



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING WHAT'S NEW IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

HAWAII — Spring in the Hawaiian Islands brings new adventures, lush landscapes, and unique experiences across every island. From breathtaking scenery and thriving communities to one-of-a-kind cultural activities and events, each day offers visitors a chance to discover, connect, and celebrate the spirit of Hawai'i.

MĀLAMA HAWAII & CULTURE

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

Hawaii Forest and Trail (Island of Hawai'i) recently announced its new Kohala Dry Gulch Stewardship Project. The initiative is rooted in one of the company's core values, Aloha 'Āina — loving and respecting the land. The focus is on restoring six acres of dry gulch habitat to its natural thriving state while creating connections to the land for guests and the community through hands-on-experiences. With brush clearing and invasive species removal already completed, the project is now actively planting canoe plants in the restored *lo'i* (agricultural terraces). Hawaii-Forest.com/Hoomalama-Initiative

Mālama Maunalua (O'ahu) recently received a \$4.6 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant supporting community-led conservation in East Honolulu. The funding advances a large-scale ridge-to-reef restoration project connecting native forest restoration, green stormwater infrastructure, and climate-resilient coral-reef rebuilding in Maunalua Bay. The public is invited to participate in the restoration project through volunteer and ecosystem education opportunities. MalamaMaunalua.org

Outrigger Kā'anapali Beach Resort (Maui Nui) will host its Lei Day Celebration on 1 May, showcasing this year's theme, Lei Pili 'Ohana: A Treasure of Family Lei. The event will include guest activities, such as hands-on *lei* making, cultural demonstrations, and performances honoring the cherished island tradition of giving and receiving *lei*. Guests will be able to create their own fresh flower *lei* with guidance from cultural specialists. There will also be demonstrations of various styles of *lei*-making, and guests will be invited to view and vote on *lei* created by hosts at the resort's Kawenaokao Cultural Center. The event will end with Hawaiian music and *hula* performances and announcement of the competition winners. Outrigger.com

Outrigger Kaua'i Beach Resort and Spa invites guests and the community to *mālama 'āina* (care for the land) through a series of complimentary shoreline experiences at Nukoli'i Beach to remove marine debris. Join them for Sunrise Beach Clean-Ups (7:30 a.m.) on 18 April, 16 May, and 20 June, as well as Pau Hana Beach Clean-Ups (4:30 p.m.) on 24 April, 22 May, and 26 June. Refreshments will be offered after each clean-up. Allegra Scribner will lead a Marine Debris Art Workshop on transforming found materials into keepsakes. Reservations are recommended for the workshops: 28 April, 26 May, and 30 June, from 11 a.m. to noon. Outrigger.com

Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa (Island of Hawai'i) is hosting its Under the New Moon Nā Kupuna O Kona Series on the last Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 6 p.m., at its Piko Makai dining venue on the resort's inner pool deck. The event celebrates Hawaiian culture and each month's new moon, with the resort's *kumu* (teacher) sharing *mo'olelo* (stories) of Hawai'i's culture, history and traditions. The evening also includes a performance by Nā Wai Iwi Ola Hula Hālau, bringing *mo'olelo* to life through *hula*. The complimentary gathering welcomes guests and the community, with validated parking available. Outrigger.com

Outrigger Resorts and Hotels (O‘ahu) presents Outrigger Zone Day at the Waikīkī Aquarium on 28 June, celebrating the culmination of World Ocean Month with a morning dedicated to ocean education, conservation, and community connection. Happening from 9 a.m. to noon, the public event will feature live music and hands-on conservation-themed booths. Guests can also partner with the Genki Ala Wai Project to craft microorganism-infused mud balls, which help restore the ecological balance of Honolulu’s Ala Wai Canal. [Outrigger.com](https://www.outrigger.com)

Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa recently introduced a series of curated artisan workshops, providing guests with opportunities to create take-home keepsakes guided by local artists and crafters. Among the offerings is a Tahitian Pearl Necklace Workshop with local jeweler Anna Lindquist, who teaches knotting, stringing, and finishing techniques. The Resin Charcuterie Board Workshop with artist Yulia Karcher, lets participants design ocean-inspired boards while learning the process of working with resin materials and color-blending techniques. Workshops are open to guests, incentive-trip participants, retreats, and team-building. [Marriott.com/Sheraton-Maui-Resort-and-Spa](https://marriott.com/Sheraton-Maui-Resort-and-Spa)

Waikiki Beach Walk (O‘ahu) presents Mele Hali‘a with steel guitar master Alan Akaka and his students from Ke Kula Mele Hawai‘i on 12 April, from 5 to 6 p.m. Founded by Akaka to preserve and perpetuate the traditions of *kei ho‘alu* (Hawaiian steel guitar), Ke Kula Mele Hawai‘i instructs and showcases the next generation of musicians taking up the instrument and performing under his guidance. The performance is free and open to the public, offering an opportunity to experience the iconic sound and music of traditional steel guitar. WaikikiBeachWalk.com

NEW HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS

Halekulani (O‘ahu) will welcome its first Visiting Master of 2026, martial arts master and artist Ray Carbullido, from 15 March through 2 May. Carbullido will lead “Explorations of Self,” a multisensory program blending movement, meditation and internal martial arts traditions, and exhibit “Portal,” an interactive art installation in the Halekulani Gallery. The “Portal” installation invites guests into a contemplative space aimed at bridging art, wellness, and spiritual inquiry. Presented as part of the hotel’s Art of Wellbeing initiative, Carbullido’s residency will also include public talks, workshops, and private dojo sessions. Halekulani.com

Hilton Garden Inn Kaua‘i Wailua Bay recently introduced its oceanfront Wailua Nui Lū‘au, which includes a traditional *imu* (underground oven) ceremony, interactive *hana no‘eau* (skilled arts) and all-you-can-eat island-favorite cuisine. The *lu‘au* is open Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, with standard and preferred packages available. WailuaNuiLuau.com

Hilton Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa (O‘ahu) has opened Casamigos House of Friends, a new 37th floor lounge open to hotel guests and the public. With skyline views of Waikīkī, the lounge offers sunset and ocean views and a relaxed environment for conversation and cocktails. Casamigos House of Friends is open daily from 4 to 9 p.m. Hilton.com

Kaimana Beach Hotel (O‘ahu) has debuted Kaimana by Morning, a new experience offering guests an early start to the day with sunrise views over Lē‘ahi (Diamond Head). Guests can reserve an oceanfront table for two under the hotel’s iconic hau tree or pick up fresh bakery items from the Sunset Provisions café to enjoy on the beach. The soundtrack for either choice is a curated playlist created by Grammy Award-winning Hawai‘i musician Kalani Pe‘a. Kaimana.com

Kona Village, A Rosewood Resort (Island of Hawai'i) has partnered with BARK Air to debut a Hawai'i retreat designed for guests traveling with their dogs. The package includes private charter flights from Los Angeles with concierge support for veterinary coordination and Hawai'i pet-entry requirements, along with four nights in one of the resort's oceanfront *bale* (houses). Programming includes a dog-friendly welcome *lu'au*, sensory walks, and sunset yoga. Additional amenities feature a *lei* greeting upon arrival, tailored canine meals, bone broth service, and access to an on-site dog concierge. The resort's Island Roots dinner experience highlights cocktails and "barktails." [RosewoodHotels.com](https://www.rosewoodhotels.com)

Marriott Waikiki Collection (O'ahu) recently introduced the Mai Tai Express, a self-guided walkable cocktail crawl connecting four longtime Waikiki hotel bars, with each offering its own house take on the classic tropical cocktail. Participants can check out the Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa's Beach Bar, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Waikiki Beach's Splash Bar, RumFire Waikiki Beach at Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort, and The Royal Hawaiian Resort Waikiki's Mai Tai Bar. A punch card allows participants to track the bars they have visited and the mai tais they have sipped. [Marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)

Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa (O'ahu) celebrated its 125th anniversary on 11 March, marking the completion of enhancements to its Tower Wing, historic lobby, Vintage 1901 wine bar, and reimagined Banyan Wing. The updated design draws inspiration from the historic restorative elements of Ulukou, the area where the Moana now stands, and incorporates motifs reflecting the ocean's movement and the property's iconic banyan tree. As part of the anniversary celebration, the Moana Surfrider also debuted the recurring live music series "Moana Calls," honoring the courtyard's legacy as the former home of the "Hawaii Calls" radio broadcast from 1935 to 1975. [Marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)

Royal Lahaina Resort and Bungalows (Maui Nui) has introduced several new experiences and property updates for 2026. In January, it launched "Kuraya," an oceanfront magic show series led by Maui-born magician David Kuraya. The resort also completed restoration work on its Beach House Bungalows, featuring new furnishings and finishings throughout. In addition, it unveiled its new The Spa at Royal Lahaina oceanfront wellness space featuring island-inspired treatments. In the spring, Royal Lahaina will open No Ka 'Oi Aesthetics, a medical spa offering body treatments, medical-grade skincare and IV therapy. [RoyalLahaina.com](https://www.royallahaina.com)

The Royal Sonesta Kaua'i Resort presents its oceanfront *lu'au* every Thursday on Kalapaki Beach, with views of Kalapaki Bay. The *lu'au* spotlights storytelling, live music and *bula*, paired with an island-inspired dinner. [KauaiResort.Sonesta.com](https://www.kauairesort.sonestahotels.com)

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua offers guests opportunities to engage with the island's creative community through its Artist in Residence program. The program features live art demonstrations, storytelling sessions, and opportunities to meet participating artists. The resort also recently launched a weekly Maui Jazz and Blues Night at its Alaloa Lounge, featuring live music from island musicians presented in an ocean-inspired lounge setting. The series reflects the resort's commitment to the arts, culture, and community engagement. [RitzCarlton.com/Maui](https://www.ritzcarlton.com/maui)

Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort and Spa (Island of Hawai'i) recently completed a full renovation of its 297 guestrooms, spotlighting a refreshed design inspired by Hawai'i Island's landscapes and cultural heritage. The updated rooms feature coastal hues, organic textures, warm wood tones, and island-inspired art reflecting the ocean and land. Situated oceanfront along 'Anaeho'olimalu Bay, the resort is also conveniently located near shopping, dining and cultural experiences at the Kings' Shops. [Marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)

Wailea Beach Resort (Maui Nui) has unveiled a full property-wide transformation, highlighted by the debut of its all-new Oceanfront Villas and a Private Chef Villa Dining Experience exclusively for villa guests. The custom five-course menu features personalized service with dining available on a private oceanfront *lānai* or in the villa. Additionally, the resort introduced an adults-only wellness pool, Olakino, offering daily wellness programming, an infinity-edge saline pool, in-water chaises, mini spa treatments, and a daily sabering ritual. Other new enhancements include a Constellation Concierge for guided stargazing, a Social Butler for wedding content capture, and curated celebration and wellness packages. [Marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)

CULINARY

James Beard Foundation Awards (Statewide) semifinalists for 2026 include nine Hawai'i chefs and eateries competing for the prestigious national culinary awards. Chefs advancing to the final round will be announced on 31 March. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Chicago on 15 June. The nominees and their award categories are:

- Outstanding Restaurateur: Peter Merriman of [Merriman's](#), [Monkeypod Kitchen](#), and others (O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i Island)
- Emerging Chef: Bao Tran of [Giovedi](#) (O'ahu)
- Outstanding Bakery: [The Local General Store](#) (O'ahu)
- Outstanding Pastry Chef or Baker: Neale Asato of [Asato Family Shop](#) (O'ahu)
- Best Chef: Northwest and Pacific: Michele Di Bari of [Sale Pepe](#) (Maui)
- Best Chef: Northwest and Pacific: Ed Kenney of [Mud Hen Water](#) (O'ahu)
- Best Chef: Northwest and Pacific: Andrew Le of [The Pig and the Lady](#) (O'ahu)
- Best Chef: Northwest and Pacific: Sheldon Simeon of [Tiffany's Restaurant and Bar](#) (Maui)
- Best Chef: Northwest and Pacific: Yuya Yamanaka of [Paris Hawai'i](#) (O'ahu)

