



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2023

WHAT'S NEW THIS WINTER AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

HAWAII – Start the new year on a revitalizing note with a journey to the Hawaiian Islands, where *aloha* thrives throughout its vibrant communities, diverse cultures and cuisines, heartfelt hospitality, and the profound connections of its shared spaces. Traveling within the Islands, you'll also encounter a variety of opportunities introducing you to Hawai'i's local crafters and artisans, musicians and performers, indoor and outdoor adventures, bustling farmers markets, small businesses, abundant natural wonder, and sustainability efforts. Read on for unique experiences happening now and over the months ahead in the Hawaiian Islands encompassing all the above.

For additional updates regarding each island, please reference the media sites of our individual Island Chapters: the [Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau](#), [Kaua'i Visitors Bureau](#), [Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau](#) and [O'ahu Visitors Bureau](#).

MĀLAMA HAWAII

Efforts relating to sustainability and caring for our people, place and culture

Discover the rich history and cherished traditions of Lāna'i on a new, four-hour **Kalo Cultural Tour** at **Four Seasons Resort Lanai (Lāna'i)** supporting the Lāna'i Culture and Heritage Center. The tour begins at Kulana Kauhale, a protected heritage site near Hulopo'e Beach and an early Hawaiian village adjacent to the resort. Guests next learn about the significance of *kalo* (taro) in Hawaiian culture and cuisine while exploring a *kalo* garden and even lend a hand in its maintenance. The tour finishes in Lāna'i City with an exclusive museum tour sharing the island's heritage, including its notable ranching and plantation eras. www.FourSeasons.com

The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua (Maui) is one of only six Ritz-Carlton hotels in the world offering **Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment**. The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua program offers eco-tours for all ages that include snorkeling, coastal walks and electric bicycle tours geared toward learning about the environment and leaving Hawai'i with an appreciation and respect for nature. Programs for *keiki* (children) include The Fires of Pele, Life at the Edge of the Sea, Turtle Tracks, and Introduction to Snorkeling. All programs are open to the public. www.RitzCarlton.com

A number of Maui properties are offering **"Return to Maui" packages** that include value-adds such as daily breakfast for two and/or resort credit. Each hotel will donate a portion of the rate (at least \$100 per stay and up to \$200 per night) to community organizations committed to Maui recovery such as the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund. Participating hotels include: Four Seasons Resort Maui, Wailea Beach Resort, Andaz Maui at Wailea, Ritz-Carlton Kapalua, Montage Kapalua Bay, Grand Wailea, Westin Maui and Sheraton Maui. For more information, please visit the hotel websites.

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Wayfinder Waikiki's (O'ahu) programming includes curated volunteer experiences for guests and residents interested in exploring the beauty of Hawai'i while making a lasting impact on the planet. These include farm experiences, beach cleanups, and cultural education and sustainability initiatives such as the ones listed below. www.WayfinderHotels.com/hotels/waikiki

- **Taro Field Restoration with Kāko'o 'Ōiwi Farms** — Hotel guests are driven to the farm by shuttle to help with restoration of Kāko'o 'Ōiwi's *lo'i kalo* (taro terraces), forge meaningful connections with its dedicated work staff, and gain an appreciation for the cultural and environmental importance of O'ahu's He'eia community.
- **Beach Cleanups in partnership with W.O.W. and 808** — Guests assist in the missions of these environment-focused nonprofit organizations committed to restoring 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 as well as safeguarding the environment for the sustainable future of Hawai'i and the Pacific region.

Wild Side Specialty Tours (O'ahu) invites guests to learn about and participate in the power of conservation to build *pilina* (relationships). Its 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 both on board the boat and in the ocean. Some experience with DSLR and GoPro cameras and in-water skills are required. www.SailHawaii.com

NEW HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS

AC Hotel by Marriott Honolulu (O'ahu) 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 of 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 also offer several gathering spaces and 2,420 square feet of indoor and outdoor event venues. www.Marriott.com

Fairmont Kea Lani (Maui), an all-suite and villa resort, will complete its multiyear property transformation in December. In addition to the redesign of its 413 one-bedroom suites and 37 two-story villas, the resort will also unveil its reimagined lobby, home to a new 2,000-square-foot Hawaiian cultural center — one of the the largest resort cultural centers on Maui — designed to share *'ike* (knowledge) with guests and the local community. The opening of a new oceanfront bar and restaurant with *'āina* (land)-driven culinary cocktails, panoramic views and ocean breezes will complete the resort's transformation. www.Fairmont.com

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel (Hawai'i Island) recently announced a \$180 million renovation that will begin in the second quarter of 2024. The hotel's renovation plans encompass redesigning its 252 guestrooms and suites, enhancing dining venues, revamping the Mauna Kea Golf Course, and constructing a new spa and fitness center. www.MaunaKeaResort.com

