



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 23, 2025**

### **News, Updates and Aloha from O'ahu** *(July 2025, Quarter 3)*

O'AHU — *E komo mai!* In *‘ōlelo Hawai‘i* (Hawaiian language) these words mean, “Welcome!” And you are always welcome to visit O'ahu, Hawai‘i's third-largest island, known by the nickname, the Gathering Place. As you plan your travels ahead of the holiday season, know that fall is an ideal season to plan an escape to O'ahu, where natural beauty, rich multicultural traditions and vibrant city life come together on a single island.

From lively makers markets and farm-fresh tastings to artisan pop-ups and cultural festivals, the fall season brings with it some of the island's best opportunities to shop from local makers and artisans, support Hawai‘i-based businesses and discover local favorite restaurants and places to eat. Another thing to note this fall if you are a fan of the ever-popular Aloha Stadium Swap Meet and Marketplace is its relocation to the stadium's upgraded Upper Hālawa Lot beginning August 1.

Whether you're traveling with *keiki* (children), *kūpuna* (elders) or friends, O'ahu offers something for every kind of traveler, offering history, nature, city energy and coastal calm. Think of it as the ultimate island to reconnect, recharge and celebrate life this fall before the hustle and bustle of the holidays begin. Read on for the newest events, experiences and one-of-a-kind adventures that will make your O'ahu getaway truly special.

## **CELEBRATE KĀNAKA MAOLI (NATIVE HAWAIIAN) CULTURE**

### **Courtyard Marriott Oahu North Shore**

Courtyard Marriott Oahu North Shore recently launched Talk Story and Mākeke, a bimonthly program inviting visitors and residents to experience the vibrant traditions, talents and stories of Hawai‘i. Held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the hotel's conference room, the program is free and open to the public. Each evening begins with Talk Story, an intimate storytelling session where community members share *mo‘olelo* (stories), legends and lived experiences to help keep the spirit of Polynesian culture alive. Past speakers have included respected cultural leaders, including *kumu hula* (hula instructor) Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Kekela Miller (aka Aunty Kela) and filmmaker Steve Sue, who hosted a special screening of his documentary, “Shaka: A Story of Aloha,” Samoan leaders Chief Sielu Avea and Tulafale Fa‘amoe Avea have also offered insights into Samoan customs and leadership at Talk Story. [Marriott.com/HNLOA](https://Marriott.com/HNLOA)

### **Bishop Museum**

Bishop Museum and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) recently partnered to reimagine the museum's retail space as a hub for Hawai‘i-made products and cultural storytelling. CNHA took over operations of the Bishop Museum's gift shop — formerly called Shop Pacifica — on July 1, introducing a refreshed space rooted in Native Hawaiian values and local creativity. The collaboration builds on CNHA's retail projects The Mākeke and Nā Mea Hawai‘i, offering product showcases, creative workshops and community events reflecting the museum's role as a gathering place. [BishopMuseum.org](https://BishopMuseum.org)

### **Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa**

In The Southern Sun is a new immersive art experience at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa, launching July 21. Curated by POW! WOW! and Kamea Hadar, the exhibit traces the story of Waikiki from dawn to dusk through murals, installations and interactive moments rooted in Native Hawaiian perspectives of place, seasonality and cultural memory. Featuring works by Hawai'i artists, the experience blends visual storytelling with *'ike kūpuna* (ancestral knowledge) to honor the land's past and present. [InTheSouthernSun.com](http://InTheSouthernSun.com)

### **Royal Hawaiian Center**

Royal Hawaiian Center is offering a lively lineup of free cultural events and community celebrations this summer, from late July through September. Highlights include Rooftop Stargazing at Ka Lewa Lānai on August 3 and September 4, where guests can explore Hawai'i's night sky through high-powered telescopes. The season culminates with Lei 'Ilima on September 13, celebrating 45 years of *aloha* with music, *hula* and cultural programming for all ages. [RoyalHawaiianCenter.com](http://RoyalHawaiianCenter.com)

### **Wahi Pana: Storied Places**

In September, Wahi Pana: Storied Places will unveil its third phase of island-wide public art installations openings at several culturally significant sites, including Kahe Point Beach Park, Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens, Hale'iwa Beach Park and Chinatown Gateway Plaza. The temporary art initiative, funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, brings together Native Hawaiian artists and storytellers to activate each location with site-specific sculptures, photography, poetry, *mele* (music) and immersive multimedia deepening connections to O'ahu's ancestral histories. Visitors can walk the area of each exhibit and reflect and engage with stories anchored in the *'āina* (land). [WahiPana.com](http://WahiPana.com)

### **MADE IN HAWAII: SHOP, SAVOR & SUPPORT**

#### **Aloha Stadium Swap Meet & Marketplace**

Beginning August 1, the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet and Marketplace will relocate to the stadium's upgraded Upper Hālawa Lot and include improved restrooms, utility access and retail units for an enhanced shopping experience. Open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, the marketplace welcomes over 400 local vendors alongside live entertainment, food trucks and family-friendly fun on its Ho'okipa Hale stage. Shoppers can also enjoy special discounts and offers through the Holo Card shopping program, accepted at select vendor booths. [AlohaStadium.Hawaii.gov](http://AlohaStadium.Hawaii.gov)

#### **Check Out These O'ahu Markets**

O'ahu's farmers and makers markets are a great way to support local businesses and experience the island's vibrant community. Many feature fresh produce, handmade goods, and live music—offering a fun, authentic way to shop local and connect with Hawai'i's culture.

