

THE OAHU Concierge

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Pandemic Valentine's

Some normal, and not so normal, ways to celebrate

So here we are again... a pandemic Valentine's. On the bright side, things are much more open than a year ago. On the other side, our case counts have been higher than they ever were last month, and no one knows where they will be by Valentine's Day – so one has to be prepared for every option.

The easiest option is, of course, dinner reservations. As always, virtually every restaurant will offer some special prix fixe menu. Reservations have always been hard to secure, and this year it could be even more difficult. Even though most restrictions have been lifted, restaurants have been struggling with staffing and inventory. So, now, more than ever before, make that reservation early because anything can happen. If your guests do not want to dine inside, remember that outside seating will be the first to go, so there are even more reasons to call your favorite restaurant for reservations now.

For those guests of yours that don't want to brave the crowds but are still seeking restaurant quality in the privacy dinner of their own home or hotel lanai, or can't get a reservation? Well, they are in luck. Most restaurants have takeout options (with advance notice) so be sure to call your favorite place and ask. Additionally, a few have gone out of their way to create something special solely for those who want a restaurant-quality meal while social distancing with that special someone.

Take **Chef Chai**, for example. During the shut-down, he created Wiki Wiki Boxes – offering diners restaurant-quality meals at home, and they were such a huge hit, they sold out fairly regularly. Since they reopened, he did not have the time to do those and handle a restaurant full of people, so he stopped making them except for special occasions, and Valentine's Day certainly falls into that category. Guests can pick up a Wiki Wiki Box for two that includes: Lobster and Crab Dip with Crostini and Cherry

Tomato Caprese, Braised Boneless Beef Shanks with Panang Curry Sauce, Grilled Kabayaki Salmon with Fresh Granny Smith Apple and Pineapple Relish, and Chai's Heart Shaped White Chocolate Gelato with fresh Raspberry Guava Puree packed in dry ice for \$150. Pick-up will be Monday, February 14th, from 12 – 4 p.m. To pre-order, call 585-0011 or head to chefchai.com.

Due to the surge in COVID cases, the folks behind the SAVOR dinner series we talked about last month have decided to re-envision their culinary series to a takeout-style meal kit so you can enjoy luxury at home with a drive-thru pick up on February 10th. **SAVOR by Lexus Perks** is excited to offer an upscale takeout experience where guests will enjoy a multi-course collaboration dinner curated by some of Hawaii's favorite chefs. This one-of-a-kind takeout meal for two consists of a salad course by Chef Jason Peel of Sashimi Moriawase: Miso eggplant, Okra, Warabi, Wasabi, Charred Scallion, Pickles. Venison Au Poivre, Sinigang Na Hipon entree by Chef Sheldon Simeon, a Lasagna Alla Norman, and Kampachi en Papillote entree by Chef Robynne Mai's and Petit Four for dessert by Pastry Chef Beverly Luk. In addition, each kit includes two bottles of wine selected by Master Sommeliers Chris Ramleb and Fabrice McCarthy, one bottle of Sake, a six-pack of brews from Kona Brewing, and a specialty cocktail kit for two crafted by Kaai Fong. \$300 per meal kit, special discounts available for Lexus owners. perks.servcolexus.com.

Also, jumping into the take-home dinner world is none other than the **Star of Honolulu**. They are now offering the Steak & Lobster dinner one gets on board, to go. Available every day, not just Valentine's Day, guests are welcome to pre-order a 4-course Whole Maine Lobster & Tenderloin Steak dinner for two with salad and dessert for \$99. Order online and enjoy contactless curbside

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Hawai'i Triennial 2022

February 18 - May 8

The largest periodic showcase of contemporary art in Hawai'i will be presented across seven exhibition venues on O'ahu from February 18 through May 8 as artists from around the world celebrate the diversity, culture, and histories of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Triennial 2022 will feature 43 artists and collectives with over 60 participants, including internationally renowned cultural figures exhibiting alongside multiple Hawai'i-based artists. Their artwork will explore themes of history, place, environmental change, Indigenous knowledge and social activism, within the context of Hawai'i's unique location.

"Pacific Century – E Ho'omau no Moananuiākea" marks the festival's third iteration with a new format and significant expansion as the most prominent contemporary art event in Hawai'i. Formerly known as the Honolulu Biennial, the event debuted in 2017. (remember the Yayoi Kusama polka dot installation at Ward Village Courtyard?) In 2020, the committee decided to transform its signature event into a triennial format and renamed it.

The citywide exhibition will take place over eleven weeks with installations at Bishop Museum, Foster Botanical Garden, Hawaii Theatre Center, Hawai'i State Art Museum, Honolulu Museum of Art, Royal Hawaiian Center, and a first-time partnership with Iolani Palace,

In addition to the exhibitions, the event offers free public programs, including workshops, artist talks, panel discussions, and more. hawaiicontemporary.org.

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Happy Valentine's Day

Well, here we are again – another month has gone by, and COVID is still here. This will all be behind us one day, but I'm beginning to wonder when that day will be. A few months ago, it seemed like we were on the right track back to some sort of normal - but once again, I'm writing this column again as we hit case numbers higher than we have ever hit before. One of these days, we have to start the downward slide of this omicron variant. Until then, keep on keeping on. Every business out there has been impressive with its resilience to roll with all of these punches. Hawaii businesses have been extraordinary with their flexibility and endurance during this whole mess. It's a good thing everyone has had all of this experience, as once again, we are heading into another holiday not knowing precisely what we will be dealing with when it gets here so planning is tricky. You just need to be prepared for all options.

Whatever you do, don't be me. I forgot to follow my own advice. As much as I'm always reminding you guys to make your reservations early, I got so caught up getting this issue done I neglected to make a reservation in advance and found myself unable to get one for my anniversary dinner! (Thank you, Susan, for saving the day!)

Valentine's Day could go any way right now – it all depends on the case counts and the hospitalizations at the time, and whether or not your guest is comfortable being inside or not, so keep on doing what you all have done so well for nearly the past two years. Be flexible. Prepare to adjust existing plans at a minute's notice and think outside the box. I tried to find some specific Valentine's Day-centric activities to talk about, but, aside from the dozens of restaurant menus and spa specials, most places are holding off announcing their plans until they have a better feel about the health situation at the time. In preparation for the worst-case scenario, I thought about a few COVID-safe ways to celebrate the day, and I know you guys will add your own fabulous touches to make sure your guests have the best experience they can. Stay safe everyone!



Nikki Nakamura

Nikki Nakayama has returned to *Hilton Grand Vacations* as Senior Marketing Manager – IPC. Nikki first came to HGV in 2009 holding multiple positions, most recently as Activity Manager

before moving to American Carpet One as their Director of Marketing when the hotel closed due to the pandemic. Nice to see her back! Also returning to HGV is **Tetsuo Imahori**, Senior Marketing

Manager for OPC. Since 2012, Tetsuo assisted with all aspects of the OPC operation and was instrumental in setting up the marketing location at the Honolulu International Airport. Prior to his return to Hawaii, Tetsuo served as Senior Marketing Manager at Hilton Resorts Corporation in Japan. Lastly please welcome **Sayo Yoshino** who has accepted the position of In-house Marketing Manager. She has been with the company for 18 years and prior to the pandemic, had played a key role in all aspects of our OPC operation. Congrats!

Pandemic Valentine's

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pickup from their kitchen across from Marukai in Kalihi. starofhonolulu.com/ lobster-steak-dinner-takeout.

Speaking of Star of Honolulu, what could be more romantic than taking advantage of whale season? It's a magical experience to see those majestic creatures in their element, and there are countless vessels to hop on that keep your guest safe in an open-air environment. Check out last month's issue for more details.

On the same note, most outdoor activities fall into a safe zone, and lucky for us, we have plenty of options to choose from here on the islands. Parasailing, Hiking, Jet Skiing, Surfing Lessons, etc. There are so many ways to enjoy this special day while enjoying all the island has to offer in a safe, socially distanced manner.

What about private dance lessons? **The Albert Frantz Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio** offers private lessons for beginner and experienced dancers in Ballroom, Latin, & Social dance in Kaka'ako. Sign up for a dance lesson, and the only other person in the room is your instructor, safely 6-feet away. Call 599-5335. **The Doug Kessler American Style Ballroom Dance Studio** offers classes in Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep and Latin Cha-Cha-Cha, Paso Doble, Rumba, Salsa, Merengue, Jive, Hustle, Swing, and more. Again, all lessons are private these days, and students can sign up for personal studio time (sans instructor) once enrolled. Call 428-8174. As a side note, there have been a lot of calls regarding ballroom dancing throughout the years, and we hear the 11,000-square-foot dance floor at **Ala Wai Golf Course Palladium** should reopen shortly once this latest surge settles down.

