O‘AHU CELEBRATES ITS DIVERSITY WITH FESTIVALS & EVENTS
Music, Entertainment, Culture and Cuisine Enrich Visitor Experience

O‘AHU – Discover the island’s rich culture and diversity at one of the many festivals and events occurring throughout the year. O‘ahu’s festivals and events provide visitors and locals with an opportunity to embrace the island’s multi-cultural heritage, deep traditions and customs that are special to O‘ahu. Whether it is a cultural festival highlighting Hawai‘i’s diverse people and their origins, an energetic concert series, or a culinary event featuring the island’s top chefs, there is sure to be something for everyone. Below is a listing of notable festivals and events (all are subject to change without notice):

**Music, Shopping & Entertainment**

**March-October 2015**

**Mele Wahi Pana**
Mele Wahi Pana is a four-part music series at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site exploring the music of the island of O‘ahu, featuring notable performers, scholars, Kumu Hula and hula halau. This year, the discussion about the music being performed will be presented as part of the concert.

[www.missionhouses.org](http://www.missionhouses.org)

March 7, 2015

**Ko Olina Children’s Film & Music Festival**
Ko Olina will host its 2nd annual Children’s Film & Music Festival. Program highlights will include a collection of children’s films, live entertainment and various activities for kids. The Ko Olina Children’s Film & Music Festival is a benefit for Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), Hawai‘i’s leader in the care of women, infants and children.

[www.koolinachildrensfestival.com](http://www.koolinachildrensfestival.com)

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March 16-22, 2015

Shop a Leʻa
Ala Moana Center’s annual week-long spring shopping event, Shop a Leʻa, presents locals and visitors with more than 150 experiences in fashion, health and beauty, active lifestyle, home décor, travel, and cuisine. Included as part of the Shop a Leʻa lineup are fashion shows and trunk shows, exclusive products, Centerstage events, gifts-with-purchase, mall-wide shopping and dining offers, and much more. www.alamoanacenter.com

April 10-19, 2015; November 12-22, 2015

Hawaii International Film Festival
The Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF showcases independent feature films and is held at the Signature Dole Cannery Theatres each spring and fall. Expect the very best and latest in independent and global cinema. www.hiff.org

May 2-3, 2015

Hawaiʻi Book & Music Festival
Experience the finest of Hawaiʻi’s contemporary culture at the Hawaiʻi Book & Music Festival. Held on the Frank F. Fasi Grounds at Honolulu Hale, the free event celebrates and honors books, storytelling and music in a way that is fun, accessible, and memorable for people of all ages, backgrounds and tastes. www.hawaiibookandmusicfestival.com

June 4-7, 2015

Rainbow Film Festival
The Rainbow Film Festival serves to educate and raise community awareness about gay and lesbian culture, arts and lifestyle through independent films shown at the Doris Duke Theatre. Locally submitted films are also featured and supported by the festival. www.hglcf.org

July 4, 2015

Ala Moana Center Fireworks
For the 24th consecutive year, Ala Moana Center will present locals and visitors with one of the largest and most spectacular fireworks shows in the country. In addition to the fireworks, Ala Moana
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July 19, 2015

45th Annual ‘Ukulele Festival Hawai‘i
Local ‘ukulele legend Roy Sakuma and his sponsors help to keep the instrument alive with the largest festival of its kind in the world, attracting thousands each year. A free five-hour concert showcases the finest ‘ukulele players from around the world, along with national celebrities, Hawai‘i’s top entertainers, and an ‘ukulele orchestra of more than 800 students, mostly children. The festival benefits ‘Ukulele Festival Hawaii, a charitable non-profit organization.

www.ukulelefestivalhawaii.org

August 16, 2015

Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival
Slack key guitar originated in Hawai‘i in the 19th century with Hawaiian paniolo (cowboys), and continues to gain popularity. The Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival, founded in 1982, celebrates the cultural importance, perpetuates and preserves the unique acoustic guitar art form of “Ki ho‘alu,” which means “loosen the key.” The festival takes place at Kapi‘olani Park and features performances by well-known slack key musicians. www.slackkeyfestival.com

Arts & Culture

Last Friday of every month January through October

ARTafterDARK
Offering a new twist on pau hana (happy hour), the Honolulu Academy of Arts presents an evening that invigorates the senses with a combination of food, art, music, dancing, and drinks. The theme for each event is based on the museum’s current feature exhibition and provides a fun and social way to view art in a festive atmosphere. www.artafterdark.org

Third Saturday of every month

Honolulu Night Market
Kaka‘ako comes alive with an evening event that combines fashion, live music, art, shopping and local food. Held under the Honolulu city lights, this monthly night market celebrates the best of