- Honolulu Farmers Market
  - Wednesdays from 4 to 7 m.
  - Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Honolulu
- Kaka'ako Farmers Market
  - Saturdays from 8 m. to noon
  - 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu
- Kailua Farmers Market (Evening Market)
  - Thursdays from 4 to 7m.
  - Kailua Town Center, Kailua
- Kailua Town Farmers Market
  - Sundays from 8 a.m. to noon
  - Kailua Elementary School, Kailua
- KCC Farmers Market
  - Saturdays from 7:30 to 11 m.
  - Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu

- Lōkahi Kailua Market
  - Sundays from 9m. to 1 p.m.
  - 340 Uluniu St., Kailua
- Mālama Hawai'i Makers Market
  - Hawai'i Kai (first Saturday of each month, 9m. to 2 p.m.)
  - Ala Moana Center (second Saturday of each month, 11m. to 4 p.m.)
  - Hale'iwa (third Saturday of each month, 9m. to 2 p.m.)
- Ono Grindz & Makeke Farmers Market at Wai Kai
  - Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m.
  - Wai Kai
- Waikiki Farmers Market
  - Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 8 m.
  - Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa, Waikiki

### **Hānai Hives**

Rooted in *mālama 'āina* (care for the land) and community stewardship, Hānai Hives offers 100% raw, small-batch honey harvested from its own apiaries on O'ahu's North Shore. Each jar supports regenerative beekeeping practices unique to the Hawaiian Islands. Recent Hānai Hives updates include expanding its guided bee farm and eco tours, offering immersive educational experiences connecting buyers directly to the source of their honey and supporting sustainability on O'ahu. Its Host-a-Hive and adopt-a-hive programs allow community members to steward a hive, deepen their connection to *kūpuna* (ancestral) knowledge, and strengthen local pollinator ecosystems, all while purchasing a local product that gives back to the land and community [HanaiHives.com](https://hanaihives.com)

### **Havaianas**

Havaianas recently launched its exclusive Stitch Aloha slipper collection for summer 2025, available only at licensed Hawai'i stores and select neighbor-island boutiques. Featuring two tropical Stitch-themed designs — one unisex and one slim style for girls — the limited run will offer only 800 pairs, which are now in stock at Havaianas stores at Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa and Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa. Shoppers can personalize their slippers with official Stitch charms or Hawai'i-inspired additions. Kid sizes start at \$30 and adult styles at \$34. [Havaianas.com](https://havaianas.com)

### **Hawai'i Craftsmen Exhibit**

Happening this year from October 3 through November 1, the annual Hawai'i Craftsmen juried exhibition has celebrated excellence in the Hawaiian Islands' fine-craft community since 1967. Featuring works in ceramics, wood, textile, glass, metal and mixed media, the showcase highlights traditional craftsmanship and contemporary innovation from artists across the islands. Select works receive awards of recognition throughout the exhibit. [HawaiiCraftsmen.org](https://hawaiicraftsmen.org)

### **Kahuku Farms**

On O'ahu's North Shore, Kahuku Farms welcomes guests to learn about farm-to-table dining by touring its working crop fields, sampling fresh produce like papaya and apple bananas, and trying out açai bowls, smoothies and farm-made chocolate. Its signature Grand Wagon Tour takes guests on a tractor-pulled ride through tropical fields, offering insights into the family farm's century-long food journey and modern growth via crops like heirloom sugarcane and cacao. The farm café complements the experience with garden-fresh smoothies, paninis, *liliko'i* butter mochi and rotating seasonal specials like pesto pizza. In addition, Kahuku Farms family-friendly tastings and sustainable farm storytelling offer an immersive, educational and delicious glimpse of Hawai'i agriculture. Recently, the farm was named one of Newsweek's Best Farm-to-Table Restaurants in America for 2025. [KahukuFarms.com](https://kahukufarms.com)

### **Kailua Honey**

Experience the sweetness of local-made honey with Honey Flights and Bites tastings offered Thursdays through Saturdays at various times at Kailua Honey. Guests are welcome to sample seasonal bites paired with fresh Hawai'i honey on their own or, for a more immersive experience, book a Bee Talk Story on Mondays. The Bee Talk Story is an intimate, guided honey tasting paired with storytelling about bees and Hawaiian traditions. Reservations are recommended due to limited spots. [KailuaHoney.com](https://KailuaHoney.com)

### **Kō Hana Rum Distillery**

On O'ahu's central plain, Kō Hana Rum offers a farm-to-bottle experience rooted in Hawai'i heirloom sugarcane. Visitors can take guided tours through its distillery and sugarcane fields, which end with a tasting of four handcrafted Kō Hana rums available as classic, aged or cocktail flights. Walk-in tastings happen daily alongside family-friendly offerings like gelato tastings. [KoHanaRum.com/Visit](https://KoHanaRum.com/Visit)

## **EXPERIENCES: ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS**

### **Atlantis Adventures**

Discover Hawai'i's underwater world aboard Atlantis Submarines Waikīkī, O'ahu's only passenger submarine experience. You'll dive over 100 feet below the ocean surface in a spacious, eco-friendly, Coast Guard-certified, battery-powered submersible to explore shipwrecks, marine life and historic remnants from the comfort of an air-conditioned cabin. Tours depart from Waikīkī, and kids dive free for a limited time with each paid adult. [AtlantisAdventures.com/Waikiki](https://AtlantisAdventures.com/Waikiki)

