

Concierge

KEEPING THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INFORMED SINCE 1998

28th World

FIREKNIFE

Championship

It's back - and it is happening live! That's right, an actual event that people can safely attend in person. There haven't been very many of those lately, - even bring the calendar back yet - but what a great sign that things are finally returning to some sort of normalcy.

Since the event was canceled last year, this is the first time it has been held since 2019, making Falaniko Penesa



Falaniko Penesa, the 2019 Men's Champion

and Jeri Galeai the reigning world champs still. It would be very cool if either of them won this year to say they have been the world champion since 2019. It will be very exciting no matter what.

Modern fire dancers use a cotton towel wired to the knife blade that is soaked in gasoline or naphtha (a clear, flammable liquid), making the danger very real and extremely hot. In case they make it look too easy, you should know that even after years of practice, the dancers still get burned and occasionally cut by the knife edge. Though it's hard to tell as they vigorously spin and dance, the heavy knife is tough to wield, and the raw fire is scorching hot in their mouths and on their feet as they casually balance it on their tough soles. Most dancers train for years to safely work with such dangerous items, including trying to build up heavy calluses on their feet, so needless to say, don't let your kids try this at home.

Over decades of competition, the fire knife dance has evolved, and the dancers

continue to get better and raise the bar for new generations. The speed of twirling and the variety of their movements are constantly evolving, thereby making the competition even tougher. Judges look for a combination of both traditional movements used in ancient battle's combined with plenty of speed, tumbling, and of course, flawless execution, making this event one of the most exciting competitions to watch.

This year will be slightly different from before, of course, but the changes were made for everyone's safety. For one, the event will be held in the Pacific Theatre on both nights. The covered, open-air, 2,700-seat theater will allow them to offer seating measures that ensure guests are all in compliance with current CDC requirements. People will be seated on every other row, but don't worry, families will be seated together. Within the rows, there will be empty seats between families to ensure that all groups are socially distanced.

The preliminaries and finals for the Women's and Men's division will be held May 5th, beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are very limited, and reservations are open, so grab those seats as soon as possible while they're available. For those who cannot make it to the live competition (or get tickets), it will be streaming through PCC's Facebook page. Call 293-3333 for tickets or more information. ~ Pam

The man who would be

KING



Jordan Kung Keonaonahiwahiwa'okapuakenikeneni'i-wili'iameka'u'ilaha'oleokalani Salis, aka "Ona", was named the first ever May Day Lei King last year.

May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii Nei. In early March of last year, with Covid just beginning to transform the world to what it is today, the City's Department of Parks and Recreation went ahead with their Lei Court Selection Event. After months of prep and sleepless nights, Jordan Kung Keonaonahiwahiwa'okapuakenikeneni'i-wili'iameka'u'ilaha'oleokalani Salis, you all know him as "Ona," was crowned the 92nd Annual Lei King for the City & County of Honolulu. This was big. It was the first time in the organization's 93-year history that a King was officially crowned in place of a Queen, and Ona took on a role traditionally held by women, opening the doors to future kane on the court. Over the next year, he was to serve as an aloha ambassador at community

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Publisher's Letter



Getting back to business

Honestly, if it wasn't for the masks, I might have thought things were almost back to normal last month driving through Waikiki. Spring break brought some much-needed cash flow to Oahu. Restaurants were jammed, activities were sold out, hotels were packed (I heard numbers as high as 97% occupancy), beaches were crowded, and I got stuck in traffic for the first time in ages. (I have to admit, that bummed me out - I really enjoyed the lack of traffic all these months). Yes, our positive case counts are rising, but not too crazy at this point, and overall it seems as if it's been so far so good. More and more people are getting vaccinated every day, so fingers crossed we can keep up this momentum - and keep everyone safe at the same time. Although everything is slightly adapted these days, it kind of feels as if we are finally getting back to business. We even have our first significant event happening LIVE this month. Not quite enough for me to relaunch my calendar just yet, but it's a start!

