



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2023

News, Updates and Aloha from O'ahu

(November 2023, Quarter 4)

Here we are in the final stretch of 2023 with the holiday season fast approaching and 2024 on the horizon. We continue to support the recovery of our Maui 'ohana, welcoming visitors and offering them world-class dining and lodging as well as unique and unforgettable events, festivals and experiences celebrating our community culture and history and creating memories lasting a lifetime.

O'AHU — *E komo mai!* In 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) these words mean “Welcome!” Make your way to O'ahu — the island fondly nicknamed Hawai'i's Gathering Place — where you're invited to take in the joys of Hawaiian *hula*, *mele* (music) and culture while enjoying 'ono (delicious) foods from some of the most uniquely creative and imaginative restaurants and eateries in the world.

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

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

International Market Place

- **Cultural Audio Tour** — The International Market Place recently launched Waikīkī's first GPS-enabled audio tour, illuminating the area's rich history and promoting cultural understanding through stories, sound and music. The [free TravelStorys audio app](#) offers soundbites at 20 International Market Place architectural features, covering significant people, places and practices that shaped Waikīkī's history. The app's audio portions also share local facts and lore spanning pre-contact Hawai'i to contemporary times. www.ShopInternationalMarketPlace.com
- **Queens Waikīkī Lū'au** — The Queens Waikīkī Lū'au happens at the International Market Place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays each week, from 5 to 8 p.m. To create a more intimate experience, this lū'au hosts a smaller number of guests, welcoming 70 at most. Participants will enjoy dinner, bar access, interactive activities and a Polynesian revue, featuring music, song and dance from across the Pacific — including the famed Samoan fire knife dance. www.QueensWaikikiLuau.com

Royal Hawaiian Center

- Celebrating Hawaiian culture and preserving its traditions, the three-day I Le‘a Ka Hula workshop event in February offers an opportunity to learn from some of the finest *kumu hula* (hula instructors) and cultural practitioners in Hawai‘i. The I Le‘a Ka Hula workshops will be held virtually and in-person at the Royal Hawaiian Center in Waikīkī, accommodating 30 participants in each format. I Le‘a Ka Hula’s 90-minute workshops will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on each day. www.ILeaKaHula.com

Waikīkī Beach Walk

- Learn the basics of playing *‘ukulele* at the Ukulele Store with complimentary lessons taught by Nā Hōkū Hanohano Hawai‘i music award-winning musician Tyler Gilman. Lessons are offered daily at 11:15 a.m. at the Ukulele Store at Waikīkī Beach Walk. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (808) 888-5469. www.WaikikiBeachWalk.com.

Wayfinder Waikīkī Mālama Hawai‘i Experiences

- [Wayfinder Waikīkī’s](#) programming includes curated volunteer experiences for guests interested in exploring the beauty of Hawai‘i while making a lasting impact on its landscapes and surrounding ocean. These activities include farm experiences, beach cleanups and cultural education and sustainability initiatives, such as:
 - **Taro Field Restoration with Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi Farms** — Hotel guests will be driven to the farm by shuttle to help with restoration of Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi’s *lo‘i kalo* (taro terraces). During this time, guests will also forge meaningful connections with the dedicated work staff and gain an appreciation for the cultural and environmental importance of O‘ahu’s He‘eia community.
 - **Beach Cleanups with W.O.W. and 808** — Guests assist these environment-focused nonprofit organizations by helping them restore the natural beauty of Hawai‘i’s coastlines.
 - **Cultural Education and Sustainability Initiatives with Bishop Museum** — On a museum visit, guests learn about Hawaiian culture, heritage and history, and safeguarding the environment for the sustainable future of Hawai‘i and the Pacific region.

