



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2025

News, Updates and Aloha from O'ahu *(April 2025, Quarter 2)*

O'AHU — *E komo mai!* In *‘ōlelo Hawai‘i* (Hawaiian language) these words are the greeting, “Welcome!” And you are forever welcome to visit O'ahu, the state's third-largest island, known by the nickname, the Gathering Place. It's a captivating destination seamlessly blending natural beauty, a unique multicultural community and vibrant urban life, all on a single island and all making O'ahu an ideal destination for summer travel, especially for families looking for a vacation enjoyable across generations. You'll have the exploring historic landmarks such as 'Iolani Palace and Pearl Harbor, enjoying hands-on Hawaiian cultural experiences, being surrounded by nature on a scenic hike, or learning to surf or paddle an outrigger on the world-renowned waves of Waikiki's beaches. Whether you'll be traveling with young kids, teens, their grandparents or aunts, uncles or your friend group, O'ahu is an island full of activities, events and places where you'll all have fun, discover new and favorite things, and make lifelong memories.

Read on for the latest family-friendly events, new attractions and one-of-a-kind experiences sure to make your O'ahu getaway this summer truly unforgettable.

CELEBRATE KĀNAKA MAOLI (NATIVE HAWAIIAN) CULTURE

Bishop Museum

Bishop Museum's After Hours event series invites guests to unwind and explore the museum campus every second Friday evening of the month in 2025, from 5 to 9 p.m. The monthly series offers residents and visitors a chance to experience the museum in a fun nighttime setting, taking in historic treasures, hands-on exhibitions, scientific discoveries and cultural demonstrations in its Hawaiian Hall. Guests can also relax under the stars on Bishop Museum's Great Lawn with *‘ono* (tasty) food and drinks from local vendors. Arrive early, final admission to the event is at 8 p.m. www.BishopMuseum.org/Exhibits-And-Programs/Afterhours

Mālama Honua Public Charter School

Mālama Honua Public Charter School will host a celebratory fundraiser showcasing the school's kindergarten through eighth-grade programming and its home *‘āhupua‘a* (Hawaiian mountain-to-sea land division) of Waimānalo. The event, set for June 13 as part of Bishop Museum's After Hours event series, promotes the success of the community-led initiative Waimānalo Mau a Mau. The multimedia initiative shares stories about Waimānalo and its residents via video interviews and newly launched children's books. The Bishop Museum event will include screenings of Waimānalo Mau a Mau videos, live music and a vendor market. www.BishopMuseum.org/Exhibits-And-Programs/Afterhours/

Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort

Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort, in collaboration with the Polynesian Voyaging Society and Friends of Hōkūle‘a and Hawai‘iloa, will host a special installment of its O Ke Kai series on June 14 celebrating the pioneering long-distance voyaging canoe Hōkūle‘a's 50th anniversary. The cultural event will honor Hawaiian seafaring traditions and ocean stewardship through hands-on demonstrations, storytelling and presentations

led by experts in wayfinding and canoe building. The program will highlight the ancestral knowledge of Polynesian navigators and their enduring connection to the ocean. www.Outrigger.com

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort and Spa is welcoming Native Hawaiian master storyteller Lopaka Kapanui to its Queen's Parlor on April 13 for the final installment of his "Whispers of Waikiki: Forgotten Stories of History & Mystery" series. An author, actor, *kumu hula* (hula instructor) and cultural practitioner, Kapanui combines his storytelling and extensive knowledge of Hawai'i legends, folklore and supernatural history to entertain and teach in the Hawaiian culture's oral tradition. www.Marriott.com/en-us/Hotels/HNL/MC-Waikiki-Beach-Marriott-Resort-And-Spa

MĀLAMA HAWAI'I: CARING FOR THE PLACE

Outrigger Resorts & Hotels

Outrigger Resorts and Hotels will host its annual Outrigger Zone Day at the Waikiki Aquarium on June 28. The family-friendly event celebrates ocean health and conservation efforts across all Outrigger properties in Hawai'i. Festivities will include ocean-themed games, information booths from mission-aligned community organizations and live music. Guests staying in Outrigger properties receive complimentary entry to the Waikiki Aquarium with valid key card. www.Outrigger.com