One of the biggest problems seems to be that while our arrivals have been averaging close to pre-pandemic levels lately, our restaurants, shows, and activities are still required to abide by social distancing rules. This means things are selling out fast. A friend of mine had his family visit town and couldn't get a ticket for a specific tour if his life depended on it. I told him I would be happy to reach out and see if I could help. Nope, not even a little bit. Since they have to operate at reduced capacity, I was told their tours were selling out nearly two weeks in advance these days. If your guests are communicating with you before they arrive, please encourage them to have you book as much as you can for them before they even get on the plane if possible. That goes for restaurant reservations as well. It's tough to get into most restaurants these days. Keep that in mind as Mother's Day is around the corner. If you're reading this column and haven't made your reservations yet, put the magazine down and call your favorite restaurant now. Happy Mothers Day to all the Mom's!



Yada Yada



Outrigger Hotels & Resorts is transitioning towards an area-style team called the 'Waikiki Management Group' where they promoted some of their Front Office Managers to oversee operations on multiple properties. Some of the first promotions to be announced include our still reigning 2019 Concierge of the Year, **Kiana MacDonald**, who has been promoted to Assistant Area Director of Front Services responsible for the Outrigger Waikiki Beach, Waikiki Beachcomber, and the OHANA Waikiki East hotels. **Garrick Otsuka** has also been named an Assistant Area Director of Front Services responsible for the Outrigger Reef, Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk, and the Waikiki Malia by Outrigger. Both of them will be working under **Cecilia Derramas** who has been promoted to Area Director of Front Services for all of the aforementioned properties. Congratulations guys! • Also

following the new "Waikiki Management" theme, **Brian Lynx** has been named Area Director of Sales and Marketing overseeing the Outrigger Waikiki, Outrigger Reef, Waikiki Beachcomber, Waikiki Malia and the OHANA Waikiki East. Lastly, **Chef Rey Baysa** has been named the executive chef at the Reef's newly re-opened **Kani Ka Pila Grille**. The restaurant will service the property with breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service. Baysa will also oversee the resort's catering and the Voyager 47 Club Lounge. Baysa was most recently executive chef at Hilton Waikiki Beach and prior, chef de cuisine at Kapolei Golf Club, while also assisting the Hawai'i Convention Center with its culinary needs. Prior to that he was at the Hard Rock Café Honolulu; Tommy Bahama Restaurant and Bar in California; Cal Hi Aspen, The Ritz-Carlton, Embassy Suites Resort, The Westin Maui and Intercontinental Hotel Wailea to name a few.



Brian Lynx

The man who would be KING

Continued from page 1.

events, parades, and the annual May Day celebration at Kapi'olani Park. Then... Covid hit home... hard.

As the Assistant Operations Manager for Tours at Kualoa Ranch, Ona got the call that one of his team members with no travel history had been diagnosed with Covid-19. If you recall, that was the first suspected community spread case on the Island, and Kualoa Ranch ceased operations immediately. That was on

March 16. After being home for a week or so, wondering what was going to happen, they got the news that they were furloughed until further notice. Since Ona also worked as a Guest Service Supervisor at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Kapolei part-time, he was confident he could subsidize his income enough there until he got a call to go back to work at Kualoa as well. Then, even though the hotel itself did not close, due to all the travel restrictions in

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King Keonaona "Ona" Salis center, surrounded by his Hampton Inn ohana. From L-R: Stuart Domingo (Engineer), Leslie Cho (Director of Sales & Marketing), Jara Aquino (Guest Services Manager), Ona, Wade Gesteuyala (General Manager), Taira Cavaco (Executive Housekeeper), Dee Temengil (Guest Services Supervisor), and Jesiree Alvarado (Guest Services Supervisor).

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA *Newsflash*

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP TO UPDATE THE MAILING LIST

As mentioned, the pandemic created havoc with our mailing list along with everything else. We need your help to get the list up-to-date. If you see copies addressed to people that aren't currently working, please let us know. Are there are people in the front of the house that should be getting their own copy that are not? Let us know. Don't just take a copy addressed to someone else, send in the corrections so we can straighten this out.

BIKI FORCED TO REMOVE SOME STATIONS & REDUCE SERVICE

Biki customers can expect major service reductions as a result of the financial impact created by the pandemic. This includes the phased decommissioning of many stations over the next few months, and up to a 60 percent reduction in service limiting call center hours and bike rebalancing at all stations. On April 15, Biki started decommissioning six stations affecting Waikiki (Walina Street), Kakaako (WorkPlay), Kalihi, Makiki, Downtown and Kaimuki. These stations will be the first of several phases of reductions in 2021. Head to www.gobiki.org for updates.