Gaze into your lover's eyes before you both gaze up towards the stars on the rooftop of the International Market Place during a special 90-minute **Valentine's Day Stargazing Show**. Take a guided tour of the stars and constellations with a local astronomer and a 7-foot tall telescope that even lets you take pictures on your smartphone. Limited to 20 people. Starts at 7 p.m. \$60. stargazersofhawaii.com.

It's hard to go wrong with a spa treatment on Valentine's Day. Like restaurants, most spas offer a little extra on that day, so be sure to ask about any available packages. Some spas also provide outdoor settings for treatment, like **Abhasa Spa** at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel or **Naupaka Spa** at the Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina. Other spas might also have set up outdoor arrangements to treat clients during this last year, so be sure to ask when booking for those guests looking for more open areas.

Whatever you choose to do this year for yourself or a guest, remember our island home offers a plethora of outdoor options for anyone still apprehensive about heading into a crowded area. Pick up food from your favorite restaurant and head out to your favorite place to watch the sunset – from the beach, zone of our many parks, or a little nook off to the side of a trail, and set up a romantic picnic for two. Hike up to the Makapu'u Lighthouse for sunrise and hopefully see a few whales breaching in the distance. Drop a blanket at Ala Moana Beach Park for the day, drive to the North Shore to watch the waves, or put a bottle of champagne in your backpack and hike up Koko Head to watch the sunset. Whatever you or your guests are looking for, between our dedicated restaurateurs and spas, and the outdoor beauty Oahu offers, there are plenty of options to choose from.

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA *Newsflash*

A NEW LUAU OPENS AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET PLACE

The nights are heating up in at the International Market Place with a new luau in Wikipiki. Every Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday night from 5-8 p.m., the Queen's Waikiki Luau will offer guests a traditional luau experience complete with cultural activities, a Hawaiian buffet dinner, and a full Polynesian Show complete with fireknife dancing to the the Queen's Court. Tickets: \$145-\$165. queenswaikikiluau.com.

HEAR THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FROM YOUR HOME

Hawaii Public Radio and the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra have partnered to broadcast performances from the 2020 and 2021 season. Each show is hosted by HPR Music Director Gene Schiller and features performances recorded live at Hawaii Theatre Center and the Waikiki Shell. Certain shows will also include interviews with the HSO maestro and/or guest artist. Performances will air on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. on HPR-2. See the complete schedule and where to tune in at myhso.org/hpr.

NEW MURAL AT THE OUTRIGGER REEF BY KAMEA HADAR

As part of the \$80 million transformation of Outrigger Reef Waikiki Resort – the property retained renowned Hawai'i artist Kamea Hadar to paint a mural that is adjacent to the resort's new A'o Cultural Center. Hadar's piece depicts a traditional wa'a, or sailing canoe, being crewed by the children or grand-children of some notable Hawaiian figures. Open for public viewing sometime this month.

THE KAHALA HOTEL RELAUNCHES BUFFETS

The Kahala Hotel & Resort relaunched their popular buffets last month. The Curry Lunch Buffet returns to the Plumeria Beach House from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. each Wednesday for \$45, while their even more popular Seafood Buffet is back every Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for \$88. For full menus go to kahalaresort.com. 739-8760.

ALOHA STADIUM SWAP MEET BROCHURES ARE BACK

The Aloha Stadium Swap Meet & Marketplace have advised us that they have received more brochures, so if anyone needs their supply replenished, please email krysti.moxie@hawaii.rr.com.

ALOHA SORABOL AND FRIENDS... FOR NOW

Another condo complex is heading to Keeaumoku, displacing a block of popular restaurants, including the home of the bright purple Ube pancake, Yogurstory, the uber popular late night Korean restaurant, Sorabol, Asahi Grill, Ireh, Menchanko-Tei and more. Everyone had to be out by January 31st. Most will reopen on other locations, and rumor has it Sorabol and Yogurstory will reopening in a few months across the street.

MURDER AT SEA - A LIVE INTERACTIVE THEATRE MYSTERY

It's a sunset cocktail cruise with a twist. There's been a murder at sea with Diamond Head in the background, its up to you and your friends to figure it out whodunnit. Come enjoy this live performance and help solve a murder mystery while enjoying sunset and cocktails onboard the Majestic by Atlantis Cruises. Prizes for the best solutions. Saturdays and Sundays in February. \$105. hiseasmysteries.com.

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Finding a Lobster Roll in Hawaii



The lobster roll is native to New England. It is made of lobster meat served on a grilled hot dog-style bun. The filling may also contain butter, lemon juice, salt, black pepper, with variants made in some parts of New England replacing the butter with mayonnaise. For as long as I can remember, a highlight of any East Coast trip was putting my hands on an one of these delicacies. Sweet, succulent chunks of the knuckle, claw, and tail meat stuffed into a buttered grilled bun. So simple and basic, yet so mouth-wateringly delicious.

One of the things that made this treat so special was that I couldn't put my hands on one very often. I only ever found them on the East Coast, at least the ones that I prefer, what many people call Connecticut-style, big pieces of warm lobster meat lighted tossed in melted butter. If it was going to be cold, then I wanted it Maine-style, tossed with just a touch of mayonnaise. Finding a lobster roll like that here in Hawaii was nearly impossible. If you did find one, it was more of a lobster salad, with teensy shredded bits of lobster, drowning in mayonnaise with way too many other things. I didn't want all that stuff or "filler" you find in the rolls that used to show up here. To be fair, it was understandable. Hawaii just didn't have regular or affordable access to Maine lobster.

Flash forward quite a few years, and somehow, lobster rolls are popping up everywhere. Why now when prices are skyrocketing higher than ever before? I have no idea, I'm just happy they finally a regular item here. If you love to indulge in one of these treats, there are actually quite a few places to get one now.

For those looking for dine-in options, there are a handful of restaurants that have a lobster roll on their everyday menu. **Et. Al.** in Kahala has had one on the menu since it opened. Initially, it was served with a lovely curry aioli, but the current rendition has it with a tarragon aioli (MP). I have heard many people rave about the lobster roll at **Feast by Jon Matsubara** (\$30), but since I am highly allergic to onions, and theirs is made in advance with lots of them, I have not been able to try one. Not for lack of trying, but this is one dish they won't let me special order. **Livestock Tavern** also offers a petite lobster roll served on a house-made brioche bun mixed with green onions, celery, and parsley mixed

with lemon aioli (\$22). **The Espresso Bar in Neiman Marcus** also serves a Lobster Salad Croissant Sandwich with Maui-style chips (\$35).

Now, of course, all those restaurants offer take-out, but sometimes you just want to walk up to a counter and go, and happily, there have been several pop up recently, so those are the places I am going to talk about here. We will start in Waikiki, with two take out locations that offer Connecticut-style rolls with fresh Maine lobster flown in daily.

Wicked Lobster



Who would have ever thought you could get a fresh lobster roll in a Waikiki Food Court. Wicked Maine Lobster opened in November, and offers a lobster roll for \$29.99. This is the type of roll that I prefer. No filler. Just big chunks of sweet Maine lobster tossed with butter on a soft Texas toast-like bun. The roll is served with some of the best fries I have ever had, crispy, and well seasoned.

In addition to the traditional lobster roll, the menu also includes their version of a California Roll with lobster, lettuce, tomato, avocado, bacon, and lemon aioli drizzle (\$29.99), Lobster tacos (\$19.99), Lobster Queso Fries with Bacon (\$19.99), Lobster Mac 'n Cheese (\$16.99), a Fried Shrimp Basket (\$17.99), and New England Clam Chowder (\$8.99), with an optional bread bowl for an extra \$2. Although the only thing I tried there was the Lobster Roll, I've heard good things about the Clam Chowder.

Royal Hawaiian Center, 2nd floor Pa'ina Food Court. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily. Phone: 921-2703

Royal Lobster



Right across the street, you'll find another place on the bottom level of the Waikiki Shopping Center. To find it, you need to walk down Royal Hawaiian Avenue and then down the stairs to find a small hole-in-the-wall café called Royal Lobster. This place only has two items on its menu.. a lobster salad and a lobster roll. The salad of mixed greens and tomatoes is topped with Fresh Maine lobster, and their lobster roll is served with chips and coleslaw. Both dishes are \$29. Again, we are talking just chunks of fresh Maine lobster tossed in butter, no filler. Although I did not like this particular roll as much as some of the others, it was still terrific and actually held up a bit better than some of the softer ones. The packaging was cute. It was served with ramekins of melted butter, garlic mayo, and some Old Bay to sprinkle, along with some instructions on how the best way to enjoy your roll.