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i (SCH) is hosting its second-annual SCH Earth Week, April 19 through 26, as part of its ongoing mission keeping Hawai'i's environment healthy and thriving, and our *'āina* (land) and *kai* (sea) clean for future generations. The event will include a Bellow's Beach Cleanup on April 19, a GoFarm Hawai'i Workday on Earth Day April 22 and an Aloha 'Āina Workday at the Nation of Hawai'i in Waimānalo on April 26. www.SustainableCoastlinesHawaii.org

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach will host an Earth Day event on April 22 with the Genki Ala Wai Project in celebration of its 10,000th genki ball contribution to the project. Guests can participate in genki ball making, filling them with Effective Microorganisms® and tossing them into Waikiki's Ala Wai Canal. Once settled on the canal's bottom, they help break down sludge, improve water quality and bring Waikiki closer to a swimmable Ala Wai Canal by 2026. www.RitzCarlton.com/en/Hotels/HNL/RR-The-Ritz-Carlton-Residences-Waikiki-Beach

SUPPORT LOCAL

Bishop Museum

Bishop Museum is hosting its free, open to the public Kaiwi'ula Night Market every third Wednesday from 4:30 to 8 p.m. The market features cuisine and crafts from a rotating list of local vendors and is also the O'ahu pickup site for Grow Aloha, which offers free native plants for pickup at each Kaiwi'ula Night Market in 2025 when you reserve a plant online. [@KaiwiulaNightMarket](https://www.kaiwiulanightmarket.com)

Outrigger Waikiki Paradise Hotel

Outrigger Waikiki Paradise Hotel will host the Art + Flea market for the first time on April 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will feature over 60 independent artists, vintage collectors, DIYers, food trucks, product makers and fashion designers, alongside live music and local DJs. www.ArtAndFlea.com

EXPERIENCES: ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

‘Auana

‘Auana is Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group’s first resident production in Hawai‘i and its first show 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. CirqueDuSoleil.com

Bishop Museum

Bishop Museum is debuting several educational program series this year, including:

- On the second Saturday of each month, from 10 to 11 a.m., Bishop Museum is hosting **Kanikapila ma Kaiwi‘ula** at its Nā Ulu Kaiwi‘ula Native Hawaiian Garden, in a partnership with the ‘Ukulele Guild of Hawai‘i. Included with museum admission, guests are welcome to bring their *‘ukulele* or borrow one and learn new techniques, share *mo‘olelo* (stories) or simply enjoy the music as they are led through selections from “He Mele Aloha: A Hawaiian Songbook.”
- On the third Wednesday of May, August and November, from 7 to 8 p.m., Bishop Museum will host **Navigating by the Stars** at its J. Watumull Planetarium led by planetarium educators and Hōkūle‘a navigator and Honolulu Community College *ho‘okele* (navigation) instructor Ka‘iulani Murphy. Each program will feature the Hawaiian star line most prominent that month. Registration is required.
- On the third Friday of each month, Bishop Museum is hosting **The Stars Tonight**, welcoming guests to look and learn about the stars, planets, astronomical highlights and stories of the current night sky. In months with solstices and equinoxes — including June 20, at 6-7 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m. — the program will include trivia on topics such as astronomy, natural sciences and pop culture. Registration is required. www.BishopMuseum.org

Dave & Buster’s Honolulu

Dave & Buster’s Honolulu has moved to Ala Moana Center, near Old Navy, and is set to open at its new location on April 14. The new space, spanning 45,000 square-feet, features an expanded midway with over 120 arcade games, interactive experiences and dining. New attractions include The Human Crane — in which guests are lowered into a pit of prizes — along with private game suites and digital gaming spaces. Sports fans can kick back at the new location’s 49-seat sports bar or explore its self-serve beer wall, while folks with an appetite can enjoy ordering from Dave & Buster’s craft kitchen. www.DaveAndBusters.com

