



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2025

News, Updates and Aloha from O'ahu

(February 2025, Quarter 1)

O'AHU — *E komo mai!* In *‘ōlelo Hawai‘i* (Hawaiian language) these words mean “welcome!” And you are forever welcome to visit O'ahu, fondly nicknamed Hawai'i's Gathering Place and the state's third-largest island. O'ahu is a captivating destination seamlessly blending natural beauty, a unique multicultural community and vibrant urban life, all on a single island. O'ahu offers a diverse array of experiences for every type of traveler. From its iconic Waikīkī beaches and historic Pearl Harbor sites to the famed surf culture of the island's North Shore and its vibrant metropolis of Honolulu, O'ahu is an ideal fusion of tropical paradise and modern excitement.

As you plan travel to Hawai'i in 2025, we invite you to embrace the warm hospitality that defines our home island of O'ahu, a destination rich with myriad experiences awaiting your discovery. Read on for the lowdown on the island's newest attractions, events and to make your upcoming visit unforgettable.

DISCOVER NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Royal Hawaiian Center

Royal Hawaiian Center (RHC) has partnered with the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture to host Kaulele Exhibits: The Science of Kapa, Kaulana Mahina and Loko I'a, now through March 29. The interactive Hawaiian culture and science exhibits offer attendees of all ages an opportunity to *kele* (observe), *‘imi loa* (explore), *noi‘i* (investigate) and learn about *loko i'a* (Hawaiian fishponds), *kapa* (Hawaiian bark cloth) and *kaulana mahina* (the Hawaiian lunar calendar). The Kaulele Exhibits are located on level three of Building B at RHC, between Noi Thai Cuisine and Waikīkī Food Hall Co., and open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. InPeace.org/event/kaulele-at-royal-hawaiian-shopping-center/2024-11-01/

MĀLAMA HAWAI‘I: VOLUNTOURISM

Kanu Hawai‘i

Residents and visitors across Hawai'i are encouraged to participate this April in Volunteer Month, a statewide initiative dedicated to fostering community engagement and service. Coordinated by Hawai'i-based environment-focused community organization Kanu Hawai'i, the Volunteer Month campaign aims to mobilize over 20,000 volunteers in more than 600 events spanning seven of Hawai'i's islands. Activities will include environmental cleanups, educational workshops, cultural preservation projects and multiple service opportunities designed to strengthen community bonds and promote a culture of giving. KanuHawaii.org/volunteer-month-hawaii/

Mālama Maunalua

Mālama Maunalua is a community-based nonprofit organization committed to restoring the health of O'ahu's Maunalua Bay through habitat restoration, science and planning, and education and outreach. It works extensively across the ecosystems of the Maunalua region to help restore Maunalua Bay's marine resources and enhance knowledge and environmental awareness in the community. From removing invasive algae, restoring reefs with thermally resistant corals, and outplanting native sea urchins as biocontrol to help mitigate the growth of invasive algae, to assessing runoff impacts in the region and educating students and



community members, Mālama Maunalua strives to find ways to protect and restore Maunalua Bay. For more information about the nonprofit's programs and getting involved, visit MalamaMaunalua.org.

SUPPORT LOCAL

Royal Hawaiian Center

Royal Hawaiian Center is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2025 with the debut of several flagship stores and exclusive boutiques, including Kahala, KOHO Chocolates, Yumi Kim, Pearly Gates, Island Snow and an expanded Tim Ho Wan. The center will also host several cultural and festive events in early 2025, including Lunar New Year celebrations (January 28 through February 9), the Kaulele Exhibits (now through March 29), and the Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend (February 15-16), a cultural celebration featuring *hula*, music and Hawaiian products. RoyalHawaiianCenter.com

SALT at Our Kaka'ako

Dedicated to supporting Native Hawaiian and indigenous entrepreneurs, the Kūkolu organization fosters the growth of early-stage small businesses through its Indigenous Women's Incubator Program. You can shop for goods and artwork created by members of the program's most recent cohorts at the Kūkolu, pop-up boutique at SALT at Our Kaka'ako in Honolulu, open through mid-February. Kukolu.org

EXPERIENCES: ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

'Auana

'Auana is Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group's first resident production in Hawai'i and its first show to be curated around its host destination. The production introduces Cirque du Soleil's performance artistry through the guidance and vision of several Native Hawaiian creatives, including Dr. Aaron J. Salā, costume designer Carrington Manaola Yap and choreographer and *kumu hula* (hula instructor) Hiwa Vaughan-Darval. Available as an exclusive add-on to show tickets in all categories, the 'Auana VIP Experience at Maui Brewing Co. offers guests the option of enjoying a menu of island-inspired cuisine and local-crafted beverages 90 minutes prior to select performances. Tickets are available now.