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Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa (Hawai'i Island), a 22-acre property perched above Keauhou Bay, this year launched a revitalization process it expects to complete in quarter two of 2024. The project's goal is to honor the legacy of its location and highlight its existing architecture while modernizing to meet the expectations of contemporary travelers. The Outrigger team intends to carry the meaning of the Hawaiian word *keauhou* ("the new era" or "the new current") throughout design of the resort's adult and family pools, on-property restaurants, Kaleiopapa Convention Center, fitness center and all guest rooms. www.OutRigger.com

Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort (O'ahu) recently unveiled its renovated **Waiola Wellness Wing**, featuring property enhancements, new amenities and oceanfront views of the Waikiki 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 and Spa (O'ahu), set to open in early 2024, will be the brand's first O'ahu location. 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, several dining options, and culturally inspired interior artwork and fitness amenities. www.Marriott.com

The Romer Waikiki at The Ambassador's third-floor **Waikiki Swim and Social Club (O'ahu)** is a new gathering place and a reprieve in Waikiki for visitors and locals, offering all-day drinks, light bites made with local ingredients, and a relaxed ambiance. The newly reimagined Romer Waikiki — formerly the Ambassador Hotel Waikiki — first opened for guests in October. A new open-air restaurant featuring locally sourced fare will debut in the hotel in 2024. www.RomerHotels.com

CULINARY

Amaterasu (O'ahu) is a new Honolulu sushi omakase situated within the Velocity Honolulu auto showroom that is also home to Artizen by MW restaurant. The six-seat omakase is managed by sushi chef Hideo Ohmiya. Amaterasu represents Ohmiya's inaugural solo project following his tenure at Robata Jinya and training at sushi establishments in San Francisco and Japan. His specialty is seasonal sushi omakase, but Amaterasu diners can opt for ordering individual nigiri pieces without the omakase experience. [@amaterasushi808](https://www.instagram.com/amaterasushi808)

Big Island Coffee Roasters (Hawai'i Island) recently opened its first café and roastery, allowing patrons to view the company's coffee roasting and production process and enjoy specialty espresso, coffees and *māmakī* tea. Big Island Coffee Roasters is also offering monthly community and cultural events and activities at the new 4,000-square-foot Hilo storefront near Lili'uokalani Park and Gardens, including block printing on upcycled clothes, wreath making and yoga in the roastery. In early 2024, patrons will be able to book tasting tours, participate in educational events and roast their own coffee. www.BigIslandCoffeeRoasters.com

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The Arc of Hilo's (Hawai'i Island) new vocational training cafe, **The Tiki Turtle Café**, is now open in Hilo across from Wailuku River State Park's Waiānuenue (Rainbow) Falls area. The Arc of Hilo's mission is to create a world of inclusivity and empowerment by expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities. With its new café, the organization hopes to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where individuals with disabilities can thrive and grow personally and professionally. www.TikiTurtleHi.com.

The **Lotus Honolulu Hotel (O'ahu)** opened its new restaurant, **Arden Waikiki**, on October 18, featuring a menu of contemporary Hawai'i cuisine and a dining experience focused on flavors and cultures. Chefs Makoto Ono and Amanda Cheng will be offering special menus in addition to Arden Waikiki's regular menu on Christmas and New Year's Eve. www.ArdenWaikiki.com

Straits (O'ahu), a San Francisco Bay Area Singaporean restaurant in business since 1987, is now open in Ward Village, inviting patrons to dine on an array of Southeast Asian dishes encapsulating the diverse cultures of the region. With its menu, Straits hopes "to foster connections through flavorful culinary adventures, melding traditional recipes with contemporary methods to bring innovation to cultural gastronomy." www.StraitsHawaii.com

The Blue Fish (O'ahu) opened its newest location in Waikiki in November, 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 local-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. www.TheBlueFishSushi.com

Waiāhole Poi Factory (O'ahu), a famous and 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 at both locations aims to offer dishes found at a traditional Hawaiian *lu'au*, including *kālua* pig, *laulau* and hand-pounded *poi*. www.WaiaholePoiFactory.com.

ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum (O'ahu) 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 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

International Market Place (O'ahu) recently launched Waikiki's **first GPS-enabled audio tour** illuminating the area's rich history and promoting cultural understanding through stories, sound and music. The free TravelStories audio app offers soundbites at 20 International Market Place architectural features, covering significant people, places and practices that shaped Waikiki's history.

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The app's audio portions also share local facts and lore spanning pre-contact Hawai'i to contemporary times. www.ShopInternationalMarketPlace.com

Koele Nights at Sensei Lanai, A Four Seasons Resort (Lānaʻi), is an adult wellness retreat with new evening resort experiences. Guests can enjoy time in the evening oasis of a private self-guided hale with indoor and outdoor showers, infrared sauna, steam, ofuro baths, private plunge pools, lounging areas and more. After taking in these amenities, guests relax with gourmet refreshments and snacks and time and a nightcap in the Onsen Garden, which features 10 heated soaking tubs set in botanical gardens. Guests can also enjoy fireside snacks, including traditional s'mores and design-your-own charcuterie boards. www.FourSeasons.com/sensei.

