



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 12, 2023

### **News, Updates and Aloha From O'ahu**

*(September 2023, Quarter 3)*

As we continue to support and *mālama* our Maui 'obana through relief efforts, Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green, has emphasized that travelers are encouraged to explore other parts of Maui — such as Kahului, Wailuku, Kihei, Wailea, Mākena, Pā'ia and Hāna, and the neighboring Hawaiian Islands, including O'ahu, to support the local economy and aid recovery efforts. While Lahaina will remain fully closed to the public until further notice out of respect to the town's residents, the West Maui communities of Nāpili, Kā'anapali, Honokōwai and Kapalua will fully reopen on October 8. Here are [important ways](#) that visitors can help mālama Maui. For the latest information on Maui's emergency management and recovery and ways to assist, visit [MauiStrong.Hawaii.gov](http://MauiStrong.Hawaii.gov).

O'AHU — *E komo mai!* Make your way to O'ahu, Hawai'i's "gathering place," where you can bask in the beauty of authentic Hawaiian *hula*, *mele* (music) and culture while enjoying 'ono (delicious) foods from some of the most uniquely innovative and authentic restaurants and eateries in the Pacific.

O'ahu is a bustling island with plenty of exciting news and events to share. Keep reading to discover its newest attractions, events and offerings sure to elevate your next visit and create unforgettable memories!

### **Experience Authentic Hawaiian *Hula*, *Mele*, and Culture in Historic Waikīkī**

#### **Royal Hawaiian Center**

- As part of its commitment to honoring Hawaiian culture, Royal Hawaiian Center offers a suite of complimentary cultural classes and live entertainment immersing the center's visitors year-round in the arts and history of Hawai'i. Weekly classes include adult and *keiki* (kids) *hula* lessons, as well as *lei* making, *laubala* weaving and 'ukulele lessons. Weekly performances at The Royal Grove feature local music and musicians celebrating ancient and modern *hula*. [www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com](http://www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com)

### **Mālama Hawai'i**

#### **Kualoa Ranch Private Nature Reserve**

- Kualoa Ranch Private Nature Reserve recently launched its new Koa Tree Planting Tour. The planting of native *koa* trees aims to increase the reserve's biodiversity, produce a sustainable forestry system and improve the reserve's overall ecological footprint. The

hands-on experience enables guests to learn about multiple species of native Hawaiian plants and their many purposes. [www.Kualoa.com](http://www.Kualoa.com)

### **North Shore EcoTours**

- North Shore EcoTours is a *mālama ‘āina* (“care for the land”)-based eco-tour program operating on thousands of acres of protected lands owned by Kamehameha Schools. Guests on its tours can experience guided hiking and off-road tours and participate in reforestation of the island’s Kawaihoa watershed with native plant species. North Shore EcoTour’s new offering, Ka Manakuke — Da Mongoose ATV Adventure, features silent, electric four-wheel scooter-like ATVs. [www.NorthShoreEcoTours.com](http://www.NorthShoreEcoTours.com)

### **The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikīkī Beach**

- In celebration of World Ocean Day, [The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikīkī Beach](http://www.RitzCarlton.com) recently debuted a new amenity for hotel guests aimed at eliminating more than 300,000 single-use plastic water bottles per year. The resort installed under-sink water purification systems in all of its hotel rooms and suites, becoming one of the first Hawai‘i hotels to offer purified water directly from the tap. Complimentary aluminum water bottles are provided as a welcome amenity for guests to use the new in-room purification systems.
- The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikīkī Beach is continuing its efforts as one of the first hotels supporting a seven-year initiative to restore Waikīkī’s Ala Wai Canal. Each night of every guest’s stay contributes \$20 toward funding the initiative’s goal of placing 300,000 Genki balls packed with microorganisms into the canal to oxygenate its waters. Since its effort began, the resort has raised more than \$30,000 and created more than 3,000 Genki balls. [www.RitzCarlton.com](http://www.RitzCarlton.com)

### **Turtle Bay Resort**

- Turtle Bay Resort’s new Kuilima Farm provides fresh produce for all restaurants on property. Guests on the farm’s walking tour learn about the Hawaiian *ahupua‘a* (land division system) and farming techniques and explore a native Hawaiian garden at the farm’s *piko* (center). At the *piko*, they are invited to participate in a scavenger hunt for native plants; plant native Hawaiian species such as *‘ilima*, *kalu*, (taro) and *tī*; and sample island-grown tropical fruits. Participants cool off with delicious shave ice at tour’s end. [www.TurtleBayResort.com/North-Shore/Kuilima-Farm](http://www.TurtleBayResort.com/North-Shore/Kuilima-Farm)