Foster Botanical Garden

Following a four-year hiatus, Foster Botanical Garden has resumed its free 90-minute docent-led tours every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The 10:30 a.m. tours are included in the price of admission. Reservations for the tours are recommended but not required. www8.Honolulu.Gov/DPR/Honolulu-Botanical-Gardens/Foster-Botanical-Garden

Mana Cruises

Native Hawaiian-owned, Mana Cruises, which offers private and shared yacht charters, now features cruise experiences out of Waikīkī and Ko Olina resort, and more opportunities for guests to explore O‘ahu’s coastlines. On departures from both locations, guests can sail past Lē‘ahi (Diamond Head State Monument) or along the West O‘ahu coastline, with personalized service, dining options and other amenities. MANACruises.com

Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort and Spa recently expanded its Pā‘ina Waikīkī Lū‘au to five nights a week. The *lū‘au* showcases the history of Waikīkī through *bula*, *mele* (song) and Polynesian performing arts, spotlighting the area's natural beauty, Hawaiian monarchial history and historic eras. Its performances also include special tributes, including a *bula* honoring Hawaiian monarch Queen Lili‘uokalani and an original *mele* composed for the event. www.PainaWaikiki.com/Marriott-Waikiki-Luuau

ACCOMMODATIONS

First Cabin International Hawai‘i

First Cabin International Hawai‘i is the state’s first capsule-style hotel and a new, eco-friendly Waikīkī lodging option located on the 14th floor of the Waikīkī Business Plaza. The property features 103 single-person pods inspired by first-class airplane cabins, with options ranging from premium economy, business class and first-class pods. Each pod includes a bed, personal storage and access to shared amenities such as shower rooms, powder rooms, lounges and luggage storage. www.First-Cabin.us

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort is renovating its iconic Rainbow Tower with an extensive makeover that will include modernized guest room interiors, corridors and amenities while maintaining the rainbow theme that has made the tower a Waikīkī landmark. Its new Rainbow Kai rooms will draw inspiration from the ocean and feature seaside tones, pops of color and natural textures. A highlight of the renovated tower will be a collaboration with local artists whose vibrant works reflect Hawai‘i’s beauty and cultural spirit. www.HiltonHawaiianVillage.com

Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa

Waikīkī’s first hotel, the Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa, has launched a property renewal and transformation honoring its legacy as the “First Lady of Waikīkī.” Inspired by the timeless romance of travel, the renovation will be completed in phases through 2026. The resort’s 791 guest rooms and suites will be renovated across three distinct wings, its historic lobby will be refreshed and a new oceanfront event space will debut. All phases of the Moana Surfrider’s renovations are slated for completion ahead of the resort’s 125th anniversary on March 11, 2026, in time for celebrations of the milestone. The resort will remain open and welcome guests throughout the refresh project. www.MoanaSurfrider.com

Outrigger Waikīkī Paradise Hotel

Formerly known as the Ohana Waikiki East by Outrigger, the fully renovated Outrigger Waikīkī Paradise Hotel is inspired by Hawaiian royal Princess Ka‘iulani and her legacy. Designed in part by a group of local artists and influencers, and one of Waikīkī’s newest craft hotels, the property’s new facilities include a fully-remodeled pool and modern fitness center with high-tech equipment. Located near Waikīkī’s beaches and next door to the International Market Place, the hotel also offers two on-property dining experiences. www.Outrigger.com

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach

This spring, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach is launching Paths to Pilina, inspired by the Hawaiian word for connection. The program will offer an *‘ohana* experience designed to foster renewed bonds within families, and include Little Paddlers surfing lessons, guided hikes, in-suite movie night amenities and more. www.RitzCarlton.com

Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

Under the guidance of its cultural advisor, Kumu Leilani Kahoano, Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort and Spa is offering an exclusive vow renewal ceremony honoring the connection between land, sea and humans. The ceremony draws inspiration from Hawaiian monarch Queen Lili‘uokalani’s beloved retreats, Paoakalani (“royal perfume”) and Ke‘alohilani (“the heavenly brightness”), symbolizing the divine connection between love and the heavens. Enhancements — including Hawaiian musicians, a flower arch, upgrades to the

ceremony's Royal Lei Set and more — can be arranged with two-weeks advance notice. The ceremony accommodates up to 20 people and includes a couples orchid flower *lei* set, Hawaiian officiant, vow renewal certificate keepsake and a keepsake digital photo. www.Marriott.com/en-us/Hotels/HNLMC-Waikiki-Beach-Marriott-Resort-And-Spa

CULINARY DISCOVERIES

'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach

'Alohilani Resort is offering a special Mother's Day Brunch on May 11, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in its newly renovated 'Alohilani Ballroom. The family-style brunch will feature live entertainment by four-time Nā Hōkū Hanohano Hawaiian music award nominee Ben Kama and include a prime rib station and porchetta. Additional upcoming resort gastronomic projects this spring include a refreshed culinary offering at its scenic rooftop Swell Restaurant and Pool Deck celebrating island-inspired ingredients. www.AlohilaniResort.com

Faria

Faria, a new eatery in Kailua, spotlights Hawai'i-style Portuguese comfort food as the island's only dedicated Portuguese restaurant. Created by chef-owner Kawehi Haug and her team, Faria aims to fuse tradition and creativity, serving nostalgic family recipes with modern flair. The menu's dishes include sardines in tomato-garlic confit, polenta fritters with chili pepper jelly, alcatra pot roast and multiple takes on bacalhau, Portugal's iconic salted cod. www.FariaHawaii.com

Halekulani

On May 18 and 19, Halekulani's Lewers Lounge will host an exclusive cocktail experience featuring two of New York City's trendiest bars, Milady and Clover Club. Julie Reiner, award-winning mixologist and owner of both bars, will return to her O'ahu roots for a collaboration with Tuda Sarian, director of mixology at Halekulani's Lewers Lounge. Lewers Lounge will feature Clover Club's award-winning classics on May 18 and Milady cocktails on May 19. www.Halekulani.com

Hilton Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa

Located inside the Hilton Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa, M.A.C. 24/7 restaurant recently debuted an updated menu with new items, including three new pancake flavors — ube, cookies and cream, and peaches and cream — and a new M.A.C. Aloha Moco and more. M.A.C. 24/7 is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. www.MAC247Waikiki.com

Kaimana Beach Hotel

Kaimana Beach Hotel is presenting a mixology pop-up collaboration, BLA at The Beach, with James Beard Award-winning Bar Leather Apron, April 24 through 26, at the hotel's newly renovated second-floor Kapua Lounge. The partnership will bring Bar Leather Apron's craft cocktails from co-founders Justin Park and Tom Park to the boutique Kaimana Beach Hotel on Waikiki's Gold Coast. www.Kaimana.com

Kani Ka Pila Grille

Kani Ka Pila Grille in Waikiki marks its 17th anniversary this year, continuing its longtime showcasing of award-winning local musicians in an intimate, open-air setting. Named after the legendary backyard jam sessions of O'ahu's musician-filled Pahinui family, Kani Ka Pila Grille is known for presenting live Hawai'i music performances nightly alongside 'ono (tasty) island cuisine for visitors and residents. www.Outrigger.com

Lahaina Tacos

Lahaina Tacos is a new taqueria in downtown Honolulu's Pioneer Plaza founded by the Haro family. After losing their home, jobs and food truck in the Lahaina wildfires, the new restaurant marks a fresh start for the family rooted in resilience and tradition. The menu features handmade tortillas filled with steak, chicken, beef birria, lengua, adobada, chorizo or vegetables, with tacos priced from \$4 to \$5. Guests can also enjoy tortas,

burritos, quesadillas, bowls and rotating specials like oxtail birria ramen on a menu inspired by the family's hometown of Nayarit, Mexico. www.LahainaTacos.com