Alan Wong's at The Kahala Hotel and Resort (O'ahu) is set to open to the public on 8 April, marking the chef's return to a namesake fine dining restaurant. Guests hoping to be among the first to dine at the new restaurant from 25 March up until the public opening are invited to book the resort's Legacy of Aloha package, which includes restaurant reservations and a dining credit for the first two weeks of operation. Reservations for Alan Wong's at The Kahala Hotel and Resort are available now on OpenTable for dining on or after 8 April. [KahalaResort.com](https://www.kahalaresort.com)

Asato's Waikiki at Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach (O'ahu) debuted "Flavor Lab," an elevated dessert omakase experience located within Kings & Queens. This interactive, hour-long tasting journey (\$58) celebrates Hawai'i's nostalgic "small kid time" flavors through a curated four-course menu. Guests enjoy a "Taste of the Crack Seed Shop" sampler, a custom house made soda lab where they can create their own infusions, and artisanal Japanese-style shave ice (kakigori) featuring unique toppings, like Crème Brûlée or Li Hing Strawberry Crunch Cake. Reservations are required. [Asatos.com](https://www.asatos.com)

Japengo at Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa is offering an exclusive Omakase Experience, featuring a chef-guided, multicourse tasting menu showcasing fresh local ingredients and nigiri. Designed as a culinary journey, the dinner combines the restaurant's Japanese cuisine with a sunset-view setting. Guests can enjoy the dinner, with wine and sake pairings available on select evenings. [Hyatt.com](https://www.hyatt.com)

Maui Ocean Center is now home to the newest location of Ululani's Hawaiian Shave Ice. Situated near the aquarium's entrance, the stand is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is not required to purchase shave ice, and guests may obtain a wristband at the front gate for access. The stand's menu features signature Ululani flavors, such as Hawaiian Rainbow (strawberry, pineapple, vanilla) and Broke Da Mouth (pickled mango and li hing mui), as well as a Maui Ocean Center exclusive shave ice flavor with calamansi, passionfruit and guava syrups. Ululani's also offers merchandise created exclusively for the new location. [MauiOceanCenter.com](https://www.mauioceancenter.com)

Piko at Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa (Island of Hawai‘i) is hosting two special holiday buffets for Easter Sunday and Mother’s Day. The Easter Sunday Grand Buffet on 5 April, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature a menu including carved rib of beef, leg of lamb, grilled fresh fish, steamed crab legs, waffles, and a dessert selection with a chocolate fountain. The restaurant’s Mother’s Day Grand Buffet on 10 May, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature a prime rib carving station, steamed snow crab legs, fresh seafood selections, ‘ahi poke, oysters on the half shell, made-to-order omelets, and a chocolate fountain as well. Reservations are recommended. [Outrigger.com](https://www.outrigger.com)

Rum & Chocolate Tasting at House of Mana Up (O‘ahu)

Waikiki’s House of Mana Up at Royal Hawaiian Center now presents a unique rum and chocolate tasting experience in partnership with Kō Hana Hawaiian Agricole Rum and Mānoa Chocolate Hawaii. The guided, 30-minute session invites guests to sip a curated selection of classic and cocktail pours of Hawaiian Agricole rum paired with handcrafted bean-to-bar chocolates, offering insight into each maker’s story and craft. Tastings are available daily with reservations recommended; pricing varies for *kama‘āina* and visitors. [HouseOfManaUp.com](https://houseofmanaup.com)

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Aloha Bricks ‘26: Stories of Hawai‘i at Bishop Museum (O‘ahu)

The Bishop Museum presents Aloha Bricks ‘26: Stories of Hawai‘i, a new interactive exhibition opening 14 March 2026. Created with the Hawaii LEGO® Users Group and middle school students statewide, the exhibit showcases Hawai‘i’s culture and landmarks through large-scale LEGO®-style brick models, student-designed mosaic galleries, and hands-on build spaces. Highlights include brick recreations of iconic sites, native plants and animals, and immersive play areas for all ages. Exhibits are included with general museum admission and are on view daily. [BishopMuseum.org](https://bishopmuseum.org)