### **Wild Side Specialty Tours**

- Wild Side Specialty Tours invites visitors to *mālama* (“care for”) Hawai‘i and learn about and participate in “the power of conservation to build *pilina* (relationships).” Working in and below the ocean surface, participants on tours help gather data important for the preservation of Hawaiian marine habitats and marine life, including false killer whales, Hawaiian monk seals and Hawaiian green sea turtles. Three-hour and full-day boat tours with local naturalists and accomplished photographers on this woman-owned tour are limited to six passengers. [www.SailHawaii.com](http://www.SailHawaii.com)

## Activities and Attractions

### **Bike Hawai‘i**

- Bike Hawai‘i recently launched its West O‘ahu Palehua Hike and Snorkel Tour, offering it twice weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays. Guests on the tour experience the scenic West O‘ahu coastline from forest to sea or sea to forest, getting to reverse the order of activities to enjoy snorkeling first with an afternoon hike and sunset *pūpū* with a view, or vice versa. The tour combines a 1.5-mile ridge hike with snacks from Bike Hawai‘i and a three-hour sail and snorkel with lunch and three cocktails from Ko Olina Ocean Adventures (KOA) aboard a 53-foot luxury catamaran. [www.BikeHawaii.com](http://www.BikeHawaii.com)

### **Blue Hawaii Private Tours**

- Blue Hawaii Private Tours is now offering a local food and sightseeing tour of O‘ahu designed for guests wishing to sample Hawai‘i foods while checking out the island’s scenery, beaches, mountains and more. [www.BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com](http://www.BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com)

### **USS Missouri - Daniel K. Inouye: Hawai‘i’s Mighty Supporter**

- Longtime Hawai‘i senior Sen. Daniel K. Inouye was instrumental in bringing the USS *Missouri* — famously known as the Mighty Mo — to its forever home at Pearl Harbor as a museum ship. In his honor, the Battleship Missouri Memorial recently opened a temporary exhibit dedicated to the senator’s life and accomplishments and the USS *Missouri*’s journey to Hawai‘i. The exhibit features unique, never-before-seen images and objects from the Daniel K. Inouye Institute, USS Missouri Memorial Association (UMMA) archives and the personal collection of Roy Yee, former UMMA president. [www.USSMissouri.org](http://www.USSMissouri.org)

### **Foster Botanical Garden**

- Foster Botanical Garden has reopened following the completion of a major accessibility improvement project. The garden was closed in February to improve accessibility at its entrance, bathrooms, community garden and on its pathways. The finished project offers more accessible paved and graded pathways improving visitor circulation throughout the botanical garden. [www.Honolulu.gov](http://www.Honolulu.gov)

### **Kumu Kahua Theatre**

- Historic Kumu Kahua Theatre in downtown Honolulu is presenting its 53rd season, showcasing diverse works exploring current controversies, historic happenings and imaginative realms from some of Hawai‘i’s most exciting playwright voices. Tickets for all shows, ranging in price from \$5 to \$25, are available now at the theatre’s box office. [www.KumuKahua.org](http://www.KumuKahua.org)

### **Pacific Historic Parks**

- Pacific Historic Parks recently unveiled the Pearl Harbor National Memorial’s newest VR theater, seating 30 visitors and hosting four unique virtual-reality experiences, including two narrated perspectives on the Imperial Japanese Navy attack of December 7, 1941. The theater also offers virtual-reality experiences exploring the USS *Arizona* before its sinking and as she rests today in the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor. Reservations may be made online. [www.PacificHistoricParks.org](http://www.PacificHistoricParks.org)

- U.S. military active duty, retirees, dependents and veterans will enjoy free admission to the Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum, free self-guided audio tours and access to the Pearl Harbor Virtual Reality Experience from Pacific Historic Parks. A valid military ID must be presented at the ticket and information booth at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center or onsite at each of the Pacific Historic Parks' sites. [www.PacificHistoricParks.org](http://www.PacificHistoricParks.org)

### **Pearl Harbor Private VIP Tours**

- Learn the past and present history of Pearl Harbor and Hawai'i in relation to World War II on a tour with Blue Hawaii Private Tours. Tickets for the USS Arizona Memorial are reserved for you and include reservations for a new tour of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, which includes your choice of the Captain's Tour or Chief Engineer's tour. Both tours offer access to areas of the ship not open to the general public. [www.BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com](http://www.BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com)

