



Dear Members of the WGA Board of Governors,

We have been working with pleasure on the destination and venue comparison for WGC-2025. Upon the request of the WGA leadership, the following destinations have been considered: Toronto (Canada), San Diego (United States), Honolulu, Hawaii (United States) and Fort Lauderdale (United States).

Based on the elected criteria for destinations selection, the below destinations have been shortlisted with the following congress dates being available:

- Honolulu, Hawaii, United States → June 25-28, 2025
- Fort Lauderdale, United States → June 18-21, 2025

Options have been requested at the suggested convention centers and we kindly ask you to make a final decision no later than April 5th, 2023 to keep the best date options and to promote the WGC-2025 dates and destination in Rome this coming June.

The following aspects have been analyzed for both destinations:

- Availability
- Safety
- Accessibility & transportation
- Congress Venue
- Accommodation
- Local and national support
- Financial impact on budget

Hawaii and Fort Lauderdale are both attractive destinations on the seaside, where **health and safety** are not an issue.

In terms of **accessibility**, Fort Lauderdale is the front runner with the closest airport (Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport) located an 8-minute drive from the suggested convention center. The Miami international airport offers additional travel options, and the high-speed passenger rail system conveniently allows delegates to travel withing Greater Fort Lauderdale and Miami. Hawaii, is more isolated, with one international airport located a 14-minute drive from the suggested center. Being an island, there are less direct flight options. It should be noted that the travel journey is long and expensive, especially for Europeans so if Hawaii is selected we might consider a lower attendance for WGC-2025 from Europe. On the other hand, Asian delegates might find Hawaii an easier to reach destination and we expect that it has little impact for American participants.



With regards to the **congress venues suggested**, they are both located close to hotels and restaurants which makes it easy for participants to navigate around. The two sites have enough capacity to host the congress. The layout would be similar in both venues with the exhibition and registration area on the first/ground floor and the session rooms (and offices) on the two additional floors. The difference is that Hawaii has a parking lot on the second floor but the venue explains that it doesn't deter attendees from moving up with escalators and elevators.

It is important to note that the **Broward County Convention Center** (in Fort Lauderdale) is currently expanding with the construction of a hotel and a new ballroom. The full expansion project is due to finish Q3-Q4 of 2025. This being said, the venue confirmed that the space suggested for WGC-2025 is not in the construction site. The venue is not closed, they are fully operational and are hosting events.

The **Hawaii Convention Center** (HCC) is suggested in Honolulu. It is a beautiful location with a lot of daylight and open space which should please and inspire attendees. No construction/ renovation are planned or announced.

Both destinations are offering **congress dates** in June which is the traditional pattern of WGC. In Honolulu (June 25-28), we expect average temperatures between 23°C (74°F) and 27°C (80°F), with 72% of humidity. In Fort Lauderdale (June 18-21), the weather forecast should be similar or a bit warmer. However, the chances of rain are higher in Fort Lauderdale (54%, against 3% in Hawaii). It is also good to mention that according to the list of 2025 ophthalmology events currently available, there does not seem to be conflict with other meetings for any of the set of suggested congress dates.

We have asked the convention centers to provide references of **medical events** they hosted in the past 5 years with regards to the compliance of their destination. Hawaii provided an extensive list of events with detailed of attendance (see details in the presentation). Fort Lauderdale only provided two references.

In terms of **accommodation**, Honolulu offers 28.000 hotels rooms with a wide range of categories, including 3 hotels within less than a 10-minute walk from the convention center which is convenient for delegates. Dorms rooms are also available for more cost-effective housing options within 3.5 km / 2,2 miles from the venue.

Fort Lauderdale has a capacity of 3.000 hotel rooms within 2.4 km / 1.5 miles of the Convention Center, out of which 2 are within walking distance (less than 6 minutes).

Both destinations made a generous **subvention offer** to support WGC-2025:

- The Hawaii Convention Center will waive the rental fee if WGA spends a minimum of USD 75,000 on Food and Beverage at HCC. Based on the previous WGC and catering requirements, we can almost be certain that this amount will be spent.
- The Broward County Convention Center will waive the rental fee if WGA commits to 500 Total Room Nights on 3 peak nights across a minimum of 2 hotels in the area for June 2025.



This condition is not unreachable, but more unpredictable as it depends on the accommodation choice of the participants and therefore difficult to base the budget on it.

In terms of budget and **rental fees** for the convention center, Hawaii is 25% more expensive than Fort Lauderdale. However, the catering costs are lower, and the rental fees are more likely to be waived than in Fort Lauderdale.

In summary, we have two good options to host WGC-2025. The advantages of Hawaii being the substantial subvention, the housing options, and the contact we had with the locals has been very positive. They are responsive and have shown high interest to host WGC. The longer travel distance and cost associated to it might however lower the participation numbers.

Fort Lauderdale is very accessible with 2 international airports around, the convention center is large but the challenges are that some part of the site might be under construction although they say it should not interfere. We have also experienced low responsiveness from the venue. They made less of an effort to provide information and seem less willing and flexible than the other destination.

We hope the above information and attached presentation will be useful to make your decision.

We remain at your disposal and look forward to hearing from you,

On behalf of the World Glaucoma Congress Team,

Best regards,
Marie Hertrich