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www.honolulunightmarket.com

February 7-15, 2015

POW! WOW! Hawai‘i
Local and global artists will showcase their work in Honolulu during a widespread beautification and education of street art during POW! WOW! Hawai‘i. The 9-day event will include gallery shows, live panel discussions, mural projects, concerts, live art installations and more. www.powwowhawaii.com

March 6-8, 2015

Honolulu Festival
The 21st annual Honolulu Festival celebrates cultures from across the Pacific. This three-day celebration of art, music, dance, and crafts is filled with spectacular sights and sounds. The festival culminates with a Grand Parade in Waikīkī, followed by the Nagaoka Hanabi fireworks display. www.honolulufestival.com

May 1-2, 2015

Lei Day Celebration
On May 1, a celebration that includes entertainment, food booths and a lei-making contest takes place at the beautiful Queen Kapi‘olani Park and Bandstand in Waikīkī. The event is followed by an honoring of Hawai‘i’s ali‘i at Mauna ‘Ala and Kawaiahaʻo on May 2. Lei Day was created to celebrate the Hawaiian custom of making and wearing lei. This year marks the 88th anniversary of the celebration of Lei Day in Hawai‘i. www.honoluluparks.com

May 7-9, 2015

We Are Samoa Festival
The We Are Samoa Festival at the Polynesian Cultural Center features the 23rd Annual World Fireknife Championship and High School Samoan Cultural Arts Festival. Dancers of all ages showcase their mastery of Samoan fireknives in which acrobatic moves and death-defying tricks combine with ancient Samoan culture. Held in conjunction with the World Fireknife Championship, the High School Samoan Cultural Arts Festival is an event in which Hawai‘i high school students
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demonstrate their own cultural knowledge of Samoan traditions with exhibitions in basket weaving, coconut husking, fire making, and more.  www.polynesia.com

May 25, 2015

Lantern Floating Hawaii

Every year on Memorial Day, thousands of people gather at Magic Island at Ala Moana Beach Park to honor ancestors and loved ones who have passed away. At sundown, more than 3,000 candlelit lanterns are set afloat on the ocean, a traditional Buddhist rite originating in Japan. The ceremony serves to honor those who have sacrificed their lives in war, pay respect to ancestors and loved ones who have passed away, and pray for a harmonious and peaceful future. The ceremony also features live entertainment by local and international musicians, as well as inspiring speeches. www.lanternfloatinghawaii.com

June 12-14, 2015

Pan-Pacific Festival

The 36th annual Pan-Pacific Festival is a three-day international cultural celebration that features a weekend of Pacific Rim cultural performances, demonstrations, hula, food, bo'olanle (block party). The event culminates with a colorful parade with thousands of participants in lively costumes marching down Kalākaua Avenue in Waikīkī.  www.pan-pacific-festival.com

June 13, 2015

99th Annual King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade

This colorful celebration honors the reign of King Kamehameha, who was responsible for uniting the Hawaiian Islands under his rule in 1810. The parade features brightly decorated floats, energetic marching bands and traditional pa'au riders who represent a Hawaiian royal court on horseback.  www.hawaii.gov/dags/king_kamehameha_commission/

June-August 2015

Obon Dances and Festivals

Buddhist temples throughout the island celebrate the Obon tradition, brought to Hawai'i by Japanese immigrants that have evolved into a social and cultural event. Experience this part of O'ahu’s rich culture, which is designed to honor ancestors through an evening of dance, music and

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merrymaking. Dances and festivals are held at temples across the island on various dates throughout the summer.

July 11, 2015

Korean Festival
The Korean Festival is an annual event run by the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with dozens of community organizations and businesses, and hundreds of volunteers. This popular cultural celebration highlights the unique food, dance, art and music of Korea. In the past, festivities include Korean cooking lessons, a singing competition, and even a kim chee eating contest. www.koreanfestivalhi.com

July 12, 2015

Hawaii All-Collectors Show
Don’t miss the opportunity to find the perfect gift from Hawai‘i at the Hawaii All-Collectors Show at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. This annual collectibles and antiques show and sale features more than 200 booths with one of the largest selections of Hawaiiana under one roof. www.ukulele.com

July 18-19, 2015

38th Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival
This year, the 38th Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival will expand to a two-day event, July 18-19. The festival, held in the beautiful Moanalua Gardens, features hula halau (schools) gracing the hula mound for spectators to enjoy and showcases Native Hawaiian culture through crafts, kapa making, lau hala weaving, lomilomi massage, traditional Hawaiian games, and more. www.moanaluagardensfoundation.org

July 18-19, 2015

Hale‘iwa Arts Festival 18th Annual Summer ArtFest
Experience a broad spectrum of traditional, contemporary and ethnic arts at Hale‘iwa Beach Park in the historic town of Hale‘iwa. This event includes visual artists, musicians, singers, dancers, demonstrations, storytelling, student art displays, historical trolley tours and children’s arts and crafts. Browse and purchase unique works by artists of all ages and cultural backgrounds. www.haleiwaartsfestival.org