### **Royal Hawaiian Center**

- All are welcome to experience an up close and personal look at the moon and stars in Hawai'i's night sky at the Royal Hawaiian Center's monthly Rooftop Stargazing event. The event, which happens in the center's Building A on Level 4, is free and open to the public to attend on a first-come, first-served basis. [www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com](http://www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com)

### **Sea Life Park Hawai'i**

- Sea Life Park Hawai'i recently unveiled its new Sandy Shores exhibit exploring nearshore habitats and one of Hawai'i's most celebrated experiences: going to the beach. The exhibit aims to give guests a deeper appreciation for the dynamic environment and vibrant animal life inhabiting nearshore ecosystems. Guests also learn about how seemingly plentiful sandy shorelines are slipping away worldwide and the importance of current beach conservation efforts. [www.SeaLifeParkHawaii.com](http://www.SeaLifeParkHawaii.com)

### **Special Olympics Hawai'i Over the Edge Fundraiser**

- It's a tall order to rappel 40 stories down one of the tallest hotels in Waikiki. But when Special Olympics Hawai'i's Over the Edge fundraiser returns this fall, about 100 supporters of the organization will do just that. This year's event is set for October 7 at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa, offering participants the unique opportunity of rappelling more than 400 feet down the side of the hotel while experiencing breathtaking views of Waikiki and Lē'ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument). Registration is open online at [www.SoHawaii.org](http://www.SoHawaii.org). If you'd like to support Special Olympics Hawai'i without participating in Over the Edge, you can make a donation by visiting [www.Give.Classy.org](http://www.Give.Classy.org).

### **Waimea Valley**

- Waimea Valley is offering a new daily activity, Ka'apuni o Waimea, which translates from *'olelo Hawai'i* (Hawaiian language) as "to travel around or circuit Waimea." The activity aims to create meaningful connections, collaborative learning and an enhanced opportunity to experience Waimea Valley. Guests are guided through three key valley cultural sites: Hale Ho'ike, Kauhale and Kahua Pā'ani. At each site, guests engage with different aspects of

Waimea Valley and Hawai'i's history and learn about associated Hawaiian cultural values. [www.WaimeaValley.net](http://www.WaimeaValley.net)

## **Hotels**

### **Four Seasons Resort O‘ahu at Ko Olina**

- [Naupaka Spa and Wellness Centre](#) at [Four Seasons Resort O‘ahu at Ko Olina](#) recently announced the addition of its luxury skincare line, [111Skin](#), to its menu of offerings. Created by plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Yannis Alexandrides, 111Skin delivers “skin-nourishing, surgical precision that yields long-lasting, visible results.” With an extensive menu, ranging from facials and body treatments to energy realignment rituals, Naupaka Spa and Wellness Centre continues to specialize in wellness opportunities to relax, reset and renew on the island of O‘ahu. [www.FourSeasons.com](http://www.FourSeasons.com).

### **Hyatt Place Waikīkī Beach**

- Hyatt Place Waikīkī Beach recently announced the completion of renovations that include refreshed, island-inspired guest rooms with new furnishings. Hawai‘i’s volcanoes, forests and the surrounding Pacific Ocean were inspirations for the new design style of refreshed guest rooms and hallways. The contemporary design aims to reflect the Hawaiian Islands’ balance of diverse natural elements, with color palettes and textures “connecting room occupants and nature to present a fresh and genuinely local experience.” Upgrades were made to the property’s 426 rooms in its Diamond Head and Pali towers. [www.HyattPlaceWaikikiBeach.com](http://www.HyattPlaceWaikikiBeach.com)

### **Romer Waikīkī at The Ambassador**

- Romer Waikīkī at The Ambassador will open its doors on October 1, 2023 following a multi-million-dollar renovation. Formerly known as The Ambassador Hotel Waikīkī, the spirited hotel will reemerge as the heartbeat of the neighborhood – a place where guests and residents come together to share ideas, break bread, and discover something new. Guests can expect private lanais, lounge space, and noteworthy touches such as all-gender uniforms featuring pieces by local Hawaiian designer Matt Bruening, all overlooking Waikīkī’s glistening shorelines. At the third-floor pool, Romer’s Swim & Social Club serves up drinks and bites with a grooving and laid-back cabana scene. A new open-air restaurant featuring bright and locally sourced fare will debut in 2024. [www.RomerHotels.com](http://www.RomerHotels.com)

