



## **MELE AND MORE ON O'AHU**

*Visitors can experience O'ahu's abundance of musical offerings at dive bars, concert halls, festivals and more*

O'AHU – With the absence of a written language, music has been an integral part of Hawaiian culture before the first Europeans landed on the islands in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the introduction of a small stringed instrument by the Portuguese that would eventually become the 'ukulele, and the invention of the slack key style of guitar playing by native Hawaiian musicians, Hawaiian music has developed into its own distinct sound. Waikīkī is known for its lively beaches, rolling surf and historic hotels. But the history and culture of this iconic, festive paradise would be forgotten if not for its abundance of live Hawaiian music. From the land where palm trees and hula girls sway, visitors will find an array of venues from oceanfront stages, boutique hotels, hidden lounges and tiki bars where locals and visitors have the opportunity to hear the best traditional and contemporary Hawaiian music year-round.

Ancient Hawaiian music is rooted in chants and songs accompanied by instruments such as the pahu (drum made from a tree trunk with a sharkskin drumhead), 'ulī'ulī (a gourd rattle), pū'ili (a spilt bamboo rattle), 'ili'ili (river rocks), ipu (gourd) and more. These were the sounds that accompanied hula kahiko (ancient style of hula). The transformation of Hawaiian music was instigated in the mid-1800's when steamships began transporting visitors from all over the world to Honolulu Harbor, bringing with them instruments such as violins, guitars, 'ukulele and pianos to provide entertainment during their long voyage to the islands. The cultural sounds and chants of ancient Hawaiian music mixed with the visitor's new instruments and formed a new sound that changed the history of Hawaiian music. The result ever since has been a rich and exciting growth in O'ahu's music venues and performances.

In the 1920's and 30's, Hawaiian music became an integral part of local tourism, with most hotels and attractions incorporating music in one form or another. Moving forward to the first half of the 20th century, the mostly young men who hung around the Honolulu beaches, swimming and surfing, came to be known as the Waikīkī Beachboys and their parties became famous across Hawai'i and abroad. Through the years, the Hawaiian people have embraced music from all around

## MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU

Add 2

the world contributing to the extremely wide range of musical styles that can be found on O‘ahu today. Popular genres just outside the traditional scope include modern rock, hip-hop, Hawaiian (Hawaiian style of reggae music), jazz and even country. Some notable music venues, events and artists on O‘ahu include the following:

### **Hotels**

#### Halekulani

Famous for oceanfront Hawaiian music, hula dancing and a show under the stars, Halekulani hotel features traditional Hawaiian music alongside a historic centuries’ old kiawe tree at its restaurant **House Without a Key**. Later in the evening a live jazz band can be heard from the luxurious **Lewers Lounge**, which is known for its classic cocktails.

*House Without a Key* nightly 5:30-8:30 p.m.; *Lewers Lounge* Sunday-Thursday 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m., Friday & Saturday 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., [Halekulani.com](http://Halekulani.com)

#### Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort

Hilton Hawaiian Village features some of the most notable and recognized Hawaiian music stars in Waikiki including Henry Kaponu, Nohelani Cypriano and Olomana. The 22-acre resort also welcomes musicians known for their acoustic, rock and contemporary Hawaiian tunes.

*Tapa Bar* Sunday-Thursday; 7:30 -10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 7:45 -10:45 p.m.

*Tropics Bar & Grill* Sunday-Thursday 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday 8-10:30 p.m., [HiltonHawaiianVillage.com](http://HiltonHawaiianVillage.com)

#### Hilton Waikiki Beach

**Lobby Bar** located inside the trendy Hilton Waikiki Beach features stylish pūpū (appetizers) alongside specialty hand-crafted cocktails made from fresh local ingredients. The relaxing pink glow and nightly live music make Lobby Bar the first, and occasionally the last, stop of the evening.

Young Hawai‘i musicians performing top hits, ballads and familiar pop and rock tunes leave visitors wanting more.

*Nightly Live Music* 7pm-10pm, [MAC247Waikiki.com/Lobby-Bar](http://MAC247Waikiki.com/Lobby-Bar)

#### Hyatt Centric Waikiki Beach

Visitors can sip festive beverages by a picturesque Splash Lounge located inside the Hyatt Centric Waikiki Beach. With plenty of seating surrounding the area for a fun day under the Hawaiian sun,

## MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU

Add 3

relax on a beach chair or opt for the comfort of a private cabana while enjoying live music by rotating artists.

*Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 6:30-8:30 p.m., [HyattCentricWaikikiBeach.com](http://HyattCentricWaikikiBeach.com)*

### Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Waikiki Beach

Visitors can grab a rocking chair and relax to the mellow sounds of both traditional and contemporary Hawaiian charms at the historical Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa. The tranquil **Banyan Courtyard** hosts live Hawaiian music daily during and after lunch then again in the evening.