### **Bishop Museum**

Explore prehistoric oceans and landscapes at the Bishop Museum's newest exhibit, "Expedition Dinosaur: Into the Deep." Featuring lifelike animatronic marine reptiles and iconic dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus rex and Stegosaurus, the immersive exhibit includes interactive fossil digs, a Journey to the Deep Theater and a Bell Ranger 47J helicopter display. Designed to educate and entertain, the exhibit reveals dinosaur diets, habitats and scientific discoveries, and runs through January 25, 2026. [BishopMuseum.org](https://BishopMuseum.org)

### **Blue Hawaii Tours**

Experience Blue Hawaii Tours' personalized Private Pearl Harbor and Island Tour, where you'll first visit the USS Arizona Memorial and Pearl Harbor National Memorial's visitor center before enjoying a custom island tour featuring scenic vistas, beaches and Hawaiian cultural sites, with a local lunch by the beach. Professional guides will share insights on Hawai'i's history, culture and geology, and special requests are welcome. [BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com](https://BlueHawaiiPrivateTours.com)

### **Dolphin Quest**

"In the Wake of Whales" is a new short film supported by Dolphin Quest and the University of Hawai'i's Marine Mammal Research Program, following researchers studying the annual 3,000-mile migration of humpback whales from Alaska to Hawai'i. Featuring stunning underwater visuals, the 12-minute film is an inspiring exploration of whale conservation and ocean stewardship, and highlights fascinating science such as how pregnant whales burn 22 million calories on the journey. Viewable online, the film offers a great way for travelers to connect with Hawai'i's marine life ahead of visiting for humpback whale season. [DolphinQuest.com/Humpback-Whale-Health-Hawaii-Alaska](https://DolphinQuest.com/Humpback-Whale-Health-Hawaii-Alaska)

### **Honolulu Museum of Art**

Now through October 12, the Honolulu Museum of Art is presenting a landmark retrospective of famed American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt, marking the first North American exhibition of her work in 25 years. Featuring paintings, prints and pastels, the showcase offers a rare chance to experience the full depth of Cassatt's artistic legacy. Running concurrently through August 17, the exhibit "A Woman's Perspective: Prints by Ikeda Shōen" highlights one of Japan's first female painters recognized for her mastery of traditional Nihonga and woodblock techniques. Together, the exhibits offer powerful insight into women's perspectives in global art history. [HonoluluMuseum.org](https://HonoluluMuseum.org)

### **Honolulu Zoo**

The Honolulu Zoo has launched a new mobile app, “animals, plants, and people!” enhancing guest experiences with GPS-enabled maps, real-time updates and personalized itinerary planning. Visitors can explore animal profiles, locate amenities and access daily schedules for popular chats and feeding times for the zoo’s elephants, sloths, giraffes, cheetahs and more. App users also enjoy exclusive access to the zoo’s new Keeper Chats, featuring firsthand stories from animal-care team members about training, enrichment and conservation. New this season, the Honolulu Zoo is offering guided evening Twilight Tours, experiences revealing the behaviors of nocturnal animals and the zoo after dark. Tours offer a unique perspective on wildlife and are available by reservation. [HonoluluZoo.org](http://HonoluluZoo.org)

### **Mana Cruises + Charters**

Beginning September 15, Mana Cruises + Charters will offer sunset departures at 4:30 p.m. from Waikīkī and Ko Olina. Guests can enjoy personalized boat charters featuring scenic views and local spirits from Ko‘olau Distillery on their ocean experience. Charters can accommodate families, couples and special occasions. [MANACruises.com](http://MANACruises.com)

### **Romer House Waikiki**

Unwind each Sunday morning with a complimentary guided meditation class in Romer House’s heated pool. Float on a raft or relax poolside while immersive sound baths aim to enhance your relaxation, recovery and mental clarity and offer a refreshing start to your day in Waikīkī. The meditation class is 45 minutes and is guided by a Romer House instructor from Body Balance. Romer House’s new quarterly surf club series, Après Surf, is open to all and kicks off in July. Grab your boards for a Board Meeting surf session hosted by pro surfers Auntie Megzzz and Makoa Ho. Meet at Romer House at 9 a.m., paddle out with the crew and follow it all with a wellness renewal session at The Backyard from noon to 3 p.m. with St-Germain drinks. [RomerHotels.com/Romer-House-Waikiki](http://RomerHotels.com/Romer-House-Waikiki)

### **Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design**

Shangri La recently announced an expanded partnership with the Honolulu Museum of Art and Bishop Museum to enhance guest access and flexibility through a new dual-departure tour model. Beginning October 2, Saturday tours will depart from Bishop Museum, while Thursday and Friday tours will continue from the Honolulu Museum of Art, offering more options for guests to explore the historic Shangri La estate and its world-class collections. As Shangri La will be closed for annual maintenance during September, advance reservations for October through December are highly encouraged. [ShangriLaHawaii.org](http://ShangriLaHawaii.org)

### **USS Arizona Memorial**

Beginning in July, advance online reservations for the USS Arizona Memorial will be temporarily paused as important preservation work starts at Pearl Harbor. As the project continues, visitors will still be able experience the memorial by arriving early for first-come, first-served tickets available daily at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial Visitor Center. The National Park Service wants to ensure that everyone still has a chance visit the historic site in person during the preservation period, which will continue until further notice. [NPS.gov/PearlHarbor](http://NPS.gov/PearlHarbor)