Mille Fête

Downtown Honolulu's Chinatown district recently welcomed new bakery Mille Fête, curated by husband-and-wife owners Chuck Bussler and James Beard Award-winning chef Robynne Maii of nearby Fête restaurant. The bakery focuses on seasonal and local ingredients, featuring new breads, hand pies, baked bao, cookies, layer cakes and Fête fan-favorite condiments, dressings and salads. During evenings, the bakery converts into a wine bar with natural wines and amaro. www.millefete.com

SingSing Thai Street Food

SingSing Thai Street Food, on Smith Street in downtown Honolulu's Chinatown district, offers a playful take on Thai street cuisine. Helmed by husband-and-wife team Palm and Pui Amatawet, the restaurant's family-style menu features unexpected items such as crispy fried smelt (on the menu, it's called "School of Fish"), twice-cooked pork ribs with tamarind sauce and fiery Issan beef tongue. SingSing's dishes are aimed at offering an alternative to typical Thai staples. The restaurant also allows BYOB. [@singsing.hawaii](https://www.singsing.hawaii)

Waka Sakura

Waka Sakura, a new conveyor belt sushi restaurant, is now open inside the Don Don Donki food court in Kapolei. With just two other locations — one in California and one in Guam — the new location is the brand's debut on O'ahu. Guests order via iPad from an extensive menu and enjoy quick delivery of sushi, sashimi, poke, tempura and more, direct to their booth or counter seat. The restaurant features a multipage menu with 16 sections, ranging from Wagyu beef to Japanese desserts and much in between. [@wakasakurakapolei](https://www.wakasakurakapolei)

MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS AND INCENTIVE (GROUP) TRAVEL

Atlantis Adventures

Atlantis Adventures invites groups to host special events aboard Majestic by Atlantis Cruises, offering an experience at sea with views of the Waikiki shoreline and Lē'ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument). Guests can enjoy live music in the vessel's air-conditioned cocktail lounge with panoramic windows and seakeeper technology for a smooth, stable ride and find 360-degree views on Majestic's top-level, open-air deck. Cruises accommodate up to 300 guests, and events can include catering, drink packages and entertainment. www.MajesticHawaii.com/Boat-Charters

International Market Place

International Market Place has relaunched its popular Dining Pass program for groups and meetings, conventions and incentive markets. The program allows group organizers to pay one price for each Dining Pass recipient who, in turn, can select from various food and beverage items at participating International Market Place restaurants on the Grand Lānai and dining outlets such as Kūhio Avenue Food Hall. The Dining Pass is customizable for each group and prices vary depending on options selected by the organizers. www.ShopInternationalMarketPlace.com

Mirage at Wai Kai

Wai Kai at Hoakalei Resort in West O'ahu recently unveiled Mirage, a new event venue overlooking its Wai Kai Lagoon. Mirage's design and indoor-outdoor spaces offer a versatile setting for groups and corporate events, accommodating up to 160 guests and providing custom catering options, parking and sunset views. www.WaiKai.com

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

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

April 6 - June 8, 2025

Royal Hawaiian Center — Royal Hawaiian Center is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2025 with Easter, Rooftop Stargazing and Golden Week events. On April 12, from 2 to 5 p.m., the center's Keiki Easter Celebration will feature egg hunts, face painting, crafts, candy *lei*-making and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and Auntie Lele. Free Easter photos with Uncle Lopaka and Auntie Lele will be available on April 18 and 20 as well, from 3 to 5 p.m. The center's Rooftop Stargazing series returns on April 6, May 4 and June 8, from 7 to 9 p.m., for nights of celestial observation. And from April 29 through May 5, shoppers spending \$300 or more can participate in Royal Spin for Golden Week to win exclusive prizes. www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com.