ALOHA BEACH SERVICES OPENS POP-UP AT THE MOANA

Aloha Beach Services opened their first-ever brick-and-mortar retail location at the Moana Surfrider. Offering branded merchandise, such as T-shirts, surfwear, hats, and skateboards, the pop-up will also feature handmade woven coconut palm frond hats made by the Waikiki Beach Boys. Memorabilia will also be on display, featuring Hawaiian cultural pieces, local items, and historical artifacts of Waikiki. They will offer their surf and SUP lessons, ocean activity rentals, and canoe rides from this location. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. alohabeachservices.com/services.

ARE YOUR JAPANESE VISITORS LOOKING FOR A COVID TEST?

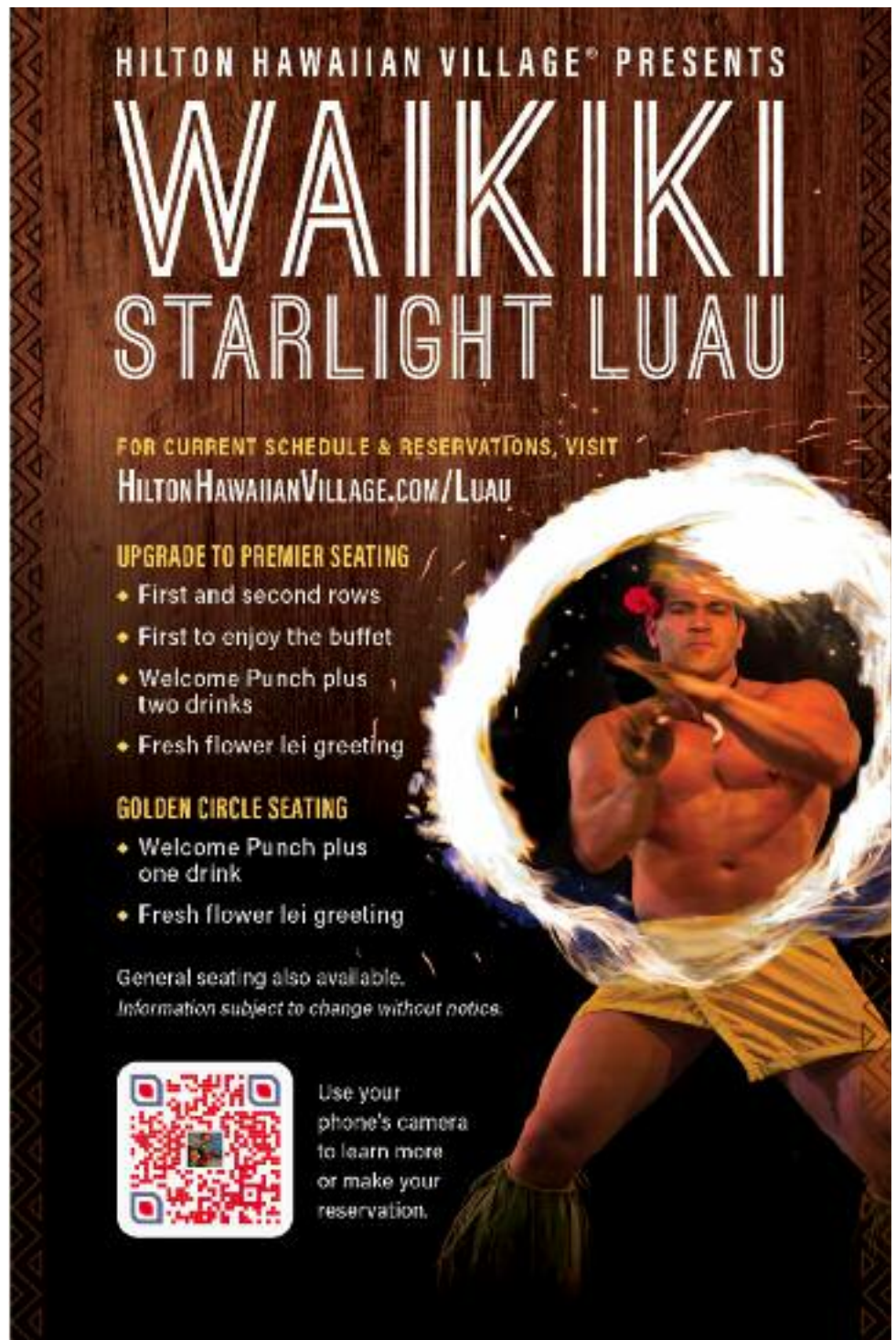
Japanese Nationals now need to provide proof of a negative Covid-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure that must be signed and stamped by the facility where it was taken. Both Doctors of Waikiki and the newly opened Waikiki PCR Testing Center on the 4th floor of Waikiki Shopping Plaza, operated by HIS Hawaii in partnership with Capture Diagnostics have been authorized by the Consulate General of Japan to provide the testing required.