### **Wai Kai**

Wai Kai recently launched AquaPeakz, a brand-new expansion of its popular AquaVenture floating playground. The all-ages experience adds sky-high slides, wobbly bridges and gentle water play meant for thrill-seekers and *keiki* (children) alike. New features include the Leeward Launcherz floating obstacle course, the soaring Ewa Slider with leap-off platforms, and the ‘Ohana Splash Pad for *keiki* ages 6 and under. Wai Kai is located at Hoakalei Resort in ‘Ewa Beach. [WaiKai.com](http://WaiKai.com)

### **Yappy Hour at The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club**

Waikiki pet-friendly hotel The Surfjack Hotel and Swim Club recently introduced Yappy Hour with Jack and Friends, a new monthly event happening every fourth Saturday of the month, from 4 to 5 p.m., where guests and residents can enjoy complimentary champagne toasts, pup treats and giveaways while supporting local rescue groups. Hosted by resident pup Jack the Hotel Dog, the event features a menu of drinks and bites available at Mahina and Sun's restaurant overlooking the hotel's Wish You Were Here pool. Surfjack guests enjoy stays with dog-friendly amenities and no pet fees. [Surfjack.com](https://www.surfjack.com)

### **Waikiki's Magical Parlour**

Waikiki's Magical Parlour is an intimate, tiki-style magic experience now welcoming audiences at the International Market Place. Hosted Tuesday through Saturday evenings, the show features world-class magicians performing sleight-of-hand and mind-bending illusions in a cozy, speakeasy-like setting. With just 30 seats in house, each guest enjoys a close-up view of the show, one of Waikiki's newest after-dark attractions. [WaikikisMagicalParlour.com](https://www.waikikimagicalparlour.com)

### **Wild Side Specialty Tours**

Wild Side Specialty Tours recently expanded its fleet with a larger vessel holding up to 16 guests but continues to limit shared charters to eight guests for a more intimate experience. New this fall, certified divers can add scuba diving to their adventure. And a Savor the Sea option welcomes guests to dive for, shell and taste fresh sea urchins (*wana*) onboard. The sustainable ocean-to-table experience aims to combine marine conservation with culinary discovery along O'ahu's west coast. [SailHawaii.com/Savor-The-Sea-Uni-Fresh](https://www.sailhawaii.com/Savor-The-Sea-Uni-Fresh)

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa**

Aulani, A Disney Resort and Spa has joined the Disney Conservation Fund in supporting nonprofits Citizens of the Reef and Kuleana Coral Restoration to launch the Hawai'i pilot of The Great Reef Census, one of the largest citizen science programs for the world's oceans. The Hawai'i pilot project is made possible by The Walt Disney Company's Disney Conservation Fund and marks the first time the Great Reef Census has expanded beyond Australia's Great Barrier Reef, bringing together the community, conservation and technology in a global effort. [DisneyAulani.com](https://www.disneyaulani.com)

### **Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra**

Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra is undergoing an extensive refurbishment this year, upgrading its 1,176 guest rooms and corridors with modern furniture, cabinetry, carpeting and lighting. This follows the 2021 renovation of the hotel's public spaces. Work is being done floor by floor to minimize guest disruption, with completion expected by Q4 of this year. Guests can expect a smooth experience throughout the phased updates. [AlaMoanaHotelHonolulu.com](https://www.alamoanahotelhonolulu.com)

### **'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach**

Home to O'ahu's largest oceanarium, with over 350 tropical fish, 'Alohilani Resort welcomes guests to experience Hawai'i marine life without leaving the hotel. This summer, guests can participate in Marine Biologist for the Day activities on Fridays, and enjoy cultural experiences like ocean cleansing ceremonies, *bula* lessons and Hawaiian Story Time held weekly. Evenings at Swell Pool and Bar include ocean views, happy hour specials and nightly live entertainment. [AlohilaniResort.com](https://www.alohilaniresort.com)

### **Ka La'i Waikiki Beach**

Ka La'i Waikiki Beach, part of LXR Hotels and Resorts, launched a multimillion-dollar redesign this summer in celebration of its 15th anniversary. Led by Bryan O'Sullivan Studio, the renovation will refresh the lobby, pool deck, guest rooms, restaurants and spa with "a blend of modern elegance and Hawaiian heritage." The hotel remains fully open during the phased transformation, allowing guests to enjoy amenities and ocean views throughout. [Hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com)



### **The Ambassador Hotel of Waikiki**

The Ambassador Hotel of Waikiki recently joined Hilton as Hawai'i's first Tapestry Collection property. From sunrise Pilates to sunset poolside sips, the onsite Waikiki Swim and Social Club offers daily entertainment complemented by tropical bites, cabanas and a sun-kissed pool. [AmbassadorWaikiki.com](http://AmbassadorWaikiki.com)

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

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach has completed its multi-phase, multimillion-dollar renewal, refreshing its 'Ewa Tower guest rooms, front desk and both infinity pools, and debuting The Ritz-Carlton Suite Collection featuring three signature suites. The property also introduced Solera, a new dining concept offering Hawai'i regional cuisine with locally sourced ingredients. Furthering its commitment to celebrating O'ahu, the hotel now offers O'ahu Reimagined: A Journey Through Hawaiian Heritage, a cultural program that includes a hibiscus tea welcome experience by local tea educator Kathy YL Chan and a nightly My Story of O'ahu sunset chant led by a student of the Hawaiian language. [RitzCarlton.com](http://RitzCarlton.com)