MĀLAMA HAWAI‘I

Wild Side Specialty Tours

- Wild Side Specialty Tours invites you to *mālama Hawai‘i* (care for Hawai‘i) and learn about and participate in the power of conservation to build *pīlina* (relationships). The company’s [boat-based volunteer opportunities](#) are created for participants who consider conservation and environmental protection of dolphins, whales, turtles, coral reefs and ocean habitats part of their life mission. Guests on Wild Side’s three-hour wildlife tour leaving Wai‘anae Small Boat Harbor join in on capturing photos identifying a variety of marine species from onboard the boat and in the ocean. Some experience with DSLR and GoPro cameras and in-water skills are required. www.SailHawaii.com

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

Aloha Kai Holiday Lū‘au at Sea Life Park

- The first-ever holiday-themed production of Sea Life Park’s popular Aloha Kai Lū‘au is will run from December 1 through 31. Presented by Malu Productions, this production celebrates *aloha* and the spirit of the season with holiday *bula*, festive costumes and songs, photo ops with Santa, and much more. The *lū‘au* also includes delicious Hawaiian food and cultural activities alongside the park’s panoramic ocean and mountain views. Customize your experience by choosing from the Aloha Kai Holiday Lū‘au’s VIP, gold, silver and bronze packages. www.AlohaKaiLuau.com

Bishop Museum’s New Exhibit: Project Banaba

- Bishop Museum recently debuted its newest exhibit, [Project Banaba](#) — open now through February 18 — commemorating the history of the Pacific Ocean island Banaba, which was destroyed by environmentally devastating phosphate mining in the 20th century. The mining led to the eventual relocation of the island’s residents in 1945. The Bishop Museum exhibition features the work of Banaban scholar and artist Katerina Teaiwa, whose contemporary art installation combines her family’s personal collections with those from state and national archives to shed light on the little-known history of Banaba and its impact across the Pacific. www.BishopMuseum.org

Waikīkī Beach Walk — Weekly Hawaiian Music and Cultural Programming in 2024

- [Waikīkī Beach Walk](#) will host an array of complimentary music and cultural programming in 2024, including:
 - **Kū Ha‘aheo** at the Plaza Stage, every Tuesday, featuring live Hawaiian entertainment from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
 - **Ka Lei Hula**, offering complimentary hula practice Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.
 - **Waikīkī Beach Walk Open Market**, happening Mondays from 4 to 8 p.m. and providing an eco-friendly way to support local businesses while discovering unique souvenirs, handmade art and snacks.

Wild Side Specialty Tours

- From December 15 through April, Wild Side Specialty Tours is offering six-passenger whale-watching tours along the west O‘ahu coastline in search of humpbacks and smaller species of toothed whales and dolphins. Passengers are invited to capture identification photos assisting Wild Side’s ongoing research understanding and preserving Hawaiian marine wildlife. www.SailHawaii.com

HOTELS

AC Hotel by Marriott Honolulu

- AC Hotel by Marriott Honolulu is a new urban retreat set to open in January in Honolulu's downtown business district. The first AC Hotel-branded lodging property on O‘ahu will aim to meet the needs of business travelers as well as visitors wishing to experience the shops, eateries, and activities in Honolulu’s downtown area. The 112-room boutique hotel will feature contemporary accommodations, public spaces and technology, and a food and beverage program including a hidden speakeasy. With a focus on meetings and events, the hotel will offer several gathering spaces and 2,420 square feet of indoor and outdoor event venues. www.Marriott.com

Courtyard O‘ahu North Shore

- Located on O‘ahu’s famed North Shore, the Courtyard O‘ahu North Shore is currently undergoing a full-property transformation to include updates to the hotel’s lobby, rooms and restaurant. Renovation of the 144-room property — built in 2015 — is on schedule for completion by early 2024 and will feature the addition of kitchens to suite-style rooms, as well as new family rooms with a king bed and set of bunk beds. The hotel remains open as renovations continue. www.Marriott.com

Halepuna Waikīkī by Halekulani

- Award-winning luxury boutique hotel [Halepuna Waikiki by Halekulani](#) recently introduced online ordering for its lobby [Halekulani Bakery](#) allowing guests and the public to pre-order their favorite treats — including the bakery’s signature coconut cake. This holiday season, Halekulani Bakery will offer exclusive holiday-themed treats, including specialty pumpkin, custard, macadamia nut and apple pies. Halepuna also recently introduced its brand-new Marketplace Menu for in-room dining, offering guests an array of fresh bites such as savory breakfast boxes, burgers and sandwiches, and delectable desserts.