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August 29-30, 2015

Greek Festival
The Greek Festival, held at McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park, celebrates Greek culture with ethnic food, live entertainment, cultural booths, and more. The popular annual festival is sponsored by the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. www.greekfestivalhawaii.com

September 5-6, 2015

33rd Annual Okinawan Festival
The Hawaii United Okinawa Association presents the largest ethnic festival in the state of Hawai‘i. The event kicks off with a mini procession inside Kapi‘olani Park featuring a taiko drum performance. The three-day festival at Kapi‘olani Park celebrates Okinawan culture with food, entertainment, arts, crafts, and cultural activities. www.okinawanfestival.com

September 19 & 26, 2015

Aloha Festivals
This premier showcase celebrates Hawai‘i’s music, dance and history, and is intended to preserve the islands’ unique traditions. Festivities on O‘ahu include a Waikīkī Ho‘olaule‘a on Sept. 19 and a floral parade on Sept. 26. www.alohafestivals.com

November 20-22, 2015

HONOLULU Fashion Week
After a successful debut in 2014, HONOLULU Fashion Week will return this fall at the Hawai‘i Convention Center. A three-day event will highlight international and local design talent with collaborative and individual runway shows, VIP events, pop-up boutiques, exclusive merchandise, and other events. www.honolulufashionweek.com

Cuisine
May 2, 2015

Waikiki SPAM® Jam
The Waikiki SPAM® Jam is an exciting annual street festival that takes place on Kalākaua Avenue in Waikīkī. This 13th annual event celebrates Hawai‘i’s love of SPAM® and features a variety of Honolulu’s finest restaurants serving up SPAM®-inspired creations. Two entertainment stages

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provide non-stop entertainment ranging from hula dancers to local musicians, and merchandise vendors sell SPAM®-themed items and Hawaiian crafts. Proceeds from the event benefit the Hawai‘i Food Bank. www.spamjamhawaii.com

July 18, 2015

Mangoes at the Moana

If you are bananas for mangoes be sure to head to the Moana Surfrider for the seventh Annual Mangoes at the Moana festival. Mango enthusiasts are invited to visit food and activity booths featuring this local favorite. This celebration of all things mango will include recipe contests, cooking demonstrations and a mango cocktail throw down. With over sixty varieties of mango grown in Hawai‘i, you’ll be sure to find something you like. www.moana-surfrider.com

August 29-September 13, 2015 (O‘ahu: September 9-13, 2015)

Hawai‘i Food & Wine Festival

The festival includes culinary-focused events and evening receptions featuring dishes prepared by an all-star lineup of chefs from Hawai‘i and around the world, using locally sourced ingredients. The Hawai‘i Food & Wine Festival is co-chaired by chefs Roy Yamaguchi and Alan Wong and serves to showcase the state’s bounty of produce and proteins and highlights the islands’ return to a sustainable eco-system of agriculture, environment and economy. www.hawaiifoodandwinefestival.com

September 2015

Rice Festival

September is national rice month and what better way to celebrate than to attend the sixth annual Rice Festival. The celebration features entertainment, cultural performances and cooking demonstrations by local celebrity chefs. The Rice Festival was created to celebrate “the grain that connects us.” This free event will give visitors and locals the chance to see how rice is prepared by the different cultures that make up our island. www.ricefest.com

October 17, 2015

Hawaii Chocolate Festival

The fifth annual Hawaii Chocolate Festival is where chocolate lovers can learn the steps that go into

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making this sweet treat from start to finish. There will be chocolate tastings, guest speakers, chocolate inspired spa lounge, chocolate garden, coco café and tea house, live entertainment, and more. The festival was created to raise awareness about Hawai‘i’s growing cacao industry and to solidify chocolate as the state’s newest ‘ambassador of aloha.’ www.hawaiichocolatefestival.com

**Sporting and Fitness Events**

*January 11-18, 2015*

**Sony Open in Hawaii**

The Sony Open in Hawai‘i kicks off the PGA Tour by bringing 144 of the world’s best professional golfers to O‘ahu’s exclusive Wai‘alae Country Club each January. Past participants include notable golfers including 2005 winner, Vijay Singh, 2003 and 2004 winner, Ernie Els, and Hawai‘i’s own Michelle Wie and Tadd Fujikawa. The six-day event is one of the largest charity events in the state of Hawai‘i and has raised more than $13 million for local not-for-profits since 1999. www.sonyopeninhawaii.com

*February 16, 2015*

**Great Aloha Run**

The Great Aloha Run is an 8.15 mile foot race that starts at Aloha Tower in Honolulu and ends at Aloha Stadium in Hālawa. A three-day Sports, Health and Fitness Expo occurs during the weekend of the race and includes an array of exhibition booths offering unique products and services, entertainment, workshops, and more. www.greataloharun.com