Waikiki Shopping Center, Lower Level. Open from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. Closed Mondays. Phone: 888-0332

Fat Cheeks Hawaii



Fat Cheeks Hawaii was so succesful at Ohana Hale Marketplace, that they moved to a larger location at Ward Centre last year. They also offered a traditional lobster roll tossed with garlic butter and herbs (\$17) on a sweet bun, served with your choice of chips. Sourcing their lobster from Canada, they had the most extensive menu of all the lobster-centric locations, offering a variety of rolls (truffle butter & bacon, mayo and celery, and plain). The menu

also features a Chimichurri Shrimp Roll (\$12), a Fried Fish Sandwich (\$12), a Lobster Cheeseburger, a hamburger patty topped with buttered lobster, lettuce, tomato, red onions and lobster mayo (\$19), Cheeseburger (\$8), Lobster BLT (\$18), Fried Fish & Fries (\$15), New England Clam Chowder or Spicy Shrimp Bisque (\$4/\$7), and a Salad (\$5) that can be topped with Lobster (\$9), Crab or Crawfish (\$6). Be advised they sell out often and end up closing early often. I had to stop by three times before I could check their food out.

Ward Centre, Lower Level. Open Tues - Sat from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays, and closed Mondays. 773-4129

Jolene's Market



This popular Chinatown location has an extensive menu featuring a variety of Loco Moco's, Sandwiches, Cheesemelts, and more. Their Buttah Lobster Roll (\$20) is really popular, but it's anything but traditional. This one is more like a bahn mi. The lobster (previously frozen) is tossed in a Cajun garlic sauce then placed atop pickled vegetables and lettuce then topped with cilantro. It was good, but drastically different from the previous three rolls. There was a lot going on here, and it worked, but I have to say the pickled daikon and carrots did make me think of a Ba-Le sandwich with every bite. It was an interesting take on classic roll and they did it well, but I prefer a more traditional version. I did notice they have a lobster melt I'll have to check out. Chinese Cultural Center. Open Tues - Sun from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Mondays. Phone: 540-1000

Chocolate + Vanilla Bakery

Although I didn't find out about this place in time to taste it, I have heard that this cute little bakery in Kaimuki offers a really good mayo-based lobster salad-type roll mixed with celery and parsley on a sweet bun (\$16) every Saturday. Bonus points? It comes with a free scone.

1115 12th Avenue. Open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Closed Sunday & Mondays. 737-2462.

Burgers on Bishop

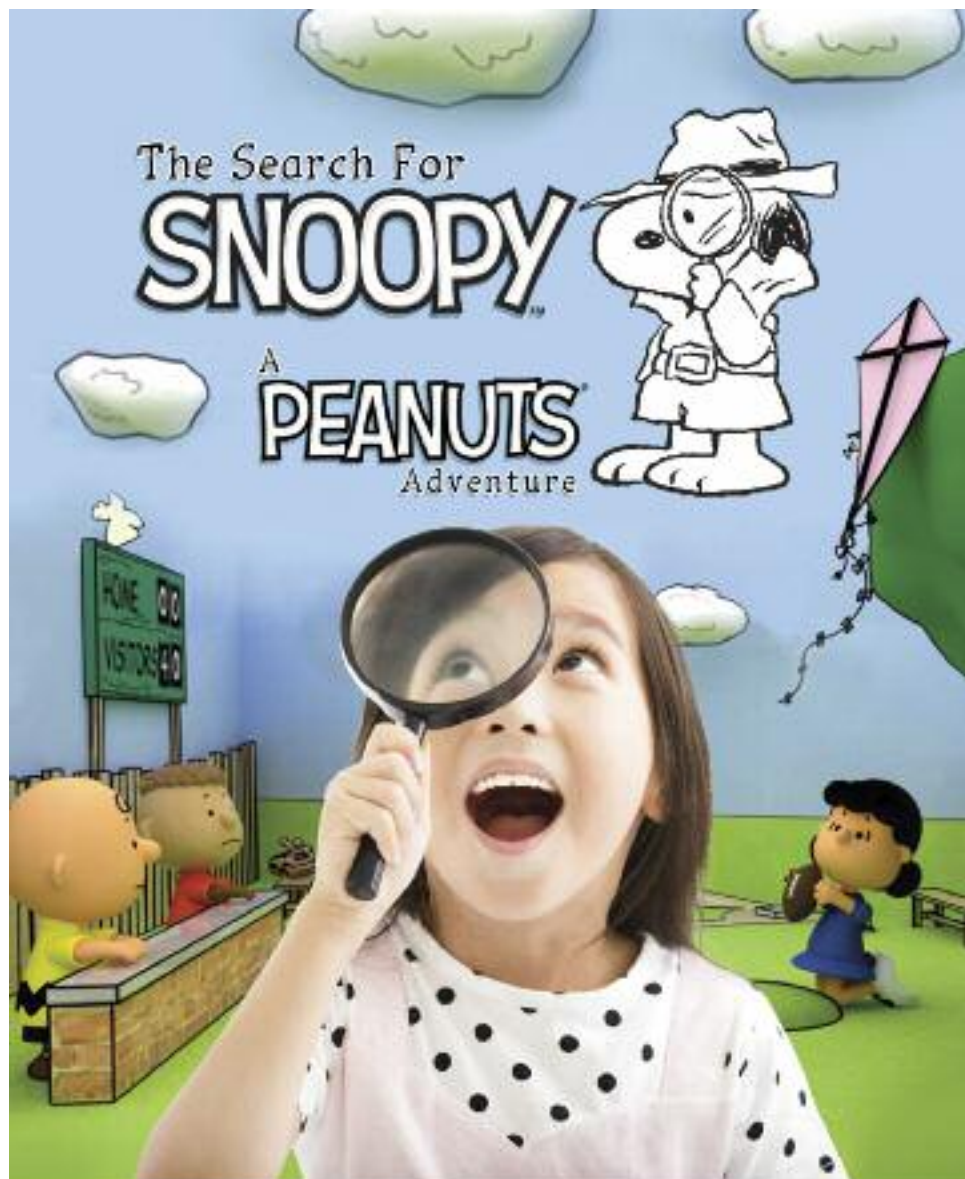


As Lobster Salad Rolls go, this was by far my favorite. Broken pieces of North Atlantic lobster meat are tossed with a house-made truffle mayo, dill, celery

seed, lemon zest, and Meyer lemon juice topped with plenty of shredded lettuce (\$12). This roll was bursting with flavor. This special is only offered 2 - 3 times a month and is one of the best-priced items out there, so be sure to follow them on Instagram @burgersonbishop, to see their daily menu so you know when this roll is available.

745 Fort Street Mall, Lobby Level. Open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday. Phone: 586-2000.

The next time you're craving a lobster roll, there are finally multiple locations open offering a variety of takes on this traditional New England classic. Enjoy!



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K-culture Finds a Home at Ala Moana Center

Unless you've taken a pause from all media over the past three years, you couldn't have helped hearing about BTS. The Korean supergroup has made news continuously by winning several American music awards, breaking records for



At Korean health product retailer Health Korea shoppers can try wellness appliances ranging from an LED mask to massage chairs. All photos courtesy of Nadine Kam.

YouTube views and record sales, being named Time Magazine's Entertainer of the Year in 2020, becoming the first artist since The Beatles to earn four No.1 songs on Billboard, and speaking twice before the U.N. General Assembly about youth and humanitarian issues.

With the popularity of the Korea-produced "Squid Game" series, and the Korean film "Parasite" making waves when it became the first foreign-language film to win the top "Best Picture" prize at the 2020 Academy Awards, Korean entertainment has hit the American mainstream.

While some may have been taken by surprise by the rise in popularity of South Korean entertainment, few realize that it is partially the result of planning that began in the 1990s. Back then, the newly democratic South Korean government worked with business and entertainment leaders to build up the nation's poor economy with soft power, aiming to win

the world over by sponsoring events that would promote the beauty of its culture and products abroad.

At the time, Harvard political scientist Joseph Nye had coined the term "soft power" in describing how nations could build influence

peacefully, writing that if its "culture and ideology are attractive, others will more willingly follow."

The Hallyu, or Korean Wave, started gaining traction from the mid-1990s to mid-2000s through South Korean TV dramas and popular music. Product placements and aspirational role models soon began raising demand for Korean food, lifestyle and beauty products throughout Asia.

By 2010 the Korean Wave, now led by K-pop idol groups, spread to the Middle East and Latin America. But it was the rising popularity and news-making ability of BTS in 2018 that caused many Americans to start taking notice of South Korea's influence on popular culture worldwide.