Kona Village, A Rosewood Resort (Hawai'i Island), recently reintroduced its Kona Village Lū'au, where guests can experience Hawaiian culture through traditional foods, live music, song and dance. Located next to Kona Village's lagoon and gardens, the *lū'au* offers guests a family-style feast featuring an array of dishes showcasing local and seasonal ingredients alongside a selection of wine and cocktails. A *lū'au* highlight is a demonstration of the resort's *imu*, an underground pit oven early Hawaiians used for some of their cooking. The result for *lū'au* guests? A 10-hour, *imu*-cooked bounty of *kālua* pork. www.RosewoodHotels.com/en/kona-village/experiences

Maui Ku'ia Estate Chocolate (Maui) recently began welcoming visitors to a new inside-the-chocolate-factory tour led by CEO Gunars Valkirs. The new interactive experience walks visitors through each step of how selected cacao beans become Maui Ku'ia Estate chocolate. In addition to tasting exclusive samples, participants learn the history of Maui Ku'ia Estate Chocolate from its first planting to designing and building its 100% solar-powered factory and how it currently crafts its chocolate. The new Chocolate Factory Experience is \$100 per person and offered Monday through Friday. www.MauiChocolate.com

Montage Kapalua Bay's Sunset Luau at Kapalua Bay (Maui) is again available on select Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout December. *Lū'au* guests receive a complimentary mai tai or mocktail and a shell *lei* before being escorted to their group's private table for a lively show featuring island performers — including a fire knife dancer. Guests also enjoy a family-style multicourse *lū'au* feast, hand-crafted cocktails and views of the Pacific Ocean. www.Montage.com

Celebrating Hawaiian culture and traditions, the three-day **I Le'a Ka Hula 2024** workshop event at **Royal Hawaiian Center (O'ahu)** in February will offer residents and visitors interested in *bula* and Hawaiian cultural practices an opportunity to learn from some of Hawai'i's best *kumu bula* (*bula* instructors) and cultural practitioners. The I Le'a Ka Hula workshops will be held in-person at the Royal Hawaiian Center and virtually, accommodating 30 participants in each format. I Le'a Ka Hula's 90-minute workshops will be held at various hours each day. www.ILeaKaHula.com.

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua, recently debuted its new *lū'au* and dinner show, **Tales of the Kapa Moe (Maui)**, which aims to immerse guests in a journey through Hawai'i's captivating stories, culture and traditions. Located in the resort's newly renovated Aloha Garden Pavilion, Tales of the Kapa Moe showcases Hawaiian chanting and *bula*, handmade costumes, an aerial performance and fire knife dancing. www.RitzCarltonMauiLuau.com

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Waikiki Beach Walk (O‘ahu) 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., providing an eco-friendly way to support local businesses while discovering unique souvenirs, handmade art and snacks. www.WaikikiBeachWalk.com

The Twin Fin Hotel (O‘ahu) is inviting guests to “check-in and paddle out” via its new partnership with the Jamie O’Brien Surf Experience to launch the **Jamie O’Brien School of Surf Waikīkī**, an experiential surf concept and storefront located within the hotel offering private and group surf lessons for all levels of surfers. The hotel aims to pay homage to Waikīkī — birthplace of modern surfing — through design, partnerships with local artists and meaningful sustainability efforts. www.TwinfinWaikiki.com

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

For a full list of events around the Hawaiian Islands, please visit GoHawaii.com/Events.

December 8-20, 2023

53rd Vans Pipe Masters Invitational (O‘ahu) — Surf is guaranteed to be up at this year’s Vans Pipe Masters Invitational. When four consecutive days of proper surf are projected for the event’s window of dates, some of the world’s best pro surfers will gather at one of the planet’s most famous surf breaks: Banzai Pipeline on O‘ahu’s famed North Shore. This invite-only professional surfing competition welcomes only the top men and women surfers wanting to challenge themselves and each other at Banzai. www.VansPipeMasters.com.

