$600,000 a year.

Reach Rick Daysog at rdaysog@honoluluadvertiser.com or 525-8064.

Mokulele takeover possible

Republic Airways said it plans to continue flights despite debt default

BY RICK DAYSOG
Advertiser Staff Writer

Mokulele Airlines' Mainland partner said it could assume control of the local carrier, with Mokulele having defaulted on an \$8 million loan.

But Indianapolis-based Republic Airways said it has no plans to shut down the state's fourth-



HAWAII REPORT



Maui Medical Group

Kahuna Pule Sam Ka'au, left, blesses the new Maui Medical Group clinic in Kihei. Watching are Maui Medical Group administrator Cliff Alakai and Dr. Evelyn MacIntyre.

Maui welcomes 2 new medical clinics

Maui residents have two new options for medical care.

Maui Medical Group yesterday opened a full-service clinic in Kihei. The new facility offers a number of specialties, including internal medicine, family practice, obstetrics and gynecology. Other services to be added soon are podiatry, orthopedics, and radiology.

The clinic is on the second floor of the ABC Shopping Center at 2349 S. Kihei Road, Unit 2. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Earlier this month, Center for Sight Maui opened at 33 Lono St. in Kahului. The facility is overseen by Dr. Jeffrey Guild, who specializes in cataracts, glaucoma, refractive surgery and ocular disease. The clinic also uses telemedicine technology to link up with a Honolulu team of ophthalmologists.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Superferry ready to set sail again

Hawaii Superferry officials said the Alakai will resume service between O'ahu and Maui today after completing an annual maintenance inspection and Coast Guard recertification.

"We're sailing on Wednesday," said Hawaii Superferry President and CEO Tom Fargo. "The annual inspection went very smoothly, and we're geared up to continue service for the people of Hawai'i for 2009. Plus, we plan to have a steady stream of special offers through the spring."

The Alakai went into dry dock at Honolulu Harbor Feb. 2.

BAE Systems opens regional center

BAE Systems has opened a 3,000-square-foot regional innovation center in Downtown Honolulu to help demonstrate its ability to support collaborative development of products and technologies to its military and commercial customers.

The center includes several areas, including one where BAE can demonstrate software and modeling simulations. Other defense contractors may also use the center, which is similar to ones BAE has in San Diego and Reston, Va.

BAE Systems is a global company involved in the development, delivery, and support of advanced defense and aerospace systems in the air, on land and at sea.

32.6% of jobless ran out of benefits

Hawai'i had the 11th-lowest percentage of unemployed workers who have run out of unemployment benefits in January, U.S. Department of Labor statistics show.