### **The Ritz-Carlton O'ahu, Turtle Bay**

This summer, The Ritz-Carlton O'ahu, Turtle Bay will offer immersive North Shore experiences spotlighting local makers, seasonal wellness and island-inspired products. Guests' experiences will include Meet the Maker events, opportunities to shop for fresh local produce and handcrafted goods at Kuilima Farm's seasonal farm stand and indulging in spa treatments featuring local-grown botanicals. [TurtleBayResort.com](http://TurtleBayResort.com)

### **The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort, Waikiki**

The Royal Hawaiian's new Historic Gallery displays the hotel's storied past as the Pink Palace of the Pacific, taking guests on a journey through time celebrating the hotel's long history, from its grand opening in 1927 to its legacy of Hawai'i hospitality. The gallery welcomes guests to immerse in the stories, photos and artifacts that have defined The Royal Hawaiian for nearly a century. [Royal-Hawaiian.com](http://Royal-Hawaiian.com)

### **The Twin Fin Hotel**

Perched twenty-one stories above the shoreline, The Coconut Club at The Twin Fin Hotel offers Pacific views and immersive cultural experiences, including *lei* making, *ukulele* lessons, *bula* classes and ocean conservation sessions. Guests can enjoy live music, Paint and Sip nights, and weekly beach cleanups, as well as take part in the Jamie O'Brien School of Surf Waikiki for expert surf instruction. [TwinFinWaikiki.com](http://TwinFinWaikiki.com)

## **CULINARY DISCOVERIES**

### **Boarded Up by Chubbies Burgers**

Check out Boarded Up by Chubbies Burgers, a revamped concept from Chubbies Hawai'i resurrecting their signature smash burgers in a smaller space in Kaimukī. Led by Chubbies owner Jeffrey Nedry, the spot recently reopened with a lean, focused menu. Still on the menu are its signature smash burgers like The 1950, spicy garlic fries, Zingipop Sodaworks sodas and O.P.-style classics. [BoardedUpBurgers.com](http://BoardedUpBurgers.com)

### **Fumi's Kahuku Shrimp**

A longtime eatery on O'ahu's North Shore, Fumi's Kahuku Shrimp has brought its locally sourced, garlic butter-drenched shrimp to Honolulu with a new kiosk at the Makai Market Food Court in Ala Moana Center. Known for harvesting shrimp fresh from its Kahuku farm, Fumi's now offers its signature plates, such as spicy garlic shrimp, lemon pepper and tempura-style options, in a grab-and-go setting for Honolulu residents and visitors. [@fumiskahukushrimp](https://www.instagram.com/fumiskahukushrimp)

### **Hali'a by Side Street Inn**

Central O'ahu's new waterfront chapter of Honolulu's famed Side Street Inn is bringing Portuguese-inspired comfort food to 'Ewa Beach at Wai Kai starting in mid-July. Co-owners Cheryl DeAngelo and Lisa Meyer have designed a prix-fixe Colin's Classics menu of favorites for the new Hali'a at Side Street Inn. The menu includes fried rice, pan-fried pork chops and new seafood additions. [SideStreetInn.com](http://SideStreetInn.com)

### **Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort**

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort invites guests to savor its Waikiki Beer Dinner Series, a limited-time culinary experience pairing chef-curated dishes with craft beers from local Hawai'i breweries. Hosted at Tropics Bar and Grill, the ongoing series includes the Koholā Brewery Dinner on August 13 at 6:30 p.m. Diners will enjoy island-inspired cuisine alongside exclusive brews in a beachfront setting. Each dinner is priced at \$95 per person, plus tax and tip, and includes complimentary self-parking and a Kona Brewing Company gift bag, with door prizes throughout the evening. Seating is limited and reservations are highly recommended. [WaikikiBeerEvents.com](https://www.waikikibeerevents.com)

### **Hula Grill Waikiki**

Experience the soulful sounds of Hawaiian steel guitar every third Sunday of the month at Hula Grill Waikiki, through the end of the year. Enjoy live performances by Hawai'i musicians such as Alan Akaka while enjoying food and drinks with ocean views. Upcoming Steel Guitar Sundays happen August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Reservations are recommended. [HulaGrillWaikiki.com](https://www.hulagrillwaikiki.com)

### **Moo Bong Ri Soup & Yakiniku**

Moo Bong Ri, a Korean culinary franchise with locations across the continental U.S., recently opened its first Hawai'i eatery in Honolulu. Known for its heritage recipes, Moo Bong Ri has expanded from its roots in Korea to major markets such as California, Las Vegas, Illinois, Georgia and Texas. Its Honolulu restaurant features the brand's signature seolleongtang (ox-bone soup), kimchi jjigae, grilled meats and traditional banchan, offering a Korean BBQ and soup experience in a modern setting. [MooBongRi.com](https://www.moo bongri.com)

### **RM 38**

Honolulu speakeasy RM 38 recently debuted its second location inside The Imperial Hotel Resort in Waikiki. Customers can find it by heading through the hotel lobby, spotting its pawn shop facade and ringing the bell for entry. As with its original Kaka'ako location above Indochine restaurant, the Waikiki bar location highlights Southeast Asian-inspired design elements. [@rm38hawaii](https://www.rm38hawaii.com)

### **Sera**

Sera, a new Mediterranean eatery in Honolulu's Renaissance Hotel from DB Restaurant Group, spotlights coastal Mediterranean cuisine in the space formerly occupied by Mara restaurant. Its team, led by DB Grill veterans, is offering breakfast, lunch and dinner service featuring fresh seaside flavors. Featured dishes include whipped burrata, Spanish octopus, seafood pasta and select Mara favorites. [SeraHonolulu.com](https://www.serahonolulu.com)