The attraction for Americans is that K-pop has always been rooted in Western music. The first K-pop group, Seo Taiji and the Boys, debuted in 1992 and took their cues from American hiphop, integrating English lyrics and dance. Meanwhile, Lee Soo Man, who would go on to found the influential SM Entertainment Co., was a Korean singer studying in the United States who was mesmerized by artists such as Michael Jackson and began formulating a plan to take Korean artists global through his budding philosophy of Neo Culture Technology, the understanding of particular chord progressions, visual cues and gestures that appealed to various national cultures, to create groups tailored to meet expectations specific to each country.

A sure sign that Korean culture has indeed won us over, is that it's taking over the Target wing at Ala Moana Center, which is now home to five boutiques catering to fans of Korean music, dramas, health and beauty products. Here's a look of what's available there now.



At the BTS: Map of the Soul pop-up shop, fans can shop for official BTS merchandise and apparel and pose for pics with Tiny Tan characters representing each group member, from left RM, Suga, J-Hope and V.

BTS: Map of the Soul Showcase in Hawaii

The first officially licensed BTS popup opened its doors to lines in December for all things related to BTS's fourth album, "Map of the Soul: 7."

In addition to BTS and Tiny Tan BTS character merchandise, the shop was designed with several experiential areas that allow fans to pose for pictures in front of a pastel discotheque backdrop reminiscent of the "Boy With Luv" set, or with a row Tiny Tan characters, or dance along with favorite BTS music videos.

The shop features clothing, house wares, backpacks, even an adhesive bandage kit so users can blanket their wounds with their bias' name. The popup will be open thru March 26.

Health Korea



Health Korea carries a vast range of Chunho N'Care food supplement juice packs to boost vitamin and mineral intake.

South Korea has emerged as a leader in the health and beauty fields, and

Continues on page 14.

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Chef's Corner

Guava Smoked's "Smoker" Jesmar Bautista

Guava Smoked has served delicious, local-style, smoked barbecue for over 10 years, and even though he had no experience smoking meats before he was hired, Jesmar Bautista took the job at Guava Smoked in 2019 to become the manager of their Kalihi location and run their entire smoking operation. Now responsible for smoking upwards of 2,000 pounds of meat a week, Jesmar grew up in a kitchen, both his own, and following his dad to work at the old South Seas Village, and took to the challenge naturally.

What's your favorite childhood food memory?

My favorite childhood food was my mom's special Korean fried chicken wings.

When did you decide you wanted to be a chef?

I decided I wanted to be a chef when I was a kid, watching my parents and grandma cooking all kinds of food, but I knew I wanted to become a chef when I started working for California Pizza Kitchen. That was about 12 years ago.

What was your first job in the industry?

My first job in the industry was with my dad. I was 14 years old at that time. He was the head chef at the South Seas Village Hawaiian Hut located next to the Ala Moana Hotel.

Who would you consider your mentor and why?

I consider my dad, my mom, and my grandma my mentors because they were all great cooks in and out of work. Every time I smelled one of them cooking in the kitchen, I always wanted to watch and learn on how they would prepare a delicious meal.

When did you join Guava Smoked?

I joined Guava Smoked in November of 2019. Before that I was working at Cheeseburger Beachwalk in Waikiki. I was working there for about eight or nine years and knew the ins and out of that kitchen with my eyes closed. I became the supervisor there and knew I wanted more. I wanted to be a manager there, but they weren't looking for one at the time. When Scott offered me a job I took it.

Did you smoke meats before you started there, and what have you learned since you've been there?

Yes, but only eating it, not cooking it. I've learned how to properly handle large amounts of meat and how to smoke it safely.

What's the biggest seller there?

The biggest seller is the Kalbi short ribs. I

believe we have the thickest and most flavorful cut on the island.

What's your favorite thing on the menu?

I like the kalbi short ribs because of the same reason its popular and the butterfish collars. The Butterfish collars are firm and has a hint of ginger which I like.

Describe what are you trying to achieve there?

My goal here is to see customers happy and to provide them and the company with quality smoked meats. Honestly, I also got what I wanted when I came here, which is to be a manager. Now that I am, hopefully I can one day own Guava Smoked!

Tell us why visitors should check out Guava Smoked?

Because we are a unique restaurant that offers local-style smoked meat, and it is good! We also offer most of the meats Frozen-To-Go so people can take it back home with them, (if they insulate it properly, of course) There's nothing like some high quality smoked pork to remind one of their recent trip to the islands.

What's your favorite thing to do when not working?

I like to have a few beers with friends and spending time with family.

What's your favorite restaurant to go to when you're not working?

I like to eat the chicken wings at Von's Chicken because they have a lot to choose from and always taste fresh.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in here in Kalihi, the city with no pity.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

If people haven't tried out plate lunches yet, I urge them to do so. From our smoked Butterfish collars to our Smoked Loco Moco and everything in between -- it's so ono!



Guava Smoked Pork Bao

Ingredients:

1 lb Guava Smoked Pork *
(spicy or mild)

9 pcs Bao Buns
Green Onions
Hoisin Sauce

*Spicy pork is their most popular item but is actually a medium heat

Directions: Defrost our vacuum sealed bag of Guava Smoked pork. Cut into bite sized pieces and saute with a little oil to caramelize the edges, or grill for about 5-7 mins (med-high heat) on each side to caramelize/char the edges, and cut into bite sized pieces after resting for 10 mins. Steam bao buns. Julienne cut green onions. Open bao bun, place about 1.5 ounces of pork per bun, place some green onions, and drizzle hoisin sauce to taste. Great for pupu's by adding a local twist to a Chinese favorite!!

Guava Smoked is located at 567 Kapahulu Avenue on the 2nd floor (their other store is in Kalihi)

The Kapahulu location open daily from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Phone: 913-2100

Web: guavasmoked.com • FB: [/guavasmoked](https://www.facebook.com/guavasmoked) • Instagram: [@guavasmoked](https://www.instagram.com/guavasmoked)

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DINING ▶ ENTERTAINMENT ▶ PAU HANA ▶ EAT ▶ DRINK ▶ BE MERRY ▶ HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Live Contemporary & Hawaiian
 The Barefoot Boys 5:30-8:30pm

Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Camarillo Brothers 6-9pm

Deck. at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel 931-4488
Mai Tai Mondays with Live Contemporary
 Freddy Leone (or others) 5pm-8pm

Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Britt Kino (or Eddie Somera) 4-6pm
 Ells Simeona (or others) 7-9pm
 Dave Watanabe (or Ben Kama) 9:30-11:30pm

House Without a Key 923-2311
Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Universe '97 Brook Lee
 Pa'ahana Trio 5:30-8:30pm

Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
 Sean Na'auao 6-9pm

Mahina & Sun's 923-8882
Monday Vibes on the Lanai
 Brent Limos 6:30-9:30pm

Maui Brewing Company 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Dustin Park (or Taz Vegas) 6-8pm

Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022
Live Slack Key guitarist
 Freddy Leone 5:30-7:30pm

Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086
Live Contemporary
 Gabe Miller or Dustin Park 6:30-8pm

Rumfire 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
 Chris Salvador 6-9pm

SHOR at the Hyatt Regency 923-2311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Alex Oasay 5-8pm

Signature Prime Steak 949-3636
Contemporary Pianist in the bar
 Keith Montross 6-9pm

Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Kaleo Kahumoku 6:30-9:30pm

Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108
Solo Contemporary Guitarist
 Drew Henmi 6:30-9:30pm

The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Eric Lee 4:30-6:30pm
 Johnny Valentine 7-10pm

The Edge at the Sheraton 921-4600
Live Hawaiian Music
 Stephen Inglis 2-4pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Michael Piranha 5-7pm
 BK Espiritu 7:30-9:30pm

Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785

Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
 Jeremy Hirokawa 5-8pm

TUESDAY

Amuse Wine Bar 237-5428
Live R&B & Contemporary
 Chris Salvador 7-9pm

Azure at the Royal Hawaiian 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Ethan Capone 5:30-8:30pm

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Backyard Hawaiian
 Ben Kama 5:30-8:30pm

Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Ryan Tang Group 6-9pm

Deck. at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel 931-4488
Tequila & Taco Tuesday with Live Contemporary
 Shane Kainoa (or others) 6pm-9pm

Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Jenna K (or Taz Vegas) 4-6pm
 Scott Magz (or others) 7-9pm
 Darrell Aquino (or Alika Souza) 9:30-11:30pm

Giovanni Pastrami 923-2100
Acoustic Soul, R&B and Pop
 YOZA (or others) 6:30-9:30pm

House Without a Key 923-2311
Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Hawaii '21 Allison Chu
 Delima Ohana 5:30-8:30pm

Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
 Kalale Camarillo 6-9pm

Mahina & Sun's 923-8882
Electrifying Acoustic on the Lanai
 Laupepa Letuli 6:30-9:30pm

Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Eric Lee 6-9pm

Maui Brewing Company 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Fia 6-8pm

Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022
Live Contemporary
 John Kema 5:30-7:30pm

Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086
Live Contemporary
 Johnny III (or others) 6:30-8pm

Off the Lip Bar at Turtle Bay Resort 293-6000
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Danielle Parente 4-7pm

Rumfire 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
 Christian Yrizarry (or Jenna Keala) 6-9pm

SHOR at the Hyatt Regency 923-2311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Chris Salvador 5-8pm

Signature Prime Steak 949-3636
Contemporary Pianist in the bar
 Keith Montross 6-9pm

Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Ronson Asuncion 6:30-9:30pm

Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108
Solo Contemporary Guitarist
 Kamuela Kahoano 6:30-9:30pm

The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Stephen Ingles 4:30-6:30pm
 Alex Oasay 7-10pm

The Edge at the Sheraton 921-4600
Live Hawaiian Music
 Eric Lee 2-4pm

The Point Sunset Pool Bar at Turtle Bay 293-6000
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Jenna Keala 7-10pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian & Reggae
 Biku 5-7pm
 Kelandy Diaz 7:30-9:30pm

Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
 Johnny Kukui 5-8pm

WEDNESDAY

Azure at the Royal Hawaiian 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Ethan Capone 5:30-8:30pm

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Island Vibes
 Danny Galura 5:30-8:30pm

Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Mike Tulba 6-9pm

Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Drew Henmi (or others) 4-6pm
 Shar Carillo (or Kaiona Duo) 7-9pm
 Mark Caldrieia (or Alika Souza) 9:30-11:30pm

Giovanni Pastrami 923-2100
Acoustic Guitar Soul, R&B
 Jason Laeha 6:30-9:30pm

House Without a Key 923-2311
Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Universe '97 Brook Lee
 Pa'ahana Trio 5:30-8:30pm

Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
 Ei Nei 6-9pm

Lewers Lounge 923-2311
Jazz Pianist
 Tommy James 8pm-12am

Mahina & Sun's 923-8882
Soulful Guitar on the Lanai
 Cameron Achuela 6:30-9:30pm

Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Johnny Valentine (or Chris Salvador) 6-9pm

Maui Brewing Company 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Scott Magz 6-8pm

Maui Brewing Kailua 518-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian

E Pili Kākou

DINING ▸ ENTERTAINMENT ▸ PAU HANA ▸ EAT ▸ DRINK

David Sedlak (or Brett Kino) 6-8pm		Chapter II (or others) 7-9pm	
Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022		Stephen Inglis (or others) 9:30-11:30pm	
<i>Live Contemporary</i>		Eating House 1849 Waikiki 924-1849	
Gabe Miller 5:30-7:30pm		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
MINA's Fish House 679-0079		Shane Kainoa 5-8pm	
<i>Live Contemporary Hits</i>		Giovanni Pastrami 923-2100	
Kamuela Kahoano 6-9pm		<i>Live Contemporary</i>	
Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086		Billy Sage 6:30-9:30pm	
<i>Live Contemporary</i>		House Without a Key 923-2311	
Izik and Evan Khay 6:30-8p		<i>Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Universe '97 Brook Lee</i>	
Rumfire 921-4600		Ei Nei 5:30-8:30pm	
<i>Live Contemporary Hits</i>		Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992	
Mike Tulba 6-9pm		<i>Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians</i>	
SHOR at the Hyatt Regency 923-2311		Kawika Kahiapo 6-9pm	
<i>Live Contemporary</i>		Lewers Lounge 923-2311	
Kupu Dalire-Na'auao 5-8pm		<i>Jazz Pianist</i>	
Signature Prime Steak 949-3636		Ethan Capone 8pm-12am	
<i>Contemporary Pianist in the bar</i>		Mahina & Sun's 923-8882	
Pierre Grill 6-9pm		<i>Hawaiian Contemporary on the Lanai</i>	
Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600		Kelly Boy DeLima 6:30-9:30pm	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Maui Brewing Company 843-2739	
Dave Watanabe 6:30-9:30pm		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108		David Sedlak 6-8pm	
<i>Solo Contemporary Guitarist</i>		Maui Brewing Kailua 518-2739	
Danielle Parente 6:30-9:30pm		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111		Jason Laeha 6-8pm	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022	
Christian Yrizarry 4:30-6:30pm, 7-10pm		<i>Live Contemporary</i>	
The Edge at the Sheraton 921-4600		Laupepa 5:30-7:30pm	
<i>Live Hawaiian Music</i>		MINA's Fish House 679-0079	
Alika Souza 2-4pm		<i>Live Contemporary Hits</i>	
Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI		Christian Yrizarry 6-9pm	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086	
Ben Kama 5-7pm		<i>Live Contemporary</i>	
TJ Rosimo 7:30-9:30pm		Sienna Souza 6:30-8pm	
Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785		Off the Lip Bar at Turtle Bay Resort 293-6000	
<i>Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.</i>		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
Stan Albrecht 5-8pm		Johnny Helm 3-6pm	
Vintage 1901 at the Moana 921-4600		Rumfire 921-4600	
<i>Contemporary Piano</i>		<i>Live Contemporary Hits</i>	
David Swanson 6-9pm		Dustin Park 6-9pm	
THURSDAY		SHOR at the Hyatt Regency 923-2311	
100 Sails at the Prince Waikiki 944-4494		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary & Hawaiian</i>		Johnny III 5-8pm	
Chris Salvador 6-8pm		Signature Prime Steak 949-3636	
Azure at the Royal Hawaiian 921-4600		<i>Contemporary Pianist in the bar</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Grant Carvalho & Rocky Holmes 6-9pm	
Noly Paa 5:30-8:30pm		Sky Waikiki 979-7590	
Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233		<i>Live Contemporary</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary & Hawaiian</i>		John Akapo 5-8pm	
Keoni Coelho 5:30-8:30pm		Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600	
Chart House Waikiki 941-6660		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Alika Souza 6:30-9:30pm	
Tito & David 6-9pm		Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108	
Deck. at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel 931-4488		<i>Solo Contemporary Guitarist</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary</i>		Denny Ono 6:30-9:30pm	
Freddy Leone (or others) 5pm-8pm		The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111	
Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>	
<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i>		Kupu Dalire-Na'auao 4:30-6:30pm	
Scott Magz (or others) 4-6pm		Kamuela Kahoano 7-10pm	

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Uber Eats

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DINING ▶ ENTERTAINMENT ▶ PAU HANA ▶ EAT ▶ DRINK ▶ BE MERRY ▶ HAPPY HOUR