MANOA FALLS TRAIL TO FINALLY REOPEN AFTER A YEAR

After being closed for over a year, Manoa Falls Trail is supposed to re-open at the end of April. Since the trail closed, crews have been busy adding a few steps and widening the trail where possible to make it safer. The city said over 800 truck loads of rocks and other materials were removed from the trail. When the trail does re-open, it won't be an everyday thing however, it will only be open to the public on weekends.

MOVE OVER LYFT AND UBER - HOLOHOLO HAS ARRIVED

There's a new ridesharing company in town, and they are seeking to simplify the rideshare experience. Holoholo has fixed, upfront pricing, and get this.. they never implement surge pricing, ever! What you see is what you pay. There are also no waiting time charges and you can prearrange a service which works great for airport runs. They are currently seeking drivers, and the app is available for download. driveholoholo.com



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UPGRADE TO PREMIER SEATING

- ◆ First and second rows
- ◆ First to enjoy the buffet
- ◆ Welcome Punch plus two drinks
- ◆ Fresh flower lei greeting

GOLDEN CIRCLE SEATING

- ◆ Welcome Punch plus one drink
- ◆ Fresh flower lei greeting

General seating also available.
Information subject to change without notice.



Use your phone's camera to learn more or make your reservation.

Let's be Together...

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

MONDAY

- Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach** 924-2233
Live Contemporary & Hawaiian
David Asing 5-8pm
- Chart House Waikiki** 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Camarillo Brothers 6-9pm
- Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki** 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Jenna K (or others) 4-6pm
Ellsworth Simeona (or others) 7-10pm
- Kani Ka Pila Grille** 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
Sean Naauao 6-8pm
- Mahina & Sun's** 923-8882
Monday Vibes on the Lanai
Brent Limos 6:30-9:30pm
- Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian** 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Christian Oasay 6-9pm
- 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
Cris Salvador 6-9pm
- Swell at the Alohilani** 294-4108
Solo Contemporary Guitarist
Johnny Helm 6-9pm
- The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider** 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Johnny Valentine 5-9pm
- Tiki's Grill & Bar** 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Sonny Kapu 5:30-7:30pm
Push O Verse 8-10pm
- Tommy Bahama Restaurant** 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
Jeremy Hirokawa 5-8pm

TUESDAY

- Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach** 924-2233
Backyard Hawaiian
Ben Kama 5-8pm
- Chart House Waikiki** 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Ryan Tang Group 6-9pm
- Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki** 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Taz Vegas (or others) 4-6pm
Denny Ono (or others) 7-10pm
- Giovanni Pastrami** 923-2100
Acoustic Soul, R&B and Pop
YOZA 6:30-9:30pm

- Kani Ka Pila Grille** 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
Robi Kahakalau & Kalae Camarillo 6-8pm
- 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
- Merriman's Honolulu** 215-0022
Live Contemporary
John Kema 5:30-7:30pm
- Maui Brewing Company** 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Fia 6-8pm
- Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina** 381-4086
Live Contemporary
Johnny the Third (or others) 6:30-8pm
- Rumfire** 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
Christian Yrizarry 6-9pm
- Swell at the Alohilani** 294-4108
Lounge DJ
DJ Ezzy 6-9pm
- The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider** 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Alex Oasay 5-9pm
- Tiki's Grill & Bar** 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Jason Laeha 5:30-7:30pm
Ashton 8-10pm
- Tommy Bahama Restaurant** 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
Johnny Kukui 5-8pm