### **Splash Bar**

Splash Bar's ThrowBack Alley (TBA) pop-up has become a weekly event for summer, open each Friday through August. TBA launched in July 2024 as a biweekly tribute to old school Hawai'i, offering signature dishes from the many diners and drive-ins that ruled the island culinary landscape in the 1960s and 1970s. Guests can savor a main dish, a side and a signature non-alcoholic beverage, as well as other snacks and treats, including li hing-flavored boiled peanuts, gummy bears and smoked meat. [SplashBarWaikiki.com](https://www.splashbarwaikiki.com)

### **Stripsteak (Waikiki)**

A modern American steakhouse with Asian flair in Waikiki, Stripsteak's dining experience now offers live music on the Grand Lanai patio. Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evening, guests now enjoy live performances alongside all-natural Prime Certified Angus, American Wagyu and Japanese A5 Wagyu beef plated by Chef Michael Mina's team. Stripsteak's signature dishes like Instant Bacon pork belly, and fresh seafood selections and sides are offered alongside a menu of curated drinks. [Stripsteak.com](https://www.stripsteak.com)



### **The Lei Stand**

Romer House Waikīkī recently added the final addition to its neighborhood island clubhouse experience with the arrival of Honolulu cocktail bar The Lei Stand. The new Lei Stand Waikīkī celebrates the tradition of *lei* — a timeless Hawai‘i symbol of love, honor and *aloha*. The original location of The Lei Stand was founded in 2022 by Ryan Kalei Tsuji and Tara Kanani Shimooka. The Lei Stand’s move from its original Chinatown location, brings its menu favorites to new digs in Waikīkī. [RomerHotels.com/Romer-House-Waikiki](https://RomerHotels.com/Romer-House-Waikiki)

### **Tropics Bar & Grill**

Hilton Hawaiian Village recently launched its summer Waikiki Beer Dinner Series at Tropics Bar and Grill, spotlighting Hawai‘i craft breweries alongside island-inspired cuisine. The seasonal series features prix-fixe menus created by Hilton’s culinary team with food items paired with local brews. Upcoming events include a barbecue-themed dinner with Aloha Beer Co. on July 23 and a seafood-focused pairing with Koholā Brewery on August 13. Dinners are set from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and priced at \$95 per person, with complimentary self-parking and brewery giveaways. [WaikikiBeerEvents.com](https://WaikikiBeerEvents.com)

### **Ululani’s Hawaiian Shave Ice**

In June, Maui-born Ululani’s Hawaiian Shave Ice opened its first O‘ahu storefront in the community of Waimānalo. Franchisee Shontaz Naweli joins co-founders Ululani and David Yamashiro at the new location to offer island-style shave ice made with ultra-purified Maui water and served in classic and innovative flavors. [UlulanisHawaiianShaveIce.com](https://UlulanisHawaiianShaveIce.com)

### **Vintage Books Hawai‘i**

Vintage Books Hawai‘i, a hidden speakeasy in Kaimukī, recently launched weekend brunch service on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Known for its handcrafted cocktails — such as the Meet Cute, White Sands Spritz and sparkling mimosas — Vintage Books Hawai‘i now offers brunch-specific dishes like a bacon curry donburi alongside other comfort food dishes. [VintageBooksHawaii.com](https://VintageBooksHawaii.com)

### **Wabisabi Dining**

A secret teppanyaki-style omakase experience tucked into Honolulu Park Place, Wabisabi offers a daily rotating lineup of dishes — including tonkatsu, sushi, tempura and shabu-shabu — at \$120 per person. Chef Maeda leads intimate, reservation-only private dinners at 6:30 p.m., with seating for four to six guests, including a BYOB welcome and changing nightly specials. [@wabisabi\\_808](https://@wabisabi_808)

## **MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS AND INCENTIVE (GROUP) TRAVEL**

### **Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort**

The Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort has unveiled Kahawai Chapel, a new oceanfront venue honoring Hawaiian culture, romance and a reverence for place. The 4,000-square-foot chapel blends modern design with cultural symbolism — including a stream-inspired aisle and outrigger canoe chandelier — and offers couples an Aloha Ceremony led by a Hawaiian *kahu* (minister). The chapel is open for weddings daily. [Outrigger.com](https://Outrigger.com)

### **Majestic by Atlantis Cruises**

Groups looking to celebrate an occasion can now host events at sea aboard Majestic by Atlantis Cruises. With panoramic windows, a climate-controlled cocktail lounge and 360-degree views from its open-air top deck, the state-of-the-art vessel offers a smooth, stable ride thanks to advanced Seakeeper technology. From sunset receptions to milestone gatherings, Majestic can accommodate up to 300 guests with customizable catering, drink packages and live entertainment, all set against the stunning backdrop of the Waikīkī coastline and Lē‘ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument). [MajesticHawaii.com/Boat-Charters](https://MajesticHawaii.com/Boat-Charters)

### **Wai Kai — Mirage Event Venue**

Wai Kai at Hoakalei recently debuted Mirage, a new West O‘ahu event venue offering sweeping views of the Wai Kai Lagoon. Designed with flexible indoor-outdoor spaces, Mirage accommodates up to 160 guests for corporate gatherings, celebrations and other special events. The venue pairs scenic sunset views with customizable catering, convenient parking and a contemporary atmosphere. [WaiKai.com/Dining](https://www.waikai.com/dining)

