

Food & Lifestyle

First of two Waikiki Morimoto restaurants slated to open next month



A rendering of Morimoto Asia Waikiki, one of two restaurants opening in the newly renovated Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

COURTESY ALOHILANI RESORT WAIKIKI BEACH

By [Katie Murar](#) – Reporter, Pacific Business News

Iron Chef [Masaharu Morimoto](#) will return to Oahu next month with the opening of Morimoto Asia Waikiki, one of two restaurants opening in the newly renovated Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

The restaurant is set to open on Feb. 15 and will be the hotel's signature restaurant. It marks a return to Waikiki for the acclaimed chef, who shut down his only Oahu restaurant, located in The Modern Honolulu, last year.

Located in the former 24 Hour Fitness space on the second floor of the hotel—which opened in December after a \$115 million redevelopment—the restaurant will have two lanais, a private dining area and seat 250 people. The

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS – January 22, 2018

10,800-square-foot restaurant will be Morimoto's second Morimoto Asia location, the first opened in 2015 at [Walt Disney World Resort](#).

"I look forward to opening Morimoto Asia Waikiki at Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach, especially since the island of Oahu is a very special place to me," Morimoto said in a statement. "The stunning ocean and sunset views combined with the distinct culinary experience we will provide will surely leave a lasting impression with our guests traveling near and far."

The restaurant will focus on Pan-Asian flavors with menu items such as Peking duck, dim sum and lo mein as well as traditional wok fry dishes including kung pao chicken and Thai lobster chow fun.



An exterior rendering of Chef Morimoto's two Waikiki restaurants opening in the Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

The second concept, Momosan Waikiki, is expected to open later this year and will be the second iteration of the concept after first opening in April 2016 in New York. The more casual restaurant will specialize in ramen and also cater to those who want their meal to-go.

The logo for Pacific Business News is a blue rectangle with white diagonal lines. The words "PACIFIC" and "BUSINESS NEWS" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically in the center of the rectangle.

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS – January 22, 2018

The restaurant company [previously told](#) Pacific Business News that it plans to hire between 160 to 180 employees for both restaurants, which are designed by Rockwell Group. The spaces will include open floor plans and glass walls that separate diners from the kitchen but offer views of the food preparation.

Morimoto, who also has a location on Maui, has a total of 15 global locations with another slated to open soon in the Middle East.