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikīkī Beach Resort

- Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikīkī Beach Resort’s Tapa Tower modernization is slated for completion at year’s end, transforming of all its guestrooms, suites and corridors. The resort’s reimagined guestrooms have already debuted as the Tapa Collection, featuring palettes combining the beauty and power of the Pacific Ocean with natural materials and patterns found in Hawai‘i’s treasured tapa cloth. Each room features modern furnishings matched with textiles and wall art honoring the Hawaiian culture’s vital connection to land and sea and the distinctive patterns of tapa. www.HiltonHawaiianVillage.com

Outrigger Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort

- Outrigger Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort recently unveiled its renovated Waiola Wellness Wing, featuring property enhancements, new amenities and oceanfront views of the Waikīkī shoreline. The \$85 million resort transformation also included the addition of a Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman restaurant, a new fitness facility, a Coral Reef Kids Club, and residential-style rooms and suites, including a 4,000-square-foot [Coral Reef Penthouse](#). www.OutRigger.com

Renaissance Honolulu Hotel & Spa

Renaissance Honolulu Hotel and Spa, set to open in early 2024, will be the brand's first location on the island of O'ahu. The 39-story hotel will feature 299 guestrooms and state-of-the-art wellness facilities, including a heated saltwater swimming pool, traditional Japanese ofuro soaking tubs and Himalayan salt saunas. The property will also offer a private club lounge and several dining options. www.Marriott.com

Romer Waikīkī at The Ambassador

- The newly reimagined Romer Waikīkī at The Ambassador hotel features an array of room types, creative design and guest programming, and access to outdoor activities, including surfing Waikīkī's famed waves. The hotel's third-floor Waikīkī Swim and Social Club pool deck offers a gathering place for guests, visitors and locals, serving up all-day drinks, light bites crafted with local ingredients, and a laid-back ambiance. A new open-air restaurant featuring locally sourced fare will debut at the hotel in 2024. www.RomerHotels.com

Sheraton Princess Kaiulani

- The Sheraton Princess Kaiulani hotel recently launched an upgrade project in its Ainahau Tower. The makeover aims to bring a tropical and elegant feel to each guestroom — many of these offering ocean or skyline views — with all new platform beds and updated wall coverings, drapes and flooring. Lighting and signage will also be upgraded in the tower's room corridors. Hawai'i-based, woman-led firm, Vanguard Design, is spearheading the redesign, incorporating “relaxed, whimsical” hues, such as papaya, mocha and baby blue. The project is slated for completion in spring 2024. www.Marriott.com

The Twin Fin Hotel

- The Twin Fin Hotel is inviting its guests to “check-in and paddle out” with its refreshed guestrooms, design and experiences inspired by Hawaiian culture and views overlooking O'ahu's south shore. The hotel aims to pay homage to Waikīkī — birthplace of modern surfing — through design, partnerships with local artists and meaningful sustainability efforts. The Twin Fin Hotel recently partnered with the Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience to launch the Jamie O'Brien School of Surf Waikīkī, an experiential surf concept and storefront within the hotel offering private and group surf lessons for all levels of surfers. www.TwinfinWaikiki.com

Wayfinder Waikīkī

- Wayfinder Waikīkī recently began offering an array of experiential activities with a local element for its guests. These include a special monthly event-dinner series hosted by local artists, tastemakers, thought leaders and innovators, as well as three hotel-exclusive local itineraries curated by Waikīkī experience experts. The itineraries focus on adventure, wellness and foodie experiences provided exclusively to Wayfinder guests to explore the “B-side of O'ahu”. Wayfinder Waikīkī also hosts frequent events with local programming partners and offers a secret webpage only available to hotel guests for exclusive neighborhood perks and discounts with local businesses. www.WayfinderHotels.com

RESTAURANTS

The Blue Fish

- [The Blue Fish](#) recently opened its newest location in Waikīkī, offering a variety of classic and specialty sushi, sashimi, and Japanese and Korean menu items. The restaurant is open for daily dinner service and a happy hour featuring special prices on rolls, appetizers and beverages. Blue Fish sushi chefs use only locally sourced fish and seafood and the restaurant's 5,400 square-foot location offers indoor and patio seating, a bar and lounge area, a sushi counter, and dining spaces for couples, families and small groups.