### **FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

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

#### **July 24-26, 2025**

**Queen Lili‘uokalani Keiki Hula Festival** — Organized by the Kalihi-Pālana Culture and Arts Society, this annual competition celebrates Hawaiian culture and *hula* in a cultural exchange enhancing the experience for residents and visitors. Approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the festival is hosted on O‘ahu at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, drawing *hālan hula* (hula groups) from across Hawai‘i and Japan, and showcasing the talents of young dancers in *hula kahiko* (traditional hula) and *hula ‘auana* (modern hula). [KeikiHula.org](https://www.keikihula.org)

#### **July 27, 2025**

**26th Moloka‘i 2 O‘ahu Paddleboard World Championships** — One of the most prestigious paddleboard races in the world, this championship event attracts elite athletes from around the globe. The challenging race covers 32 miles across the Kaiwi Channel from Moloka‘i to O‘ahu. Spectators can witness the thrill of competitors racing to the finish line from several points on O‘ahu’s coastline. [Molokai2Oahu.com](https://www.molokai2oahu.com)

#### **July 26 - September 27, 2025**

**Sunset on the Beach** — Waikiki’s popular Sunset on the Beach series returns with free, family-friendly movie nights at Queen’s Surf Beach, featuring live entertainment, themed festivities and blockbuster films on a giant outdoor screen. Presented by Southwest Airlines, each event brings the community together along the shoreline for a fun evening. Here’s the summer 2025 Sunset on the Beach lineup:

- **July 26 — “Mufasa”**  
Theme: Heroes & Legends  
Festivities: 4:30 p.m. | Movie: 7:35 p.m.
- **August 30 — “Wicked”**  
Theme: Friendship Takes Flight  
Festivities: 4 p.m. | Movie: 7:15 p.m.
- **September 27 — “IF”**  
Theme: Island of Imagination  
Festivities: 4 p.m. | Movie: 7 p.m.

[SWAMedia.com](https://www.swamedia.com)

#### **August 2, 2025**

**21st Annual Korean Festival** — All are invited to celebrate the Korean culture in Hawai‘i at this annual festival, organized by the Korean American Foundation Hawaii and Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce, supported by dozens of community organizations and businesses. Held at the Frank F. Fasi Civic Grounds at Honolulu Hale, the festival offers attendees a taste of Korean culture through its food, dance, art, music and entertainment. The festival will close the day with a KPOP Celebration by Moobek (aka DJ Y.U.P) and Yumi. [KoreanFestHawaii.com](https://www.koreanfesthawaii.com)

#### **August 15-17, 2025**

**Made In Hawai‘i Festival** – Popular with visitors and residents, the annual Made In Hawai‘i Festival shopping event at the Hawai‘i Convention Center is set for August 15 through 17 this year and will feature over 400 exhibitors showcasing food products, books, gifts, apparel, jewelry, arts and crafts, produce and more — all of it made in Hawai‘i. Festival attendees also enjoy cooking demonstrations, live music and dance performances. [MadeInHawaiiFestival.com](https://www.madeinhawaiifestival.com)

### **August 16-24, 2025**

**2025 Duke's OceanFest** — All events in this nine-day ocean sports festival happen in the offshore waters and sands of Waikīkī'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 Waikīkī statue to commemorate his birthday. The fest is a fundraiser for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation's college scholarship and athletic grants programs. [DukesOceanFest.com](https://DukesOceanFest.com)

### **August 23, 2025**

**Makalauna Festival** — This annual festival honors the legacy of slack-key guitar legend Charles Philip "Gabby" Pahinui, affectionately known as "Pops." The event features an opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m., followed by musical performances and tributes from 5 to 8 p.m. celebrating Hawaiian music and culture in a vibrant Waikīkī setting. [WaikikiBeachWalk.com/Events-And-News](https://WaikikiBeachWalk.com/Events-And-News)

### **August 30 - September 1, 2025**

**Okinawan Festival** — One of the state's premier cultural festivals, this annual event celebrates the Okinawan culture's long history in Hawai'i and its many contributions to the cultural fabric of the Islands. Celebrating its 43rd year, the two-day festival at the Hawai'i Convention Center welcomes residents and visitors to experience Okinawan cuisine, cultural and historical exhibits, arts and crafts, children's games and lots of Okinawan entertainment. [OkinawanFestival.com](https://OkinawanFestival.com)

### **September 1, 2025**

**54th Annual Waikīkī Roughwater Swim** — A respected Labor Day tradition since 1970, this iconic 2.38-mile (3.84 km) open-water race starts at Sans Souci Beach, winding past the War Memorial Natatorium and finishing near Kaimana Beach Hotel. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., swimmers from around the world tackle Pacific swells in one of America's top open-water races. [WaikikiRoughWaterSwim.com](https://WaikikiRoughWaterSwim.com)

### **September 2, 2025**

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War II** — On September 2, the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will unveil a brand-new interactive exhibit experience. Pathway to Peace will take visitors through an immersive journey exploring the pivotal events surrounding the USS Missouri's historic involvement in World War II and the experiences of her sailors. In honor of sailors who served on the Mighty Mo, the exhibit will also spotlight crew stories through personal artifacts, belongings and archival film footage. [USSMissouri.org](https://USSMissouri.org)