### **The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club**

- The Surfjack Hotel and Swim Club is featuring a full calendar of retro-inspired on-site events for guests from now through December. The hotel offers travelers spacious guest rooms, affordable rates, a centerpiece ‘Wish You Were Here’ pool, pet-friendly amenities, award-winning regional cuisine at Mahina and Sun’s restaurant and numerous poolside events, including aqua zumba, talk-story sessions, poolside films and adult swim. [www.Surfjack.com](http://www.Surfjack.com)

### **Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort and Spa**

- Guests on Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort and Spa’s Ho‘okipa Package get access to the resort’s Ho‘okipa Lookout — an intimate space for learning about and exploring Hawai‘i’s many cultures through light bites and activities. The space offers fresh wellness elixirs, yoga, morning meditation, and an evening exploration of the many cultures that have influenced

Hawai'i's food, art and language. The Ho'okipa Lookout also offers snacks, fresh coffee, espresso drinks, beer and wine, and a concierge to assist guests with their day.

[www.Promos.Marriott.com](http://www.Promos.Marriott.com)

- Experience the extraordinary Pā'ina Waikīkī, an exclusive dinner *lu'au* that brings to life the captivating tales of Waikīkī's historic eras. Through joyful melodies, enchanting hula performances, and top-tier Polynesian artistic expressions, we transport you to the bygone days of Waikīkī's grand residences, lush landscapes, and illustrious Hawaiian royalty who once graced these grounds. [www.PainaWaikiki.com](http://www.PainaWaikiki.com)

### **Wayfinder Waikīkī**

- Officially open this summer, Wayfinder Waikīkī is the second Wayfinder hotel under owner and creator Dovetail + Co. The hotel is “a uniquely hidden oasis with thoughtfully transformative design, public spaces, authentic food and beverage programming, and guest experiences steeped in culture distinctive to Hawai'i and the Waikīkī region and sustainable tourism.” Wayfinder Waikīkī's guest programming includes curated, local volunteer experiences for guests to explore Hawai'i while making a lasting impact on the planet. [www.WayfinderHotels.com](http://www.WayfinderHotels.com)

### **Restaurants**

#### **Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina**

- The Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina's award-winning Italian restaurant, Noe, recently unveiled a new menu drawing inspiration from the changing of seasons in Italy. Noe's unique “Capri meets Hawai'i” concept is led by Chef [Ryo Takatsuka](#) with a menu spotlighting how seasonal ingredients play a pivotal role in Italy's culinary traditions, and mirroring flavors and sensations experienced in Italy. Guests are also invited to sip, shake and stir things up at weekly mixology masterclasses, held each Thursday, from 3 to 4 p.m., at the Noe bar. Along with myriad spirits, the masterclasses explore aspects of the art of cocktails — from tools of the trade to the use of fresh ingredients and dehydrated garnish techniques, seasonal purees, fruit infusions, aromatic tips and house-made syrups. To make a reservation, call 808-565-2206. [www.FourSeasons.com](http://www.FourSeasons.com)

#### **Halekulani**

- Halekulani will host an exclusive collaborative culinary experience with the Imperial Hotel Tokyo on September 13 and 14 at its La Mer restaurant. The dinner will spotlight a five-course tasting menu comprised of signature dishes prepared by Thierry Voisin, chef de cuisine of Les Saisons at Imperial Hotel Tokyo, and Alexandre Trancher, executive chef of La Mer at Halekulani. The menu will incorporate unique twists to classic French delicacies. [www.Halekulani.com](http://www.Halekulani.com)

#### **Halepuna Waikīkī by Halekulani**

- Halepuna Waikīkī recently opened its new flagship restaurant, UMI by Vikram Garg. Helmed by global restaurateur and Chef Vikram Garg, the restaurant's concept of Ocean's Harvest is a tribute to the nurturing, life-giving abundance of the sea. UMI by Vikram Garg features expansive dinner and breakfast menus spotlighting seasonal ingredients,



traditional and progressive techniques, cultural infusion, le chariot tableside services, and a signature bespoke Chef's Table. [www.UmiByVikramgarg.com](http://www.UmiByVikramgarg.com)