CirqueDuSoleil.com

Atlantis Adventures

Atlantis Adventures welcomes all to celebrate life's moments aboard its Majestic by Atlantis Cruises, a 150-foot cruise vessel. Offering three decks of space, cutting-edge stabilization technology and panoramic views of Waikīkī and Lē'ahi (Diamond Head State Monument) on every cruise, the Majestic is a unique venue for graduations, pre- or post-wedding celebrations, anniversaries or private parties. Guests can enjoy a cocktail lounge, dance floor, open-air deck and dining room with buffet-style service. The Majestic also offers signature cruises, including its Waikīkī Sunset Cocktail Cruise and Whale Watching Cruise. Accommodating up to 300 guests, events on the Majestic can include catering, drink packages and entertainment.

MajesticHawaii.com/boat-charters

Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra Beethoven Festival

Celebrate the music and legacy of Ludwig van Beethoven at the citywide Beethoven Festival in Hawai'i, a unique event bridging Eastern and Western cultures through one of history's most influential composers. The festival schedule offers a range of concerts, lectures and events meant to inspire audiences of all ages with Beethoven's timeless works and his profound influence on the world of music. The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra will present a five-concert series as the festival's centerpiece, featuring compositions by Pacific-based artists inspired by Beethoven. Join in and experience the enduring impact of Beethoven's music.

Information and tickets can be found at myhso.org/beethoven-festival. The concert's schedule will include:

- Pastorate, Symphonies No. 4 and 6: February 16, 4 p.m., at Hawai'i Theatre



- Fate, Symphonies No. 5 and 8: March 6, 7:30 p.m., at Neil S. Blaisdell Concert Hall
- Ode to Joy, Symphony No. 9 (Festival Finale): March 9, 4 p.m., at Neil S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

Dave & Buster's

A longtime Honolulu spot for food, drinks and games, Dave & Buster's at Ward Entertainment Center in Kaka'ako will remain open through spring 2025 before moving locations. Guests are invited to rediscover its mix of arcade classics and new games. and menu of food and drinks. Whether you're stopping by for an event or a night out, Dave & Buster's offers entertainment for all ages. Its new Honolulu location will be at Ala Moana Center and feature an upgraded restaurant with ample seating, a beer garden with more than a dozen beers on tap, 10 social rooms with space for up to 20 people for virtual games, and a WOW Wall 10-feet larger than its current Ward location. DaveandBusters.com

Royal Hawaiian Center

Royal Hawaiian Center has set its Rooftop Stargazing schedule for 2025. Join the center's monthly Rooftop Stargazing Event, located on the fourth floor of Building A. The event is free and open to the public, Entry is first come, first served. RoyalHawaiianCenter.com/Events/Rooftop-Stargazing

- February 16 | 7-9 p.m.
- March 9 | 7-9 p.m.
- April 6 | 7-9 p.m.
- May 4 | 7-9 p.m.
- June 8 | 7:15-9:15 p.m.

Sea Life Park Hawai'i

Sea Life Park Hawai'i is offering whale-watching opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays, now through March 30. Guests enter the park early with a member of its education team, listen to a brief talk on humpback whales, are escorted to an optimal viewing point, and are given binoculars to use throughout the experience. For more information or to reserve a spot, call (808) 259-2500 or email reshawaii@sealifeparkhawaii.com.

Iolani Palace

A new exhibit in Iolani Palace's Bartels Gallery recently opened and can be viewed Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. "He Inoa No Kalākaua: Celebrating 150 Years of King Kalākaua" honors the life and legacy of the Hawaiian monarch and his unwavering commitment to Hawai'i's independence. IolaniPalace.org

The Henry Kapon Foundation Presents "Collaboration" at The Lounge at Island Sound Studios

Three intimate performances produced by Henry Kapon, each spotlighting collaborations with artists selected by the Hawai'i singer-songwriter, are set for The Lounge at Island Sound Studios in March, April and May. The Henry Kapon Foundation After Party for the second show will feature Alx Kawakami and The Marksmen in a high-energy dance party at the Lounge. The Speakeasy at Island Sound Studios — known as The Velvet Monkey Speakeasy — welcomes attendees to Island Sound Studios, a space where well-known Hawai'i musicians and on-the-rise stars perform in an intimate setting. Upcoming shows happen on March 8, April 12 and May 10.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Renaissance Honolulu Hotel & Spa

Wellness takes center stage at Renaissance's eighth-floor Sky Deck, which features a full-service spa, meditation gardens, state-of-the-art fitness center, outdoor strength training experience, lap pool, salt saunas,



cold plunge baths and traditional Japanese ofuro soaking tubs. The property recently introduced a new Sleep Navigator experience with a dedicated sleep concierge delivering a rotating selection of sleep-enhancing amenities each evening. Products include a lavender steam eye mask, bath salts and essential oils, herbal tea and more. [Marriott.com/en-us/hotels/hnlbr-renaissance-honolulu-hotel-and-spa/overview](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/hnlbr-renaissance-honolulu-hotel-and-spa/overview)