WEDNESDAY

- Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach** 924-2233
Island Vibes
Danny Galura 5-8pm
- Chart House Waikiki** 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Mike Tulba 6-9pm
- Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki** 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
YOZA (or others) 4-6pm
Randy Allen (or others) 7-10pm
- Giovanni Pastrami** 923-2100
Acoustic Guitar Soul, R&B
Jason Laeha 6:30-9:30pm
- Kani Ka Pila Grille** 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
Ei Nei 6-8pm
- 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
Jeremy Hirokawa 6-9pm
- Merriman's Honolulu** 215-0022

- Live Contemporary*
Gabe Miller 5:30-7:30pm
- Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina** 381-4086
Live Contemporary
Izik and Evan Khay 6:30-8p
- Rumfire** 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
Mike Tulba 6-9pm
- Swell at the Alohilani** 294-4108
Solo Contemporary Guitarist
Matt Krahula (or others) 6-9pm
- The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider** 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Christian Yrizarry 5-9pm
- The Deck at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel** 931-4488
Old School Vinyl/ R&B/ Hip Hop
DJ Lowtide 6-9pm
- Tiki's Grill & Bar** 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Ben Kama 5:30-7:30pm
Push O Verse 8-10pm
- Tommy Bahama Restaurant** 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
Stan Albrecht 5-8pm

THURSDAY

- Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach** 924-2233
Contemporary & Hawaiian
Sonny Kapu 5-8pm
- Chart House Waikiki** 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Tito & David 6-9pm
- Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki** 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Alika Souza (or others) 4-6pm
Kona Chang (or others) 7-10pm
- Eating House 1849 Waikiki** 924-1849
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Shane Kainoa 5-8pm
- Giovanni Pastrami** 923-2100
Live Contemporary
Billy Sage 6:30-9:30pm
- Kani Ka Pila Grille** 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
Kawika Kahiapo 6-8pm
- Mahina & Sun's** 923-8882
Hawaiian Contemporary on the Lanai
Kelly Boy DeLima 6:30-9:30pm
- Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian** 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Johnny Valentine 6-9pm
- Merriman's Honolulu** 215-0022
Live Contemporary
Laupepa 5:30-7:30pm
- MINA's Fish House** 679-0079
Live Contemporary Hits
Christian Yrizarry 6-9pm
- Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina** 381-4086
Live Contemporary

Music calendars subject to change

E Pili Kākou

music schedules subject to change

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

Sienna Souza 6:30-8pm
Rumfire 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
 Kamuela Kahoano 6-9pm
Sky Waikiki 979-7590
Live Contemporary
 John Akapo 5-8pm
Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108
Solo Contemporary Guitarist
 Denny Ono (or DJ KK) 6-9pm
The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Randy Allen 5-9pm
The Deck at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel 931-4488
Acoustic/Country/Pop
 Jared Ming 5-8pm
The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel 739-8760
Live Contemporary
 Cory Oliveros (or others) 6pm-8pm
Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Malu Productions 5:30-7:30pm
 Ashton 8-10pm
Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
 Alex Oasay 5-8pm

FRIDAY

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Art Kalahiki & Friends 5-8pm
Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Mike Tulba 6-9pm
Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Maunaloa 4-6pm
 Kawika Kahiapo 7-10pm
Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
 Kamakakehau Fernandez 6-8pm
Mahina & Sun's 923-8882
Slack Key on the Lanai
 Dustin Park Duo 6:30-9:30pm
Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Cory Oliveros 6-9pm
Maui Brewing Company 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Johnny Suite (or others) 6-8pm
Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022
Live Contemporary
 Shane 5:30-7:30pm
MINA's Fish House 679-0079
Live Contemporary Hits
 Jenna Keala 6-9pm
Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086
Live Contemporary
 John Akapo 6:30-8p

Rumfire 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
 Johnny Helm 6-9pm
Signature Prime Steak 949-3636
Contemporary Pianist in the bar
 Pierre Grill 6-9pm
Sky Waikiki 979-7590
Live Contemporary
 John Akapo 5-8pm
Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108
Lounge DJ
 DJ Jon Conscious 6-9pm
The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Alex Oasay 5-8pm
 Chris Salvador 8-10pm
The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel 739-8760
Live Contemporary
 Zanuck Lindsey (or others) 6pm-8pm
Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI
Contemporary Hawaiian, Alternative, Pop-Rock, Reggae
 The City Boys 3-5pm
 RootsKai 5:30-7:30pm
 La Pepe 8-10pm
Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785
Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.
 Chris Murphy 5-8pm

