A Honolulu holiday

If you're up bright and early this morning, there is no better way to kick off the holiday weekend here in Honolulu than with the 2018 keynote and motivational comedian Kevin Wanzer.

From 7:30 to 9 a.m., in the Kalakaua AB room of the Hawaii Convention Center, you can hear this very funny speaker who served on the staff of and appeared on “Late Night with David Letterman” as well as authored the book “Choose to Love.”

Wanzer got his start early. At his lemonade stand when he was just 8 years old, he offered passers-by two types of refreshment: a cold cup of lemonade or dead-on stand-up renditions of Steve Martin comedy routines.

Decades later, the lemonade and Martin routines are gone. The refreshment, however, is still to be had.

As a humorist, motivational comedian and keynote speaker, Wanzer has been earning rave reviews for more than 30 years. He has been noted nationally as one of the most effective and entertaining speakers for inspiring and empowering audiences, celebrating Ohana and the Spirit of Aloha.

Through stories and humor, he helps people reconnect with hidden passions, embrace diversity and celebrate community through laughter, all of which are perfect for a Friday morning here at AAPD.

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promises to be packed with attendees ready to start their day feeling refreshed and invigorated.

The AAPD Exhibit Hall continues to expand with not only new exhibitors but fun and interactive booths. The Tech Bar, which features a series of educational sessions throughout the day, is back by popular demand, and a Live Podcast Booth has been added and there is an entire booth dedicated to a life-size mosaic in the making.

Stop by the Live Podcast Booth, located at the Tech Bar Theater, between 10 and 10:30 a.m. to hear Roy Delarosa’s “5 Things I Can Do to Make My Practice Hummmm” or between 1:30 and 2 p.m. to hear Nestor Cohenca’s “Getting Up To Date in Pulp Therapy for Young Permanent Teeth.”

If you’re interested in autism spectrum disorder (ASD), you won’t want to miss Session 120: “Update on the Spectrum,” taking place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today. ASD is one of the most common developmental disorders diagnosed worldwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in 68 American children have been diagnosed with it. This high prevalence means that every pediatric dentist will encounter children with autism in their practice. Presenters in this session will discuss practical, patient-centered treatment approaches for this population. Raphael Bernier, PhD, will review the medical and behavioral aspects of ASD, while Travis Nelson, DDS, MSD, MPH, will cover dental implications and treatment strategies for care of this patient population.

Another highlight takes place this evening, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Bishop Museum. The AAPD Welcome Reception: Aloha Fest will offer you the chance to immerse yourself in the unique Aloha way of life here on the island, from the ukuleles in the courtyard to the stunning exhibits of Hawaiian Hall. You can also discover the stars in the J. Watumull Planetarium and learn how the first Hawaiians navigated to the islands. Check out the science center where you can learn how volcanoes first formed the eight islands that make up the Hawaiian chain. Out on the Great Lawn, mosey your way around a fun culinary journey inspired by flavors and festivals of the islands, from trendy poke to traditional poi and a smoking huli huli experience. Stop by registration to get your tickets to this event.