### **La Bettola Waikiki**

- La Bettola Waikiki recently opened at 'Alohilani Resort, spearheaded by world-renowned Chef Tsutomu Ochiai, whose original restaurant, La Bettola da Ochiai in Tokyo, is known for being one of the most difficult reservations to get in Japan. At La Bettola, dishes are made under Chef Ochiai's "less-is-more" philosophy and include fish carpaccio and buttery sea urchin (uni) pasta, Ochiai's signature creation. The upscale dining experience is enhanced by the 'Alohilani Resort's captivating two-story oceanarium teeming with native marine life. [www.AlohilaniResort.com](http://www.AlohilaniResort.com)

### **Lotus Honolulu Hotel**

- The Lotus Honolulu Hotel's new restaurant, Arden, will open on September 29. The menu will feature an array of dishes prepared by award-winning and Michelin-trained Chefs Makoto Ono and Amanda Cheng. Diners can also look forward to handcrafted drinks made with fresh ingredients from local purveyors. [www.LotusHonoluluHotel.com](http://www.LotusHonoluluHotel.com)

### **MangoMango Dessert**

- Hong Kong-inspired dessert spot MangoMango Dessert recently opened its third Hawai'i location on Kapahulu Avenue at the Wong Leong Building, next to poke eatery Ono Seafood. The new location offers several exclusive menu items, including a crème brûlée mille crepe cake, mango panna cotta, and ube bubble milk tea. MangoMango Dessert's Kapahulu Avenue location is open Monday through Sunday from noon to 10 p.m. [www.MangoMangoDessert.com](http://www.MangoMangoDessert.com)

### **Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman**

- Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman, led by pioneering chef and Hawai'i Regional Cuisine co-founder Peter Merriman, found a new home this summer as the signature beachfront restaurant at the recently transformed Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort. Offering sweeping views of the ocean and Lē'ahi (nicknamed Diamond Head), the newest Monkeypod Kitchen location offers a guest experience both casual and festive. [www.MonkeypodKitchen.com](http://www.MonkeypodKitchen.com)

### **PAI Honolulu**

- PAI Honolulu recently began serving its new Pau Hana Menu at its patio and inside bar, Thursdays through Saturdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Friday evenings feature live music on the patio from Nā Hōkū Hanohano award-winning musician Ben Vegas. In August, PAI Honolulu also reintroduced its monthly, themed wine dinners. [www.PaiHonolulu.com](http://www.PaiHonolulu.com)

### **PESO**

- PESO is a new neighborhood restaurant and lumpia bar in the Ward-Kaka'ako area of Honolulu specializing in modern Filipino-American cuisine, natural wine, craft cocktails, beer and baked goods. The concept features thoughtful ingredients and flavors from Chef Ria Dolly Barbosa, a past Eater LA nominee for LA Chef of the Year. [www.PesoNeighborhood.com](http://www.PesoNeighborhood.com)

## RedFish

- In May, Redfish Poke Bar by Foodland opened its second location at the new Wayfinder Waikīkī hotel, a new Waikīkī boutique hotel under Dovetail + Co. Redfish offers casual breakfast, lunch, dinner and late-night options, as well as fresh poke creations and exclusive menu items available only at its Waikīkī location. [www.RedFishPoke.com](http://www.RedFishPoke.com)

## Festivals and Events

### September 9-30, 2023

- **Aloha Festivals** — Preserving the unique traditions of the Islands' Hawaiian culture, the Aloha Festivals is a showcase of Hawaiian music, dance, history, and the culture's contributions to Hawai'i. With events scheduled throughout September, the Aloha Festivals includes pageantry, a floral parade and *ho'olaule'a* (celebration) in Waikīkī, music and *hula* performances, and family-friendly activities. [AlohaFestivals.com](http://AlohaFestivals.com)
  - **September 23** — The 69<sup>th</sup> annual Aloha Festivals Waikīkī Ho'olaule'a, one of Hawai'i's largest annual block parties, featuring local-favorite food, music and entertainment right on the resort area's main drag, Kalākaua Avenue, which is blocked off for the event.
  - **September 30** – The 75<sup>th</sup> annual Aloha Festivals Floral Parade, showcasing a colorful procession of horseback riders, *hula* dancers, marching bands and fresh-flower-bedecked floats on a route winding through Waikīkī.