SATURDAY

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 The Barefoot Boys 5-8pm
Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Tito Berinobis 6-9pm
Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Beach 5 (5/1,5/29) 4-6pm
 Kaiona Band (5/8, 5/22) 4-6pm
 Kapena (5/15) 4-6pm
 Kona Chang Duo (5/1) 7-10pm
 Christian Yrizarry (5/8) 7-10pm
 Kaiona Duo (5/15) 7-10pm
 Alx Kawakami Band (5/22) 7-10pm
 Taulia Lave Band (5/29) 7-10pm
Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992
Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians
 Hookena 6-8pm
Mahina & Sun's 923-8882
Contemporary Hawaiian/Blues on the Lanai
 Josh Akapo 6:30-9:30pm
Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Dave Watanabe 6-9pm
Maui Brewing Company 843-2739
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Taz Vegas or Jenna K. 6-8pm
Merriman's Honolulu 215-0022
Live Contemporary

Chris Salvador 5:30-7:30pm
MINA's Fish House 679-0079
Live Contemporary Hits
 Randy Allen 6-9pm
 Cory Oliveros (5/8) 6-9pm
Monkeypod Kitchen Ko Olina 381-4086
Live Contemporary
 Izik and Evan Khay 6:30-8pm
Rumfire 921-4600
Live Contemporary Hits
 Alex Oasay 6-9pm
Signature Prime Steak 949-3636
Contemporary Pianist in the bar
 Pierre Grill 6-9pm
Sky Waikiki 979-7590
Live Contemporary
 John Akapo 5-8pm
Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108
DJ/Big Wave Pro Surfer Keala "KK" Kennelly Spins Poolside
 DJ KK 1-4pm
 DJ Jem 6-9pm
The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
 Kona Abergas 5-8pm
 Christian Yrizarry 8-10pm
The Veranda at the Kahala Hotel 739-8760



BarefootBeachCafe.com

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 INTO EVERY BITE SO
 SIT BACK, RELAX AND
 ENJOY THE VIEW."

OPEN DAILY

BREAKFAST 8AM - 2PM
 LUNCH/DINNER 11AM - 8:30PM
 LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY 5PM - 8PM
 & SUNDAYS 11AM - 2PM

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EVENTS &
 GROUP RESERVATIONS
 808.699.8830

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

Live Contemporary
David Swanson 6pm-8pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI
Contemporary Hawaiian, Alternative, Pop-Rock, Reggae
Johnny Helm 3:30-5:30pm
RootsKai 6-8pm
Ashton 8-10pm

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

SUNDAY

Barefoot Beach Café at Queen's Beach 924-2233
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Alika Souza 11am-2pm
Pono Kaeo 5-8pm

Chart House Waikiki 941-6660
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Dean & Dean 6-9pm

Duke's Canoe Club Waikiki 922-2268
Live Contemporary Hawaiian
Henry Kaponi 4-6pm
Kaiona Duo 7-10pm
Christian Yrizarry Duo (5/23) 7-10pm

Giovanni Pastrami 923-2100
Reggae Pop Music
Kelandy 6:30-9:30pm

Hinana Poolside Bar at the Hawaii Prince 679-0079
Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Jeremy Hirokawa 4:30-6:30pm

Kani Ka Pila Grille 924-4992

Hoku Award Winning Hawaiian musicians

Nathan Aweau 6-8pm

La Hiki Restaurant at the Four Seasons 679-0079

Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Kamuela Kahoano 11am-2pm

Jenna Keala (5/9; 5/23) 11am-2pm

Mahina & Sun's 923-8882

Award-winning ukulele on the Lanai

Trishnalei 6:30-9:30pm

Mai Tai Bar at the Royal Hawaiian 923-7311

Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Alex Oasay 6-9pm

Maui Brewing Company 843-2739

Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Johnny Helm 6-8pm

Maile Duo (5/2) 6-8pm

Scott Magz (5/16) 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 6:30-8pm

Rumfire 921-4600

Live Contemporary Hits

Randy Allen 6-9pm

Swell at the Alohilani 294-4108

DJ Spins Poolside

DJ Jem (or others) 1-4pm

DJ Vaughn (or others) 6-9pm

The Beach Bar at the Moana Surfrider 922-3111

Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Dave Watanabe 5-9pm

The Deck at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel 931-4488

Latin/Electronic/ Dance

DJ Marc Thyssen 11am-3pm

Tiki's Grill & Bar 923-TIKI

Live Contemporary Hawaiian

Ellsworth & Friends 3 - 5pm

Eddie & the Coconuts 5:30-7:30pm

La Pepe 9-11pm

Tommy Bahama Restaurant 923-8785

Contemporary Hawaiian. Happy Hour Daily 2 - 5 p.m.