Cirque Du Soleil’s ‘Auana (O‘ahu) production is celebrating its one-year anniversary at the OUTRIGGER Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel and its recent USA Today no. 4 ranking on a list of Best New Attractions. The show blends the world-renowned acrobatic artistry and visuals of Cirque Du Soleil with the *mo‘olelo* (stories), *hula*, and music of Hawai‘i in a production, celebrating and honoring the Hawaiian Islands, its culture, and people. Performances happen Wednesday through Sunday at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m., with tickets available online. [Outrigger.com](https://outrigger.com)

Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra (O‘ahu) is presenting two major programs this spring. On 19 April, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle‘a’s maiden voyage to Tahiti, the orchestra will collaborate with conductor Anthony Parnter, the O‘ahu Choral Society, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society to premiere Michael-Thomas Foumai’s choral symphony “Raise Hawaiki.” On 7 June, soprano Renée Fleming will join the orchestra for the Halekulani Masterworks season finale with a concert inspired by her 2023 Grammy-winning album “Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene.” [MyHISO.org](https://myhso.org)

Ko Olina Resort’s Kaula Lū‘au (O‘ahu) is a new cultural performance created and led by Native Hawaiian artists. A creative partnership of the Hawaiian Council and Ko Olina, the production at the resort’s new Ocean’s Edge venue is a theatrical performance, following the story of Mahina, a young Native Hawaiian woman whose journey toward understanding self is told through *mo‘olelo* (stories), *hula*, *oli* (chant), music, and contemporary staging. The performance explores themes of genealogy and ancestral connections to the Pacific Ocean. Performances happen Fridays through Mondays at 7:30 p.m., with pre-show interactive activities for guests beginning at 5:15 p.m. [LuauKaula.com](https://luaukaula.com)

Kohala Zipline (Island of Hawai‘i) is preparing a new zipline course and canopy tour, featuring higher, faster, and longer ziplines. The new zipline canopy course will have a zip and bridge over a waterfall, a dedicated *keiki* (kids) course, and a grand finale zipline larger and longer than Kohala Zipline’s current course. Optional photo packages will be available for the new course. [KohalaZipline.com](https://kohalazipline.com)

Kona Salt Farm by Sea Salts of Hawai'i (Island of Hawai'i) recently introduced a Deep Ocean Jet Lag Recovery experience made for arriving travelers. Drawing pristine deep ocean water from more than 2,200 feet below the surface, the session combines 47 degrees Fahrenheit cold foot soaks with mineral-rich magnesium and electrolyte products to support hydration, circulation, and fatigue, as well as help reset sleep rhythms after long flights. The program is offered at Hawai'i Ocean Science and Technology Park and uses resources unique to the Kona Coast area. KonaSeaSalt.com

UFO Parasail, Fishing and Adventures (Maui Nui) has expanded its fleet with a fourth fishing boat, offering four daily departures from Māla Wharf and Kā'anapali Beach in West Maui. Guest can reserve private and shared fishing charters for up to eight passengers on light-tackle charters and six passengers on sport fishing charters. Starting in May, guests will also enjoy expanded offerings at Kā'anapali Beach, as UFO will provide four parasail boats and towable banana boats. UFOParasail.net

Wahi Pana Public Art Project (O'ahu) has partnered with visual storytelling group In the Southern Sun for "Māunuunu," a collaborative exhibit presented with both the City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts as well as Bloomberg Philanthropies. The gallery show extends the in-progress islandwide "Wahi Pana: Storied Places" public art project — 11 temporary installations across O'ahu reconnecting communities with indigenous *mo'olelo* (stories) — through new works by artists Brandy Nālani McDougall, Cory Kamehanaokalā Holt Taum, and Koloikeao Anthony. The Māunuunu exhibit — its Hawaiian name honoring the blustery winds of Waialae that move across Waikiki — is meant to speak to concepts of change, offering, and intention. InTheSouthernSun.com

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About HTUSA

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

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

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