April 23, 2025

Artist 2 Artist Concert: Henry Kaponō & Brother Noland — The Henry Kaponō Foundation will present season eight of its Artist 2 Artist concert series, featuring GRAMMY® nominee Henry Kaponō alongside award-winning Hawai'i musician Brother Noland. The performance is set for April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Blue Note Hawai'i and supports Hawai'i's music community through sponsorships and donations benefiting the foundation's programs, grants and scholarships for local entertainers. Room packages are available at Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort. www.BlueNoteJazz.com/Hawaii

April 26, 2025

Waikiki SPAM JAM® — The annual Waikiki 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 Waikiki Community Center and the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i. SPAMJamHawaii.com

April 27, 2025

30th I Love Kailua Town Party — Celebrate three decades of community spirit at the 30th annual I Love Kailua Town Party, presented by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle. One of Windward O'ahu's biggest annual events, the free, family-friendly event transforms Kailua Road into a lively block party from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring delicious local food booths, handcrafted art, plant sales and live entertainment. Highlights include its popular *keiki* (kids) fun zone, free health screenings and limited-edition I Love Kailua apparel. Attendees enjoy special deals from local merchants and get to connect with community groups. www.LKOC.org

May 1, 2025

Lei Day Celebration — As one of Hawai'i's most emblematic symbols of *aloha*, *lei* — and the crafting of *lei* — have been celebrated in the Hawaiian Islands on Lei Day since 1927. The City and County of Honolulu's official Lei Day event is held at Kapi'olani Park in Waikiki, honoring *lei* and the traditions surrounding it with festivities, including pageants and competitions for *lei* queen and the crafting of colorful, fragrant flower *lei*. HonoluluParks.com

May 3, 2025

Flores de Mayo & Filipino Fiesta — The Filipino Community Center and Filipino Jaycees of Honolulu are readying to host the 2025 Flores de Mayo and Filipino Fiesta on May 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the FilCom Center in Waipahu. This year's event will celebrate Filipino heritage, wellness and sustainability, with immersive experiences for attendees of all ages. This year's theme, "Celebrating Wellness and Heritage through Malunggay," will highlight the malunggay (moringa) plant, known for its health benefits and deep cultural significance in Filipino gardens and cuisine. Activities will include cultural showcases, vendor offerings and educational displays about the plant's history and culinary uses. The day's events will also expand into nearby, recently renovated Hans L'Orange Neighborhood Park, with more space for cultural demonstrations and vendors. The full event is sponsored by L&L Hawaiian Barbecue with support from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the City and County of Honolulu. www.FilipinoFiestaHI.com

May 10, 2025

Ko Olina Children's Festival — The Ko Olina Children's Festival returns on May 10 for a fun-filled afternoon dedicated to families and *keiki* (kids). Held at Ko Olina Resort, the event features live entertainment, hands-on activities, educational exhibits, ocean sustainability booths and delicious local food. The day will wrap up with a special sunset screening of "Moana 2." Proceeds raised from the festival benefit Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, supporting essential health care services for Hawai'i's youngest residents. www.KoolinaChildrensFestival.com

May 15-19, 2025

Hawai'i Adaptive Surfing Championships — Event organizer AccesSurf's mission is to provide inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities to enjoy the freedom and benefits of water sports. O'ahu is hosting this annual championship surfing competition at Queen's Surf Beach in Waikiki. With numerous adaptive surfers from around the world expected to participate, the event promises a showcase of remarkable talent and determined spirit within the surfing community. www.AccesSurf.org

May 26, 2025

Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i — Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i will return to Ala Moana Beach on Memorial Day, May 26. One of the largest Memorial Day events in the U.S., the ceremony offers participants an opportunity to honor loved ones who have passed, by setting candlelit floating lanterns carrying prayers and remembrances into the beach's offshore waters. The event's annual theme, "Many Rivers, One Ocean," emphasizes the unity, healing and connection the event brings to participants. Presented by the Nā Lei Aloha Foundation and officiated by global Buddhist community Shinnyo-en, the event invites individuals, families and communities to reflect together. Lanterns are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event and collected and refurbished for future ceremonies. www.LanternFloatingHawaii.com