### September 24, 2023

- **2023 Honolulu Century Ride & Aloha Fun Ride** — Get ready for the 40th anniversary Honolulu Century Ride, a fantastic biking event featuring routes from 25 to 100 miles in length, as well as entertainment and food vendors at Kapi'olani Park, and a bike rodeo for children. The ride also offers participants aid stations, mechanical assistance and police presence for safety. The annual event supports the Hawai'i Bicycling League's advocacy and education efforts to promote biking and road safety. Join the ride to make a difference while enjoying a biking day in paradise. [www.Hbl.org](http://www.Hbl.org)

### September 29 - October 1, 2023

- **Iona Contemporary Dance Theatre's Premiere of "Oh My Goddess! (Ola Ko'u Akua Wahine!)"** — Iona Contemporary Dance Theatre will present its first new production in eight years with the debut of "Oh My Goddess! (Ola Ko'u Akua Wahine!)." The new work will feature contemporary representations of four of Hawai'i's most powerful goddesses — Pele, Hi'iaka, Nāmaka and Poli'ahu — in a very visual, gallery-style performance. "Oh My Goddess!" will be staged at the Hawai'i Convention Center from September 29 through October 1, with six ticketed performances. Tickets are \$55 general admission, \$45 for students and seniors with valid ID, and available for purchase now. [www.OhMyGoddess.com](http://www.OhMyGoddess.com)

### October 2023



- **Trial of Fears** — Head to Waikēle Premium Outlets in October for its celebration of the spooky season and Trial of Fears, its third-annual interactive haunted house experience. Think you can free the tormented spirits in the experience's cursed antique shop? Waikēle Premium Outlets looks forward to scaring you soon at this year's Trial of Fears: Mortimer's Horror Shop. [www.TrialOfFearsHI.com](http://www.TrialOfFearsHI.com)

#### October 12, 2023

- **Hawai'i International Film Festival** — The 43rd annual Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF43) officially kicks off on O'ahu on October 12, marking the full return of the festival to in-person screenings. From October 12 through 22, film enthusiasts and fans are invited to watch films and attend exclusive events at this celebration of international cinematic achievement in the Asia-Pacific region. Festival screenings are also set for Maui, Kaua'i, Lana'i and the island of Hawai'i in October and early November. [www.Hiff.org](http://www.Hiff.org)

#### October 13 - November 5, 2023

- **13th Annual Hawai'i Food and Wine Festival** — Annually featuring a roster of renowned Hawai'i and international chefs, culinary personalities, and wine and spirit producers, this series of culinary events on three islands — O'ahu, Maui and the island of Hawai'i — showcases the extraordinary diversity of multicultural cuisine and excellent locally grown-and-raised ingredients found in Hawai'i. Dishes presented at each festival event highlight the state's bounty of local produce, seafood and meats. [HawaiiFoodandWineFestival.com](http://HawaiiFoodandWineFestival.com)

#### October 21, 2023

- **Honolulu Pride Parade and Festival** — Hawai'i's largest LGBTQIA community event is a daylong celebration highlighted by the Honolulu Pride Parade — winding through Waikiki from Magic Island at Ala Moana Beach Park to Kapi'olani Park — and the Honolulu Pride Festival, which promises live music, inspirational speeches and fun activities. [HawaiiLGBTLegacyFoundation.com](http://HawaiiLGBTLegacyFoundation.com)

#### October 29 - November 8, 2023

- **2023 Hawai'i's Woodshow — Na Lā'au o Hawai'i** — The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association is again presenting Hawai'i's Woodshow — Na Lā'au o Hawai'i, an annual woodworking exhibition celebrating its 31st anniversary this year. Held at the Hawai'i Opera Plaza, the multiday event showcases exceptional heirloom-quality creations crafted from Hawai'i-grown woods. Supported by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the show aims to foster appreciation for artists and their materials while highlighting the positive impact of forests on the economy and ecology. [www.WoodShow.HawaiiForest.org](http://www.WoodShow.HawaiiForest.org)

#### October 2023 - May 2024

- **2023-2024 HapaSymphony Series** — HapaSymphony returns for the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra's (HSO) 2023-24 season with five new performances, all at the historic Hawai'i Theatre and led by the HSO's new Music Director and Conductor Dane Lam. HapaSymphony combines the talents of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra musicians and celebrated local and Hawaiian music artists to create a musical journey unique to Hawai'i. [www.MyHso.org/hapasymphony](http://www.MyHso.org/hapasymphony)

- **October 7** — HapaSymphony’s season kicks off with Beyond Hapa, a night of love, inclusion and drag hosted by Cocoa Chandelier, and featuring Lady Laritza La Bouche, Lea Almanza, Starr Kalahiki and Brandy Lee.
- **December 2** — Join the HSO for Hawaiian Symphonic *mele* (songs) with vocalist-musicians Na Leo Pilimehana.
- **March 9** — An evening of music featuring the soulful vocals of Paula Fuga.
- **April 20** — Robert Cazimero, one of Hawai‘i’s most acclaimed vocalists, performs.
- **May 18** — The series closes with *‘ukulele* master Jake Shimabukuro.