Arden Waikīkī

- The Lotus Honolulu Hotel recently opened its new restaurant Arden Waikīkī, featuring a menu of contemporary cuisine celebrating Hawai'i's flavors and cultures. Chefs Makoto Ono and Amanda Cheng will be offering special menus, in addition to Arden Waikīkī's regular menu, on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve. www.ArdenWaikiki.com

Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman at Outrigger Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort

- The recent opening of Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman at the Outrigger Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort marks the completion of the property's \$85 million investment in its new Waiola Wellness Wing. The concept restaurant by Hawai'i Chef Peter Merriman and Handcrafted Restaurants offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and happy hour just steps away from Waikīkī's sands. www.Outrigger.com

Nami Kaze

- At [Nami Kaze](#), Kaua'i-born Chef Jason Peel curates unique dishes fusing Japanese and American cuisine. A former culinary instructor, Peel combines the flavors of his hometown roots with decades of experience working with culinary leaders in Hawai'i and beyond. Through Nami Kaze and food ventures planned for 2024, Peel and his Nami Kaze team aim to create opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation of chefs while building on the values and foundations of food industry veterans. www.NamiKaze.com.

Waiāhole Poi Factory

- Waiāhole Poi Factory, a famously rustic Hawaiian food establishment fronting Kamehameha Highway on O'ahu's windward side, recently opened a second location in Windward Mall's Pā'ina Food Court. The popular local eatery's menu offers dishes found at a traditional Hawaiian *lu'au*, including *kālua* pig, *lauau* and hand-pounded *poi*. www.WaiaholePoiFactory.com.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

November 2023 - February 2024

- **Royal Hawaiian Center** — Waikiki’s luxury retail and cultural destination will kick off its holiday celebrations on November 22 with the arrival of Santa as he leads the lighting of Royal Hawaiian Center’s 34-foot-tall holiday tree featuring Hawaiian elements, including *palaka* bows, glittered plumeria and *‘ukulele*. Through Christmas Eve, Royal Hawaiian Center will host complimentary seasonal entertainment and free professional photos with Santa. www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com
 - **January 1-2, 2024** — In celebration of the new year, shoppers will receive savings through Royal Hawaiian Center’s exclusive **Lucky Bag Promotion** when select merchants — including Dean and DeLuca, Kate Spade, Tory Burch, Ferragamo and others — sell items at half their retail value. Each bag’s contents are kept secret until it is purchased.
 - **February 10, 2024** — Royal Hawaiian Center will host an array of **Lunar New Year celebrations** beginning with a lion dance performance on February 10 in The Royal Grove. Complimentary festivities will continue for two weeks thereafter, featuring live entertainment, a special gift with purchase, cultural activities and fun photo opportunities.

November 24-25, 2023

- **House Without A Key** — Enjoy the sounds of Exotica, a musical genre described as “an easy listening mix of tiki, bachelor pad and globetrotter fantasy.” The WAITIKI 7, comprised of seven conservatory trained professional musicians (four of them from Honolulu), will be performing two nights at Halekulani’s poolside restaurant House Without A Key on Thanksgiving weekend. www.Halekulani.com

December 1, 2023

- **Kona Brewing Hawaii Kai 20th Anniversary** — The Kona Brewing Hawaii Kai pub will celebrate 20 years of serving the community on December 1, inviting the public to drop by for a day full of festivities, prizes and beer brewed in Hawai‘i. www.KonaBrewingHawaii.com