June 11-14, 2025

King Kamehameha Day Celebrations — Celebrated across the state of Hawai'i on June 11, the Kamehameha Day holiday honors Kamehameha I, the island of Hawai'i chief who united the Hawaiian Islands under his rule in 1810. Festivities happen on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i and the island of Hawai'i and include *lei* draping ceremonies, parades, *pā'u* (skirted) horseback riders representing the Hawaiian royal court, food and family-friendly activities for residents and visitors. Hawaii.gov/Kamehameha

- King Kamehameha Statue Lei Draping, Ali'iōlani Hale, June 13, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 108th King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade, 'Iolani Palace to Kapi'olani Park, June 14, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- King Kamehameha Celebration Ho'olaule'a, Queen Kapi'olani Park, June 14, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 11, 18 & 25; July 9, 16 & 23, 2025

The Wildest Show — The Honolulu Zoo Society invites families to experience the zoo after hours during this popular summer concert series. Attendees enjoy live performances from award-winning local musicians, along with pre-show family fun, including conservation stations, *keiki* (kids) art contests and animal trivia. Proceeds support the Honolulu Zoo Society's mission and programs. Admission is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for children ages three through 12 and free for *keiki* ages two and under. www.HonoluluZoo.org

July 19-20, 2025

Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival — This annual Hawaiian cultural event honors beloved Hawai'i monarch and *hula* enthusiast Kamehameha V (born Lot Kapuāiwa) and brings *hula* practitioners and admirers together for an exhibition of dance performances by invited *hālan hula* (hula groups). One of Hawai'i's most revered cultural events, the festival will be held at Thomas Square in Honolulu this year, offering residents and

visitors an opportunity to experience the beauty, skill and spirit of the Hawaiian tradition of *hula*.
MGFHawaii.org

August 15-25, 2025

Duke Kahanamoku Ocean Festival — All events in this nine-day ocean sports festival happen in the offshore waters and sands of Waikiki's beaches in honor of legendary Hawai'i waterman and fest namesake Duke Kahanamoku. The festival's full schedule of ocean sports events includes surfing, outrigger canoe paddling, swimming, surfboard water polo, foil surfing, beach volleyball and more, culminating with a *lei*-draping ceremony at Kahanamoku's Waikiki statue to commemorate his birthday. The fest is a fundraiser for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation's college scholarship and athletic grants programs.
www.DukesOceanFest.com

September 2, 2025

80th Anniversary of the End of World War II Commemoration — At 9:02 a.m. (HST) on September 2, the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Pearl Harbor will host a ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the historic signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, which brought World War II to a close. The ceremony will include reflections on the significance of the occasion and the unveiling of a new interactive exhibit, "Pathway to Peace: USS Missouri's World War II Experience," offering visitors an immersive journey through the ship's pivotal role in the war and the experiences of her crew. www.USSMissouri.org

September 6, 20 & 27, 2025

Aloha Festivals — Aloha Festivals, Hawai'i's longest-running cultural celebration, returns for its 79th year this September, celebrating island traditions and the *aloha* spirit. The 2025 theme, "Ko Kula Uka, Ko Kula Kai — Those of the Upland, Those of the Shore: Mauka to Makai," honors the connection between upland and coastal communities. Festivities begin with the Royal Court Investiture and Opening Ceremony on September 6 at the Royal Hawaiian, A Luxury Collection Resort and Royal Hawaiian Center. On September 20, the 71st annual Waikiki Ho'olaule'a will transform main street Kalākaua Avenue into a vibrant block party with local food, music and hula. The celebration will culminate on September 27 with the 77th annual Floral Parade, featuring blossom-adorned floats, *pā'u* horseback riders and marching bands.
www.AlohaFestivals.com.

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