### November 4, 2023

- **AccesSurf Hawai‘i 17th Anniversary Event** — AccesSurf Hawai‘i will mark 17 years of offering free beach access and adaptive water sports for people with disabilities with this celebratory, open-to-the-public anniversary event highlighting its history and growth. All gear and equipment, as well as the services of trained volunteers, will be provided. Registration is required for participants and volunteers and will begin October 12. [www.AccesSurf.org](http://www.AccesSurf.org)

### December 2023

**Waikīkī Trolley’s Holiday Lights Tour** — Share some warm cocoa, participate in a sing-along and ride through the annual Honolulu City Lights display with family and friends this holiday season on this evening trolley tour. The tour even includes a free photo op with Santa Claus. Waikīkī Trolley’s Holiday Lights Tour is a fun O‘ahu holiday experience. [www.HolidayLightsHI.com](http://www.HolidayLightsHI.com)

### December 21, 22 and 24, 2023

- **2023 EasyPost Hawai‘i Bowl and Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic** — Each December, ESPN Events holds two major televised sports events in Hawai‘i: the EasyPost Hawai‘i Bowl and the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic. Both events help support the local community as well as local businesses and nonprofits. They create jobs and promote responsible tourism. Moreover, they are platforms showcasing Hawai‘i’s culture and providing opportunities for University of Hawai‘i athletic programs. [www.TheHawaiiBowl.com](http://www.TheHawaiiBowl.com)

### Ma‘ema‘e Hawai‘i Style and Resource Toolkit

#### *Lū‘au*

- In traditional times, *kapu* (rules and regulations) did not allow men and women in Hawai‘i to eat communally together. Following the arrival of Westerners, rules surrounding communal meals changed and it became more common for men and women to sit and have a meal together. The modern *lū‘au* (communal feast) and the *bukilau* (a style of fishing using encircling nets) trace their histories to the 1940s and 1950s when the Polynesian Cultural Center (O‘ahu) and Smith Family Lū‘au (Kaua‘i) became two of the first entities to commercialize the modern *lū‘au* and include a visitor experience. Locals also share in the *lū‘au* as a modern tradition typically celebrating a baby’s first birthday, a graduation or other significant life achievement. Commercial *lū‘au* are loosely based on these local family traditions.

- *Lū'au* often introduce Hawai'i visitors to some of our Islands' traditional foods and highlight Hawaiian and other Polynesian cultures. Some traditional foods are shared at commercial *lū'au*. However, many foods at *lū'au* are adaptations from or were introduced by other cultures. Some examples of *lū'au* foods include:
  - Chicken long rice — The first voyagers to Hawai'i brought chickens with them but long rice is an item from the Hawai'i's plantation era and is Asian influenced.
  - *Kālua* Pig — A whole pig cooked in an *imu* (underground oven).
  - *Kūlolo* — A modern dessert made of pounded *kalo* (taro) and sugar, and served at room temperature.
  - *Haupia* — A modern Hawaiian dessert made from coconut milk, corn starch, water and sugar, served chilled in a gelatin form.
  - *Lomi* salmon — A dish made with chopped tomatoes, diced onions and cubes of salted salmon. Interestingly, salmon is not a fish native to or found in Hawai'i.
  - *Lau lau* — A bundle of soft, steamed *lū'au leaves* (taro leaves) wrapped around meat, typically chicken, pork, or fish.
  - *Poi* — A purple-hued edible paste made from the *kalo* plant, which was brought to Hawai'i by its first Polynesian settlers. Native Hawaiians are the only Polynesians to eat *kalo* in this form.
  - *Poke* — A staple dish at *lū'au*, *poke* is typically made with fresh fish or other raw seafood cut into cubed pieces, tossed in seasonings or sauces, and served. It is a common misconception that *poke* only refers to fish, as the word *poke* in the Hawaiian language means “to cut crosswise into pieces.” In general, most any food can be cut in this manner and served as *poke*.

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