

Press release For immediate release

## Hawaii's largest tour and transportation provider receives large Prevost order Roberts Hawaii adds twenty 2011 H3-45s to its fleet

Sainte-Claire, QC, March 11, 2011– Roberts Hawaii took delivery of ten new 2011 Prevost H3-45 touring motorcoaches in December, the first part of an initiative to significantly upgrade its Oahu coach fleet. A second shipment of ten more 2011 coaches will arrive in late March.

The twenty luxury coaches—Roberts Hawaii's first Prevosts—represent an investment of over \$14 million by the company, which provides charters, group services, sightseeing tours and excursions—and more—on the four major islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii.

Roberts Hawaii was founded in 1941 when Robert Iwamoto Sr. recognized the need for an independent taxi service to transport U.S. soldiers stationed on Kauai. Family owned and operated, it grew into a motorcoach touring company—and hasn't stopped since. Capitalizing on Hawaii's geographic and cultural singularity, Roberts introduced other transportation- and tourism-related operations, from visitor tours and school bus contracts to entertainment and dinner cruises—even baggage handling service. Robert Iwamoto Jr., current Chairman and CEO, joined the business at age 15 and recognized early on that the company's future would depend on diversification and reinvestment in its infrastructure, foresight that has helped sustain Roberts Hawaii through the succeeding decades.

In 2006 Roberts Hawaii created Hawaii's largest employee stock ownership plan (ESOP). Its 1,500 employees, who take great pride in the fact that their company is 100% employee owned and operated, thus played a role in the recent decision to go Prevost.

Chad Iwamoto, Vice President, explained that "the decision to spend on this infrastructure upgrade shows that we're committed to the tourist industry, our company, and our customers. We are getting 'tons' of cruise ship passengers," he added, "which is a major reason why we're moving forward with a new equipment purchase. It's a big step for us, but Prevost offers excellent motorcoaches and service and we are anticipating a long-term relationship with them."

Roy Cordeiro, Strategic Vice President of Sales and Marketing, explained that the new Prevost H3-45s, which will serve convention and event attendees and visitors on Roberts Hawaii's regularly scheduled tours and shore excursions, "will offer unparalleled passenger comfort and help enhance the visitor experience. They are equipped with the latest safety features, including three-point seat belts, the highest safety standard in the industry."

"We listened to our customers," Chad Iwamoto noted, "and went with this option in response to safety concerns expressed by travel agencies that book with us out of China, Korea, and Japan." The new Prevosts also have electronic stability control, GPS, and features like ergonomic seating, front kneeling suspension, DVD players, and electronic signage, which Chad Iwamoto describes as "big because we want to help passengers make sure they're boarding the correct coach." Given that attention to detail, it's easy to see why Roberts Hawaii customers will no doubt be saying "a hui hou and mahalo"—"thanks, see you again soon"—as they board the company's new Prevosts en route to their island paradise destinations.

## **About Roberts Hawaii**

Roberts Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii's largest tour and transportation company, serves the four major islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii with charters, group services, sightseeing tours and excursions, and activities and attractions including the "Magic of Polynesia" stage spectacular and the Ali'i Kai, the world's largest Polynesian catamaran. The once-family-owned company began serving the tourism industry on Kauai in 1941 and is now owned by its 1,500 employees. For more information: www.robertshawaii.com.

## **About Prevost**

Prevost is a leading manufacturer of premium intercity touring coaches and the world leader in the production of conversion coaches for high-end motorhome and specialty conversion. A company in the Volvo Group of Companies, it has access to the financial strength, research capability, and manufacturing expertise of the group. The Volvo Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of heavy-duty diesel engines. Prevost has its main manufacturing facilities in Sainte-Claire, Quebec, Canada and has seven Parts and Service Centers located in the United States and Canada. www.prevostcar.com

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## For more information

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