December 23, 2023

West Hawaii Dance Theatre and Academy (Hawai‘i Island) will present a performance of the endearing holiday season classic, **“The Nutcracker Ballet,”** on December 23 at Kahilu Theatre. The festive, family-friendly production will include more than 55 local dancers and professional guest artists from the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Cleveland Ballet and more. New and original choreography will be included to present the iconic and charming fairy tale — based on E.T.A. Hoffman’s story, “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” — performed to the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Performances are set for 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. www.Whdt.org

January 4-7, 2024

The Sentry (Maui) — The 2024 PGA Tour Regular Season kicks off at The Sentry, returning to The Plantation Course at Kapalua from January 4 through 7. For the past 25 years, Maui has graciously hosted The Sentry, which aims to continue using its platform to ensure continued awareness, fundraising and support for the West Maui community. The Sentry features an accomplished field of pro golfers including PGA Tour winners from the 2023 calendar year and the top 50 of final FedExCup standings. www.TheSentry.com

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January 6-14, 2024

Maui Songwriters Festival (Maui) — Now in its seventh year, the Maui Songwriters Festival brings some of the best singer-songwriters, producers and composers from Nashville to perform their No. 1 songs and share stories behind their songs in intimate and large-scale acoustic shows. Old Dominion will kick off the festival at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, with additional shows and VIP experiences held throughout The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua. The 2024 Maui Songwriters Festival will benefit ongoing efforts supporting the people of Maui.

www.MauiSongwritersFestival.com

January 8-14, 2024

Sony Open in Hawai'i (O'ahu) — The Sony Open in Hawai'i returns to Waialae Country Club in January, bringing together 144 top golf professionals from around the world for four days of competition. Benefitting from a strategic partnership between Sony Group Corporation and Friends of Hawai'i Charities, the Sony Open in Hawai'i contributes more than \$1.2 million annually toward aiding Hawai'i's most vulnerable communities. www.SonyOpeninHawaii.com

January 14, 2024

The 16th Maui Oceanfront Marathon (Maui) — Held annually during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, the Maui Oceanfront Marathon brings Maui residents and visitors together for a fun-filled day of events, with proceeds benefiting local school teams, clubs and multiple Maui nonprofit groups. The competition's scenic course takes runners along the oceanside highways of Maui's windswept west side, with views of whales, waves and surfers.

www.MauiOceanfrontMarathon.com

January 25 - April 28, 2024

Kumu Kahua Theatre (O'ahu) — Historic Kumu Kahua Theatre in downtown Honolulu is readying to present its 53rd season, showcasing diverse works exploring current controversies, historic happenings and imaginative realms from some of Hawai'i's most exciting playwright voices.

www.Kumukahua.org

- **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 *kuleana* (responsibility) audiences can take in on separate nights or back-to-back for a more immersive theatrical experience.

February 3, 2024

Waimea Cherry Blossom Hertiage Festival (Hawai'i Island) — Presented by the County of Hawai'i's Department of Parks and Recreation and community members, the annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival is set for February. Following Waimea's seasonal winter chill, the festival marks the blooming of the town's historic cherry trees at Church Row Park and celebrates the Japanese tradition of hanami, which translates as “cherry blossom viewing.”

www.Facebook.com/Waimea-Cherry-Blossom-Heritage-Festival

February 5 - March 25, 2024

E Kanikapila Kākou (Kaua‘i) — With a theme centered around significant songs of Hawai‘i, this cultural event series will spotlight Hawaiian musicians, artists, composers and storytellers. Weekly series events are set for the Outrigger Kaua‘i Beach Resort and Spa’s Jasmine Ballroom from 6 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday, beginning February 5. The event series concludes March 25. Email giac05@icloud.com.

March 9, 2024

Kona Brewers Festival (Hawai‘i Island) — The local-made craft beer celebration returns on March 9, hosted by the Ke Kai Ala Foundation. This year’s festival has moved to At BREW on Pawai Pl in Kona. Attendees will get to taste an array of craft beers from some of Hawai‘i’s top breweries alongside specialty brews from the continental U.S. and cuisine from island of Hawai‘i restaurants and chefs. Attendees can also look forward to live music performances and the fest’s main event: the Trash Fashion Show. www.KonaBrewersFestival.com.

March 29-30, 2024

32nd Celebration of the Arts (Maui) — [The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua](http://TheRitz-CarltonMaui.com), will host its next Celebration of the Arts festival on March 29 and 30. One of Hawai‘i’s longest-running Hawaiian arts and cultural festivals, Celebration of the Arts spotlights the culture and its traditions with more than 60 artisans, educators, cultural practitioners, speakers and entertainers in a multitude of events and workshops. www.CelebrationOfTheArts.org

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About HTUSA

Hawai‘i Tourism United States (HTUSA), managed by the Hawai‘i Visitors and Convention Bureau, is contracted by the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) for marketing management services in the continental U.S. The HTA, the state of Hawai‘i’s tourism agency, was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai‘i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai‘i’s economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires and visitor industry needs. For more information about the Hawaiian Islands, visit gohawaii.com.

Special note to media: *HTUSA recognizes the use of the ‘okina [ʻ] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the (modern) Hawaiian language; and the kahakō [ā] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai‘i such as Lāna‘i). However, HTUSA respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.*

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