December 2, 2023

- **Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra** — The Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) is readying a holiday performance of its HapaSymphony series, featuring award-winning vocalists Nalani Jenkins, Lehua Kamila and Angela Morales of Na Leo Pilimehana alongside the HSO and conductor Dane Lam. The concert is set for 7:30 p.m., December 1, at the Hawai‘i Theatre and will spotlight Na Leo Pilimehana’s 2007 album, “Hawaiian Holidays: Christmas with Na Leo,” in addition to other beloved hits from the trio. www.MyHSO.org

December 6-9, 2023

- **Pacific Historic Parks** — The week of December 7 will spotlight several World War II history events marking the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. www.PacificHistoricParks.org
 - **December 6** —
 - **Rosie the Riveters Poster Signing** — Come meet some of the courageous women who individually served as Rosie the Riveter during World War II. Now in their 90s, they'll meet with visitors and sign posters at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, just outside the Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore, from 10:30 a.m. until noon. As many as eight Rosies will attend events for the 82nd anniversary commemoration this year — a record number.
 - **USS *Utah* Ceremony** — The annual USS *Utah* Memorial Sunset Ceremony honors the loss of the USS *Utah* (AG-16) and 58 of her crew. The USS *Utah* was the first ship torpedoed in the attack on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Struck by two torpedoes, the ship capsized and sank within 12 minutes. The 5.p.m. ceremony is open to the public but visitors must have access to Ford Island via a military or government ID.
 - **December 7** —
 - **The National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony** takes place at 7:30 a.m. at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. This ceremony is open to the public. To plan your visit, [click here](#).
 - **USS *Oklahoma* Ceremony** — At 1 p.m., World War II veterans, U.S. and allied service members, and their friends and family will pay tribute to the 429 crewmembers of the USS *Oklahoma* killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. The USS *Oklahoma's* casualties included 415 sailors and 14 Marines, who continued to fight even after the ship was struck by nine torpedoes and capsized. The ceremony will be held at the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial. While the ceremony is open to the public, visitors must have access to Ford Island via a military or government ID.
 - **December 9** — At noon, National Park Service divers will conduct a **USS *Arizona* Live Dive** at the site of the battleship. Visitors can watch a live feed of the dive from the Pearl Harbor National Memorial Theater and ask questions as the dive happens.

December 7, 2023

- **The SurfJack Hotel & Swim Club** — The SurfJack Hotel and Swim Club will host its Holiday Sip and Shop Market on December 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. Drop by for a night of eats and drinks at Mahina and Sun's restaurant, shopping with local businesses, and live music by Hawai'i musician Kelly Boy DeLima. www.SurfJack.com

December 8-20, 2023

- **Vans Pipe Masters** — The event window for this year's 53rd annual Vans Pipe Masters Invitational professional surf contest is December 8 through 20. Once the four-day contest is on, head to 'Ehukai Beach Park to watch the world's best male and female surfers in action at one of the most famous surf breaks on the planet: the Banzai Pipeline on O'ahu's famed North Shore. www.VansPipeMasters.com

December 10, 2023

- **Honolulu Marathon (O‘ahu)** — The fourth largest marathon in the U.S. begins its 26.2-mile route at Ala Moana Beach Park before sunrise, sending runners through metro-Honolulu and Waikīkī then along O‘ahu’s south shore to Hawai‘i Kai before turning back and finishing in Waikīkī at Kapi‘olani Park. Runners enjoy a large sampling of city views throughout, including passes alongside the beaches of Waikīkī and over the slopes of Lē‘ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument). For more information, visit www.HonoluluMarathon.org.