The Edge at the Sheraton <i>Live Hawaiian Music</i> Christian Yrizarry 2-4pm	921-4600	Chris Salvador 2:30-5:30pm		<i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Koco Kawabuchi 5:30-8:30pm	
The Point Sunset Pool Bar at Turtle Bay <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Dave Watanabe 7-10pm	293-6000	Maui Brewing Company <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> City Boys 6-8pm	843-2739	Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Vanessa Alputila 5:30-8:30pm	924-2233
The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel <i>Live Contemporary</i> Kapena Delima 6-8pm	739-8760	Maui Brewing Kailua <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Dion "Boogie" Scott 6-8pm	518-2739	Chart House Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Tito Berinobis 6-9pm	941-6660
Tiki's Grill & Bar <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian & Reggae</i> Malu Productions 5-7pm Ashton Nicolas 7:30-9:30pm	923-TIKI	Merriman's Honolulu <i>Live Contemporary</i> Shane 5:30-7:30pm	215-0022	Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Kala'e Camarillo (or Walt Keale) 10am-noon Jenna K. (or others) 1-3pm Kaiona Band (or others) 4-6pm Ells Simeona (or Na Ukulele Ekolu) 7-9pm Alika Souza (or others) 9:30-11:30pm	922-2268
Tommy Bahama Restaurant <i>Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.</i> Alex Oasay 5-8pm	923-8785	MINA's Fish House <i>Live Contemporary Hits</i> Jenna Keala (or Chris Salvador) 6-9pm	679-0079	Hard Rock Cafe <i>Live Contemporary</i> Kailua Beach Buddies 6-9pm	955-7383
Vintage 1901 at the Moana <i>Contemporary Piano</i> David Swanson 6-9pm	921-4600	Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina <i>Live Contemporary</i> John Akapo 6:30-8pm	381-4086	Hinana Poolside Bar at the Hawaii Prince <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Mike Izon 5-7pm	622-7558
FRIDAY					
100 Sails at the Prince Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary & Hawaiian</i> Mike Tulba 6-8pm	944-4494	Rumfire <i>Live Contemporary Hits</i> Johnny Helm 6-9pm	921-4600	House Without a Key <i>Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Hawaii '73 Kanoe Miller</i> Kapalama Trio 5:30-8:30pm	923-2311
Azure at the Royal Hawaiian <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Ethan Capone 5:30-8:30pm	921-4600	SHOR at the Hyatt Regency <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Mike Izon 5-8pm	923-2311	Kani Ka Pila Grille <i>Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians</i> Ho'okena 6-9pm	924-4992
Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Art Kalahiki & Friends 5:30-8:30pm	924-2233	Signature Prime Steak <i>Contemporary Pianist in the bar</i> Grant Carvalho & Rocky Holmes 6-9pm	949-3636	Lewers Lounge <i>Jazz Pianist</i> Tommy James 8pm-12am	923-2311
Chart House Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Mike Tulba 6-9pm	941-6660	Sky Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary</i> John Akapo 5-8pm	979-7590	Mahina & Sun's <i>Contemporary Hawaiian/Blues on the Lanai</i> Josh Akapo 6:30-9:30pm	923-8882
Deck. at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel <i>Live Contemporary</i> Shane Kainoa (or others) 6pm-9pm	931-4488	Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian - DJ from 3-5pm</i> Donald Fialkowski 6:30-9:30pm	921-4600	Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Dave Watanabe 6-9pm	923-7311
Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Maunalua 4-6pm Kawika Kahiapo 7-9pm Christian Yrizarry (or others) 9:30-11:30pm	922-2268	The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Stephen Ingles 4:30-6:30pm Alex Oasay 7-10pm	922-3111	Mariposa <i>Live Contemporary</i> Aisaiah Jacobs 2:30-5:30pm	951-3420
Hard Rock Cafe <i>Live Contemporary</i> Kailua Beach Buddies 6-9pm	955-7383	The Edge at the Sheraton <i>Live Hawaiian Music</i> Kaleo Kahumoku 2-4pm	921-4600	Maui Brewing Company <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Taz Vegas (or Evan Khay) 6-8pm	843-2739
House Without a Key <i>Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Hawaii '73 Kanoe Miller</i> Kapalama Trio 5:30-8:30pm	923-2311	The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel <i>Live Contemporary</i> Kamuela Kahoana (1/7) 6-8pm Eric Lee (1/14) 6-8pm Grant Kono (1/21) 6-8pm Jeremy Hirokawa (1/28) 6-8pm	739-8760	Maui Brewing Kailua <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Scott Magz 6-8pm	518-2739
Kani Ka Pila Grille <i>Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians</i> Ka Hehena 6-9pm	924-4992	Tiki's Grill & Bar <i>Contemporary Hawaiian, Alternative, Pop-Rock, Reggae</i> Biku 3-5pm RootsKai 5-7pm Malu Productions 7:30-9:30pm	923-TIKI	Merriman's Honolulu <i>Live Contemporary</i> Stephen Harris 5:30-7:30pm	215-0022
Lewers Lounge <i>Jazz Pianist</i> Tommy James 8pm-12am	923-2311	Tommy Bahama Restaurant <i>Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.</i> Chris Murphy 5-8pm	923-8785	MINA's Fish House <i>Live Contemporary Hits</i> Johnny Helm 6-9pm	679-0079
Mahina & Sun's <i>Slack Key on the Lanai</i> Dustin Park Duo 6:30-9:30pm	923-8882	Vintage 1901 at the Moana <i>Contemporary Piano</i> David Swanson 6-9pm	921-4600	Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina <i>Live Contemporary</i> Izik and Evan Khay 6:30-8pm	381-4086
Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Johnny Ill 6-9pm	923-7311	SATURDAY			
Mariposa <i>Live Contemporary</i>	951-3420	100 Sails at the Prince Waikiki <i>Live Contemporary & Hawaiian</i> Donald Fialkowski (or others) 6-8pm	944-4494	SHOR at the Hyatt Regency <i>Live Contemporary Hawaiian</i> Kevin Okimoto 5:30-8:30pm	923-2311
		Azure at the Royal Hawaiian	921-4600		

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Signature Prime Steak 949-3636

Contemporary Pianist in the bar
Grant Carvalho & Rocky Holmes 6-9pm

Sky Waikiki 979-7590

Live Contemporary
John Akapo 5-8pm

Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hawaiian - DJ from 3 - 5pm
Tangi Tully 6:30-9:30pm

Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108

DJ/Big Wave Pro Surfer Keala "KK" Kennelly Spins Poolside
DJ KK 1-4pm

The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Kaleo Kahumoku 4:30-6:30pm
Chris Salvador 7-10pm

The Edge at the Sheraton 921-4600

Live Hawaiian Music
Kupu Dalire Na'auao 2-4pm

The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel 739-8760

Live Contemporary
Jeannette Trevais 6pm-8pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI

Contemporary Hawaiian, Alternative, Pop-Rock, Reggae
RootsKai 5-7pm
Kelandy Diaz 7:30-9:30pm

Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785

Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
Chris Murphy 5-8pm

Vintage 1901 at the Moana 921-4600

Contemporary Piano
David Swanson 6-9pm

SUNDAY

Azure at the Royal Hawaiian 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Ethan Capone 5:30-8:30pm

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Alika Souza 11am-2pm
Art Kalahiki 5:30-8:30pm

Chart House Waikiki 941-6660

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Dean & Dean 6-9pm

Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Paul Dunlap (or others) 10am-noon
Stephen Inglis (or others) 1-3pm
Henry Kapono 4-6pm
Kaiona Duo (or Taulia Love) 7-9pm
Ells Simeona (or Denny Ono) 9:30-11:30pm

Giovanni Pastrami 923-2100

Reggae Pop Music
Kelandy 6:30-9:30pm

Hinana Poolside Bar at the Hawaii Prince 622-7558

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Johnny III 5-7pm

House Without a Key 923-2311

Hawaiian music & hula by Miss Hawaii USA '21 Allison Chu
Pu'uhonua Trio 5:30-8:30pm

Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992

Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
Nathan Aweau 6-9pm

La Hiki Restaurant at the Four Seasons 679-0079

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Jenna Keala (or Kamuela Kahoano) 11am-2pm

Longboard Lounge at the Alohilani 294-4108

DJ/Big Wave Pro Surfer Keala "KK" Kennelly Spins
DJ KK 11am-2pm

Mahina & Sun's 923-8882

Award-winning ukulele on the Lanai
Trishnaiei 6:30-9:30pm

Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Delima Duo (or Christian Yrizarry) 6-9pm

Mariposa 951-3420

Live Contemporary
Zaysha 123pm

Maui Brewing Company 843-2739

Live Contemporary
Chris Murphy 6-8pm
Denny Ono (2/16) 6-8pm
Keith Batlin (2/27) 6-8pm

Maui Brewing Kailua 518-2739

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Ben Kama 6-8pm

Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022

Live Contemporary
Cassie and Selwyn 5:30-7:30pm

Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086

Live Contemporary
Sienna Souza 2:30-4pm
Jenna Keala (or others) 6:30-8pm

Rumfire 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hits
Danielle Parente 6-9p

SHOR at the Hyatt Regency 923-2311

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Christian Yrizarry (or Jenna Keala) 5:30-8:30pm

Signature Prime Steak 949-3636

Contemporary Pianist in the bar
Keith Montross 6-9pm

Splash Bar at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hawaiian - DJ from 3 - 5pm
David Aquino (or others) 6:30-9:30pm

The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Brad Kawakami 4:30-6:30pm
Dave Watanabe 7-10pm

The Edge at the Sheraton 921-4600

Live Hawaiian Music
Christian Yrizarry (or Stephen Inglis) 2-4pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI

Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Eddie & the Coconuts 3 - 5pm
Ellsworth & Friends 5:30-7:30pm

Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785

Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
Glen Domingo 5-8pm

Vintage 1901 at the Moana 921-4600

Contemporary Piano
David Swanson 6-9pm

Dining Dish

They say "all good things must come to an end" but I often wish that wasn't the case. Unfortunately, the latest good thing to reach their end is **12th Avenue Grill**. The beloved Kaimuki eatery closed its doors on January 16th. A natural evolution of things versus a pandemic-driven decision, the only light at the end of this tunnel is that **Koko Head Cafe** will be moving into their space sometime in March, giving them a lot more seats to work with. • Did you hear **Smith & Kings** has reopened? Actually, many of you may not know they closed down for nearly a year, but they reopened at the end of the year, bringing back the same great menu with a few new items as well. Serving brunch every Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the restaurant open for lunch and dinner daily. 445-9918. • I also finally had the chance to stop by **Roy's Hawaii Kai**. We tried multiple times throughout the past year or so, but like most other places, they were always sold out. I am thrilled to report that they have finally put back the stools at the bar for walk-in customers. Although I missed seeing **Zameer Mallal** there (for those that don't know, he retired a few months ago and has since left the island), it was great to finally be able to just walk back in. They also have a great new salad, Bacon Orange Fried Brussel Sprouts with bacon marmalade and pumpkin seeds for \$16. Why did it take the culinary world so long to get creative with brussels? I grew up having them served boiled and I absolutely hated them. The difference the preparation makes is astounding. 396-7697. • **Chef Jason Peel**, formerly of Roy's Restaurant and Roy's corporate chef for the Hawai'i Food and Wine Festival has opened a full-service modern izakaya restaurant and bar in the space vacated by Uncle's Fish Market at Pier 38 on Nimitz Hwy. **Nami Kaze** features a sushi counter, private dining room, a retail fish market by Fresh Island Fish and plans to show diners the land & sea-to-table industry through an innovative izakaya menu. Open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Kapolei got their own **Olive Garden** last month, when they opened their second location at Ka Makana Alii. Finally, after all those years teasing us with their commercials, the chain has opened up here. Unlimited breadsticks anyone?