### **September 4-26, 2025**

**Collectors Art Sale at Downtown Art Center** — Discover a curated showcase of original works by Hawai'i artists at the annual Collectors Art Sale. Held in downtown Honolulu's Chinatown's arts district, the sale offers a diverse range of pieces — including paintings, sculpture, textiles and ceramics. With accessible price points and a creative atmosphere, the sale is a fantastic opportunity to support the local arts community. [DowntownArtHI.org](https://DowntownArtHI.org)

### **September 6, 2025**

**Waikiki Street Jam** — Join in for a night of local apparel and accessories, handmade jewelry and crafts, and local street food, fruit and drink vendors, all supporting local makers and highlighting O'ahu's creative spirit. The event also brings together Hawai'i musicians and dancers for performances. In partnership with Honolulu Juice Factory, a portion of the event's proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Hawaii. [MillWoodOhanaProductions.com](https://MillWoodOhanaProductions.com)

### September 6, 2025

**49<sup>th</sup> Annual Honolulu Intertribal Powwow** — Representatives of multiple Native American, American Indian and Alaska Native communities will gather at Ala Moana Beach Park's Magic Island to share and perpetuate their cultures, educate attendees, and spread positivity and inclusivity. [HTCHawaii.org](https://HTCHawaii.org)

### September 6, 20 & 27, 2025

**Aloha Festivals** — Aloha Festivals is a showcase of Hawaiian music, dance, history and the culture's contributions to the Hawai'i community. Aloha Festivals events are scheduled throughout September and include royal pageantry, a floral parade and a *ho'olaule'a* (celebration) in Waikiki with music and *hula* performances and family-friendly activities. [AlohaFestivals.com](https://AlohaFestivals.com)

### September 13, 2025

**Honolulu Community Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration** — The City and County of Honolulu is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Honolulu Community Garden Program this year at Foster Botanical Garden in Downtown Honolulu. The event is free, open to the public and will include community garden information, educational activities, product vendors, food trucks and entertainment. Parking will be available on streets surrounding Foster Botanical Garden and other locations. [Honolulu.gov/DPR](https://Honolulu.gov/DPR)

### September 28, 2025

**Aloha Fun Ride** — The Aloha Fun Ride event follows the Honolulu Century Ride and is designed to welcome a wider audience — especially youth and families — to O'ahu's largest cycling event. Its routes head around Lē'ahi (aka Diamond Head State Monument) offering stunning ocean and city views. For a 5-mile ride, cyclists can turn around at Fort Ruger Park or continue down Kāhala Avenue to Wai'ālae Beach Park before heading back to create an 8-mile ride. [HBL.org](https://HBL.org)

### September 28, 2025

**Na Wahine O Ke Kai** — With support from the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, Salt + Air and Nexstar Media Group, this long-distance outrigger canoe competition gathers 1,000-plus paddlers from around the world to cross the rugged Kaiwi Channel separating Moloka'i and O'ahu. The competition and its broadcast spotlight the race's athletes and perpetuate the Hawaiian cultural tradition of long-distance outrigger paddling for future generations. The public is invited to celebrate at the race's finish line with live music and an awards presentation at Duke Kahanamoku Beach fronting the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa. [NaWahineOKeKai.com](https://NaWahineOKeKai.com)

### October 12, 2025

**Moloka'i Hoe 2025** — The O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association will again present the Moloka'i Hoe long-distance outrigger canoe race this year. Join the finish-line celebration of this prestigious 38-mile Kaiwi Channel race from Moloka'i to O'ahu for live music and an awards presentation on Duke Kahanamoku Beach fronting the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa. [MolokaiHoe.com](https://MolokaiHoe.com)

### October 16-30, 2025

**45th Annual Hawai'i International Film Festival** — Presented by Halekulani hotel, this annual film festival presents a full screening schedule of works from Hawai'i's filmmaking community, a world-class slate of international films, and film-industry events on Maui, O'ahu, Kaua'i and the island of Hawai'i. A schedule of in-theater screenings will be announced in the months ahead. [HIFE.org](https://HIFE.org)

### October 17 - November 2, 2025

**15th Annual Hawai'i Food and Wine Festival** — Annually featuring a heaping slate of renowned Hawai'i and international chefs, culinary personalities and wine and spirit producers, this series of culinary events on O'ahu, Maui and the island of Hawai'i showcases the extraordinary diversity of Hawai'i multicultural cuisines and locally grown-and-raised ingredients. Dishes presented at each event highlight the state's bounty of local produce, seafood and meats. [HawaiiFoodandWineFestival.com](https://HawaiiFoodandWineFestival.com)

**October 18, 2025**

**Honolulu Pride Parade and Festival** — Hawai'i's largest LGBTQIA community event is a daylong celebration highlighted by the Honolulu Pride Parade — winding through Waikīkī from Magic Island at Ala Moana Beach Park to Kapi'olani Park — and the Honolulu Pride Festival, which promises live music, craft and merchandise vendors, a resource fair and more. [HawaiiLGBTLegacyFoundation.com](http://HawaiiLGBTLegacyFoundation.com)

**October 25, 2025**

**Kāhuli Festival** — Join Bishop Museum for its annual Kāhuli Festival, celebrating the vital role of Hawaiian land snails in preserving biodiversity. The family-friendly event runs from 3 to 9 p.m. and features hands-on workshops, live talks by conservationists, interactive booths, live snail exhibits, art displays and cultural performances. Blending education and entertainment, the festival offers immersive opportunities to learn about endangered snail species and support community-driven conservation. [BishopMuseum.org](http://BishopMuseum.org)

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