December 16-17, 2023

- **7th Mele Kalikimaka Marketplace** — This annual Honolulu gift and craft fair is a one-stop local shop for made-in-Hawai‘i products, holiday gifts and crafts. This year’s two-day event, set for the Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall, will feature more than 200 Hawai‘i vendors selling local gourmet gifts, prepackaged gift baskets and more. The event will also have holiday pop-up shops, festive activities, a Candy Land, Ben Franklin Make and Take Crafts, and year-end inventory specials from manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers and more. www.MeleKalikimakaMarketplace.com

December 16 and 23, 2023

- **Hawai‘i Theatre** - For over a century, [Hawai‘i Theatre](http://Hawai'iTheatre.com) has been a cornerstone of Honolulu's cultural scene, making a mark since its establishment in 1922. The Hawai‘i Theatre Center, formed in 1984, is dedicated to offering diverse entertainment, cultural immersion, and educational opportunities. This holiday season, be sure to check out some of their notable concerts with local artists including:
 - **December 16, 7 p.m.** — Christmas with the Makaha Sons
 - **December 23, 7 p.m.** — Kalani Pe‘a’s Hawaiian Christmas Show 2023

December 19-25, 2023

- **Holiday Mele 2023 at Waikīkī Beach Walk** — The Waikīkī Beach Walk’s annual Seven Days ‘til Christmas Series is set for December 19 through 25, showcasing a variety of music and hula performers each night, free of charge. www.WaikikiBeachWalk.com
 - **December 19-21** — Kumu Hula Maelia Carter and Halau Ka Pā Hula ‘O Kauanoe O Wa‘ahila; Kumu Hula Darcey Moniz and Halau Hula ‘O Puka‘ikapuaokalani; and Kumu Hula Sally Kauakea Yoza and Halau ‘O Napuala‘ikauika‘iu
 - **December 22** — Kumu Kaleo Trinidad
 - **December 23-25** — Kumu Hula Leimomi Maldonado and Ka Hale I O Kahala; the all-female Hawaiian musical group Huapala; the Kia ‘Ohana — A Hawaiian Family Christmas; and Kamehameha Schools Kapālama’s Hawaiian Ensemble

December 31, 2023 and January 1, 2024

- **International Market Place** — Welcome the new year with savings, discounts and deals during International Market Place’s Fukubukuro (Lucky Bag) festivities on December 31, 2023, and January 1, 2024. International Market Place (IMP) is offering twice the fun for its Fukubukuro celebration allowing shoppers to enjoy shopping deals a day early on December 31, too. (Fukubukuro traditionally happens on January 1.) Select stores at IMP participate in the event, packing “secret” Fukubukuro bags with merchandise for shoppers.

December 2023

- **Outrigger Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort** will be hosting and/or sponsoring a variety of December events. www.OutRigger.com
 - **December 2, 9 a.m. – noon** — The resort’s final **O Ke Kai Series** event will present 12 paddles to Kanehunamoku Voyaging Society (KVS) students to be used for training. The event will feature live Hawaiian music and guest artist Kamea Hadar.
 - **December 9, 9 a.m.** — Santa arrives at the resort by outrigger canoe to delight visitors and residents both young and old alongside live music and *keiki* (kids) hula on the beach.
 - **December 10, 5 a.m.** — One of the largest marathons in the U.S., the **Honolulu Marathon** is known for its scenic south shore O‘ahu course — which includes Waikīkī — attracting elite and recreational runners. As a hospitality sponsor of the race, Outrigger is offering special rates. Use the promo code MARATHON to book.
 - **December 16, 8-10 a.m.** — **Breakfast with Santa at** includes a breakfast buffet, pictures with Santa, balloon twisting, body art and the opportunity to decorate your own cupcakes.
 - **December 19, 7 p.m.** — Outrigger will host its annual **Reception at Kani Ka Pila Grille** fundraiser, collaborating with the National Association of Basketball Coaches in unifying coaches and fans across the U.S. to help the American Cancer Society conquer cancer. All funds raised will stay in Hawai‘i to support the Clarence T.C. Ching Hope Lodge, which provides access to free lodging for neighbor island cancer patients and their caregivers.
 - **December 21, 22, 24** — The **Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic** is three days and 12 exciting games of collegiate basketball with eight of the nation’s top teams right here in Hawai‘i. Book special rates on stays at Outrigger and Ohana hotels in Waikīkī.