*Banyan Tree Courtyard/Beach Bar daily 12:30-2:30 p.m., 5:30-10 p.m., [Moana-Surfrider.com](http://Moana-Surfrider.com)*

### The Modern Honolulu

The chic and contemporary Modern Honolulu boasts a hidden library with live acoustic vibes in **The Study**. In the late afternoon and evening guests can look forward to live music by local artists playing both cover and original songs.

*The Study nightly 8-10:30 p.m., [TheModernHonolulu.com](http://TheModernHonolulu.com)*

### Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort

A hotspot for Hawaiian Music, **Kani Ka Pila Grille** located at the Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort showcases some of Hawai‘i’s legendary musicians along with up-and-coming performers. Current resident artists include Robi Kahakalau, Brother Noland and Weldon Kekauoha.

*Kani Ka Pila Grille nightly live music poolside 6:30-9:30 p.m., [Outrigger.com/events/music/kani-ka-pila-grille](http://Outrigger.com/events/music/kani-ka-pila-grille)*

### The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort

Located steps away from the beautiful sands of Waikīkī Beach, the iconic “Pink Palace of the Pacific” is known for its romantic charm and traditional Hawaiian music performed nightly at the **Mai Tai Bar**. Situated beachfront and with spectacular views of Diamond Head, the Mai Tai Bar is a landmark for live music which blends elegantly with the rolling waves of the Pacific Ocean.

Entertainment alternates between solo Hawaiian artists and duos accompanied by hula dancers.

*Mai Tai Bar nightly 6:30-9:30 p.m. or 8-10 p.m., [Royal-Hawaiian.com/dining/maitaibar](http://Royal-Hawaiian.com/dining/maitaibar)*

## MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU

Add 4

### Sheraton Waikiki

The Sheraton Waikiki features two oceanfront locations to experience live music. **RumFire** and the Sheraton’s signature pool bar **Edge of Waikiki** offer contemporary and trendy live acoustic jams just before sunset and into the night. Later, RumFire transforms into a popular lounge and dance club with a live DJ. *RumFire daily, happy hour to late night, Edge of Waikiki nightly 6:30-8:30 p.m., [Sheraton-Waikiki.com](http://Sheraton-Waikiki.com)*

### Restaurants

#### Chiko’s Tavern

Tucked away on McCully Street, Chiko’s Tavern is an informal neighborhood bar featuring karaoke nightly. The warm, friendly atmosphere contributes to its laid-back vibes making it the perfect venue for locals and visitors to appreciate good food, good music and good company. [ChikosTavern.com](http://ChikosTavern.com)

#### Duke’s Waikiki

Catch local icon Henry Kapono performing his popular “Duke’s on Sunday” anthem at Waikīkī hotspot Dukes Waikiki every Sunday. The restaurant also plays host to well-known Hawaiian artists Maunalua and Ka’ala Boys.

*Duke’s Waikiki nightly 4-6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.-12am, [DukesWaikiki.com](http://DukesWaikiki.com)*

#### Imua Lounge

Local hot spot Imua Lounge is well-known for its nightly live music, ono pupu (appetizers), and weekly Aloha Friday Hawaiian lunch. The lounge sets the scene for travelers wanting to experience true “Aloha Spirit.” [ImuaLoungeOhana.com](http://ImuaLoungeOhana.com)

#### Lulu’s Waikiki

Lulu’s offers enticing dishes, friendly service and priceless views in a retro-surf atmosphere. Just across the street from the Honolulu Zoo and Waikīkī Beach, Lulu’s brings the beat. The surf culture-inspired venue hosts live music every night featuring some of the island’s best rising stars and local bands. On Fridays and Saturdays, late night DJs hold down the fort from 10 p.m.

*Lulu’s Waikiki nightly 6:30-9 p.m., [LulusWaikiki.com](http://LulusWaikiki.com)*

## **MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU**

Add 5

### Mahina & Sun’s

Honolulu-born chef Ed Kenney’s fourth eatery, Mahina & Sun’s located inside the Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club offers nightly live music, occasional poolside concerts, and movie screenings under the stars. With a new musically-inclined Sunday dining experience, diners can groove to rotating sets curated by Aloha Got Soul during Mahina Brunch.

*Mahina & Sun’s nightly 7-9 p.m., Mahina Brunch with Aloha Got Soul Sundays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,*

[MahinaandSuns.com](http://MahinaandSuns.com)

## **Clubs, Venues, Bars and More**

### Ala Moana Center

With more than 800 performances a year including a daily hula show at 1 p.m., the world’s largest open-air shopping center is proud to host a variety of fashion and music performances, and cultural and community organizations. From in-store demos and classes to live performances and cultural gatherings, Ala Moana Center is always offering fun experiences for locals and visitors alike.