*February 26-March 1, 2015*

**Wanderlust Yoga Festival**

Enjoy the ultimate mind, body and soul wellness festival on O‘ahu. The Wanderlust Yoga Festival is a one of a kind gathering of yoga masters, musical performers and top chefs along with the world’s leading wellness speakers. Open the mind, refresh the soul and satiate appetites at this event held at the Turtle Bay Hotel and Resort. www.wanderlustfestival.com

*May 17, 2015*

**Honolulu Triathlon**

Thousands of triathletes from around the world visit O‘ahu each May to compete in the Honolulu
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Triathlon. The Olympic distance triathlon features a 1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run that begins and ends at Ala Moana Beach Park. www.honolulutriathlon.com

August 22-30, 2015

Duke’s OceanFest
Duke’s OceanFest, a weeklong festival, features a variety of exciting water sports competitions, including longboard surfing, surf polo, swimming, standup paddling, and other events that pay tribute to the local waterman. The festivities culminate with the Duke’s Statue lei draping ceremony on Aug. 24, the anniversary of his birthday. www.dukesoceanfest.com

September 5, 2015

Waikiki Roughwater Swim
The 46th annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim is where swimmers from all over the world will tackle the challenging waters of Waikiki. This open water swim measures 2.384 miles long, beginning at Sans Souci Beach between the Natatorium and the New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel and ending near the Hilton Hawaiian Village. www.waikikiroughwaterswim.com

September 27, 2015

Honolulu Century Ride
The Honolulu Century Ride is Hawai’i’s oldest and largest cycling event, attracting approximately 4,000 people around the world each year. The ride begins and ends at Kapi’olani Park, and participants can choose to ride 20, 25, 40, 50, 75, or 100 miles at their own pace. Proceeds from the annual fun ride support the Hawaii Bicycling League and its efforts to promote cycling for health, recreation and transportation through advocacy, education and events. www.hbl.org

October 11, 2015

Moloka‘i Hoe
This year marks the 62nd annual Moloka‘i Hoe, one of the longest running annual team sporting events in Hawai‘i, second only to football. The race starts at Hale o Lono beach on Moloka‘i and goes through the Kaiwi Channel, ending at Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikīkī. The Moloka‘i Hoe perpetuates one of Hawai‘i’s and Polynesia’s most important and historic cultural traditions, while honoring outrigger canoe paddlers around the world. www.molokaihoe.com

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November 12-December 20, 2015

Vans Triple Crown of Surfing
The Vans Triple Crown of Surfing returns to the North Shore of O‘ahu. Kicking off with the Reef Hawaiian Pro at Hale‘iwa, the series continues with the Vans World Cup of Surfing at Sunset Beach, and lastly the Billabong Pipeline Masters at the famous Banzai Pipeline. O‘ahu’s North Shore is home to these final events on the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) calendar that will crown surfing’s new world champions. www.triplecrownofsurfing.com

December 1, 2014-February 28, 2015

30th Annual Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau
Each winter, the world’s best big wave surfers are invited to Waimea Bay on O‘ahu’s North Shore to compete in the Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau. The Eddie can only be held when surf measures at least 20 feet (Hawaiian scale) for a full day. The holding period for the event is between December 1 and the last day in February. When the surf is big enough, thousands flock to watch the likes of Kelly Slater and Bruce Irons compete in this prestigious surfing competition. www.quiksilver.com

December 6, 2015

XTERRA Trail Run World Championship
The XTERRA Trail Run World Championship is an off-road half-marathon that winds through Kualoa Ranch on O‘ahu’s northeastern shore. Trail runs, kids race, and other family events will also be offered. www.xterraplanet.com

December 13, 2015

Honolulu Marathon
Thousands of runners from around the world travel to O‘ahu each year to participate in the Honolulu Marathon. The 26.2-mile scenic course includes spectacular views alongside world famous Waikīkī Beach and Diamond Head. www.honolulumarathon.org

December 22, 23 & 25, 2015

Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic
The Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic is an eight-team, 12-game bracket tournament that

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features some of the nation’s best collegiate men’s basketball teams. The tournament is held at the University of Hawai‘i’s Stan Sherriff Center. www.diamondheadclassic.com

December 24, 2015

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl
Following the University of Hawai‘i’s move to the Mountain West Conference (MWC), in 2012, the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl will pit a team from the MWC against a team from Conference USA in the annual college football bowl game played at Honolulu’s Aloha Stadium on Christmas Eve. www.sheratonhawaiibowl.com

For information on the Island of O‘ahu, go to www.visit-oahu.com, follow OVB’s Tweets at www.Twitter.com/OahuVB, or become a fan of O‘ahu on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/OahuHawaii, and follow @OahuVB on Instagram.

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