December 2023 - February 2024

- [Halekulani](#) —
 - **December 1-2** — Engage in an immersive **cultural culinary excursion** with Halekulani in collaboration with **Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi**, an O‘ahu nonprofit working to restore cultural connections by leveraging a sustainable ecosystem for all. Participants will spend the day at Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi on December 1, foraging flowers for *lei* making and harvesting farm-grown ingredients. On December 2, hotel guests will enjoy a unique collaboration dinner by Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi Executive Chef Kealoha Domingo and Halekulani Executive Chef Christian Testa, featuring the local produce harvested the day before.
 - **December 14-25** — Exclusive to hotel guests, Halekulani’s annual 12 Days of Christmas festivities will take place daily from December 14 through 25, featuring everything from poolside Hawaiian shave ice to a holiday craft cocktail class led by hotel Lead Mixologist Tuda Grehan. Grehan will instruct guests in crafting the Paper Doll, a unique creation from the new cocktail menu at the hotel’s [Lewers Lounge](#).
 - **February 14** — On **Valentine’s Day**, guests will enjoy an array of experiences celebrating love, including exclusive dishes at House Without A Key, Orchids and La Mer created by hotel Executive Chef Christian Testa and the Halekulani culinary

team. Couples can indulge in the Halekulani Bliss, a special 90-minute Spa Halekulani couples experience featuring the signature Halekulani massage, combining *lomi lomi*-style massage with warm stones and relaxing oils. At night's end, guests can enjoy live jazz and cocktails at [Lewers Lounge](#).

January 8-15, 2024

- **Sony Open** — Every January, the Sony Open in Hawai‘i draws 144 top golf professionals to O‘ahu's Waialae Country Club. As one of the largest charity golf events in the state, it began in 1999 with \$256,000 for 43 charities, growing significantly to \$1.2 million yearly for over 100 not-for-profits, totaling \$23 million for 350+ local organizations. Honored with a Green Business award for five consecutive years, the tournament prioritizes energy efficiency and sustainability. www.SonyOpenInHawaii.com

January 25 - April 28, 2024

- **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.
 - **January 25 - February 25** — “Aitu Fafine,” by Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, follows famed writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his family as they become infatuated with ‘afakasi visitors who come to stay at their home in Sāmoa.
 - **March 28 - April 28** — “Beretania Snapshots,” by Sean-Joseph Choo, tells the story of Connie who, with the help of her imaginary dragon friend, navigates the twists and turns of young love, her parents’ perplexing relationship and a profound loss.
 - **March 28 - April 28** — “The Kāmau Trilogy,” by Alani Apio, presents a powerful generational saga of family and *keuleana* (responsibility) audiences can take in on separate nights or back-to-back for a more immersive theatrical experience.

February 2-3, 2024

- **Chinese New Year Celebration** — The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawai‘i will present its annual Chinese New Year Celebration at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza in Downtown Honolulu’s Chinatown district. The family-friendly two-day event celebrating the start of the Year of the Dragon will include food and craft booths, live entertainment, special cultural performances, lion and dragon dances, and more. www.ChineseChamber.com

February 23, 2024

- **Joy of Sake** — The Joy of Sake returns to the Hawai‘i Convention Center for two events celebrating the history of sake and its unique connection to Hawai‘i. This year’s event will feature over 570 different sake selections paired with traditional and contemporary appetizers from some of Hawai‘i’s leading chefs. www.JoyofSake.com

July 21, 2024

- [Hawai‘i ‘Ukulele Festival](#) — Check out this celebration of all things ‘*ukulele*, set for July 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Kapi‘olani Park Bandstand in Waikīkī. Attendees will enjoy live performances from some of Hawai‘i’s top ‘*ukulele* players on the bandstand stage. The festival will also spotlight interactive ‘*ukulele* history displays, a Hawai‘i artisans and crafters

village, Hawaiian cultural activities, a multiethnic food court, an array of *'ukulele* merchants and *'ukulele*-inspired merchandise, including gifts, books, apparel, jewelry and art.
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