Romer Waikiki at the Ambassador

Romer Waikiki at the Ambassador, a boutique hotel in Honolulu, offers various room types, creative design, exclusive programming and easy access to outdoor activities. Its retro-modern Waikiki Swim and Social Club hosts weekly programming, including poolside Pilates with Body Balance Hawai'i, on-demand astrology readings, live music and more. Guests are treated to amenities such as face mists, sunglass cleaning, cold towel cooldowns, sunscreen reminders and Polaroid cameras. Onsite restaurant Favorite Son offers a menu of comfort classics enhanced by island flavors. [RomerHotels.com](https://www.romerhotels.com)

The Twin Fin Hotel

In collaboration with the Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience and Beach Candy Waikiki, The Twin Fin Hotel is home to O'ahu native, professional surfer and filmmaker Jamie O'Brien's latest venture. Designed to guide surfers through Waikiki's rolling waves, the [Jamie O'Brien School of Surf Waikiki](https://www.jamiesurf.com) specializes in lessons with personalized instruction on premium equipment. Every surf experience is conceptualized and designed by O'Brien, and guided by local instructors selected for their ocean knowledge and surfing prowess. Cool fact: O'Brien was recently inducted into the Surfers' Hall of Fame. [TwinFinWaikiki.com](https://www.twinfinwaikiki.com)

CULINARY OFFERINGS

'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach, Swell

'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach's 17,000-square-foot destination pool deck, Swell, offers a saltwater infinity pool overlooking the ocean and city, fire pits and cabanas perched atop reflecting pools. Swell's space transitions into a lively evening spot as well, with local musicians and DJs and "Light Monument"—a large-scale short-film series projecting local art across more than 100 feet. A new menu at Swell Restaurant spotlights locally sourced products reflecting Hawai'i's bounty. [AlohilaniResort.com](https://www.alohilaniresort.com)

'Ai Love Nalo

'Ai Love Nalo, a plant-based eatery in the east O'ahu community of Waimānalo, recently reopened in a newly refreshed space. Known for its vegan dishes celebrating local flavors, the restaurant spotlights fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Customer favorites like the Buddha Bowl and Taro Burger have returned, too, alongside new offerings designed to please loyal patrons and new ones. With its garden setting, 'Ai Love Nalo is a community gathering spot for healthy meals inspired by Hawai'i's bounty. [AiLoveNalo.com](https://www.ai-love-nalo.com)

M.A.C 24/7

Hilton Waikiki Beach recently unveiled Ho'okipa, a fleet of restaurant robots enhancing dining service at its M.A.C. 24/7 restaurant. The robots assist staff with food delivery and table bussing to offer a seamless and efficient dining experience. Hilton Waikiki Beach's Ho'okipa integration aims to combine technology with the warm hospitality Hawai'i is known for, offering guests a modern yet welcoming atmosphere. [MAC247waikiki.com](https://www.mac247waikiki.com)

Mian & Bao

Located at Ward Centre, Mian and Bao is the new restaurant from the owners of Chengdu Taste and Mian. The new eatery specializes in handmade dumplings, bao and noodle dishes, blending Chinese culinary traditions with a modern approach. Signature items include pork soup dumplings and char siu bao, and the restaurant welcomes guests with a sleek yet casual space. Mian and Bao request that you bring a credit card to pay as this establishment is cash-free. [@miannbao_honolulu](https://www.miannbao-honolulu.com)



Vintage Books

Kaimukī's eclectic dining scene recently welcomed Vintage Books, a speakeasy and restaurant inspired by “the charm of great libraries of the past — though books are noticeably absent.” The Vintage Books concept brings together cocktails by Honolulu mixologist Jen Ackrill — known for her time behind the bar at O’ahu’s Hau Tree and Sky Waikīkī — and a menu curated by chef Stephen Toyofuku, whose culinary endeavors include Hakkei in Honolulu and several acclaimed restaurants in Seattle. Vintage Books request that you bring a credit card to pay as this is a cash-free establishment. VintageBooksHawaii.com

GROUP TRAVEL

Royal Hawaiian Center

Royal Hawaiian Center welcomes you to host your next event in Waikīkī at its **Ka Lewa Lānai**, an expanded rooftop venue offering 5,091 square-feet of open-air space for group gatherings, corporate events and celebrations. With views of Kalākaua Avenue and the Ko’olau mountains, Ka Lewa Lānai provides a scenic setting for meetings, receptions, special occasions and other events. The venue also features vibrant bougainvillea and a picturesque bridge as backdrops for any event. To learn more or to reserve your space, visit RoyalHawaiianCenter.com/ka-lewa-lanai-event-space.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

For a full list to help plan your travels around O’ahu’s world-class events, visit [here](#).