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continuing Events

DAILY • FREE COVID TESTING

Free COVID testing offered daily at the Waikiki Shell. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sign up at alohaclear.com.

MONDAYS • WBW OPEN MARKET

Waikiki Beach Walk has brought their market back for 2022 with a few changes. The market will now take place on Mondays with plenty of food options, arts, crafters, personalized omiyage, craft soaps and lotions, henna tattoos and more. On the Plaza. Free. 4 - 8 p.m. waikikibeachwalk.com.

MONDAYS • FREE UKULELE LESSONS

Free ukulele classes offered at Helumoa Hale Guest Services & Heritage Room. Ukulele provided. 11 a.m. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS O NĀ LANI SUNSET STORIES HULA SHOW

The show honors the rich history and sense of place of the International Market Place through song and dance. It begins at sunset with the ceremonial lighting of the Lamakū Torch Tower on Kalākaua Avenue and leads to the stage at Queen's Court on Level 1. Free. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. shopinternationalmarketplace.com.

TUESDAYS • KU HA'AHEO

Live music and hula led by kumu hula Blaine Kia has returned to the Plaza Stage. 4:40 - 6 p.m. waikikibeachwalk.com.

TUESDAYS • FREE HULA LESSONS

Learn basic hand gestures and footwork in the art of hula at The Royal Grove. 11 a.m. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS (FEBRUARY 1 & 15) HAWAIIAN PLANT TOUR

Enjoy a personal guided tour of the Aquarium's native Hawaiian plant gardens, where volunteers will walk you through 16 of the native plants. Free with Aquarium admission. 1:30 p.m. waikikiaquarium.org.

WEDNESDAYS LEARN TO MAKE MELE

Learn to make a feather flower lei from a third generation master in the art of feather lei making every Wednesday from 11 - 11:30 a.m. and again at 2 - 2:30 p.m. in The Royal Room. Limited to 4 people. Reserve in advance. Free. 499-7408. waikikibeachwalk.com.

WEDNESDAYS LAUHALA WEAVING LESSONS

Learn basic skills and techniques to craft hala leaves into items such as Hawaiian mats or bracelets. Open to the first 25 people. Level 2, Bldg. A. 11 a.m. Free. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

WEDNESDAYS HFB BLAISDELL FARMER'S MARKET

Featuring only Hawai'i grown products including fresh produce, flowers, plants, meats, seafood, and ready-to-eat foods. Blaisdell Concert Hall Lawn. 4-7 p.m. hfbf.org.

WEDNESDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS ALOHA STADIUM SWAP MEET

The Aloha Stadium Swap Meet has been going strong since 1979. Featuring over 400 vendors, crafters and artists, the Swap Meet offers low-prices on a wide selection of quality products with food trucks to snack from. Wednesdays & Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sundays, 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. alohastadium.hawaii.gov.

THURSDAYS FREE KEIKI HULA LESSONS

A hula lesson just for kids. Children, ages 5-10 years old, will learn basic hula movements to a popular Hawaiian children's song. The Royal Grove. 12 p.m. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

FIRST FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 4) DOWNTOWN GALLERY WALK & CRAFT FAIR

Honolulu's beloved monthly outdoor self-guided arts tour downtown is still being held at select vendors. Monthly updates about participants are finalized and published 2 days before each First Friday at each individual participating merchant websites, or, online at firstfridayhawaii.com.

FRIDAYS MAHIKU FARMERS MARKET

Experience a variety of fresh and unique products offered by local farmers, growers, artisans, and food purveyors every Friday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Ala Moana Pacific Center Courtyard. Free. mahikufarmersmarket.com.

FRIDAY & SATURDAYS • LEI MAKING CLASS

Enjoy an hour-long lei making lesson in the Building B Breezeway on Level 1. Limited to 16 people per class. All classes are first-come first-served, no reservations allowed. Free. 1 p.m. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY MALU NIU EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

See live music and hula in the Royal Grove from 5:30-6:30 p.m. royalhawaiiancenter.com.

SATURDAYS KAKA'AKO FARMERS MARKET

Browse through an abundance of fresh local produce, artisan foods and wares from dozens of vendors. Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. farmloversmarkets.com.

SATURDAYS KCC FARMERS MARKET

Fresh island produce, seafood, flowers and more are available from over two-dozen vendors at Kapiolani Community College. 7:30 - 11 a.m. hfbf.org/farmers-markets/kcc.

SATURDAYS PEARLRIDGE FARMERS MARKET

Dozens of vendors offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, plants and freshly made treats. A pop-up cafe offering seating and live music rounds out the day. Free. 8 a.m. - noon. farmloversmarkets.com.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS ART ON THE ZOO FENCE

See the works of local artists displayed on the Zoo fence on Monsarrat Avenue opposite the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. Works include original paintings, prints and photographs. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. artonthezoo fence.com.

Treat yourself! (and other loved ones)



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FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAYS FREE HULA LESSONS

Kumu Hula Blaine Kia offers weekly hula at Waikiki Beach Walk. Registration required. Free. 9 - 10 a.m. waikikibeachwalk.com.

SUNDAYS • YOGA IN THE PARK

The team from Core Power Yoga, hosts a free yoga class at Victoria Ward Park on Sundays. Limited space, registration required. 9 - 10 a.m. wardvillage.com/explore/activities.

SUNDAYS KAILUA FARMERS MARKET

Wander through multiple vendors offering an abundance of fresh local produce, food and more. Now located at Kailua Cinemas parking lot. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. farmloversmarkets.com.

FIRST SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 6) MELE HALI'A

On one special Sunday each month, see a stand-out performance from one (or two) of Hawaii's award-winning musicians. This month the Blue Hawaiian Band takes to the Plaza Stage. 5-6 p.m. waikikibeachwalk.com.

THIRD SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 20) FAMILY FREE SUNDAY

The Honolulu Museum of Art Family Free Sunday has been offering free admission to kama'aina on the third Sunday of the month since 2004. Family Sundays are currently a combo of both in-person and virtual events, offering something for all, but for those that want to attend in-person, they can get free museum admission with reservations 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. 532-8700. honolulumuseum.org.

FEBRUARY 4 • RON WHITE



This stand-up comedian rose to fame as the cigar-smoking, scotch-drinking funnyman from the Blue Collar Comedy Tour phenomenon before becoming a Grammy - award nominated comedian and feature film actor. Ron has made Honolulu a regular stop on his tour for years, and 2022 is no exception. Blaisdell Concert Hall. \$35-\$65. 8 p.m. bampproject.com

FEBRUARY 4 HAPASYMPHONY WITH THE MĀKAHA SONS

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra kicks off their newest four-part concert series that combines the talents of the HSO musicians, celebrated Hawaiian musicians, and world-renowned guest conductors. This month the HSO is joined by The Mākaha Sons featuring Kala'e Camarillo for an evening of symphonic favorites and some of their more unforgettable hits. \$18-\$99. Hawaii Theatre. Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 4 p.m. myhso.org.



FEBRUARY 5 • RUMOURS: THE ULTIMATE FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

Rumours was formed in Los Angeles in 2012, to celebrate the the legendary band's colorful persona in their earlier years from 1975-1987, playing their most popular hits. The Republik. \$29.50. 8 p.m. bampproject.com.

FEBRUARY 5 • HAWAII KAI TOWNE CENTER CHINESE NEW YEAR

The lions come to Hawaii Kai as they welcome the Year of the Tiger with a cultural celebration featuring the award-winning Wah Ngai Lion Dance Association. Free. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hawaii Kai Towne Center.