[AlaMoanaCenter.com](http://AlaMoanaCenter.com)

### Blue Note Hawaii

Located inside the Outrigger Waikiki Beach Hotel, Blue Note Hawaii is the premier destination for top international sensations and musical artists performing live jazz, rhythm & blues, classical, reggae, along with the best in island entertainment and world-renowned comedians. The music lineup is 365 days per year with two shows nightly.

*Blue Note Hawaii nightly 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. [BlueNoteHawaii.com](http://BlueNoteHawaii.com)*

### The Dragon Upstairs

This upstairs Chinatown club may be tiny — it was a tattoo parlor in its former life — but it is the place to go to hear live, local jazz. The Dragon Upstairs boasts a rotation of local musicians, including Honolulu favorite, Gilbert Batangan, the Chris Yeh Quartet, Gypsy 808 and more. The cozy club also brings in DJs spinning Motown, funk and soul. The club hosts a diverse lineup of acts in a cozy, Asian-accented digs above Hank’s Cafe.

*The Dragon Upstairs Monday-Saturday 6 p.m.-2 a.m., [TheDragonUpstairs.com](http://TheDragonUpstairs.com)*

## **MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU**

Add 6

### Hawaiian Brians

Hawaiian Brian's is a 21,000 square-foot entertainment center featuring multiple rooms of live music, billiards, and darts. Their unique layout allows the venue to accommodate events of all shapes and sizes. Notable regulars include Oahu-born Mike Love who performs with his band, The Full Circle every Wednesday. [HawaiianBrians.com](http://HawaiianBrians.com)

### International Market Place

The newly reimagined International Market Place in Waikikī is now a shopping oasis featuring dozens of new retailers and restaurants. The tropical landscaping along with the preservation of its iconic banyan tree create a dramatic background for live Hawaiian entertainment. From the famed lighting of the torches to the hula 'auana and kahiko shows, the free performances here are a must see.

*International Market Place nightly 4-10 p.m., [ShopInternationalMarketPlace.com](http://ShopInternationalMarketPlace.com)*

### Neal S. Blaisdell Center

The Neal S. Blaisdell Center is Hawai'i's community center and the go-to venue for A-list touring artists on the island of O'ahu. The Blaisdell Center complex includes a multi-purpose Arena, Exhibition Hall, Galleria, and Concert Hall. The Concert Hall is Hawai'i's premier performing arts theater for the Honolulu Symphony, the Hawaii Opera Theatre, Broadway productions, and other national touring shows. [BlaisdellCenter.com](http://BlaisdellCenter.com)

### The Republik

The Republik is Honolulu's premiere boutique concert and events venue, locally owned & operated since 2012. Mostly known for their ability to host club shows, The Republik is an energetic nightclub located near downtown Honolulu with live bands and performances featured in an open, general-admission setting. [JointheRepublik.com](http://JointheRepublik.com)

### Sky Waikiki

Sky Waikiki sets the new definition of exclusive featuring a popular "sky deck" and bar presenting live music showcasing new, cool, fresh island artists. Friday and Saturday nights are reserved for local and internationally known DJs dropping beats from the interior bar throughout the night.

## **MELE AND MORE ON O‘AHU**

Add 7

*Sky Waikiki Thursday, Friday and Saturday 6-9 p.m., [SkyWaikiki.com](http://SkyWaikiki.com)*

### Tiki's Grill & Bar

A relaxed atmosphere known for its award-winning food and eclectic mix of music, Tiki's is located in the always festive Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel and showcases a diverse mix of talent from contemporary, Hawaiian and even pop artists. Visitors should cruise on over to this casual retreat for fun for the whole family.

*Tiki's Bar & Grill nightly 5-10 p.m., Sundays 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., [TikisGrill.com](http://TikisGrill.com)*

### Waikiki Beach Walk

Tradition thrives in music and dance at exciting **Waikiki Beach Walk**. All performances take place at the Plaza Stage on the lawn and are free to the public. Outrigger Hotels and Resort's Na Mele No Na Pua concerts are held every Sunday on the Plaza Stage at Waikiki Beach Walk. The weekly performances showcase the island's best performers ranging from Hawaiian, contemporary, jazz and more.

*Waikiki Beach Walk twice monthly on Saturday, 5-6 p.m., [WaikikiBeachWalk.com](http://WaikikiBeachWalk.com)*

### Waikiki Shell

With world-famous Diamond Head for a backdrop and Waikiki Beach just across the street, the Waikiki Shell is a unique venue for outdoor concerts and other large gatherings. This magnificent shell-shaped facility with its acoustically sophisticated stage is an ideal location for twilight concerts featuring balmy skies and lush greenery. [BlaisdellCenter.com](http://BlaisdellCenter.com)

## **Festivals and Events**

### Hawai'i Book & Music Festival

Visitors can experience the finest of Hawai'i's contemporary culture at the Hawai'i 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. [HawaiiBookandMusicFestival.com](http://HawaiiBookandMusicFestival.com)



## MELE AND MORE ON O'AHU

Add 9

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