February, 2025 (through 2028)

Wahi Pana: O’ahu’s Storied Places — Wahi Pana is a temporary public art project of the City and County of Honolulu Mayor’s Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA) and is a winner of the Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Public Art Challenge grant. The project includes art installations that activate sites across O’ahu by connecting them to stories rooted in Native Hawaiian history and stories. Launching early 2025, this project brings together local artists and storytellers to create 11 multi-media installations around the island. Each installation will encourage residents and visitors to engage beyond the surface and to connect with the island’s rich history and culture. By deepening historical and cultural awareness, the initiative encourages more meaningful engagement with Hawai‘i and its people. WahiPana.com

- Phase 1: February 2025
 - [TheBus](#)
 - [Fort Street Mall](#)
 - [Fort DeRussy](#)
 - [Lē‘ahi](#)
- Phase 2: May 2025
 - [Kapi‘olani Park](#)
 - [Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve](#)
 - [Koko Crater Botanical Garden](#)
- Phase 3: September 2025
 - [Kahe Point Beach Park](#)
 - [Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden](#)
 - [Hale‘iwa Beach Park](#)
 - [Chinatown Gateway Plaza](#)
- Installation Ends: February 2028

February 15-16, 2025



Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend — For a second year, Royal Hawaiian Center is partnering with the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association to host Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend, happening February 15 and 16 in The Royal Grove (Ground Level, Building B) and Ka Lewa Lānai (Fourth Level, Building A). Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend is a two-day, family-friendly event set to feature music and *bula* performances on two stages, a fashion show highlighting Hawai'i couture, cultural demonstrations and a *makeke* (market) featuring local products from more than 60 vendors. Nahha.com

February 15 – May 4, 2025

Hawai'i Triennial — Hawai'i Triennial 2025 (HT25) will be the fourth edition of one of Hawai'i's largest periodic exhibitions of contemporary art, involving dozens of artists, key venues and organizational partners. For 2025, the exhibition will expand beyond O'ahu to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The art festival's theme is ALOHA NŌ, which is a call to know and an invitation to form new understandings of love as acts of care, resistance, solidarity and transformation. HawaiiContemporary.org

March 7-9, 2025

Honolulu Festival — Celebrating its 29th anniversary, the Honolulu Festival is one of Hawai'i's premier cultural events. The three-day festival shares the rich, vibrant cultures of Hawai'i and its Pacific Rim neighbors with attendees through arts and entertainment, educational programs and activities, craft fairs and a grand evening parade through Waikīkī. The festival concludes with the colorful Nagaoka Fireworks show off Waikīkī's beaches. HonoluluFestival.com

March 8-14, 2025

Hōkūle'a 50th Anniversary — The Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) invites the public to join a series of special events honoring the 50th birthday of Hōkūle'a, Hawai'i's iconic voyaging canoe. These celebrations will reflect on Hōkūle'a's beginnings and her profound impact, which has inspired cultural renewal across the Pacific and environmental stewardship worldwide. Hōkūle'a, Hawai'i's legendary voyaging canoe, first launched on March 8, 1975. This milestone marks a half-century of cultural revival, environmental advocacy, and a renewed connection to the earth and ocean. Join us as we honor the past 50 years of Hōkūle'a's legacy and chart a course for the future. The celebrations continue with dockside canoe tours of Hōkūle'a at the Hawai'i Convention Center. The public is invited to step aboard Hōkūle'a and hear from young crew members and navigators who are training to take leadership roles in the next chapters of the Moananuiākea Voyage. Hokulea.com/50th-anniversary

March 14-16, 2025

Kawaii Kon — Kawaii Kon is a three-day convention celebrating Japanese anime (cartoons), manga (comics) and all facets of Japanese culture. Offering a variety of events and activities throughout the weekend, it is held annually at the Hawai'i Convention Center. KawaiiKon.com

April 13, 2025

The Hapalua — This 13.1-mile race begins and ends in Waikīkī with runners enjoying scenic views as they take a loop course through Honolulu and up and around the slopes of Lē'ahi (Diamond Head State Monument) before ending at a Kapi'olani Park finish line. As Hawai'i's largest-participation half marathon, the Hapalua is open to runners and walkers, has no qualifications to enter and has no time limit.

TheHapalua.com

April 26, 2025

Waikīkī SPAM JAM® — The annual Waikīkī SPAM JAM® celebrates Hawai'i's love for SPAM®, with local restaurants offering creative dishes alongside special merchandise and products from Hawai'i crafters. The event benefits the Hawai'i Foodbank — the state's largest nonprofit feeding those in need — the Waikīkī Community Center and the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i. SPAMJamHawaii.com



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