FEBRUARY 5-6 ISLAND CRAFTERS MARKET

Browse dozens of locally made products such as apparel, candles, laser etched home goods, papale, hand sewn totes, baby items and local snacks. 2nd level, International Market Place by Mitsuwa Marketplace. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. islandcraftfairs.org.

FEBRUARY 4-5 THUNDERSTORM ARTIS



This local singer-songwriter was a four-chair turn on NBC's *The Voice* who sailed through to the competition to a 3rd place finish. After touring for years with his brother Ron, he is now headlining his own tour across the country and stopping by Blue Note Hawaii. Two shows nightly at 6:30 and 9 p.m. \$45-\$55. bluenotehawaii.com.

FEBRUARY 5 - 6 HAYDN, FUNG, STRAVINSKY

Conductor Andrew Gram leads the HSO featuring violinist Kristin Lee through Haydn's Symphony No. 60 in C major, Fung's Violin

Concerto and Pulcinella by Stravinsky. \$27-\$99. The Hawaii Theatre. 7:30 p.m. myhso.org.

FEBRUARY 11 • REBELUTION



This California reggae band is known for their crafty melodies, savvy musicianship, and socially conscious lyrics. Their debut record was one of the most downloaded reggae albums on iTunes. 7 p.m. Waikiki Shell. \$45-\$65. bampproject.com.

FEBRUARY 11 • JOHN CRAIGIE

John Craigie is an singer-songwriter and storyteller that was once called, "the lovechild of John Prine and Mitch Hedberg with a vagabond troubadour edge," returns to Honolulu for one night only. Tickets: \$20. \$5 increase day of show. The Republik. 7 p.m. bampproject.com.

FEBRUARY 11-12 • KT TUNSTALL



Singer-songwriter KT Tunstall recently rocked the Times Square stage at midnight on NYE before killing the 1st show if 2022 a few hours later. Her Hawaii shows have not been so lucky. After being postponed three times over the last 2 years, let's hope the 4th time is the charm. Previous show tickets will be honored. Two shows nightly at 6:30 and 9 p.m. \$35-\$45. bluenotehawaii.com.

Continued on page 14.

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K-culture finds home

Continued from page 6

Health Korea launched in 2006 to address a demand for Korean health supplements.

It's Ala Moana Center store carries a range of massage chairs; bedding; LED masks for skin and scalp care; infrared saunas to boost cardiovascular health, provide pain relief and reduce inflammation; and other small appliances that promote wellness.

Health Korea is also the exclusive U.S. retailer of Korea's No. 1 health food company, Chunho N'Care. Main products include black garlic juice containing 18 essential amino acids; red ginseng juice said to boost immunity, enhance stamina and provide anti-aging benefits; antioxidant-rich pomegranate juice; and more.

Open Monday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 7 pm.
Sundays from 11:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Ph: 201-5427.

The Face Shop



In addition to skincare and color cosmetics, The Face Shop carries dietary supplements to assist with skin and overall health

The Face Shop is a subsidiary of LG Household & Health Care of LG

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Corporation and its products includes body, bath, skin care and make-up that take full advantage of its parent company's research and development capabilities.

With a commitment to using ingredients sourced from nature, the company's products have been formulated from approximately 600 natural ingredients such as flowers, grains, plants, fruits, mineral water, and medicinal herbs.

The shop features dozens of lines such as The Therapy, Dr. Belmeur, Jeju, and many more with names based on the primary ingredients used in them, such as Mango Seed, Chia Seed, Damyang Bamboo and Rice Ceramide.

Lines are developed to deal with skin issues at every age, and higher priced lines that deal with aging skin issues include Yehwahdam ginseng products and History of Whoo based on a Gongjinbidan complex of medicinal ingredients once used by royals to balance yin and yang energy and boost blood circulation.

Color products start with cushion foundation compacts that combine sun protection with light to medium coverage that evens out skin tone and delivers the prized dewy finish that once had us convinced that every Korean woman was born with perfect skin.

Open Monday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 7 pm.
Sundays from 11 p.m. - 6 p.m. Ph: 941-3223.

Pink Box



K-pop merchandise on the shelves at Pink Box.

Formerly known as N.Cat on Keeaumoku Street, its move to Ala Moana Center quadruples its original square footage, making room for more K-pop music and merchandise, and more



Pink Box also carries plenty of girly items, Korean-made jewelry and accessories.

diversity in groups available.

While BTS and Blackpink reign in popularity and overall availability of goods available, from posters to desktop figures to keychains, the expansion allows them to carry merchandise of second-generation groups such as Shinee, and well into the fourth generation with TXT, Enhypen, Aespa, Straykids and Ateez. The shop also carries a range of sparkly costume jewelry, phone cases, accessories and beauty products.

Open Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 8 pm.
Sundays from 10 p.m. - 6 p.m. Website: ncathawaii.business.site

Kpop Friends

This shop opened to cater to fans of K-pop and K-dramas with boxed media sets and a range of small items, from keychains to cosmetic pouches, housewares, accessories and a handful of clothing items.

Books give fans the opportunity to learn the Korean language or through a pictorial "Seoul From A to Z" encyclopedia learn more about South Korea's lifestyle, fashion, food, culture and trends.

To celebrate its opening, the boutique is hosting an online K-pop cover dance contest with \$500 1st prize. There is no age or Hawaii residence requirement and videos must be at least 45 seconds, with a maximum of 4 minutes. Enter by tagging #kpopfriendcontest2022 on Instagram.

Open Monday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 7 pm.
Sundays from 11 p.m. - 6 p.m. Website: kpopfriend.com

~ Photos and Story by Nadine Kam

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued from page 13

FEBRUARY 12

3RD ANNUAL HEARTS & CRAFTS GIFT FAIR

Get your valentine the Perfect Gift at the 3rd Annual Hearts & Crafts Gift Fair! Support local small businesses while having a chance to win one of the many giveaways all day long. Ka Makana Alii. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. islandcraftfairs.org.

FEBRUARY 12 • REGGIE WATTS



Reggie Watts, who most people know as the bandleader on *The Late Late Show with James Corden* is an internationally renowned musician, comedian, and actor. Using his formidable

voice, looping pedals, and imagination, Watts completely improvised performances in known for blending and blurring the lines between music and comedy. 8 p.m. Hawaii Theatre. \$45-\$65. hawaii theatre.com.

FEBRUARY 13 SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Who will it be? Kansas City Chiefs? Tampa Bay Buccaneers? Buffalo Bills or the Steelers? The 49ers? Who ever ends up in the big game, kick off will be at 1:30 p.m., and Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar are performing at halftime. Make your reservations early!

FEBRUARY 13 PUSONG FILIPINX THE MARKET

A market that supports small Filipino business, empowers, and shares culture, and offers retail, food, and art. The purpose of the market is to support local Filipinos who create their own products and offer them a platform to become more exposed to the local community as all are invited. Reserve your tickets online for \$5. Up to 25 people at a time will be allowed into the event at a time. 1 – 5 p.m. Atherton Hālau, Bishop Museum. pusongfilipinx.com.

FEBRUARY 13 VALENTINE'S DAY BIATHLON

The run/swim course consists of a 5K run around Ala Moana Beach Park and a 1K swim fronting the park. The run is first, followed by the swim. The run starts at the Diamond Head Concession. Time limit: 1 hour 15 minutes. Competitors must show proof of vaccination. waikikiswimclub.org.

FEBRUARY 13-16

JOSH TATOFI: 4TH ANNUAL VALENTINES DAY

Multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award winner Josh Tatofi will be coming out for a special four-night Valentine's performance. Chef will offer a prime rib special. Two shows nightly at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets: \$45-\$55.



bluenotehawaii.com.

FEBRUARY 14 • VALENTINE'S DAY



FEBRUARY 18-20 TARZAN THE STAGE MUSICAL

Based on Disney's epic animated musical adventure and the book *Tarzan of the Apes*, Tarzan features music by the legendary Phil Collins, and offers high-flying excitement making Tarzan an unforgettable theatrical experience. Fri. 6 p.m., Sat 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m. \$5 - \$10. hawaii theatre.com.

FEBRUARY 19-20 MADE WITH ALOHA GIFT FAIR

Every item at this fair is literally made with aloha. Browse through handcrafted jewelry, baked goods, unique apparel, charms and more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pearlridge Center, Mauka Wing. islandcraftfairs.org.

FEBRUARY 24-27 THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER



Let's hope the third time is the charm for this band that has literally been the cornerstone of contemporary music for nearly 50 years. Tickets from previous shows will be honored. Check website for when. Two shows nightly at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets: \$45-\$65. bluenotehawaii.com.

Events continue to change daily due to the current COVID situation, be sure to verify events in advance.

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