Glen Domingo 5-8pm

With an impressive history leading teams at renowned hotel restaurants including TRACE at the W San Francisco, and Kauai Grill, a Jean-Georges Vongerichten restaurant at the St. Regis Princeville, Chef Hoffmann will establish creative new culinary platforms specifically for the hotel focusing on flavor-forward, healthy fare and integrate them into menus. The first initiative was the launch of a new sustainable food and cocktail happy hour series on Earth Day called, Earth to Cup. The Earth centered menu created by Chef Frederic Hoffmann features crave-worthy, small bites inspired by the four Earth elements of land, sea, air and fire here in Hawaii, complemented by hand-crafted cocktails. In this first menu Land is represented by Molokai Venison Meatballs, Sea by Oahu Kampachi Ceviche, Air by Maui Surfing Goat Cheese Samosa and Fire by Big Island Pele's 'Ulu Hummus with Root Chips. They are paired with craft cocktails made with island-sourced fresh ingredients and \$1 from each cocktail will go towards helping support local farmers. Available from Monday - Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. at SWELL. 922-1233. • Speaking of happy hours, **Merriman's Honolulu** has launched one from 3-4 p.m. daily. Guests will be able to sip on \$6 red and white wines by the glass and signature Merriman's beverages like the Merriman's Mai Tai for \$8 (regularly \$14) Discounted appetizers are also featured including their Fresh Fish & Chips for \$9 (regularly \$24). 215-0022. • Did you know that **Dave & Busters** brought back Taco Tuesday's again? Their popular \$1 tacos are back from 5 p.m. - close. Add in their Happy Hour specials of ½ off cocktails, \$1 off wine by the glass, \$1 off 22 oz draft beers from 4 - 7 p.m. and again from 9 p.m. - close, gives patrons some great deals on Tuesdays. 589-2215. • **Yard House Waikiki** has brought back a few of your favorite appetizers with the return of the Cali Roll Stack and their four-cheese spinach dip and even added a completely new dish - firecracker shrimp. 923-9273. • **The Hyatt Regency Waikiki** is launching a new series, Nā Kūpuna Nights featuring live Hawaiian music, Hawaiian arts and crafts, and delicious food. The first event takes place on May 2nd from 5 - 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor near SHOR. Tickets are \$50 (\$43 kama'aina). Call 237-6196 to RSVP.

Dining Dish



The **'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach** has appointment *Frederic Hoffmann* as their new Executive Chef. Chef Hoffmann brings over 25 years of experience and superior menu development skills to 'Alohilani.

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COVID Conversations

We continue our series of COVID Conversations about the impacts the past year has had on various individuals and corporations in our industry. COVID impacted the tourism industry like no other, so it only makes sense that the people and companies affected the most, are the ones that share how the last year has been. Do you have a story to share? Please send it, along with a photo, to publisher@oahuconciierge.com



Rick Bartalini
Owner
Rick Bartalini Presents

How has the last year been for you?

As the sole owner of Rick Bartalini Presents, I took a heavy financial hit as the live entertainment industry shut down around the globe in March 2020. In Hawaii, 99% of all live events – including concerts, theatrical plays, corporate events, and festivals – have been cancelled for the duration of the pandemic. The ripple effect that the shutdown has had on those regularly employed in the entertainment industry, on the slowdown of the hospitality industry, and on Hawaii's economy as a whole has saddened me deeply. But, even as I grapple on a personal level with staggering financial loss and career uncertainty, my greatest concern has always been the health of my loved ones and the people of my adopted state. While it has been a financial hardship to be off work for over a year, the restrictions of the pandemic did have great personal benefit for me. I've really enjoyed having this time to get caught up on business and personal projects. I'm one of the few that have really enjoyed this break.

What are your thoughts on the future?

At the time of writing, there is no date set for the return of live music events. Almost 50% of Hawaii's population has been vaccinated and that holds great promise for the future of live entertainment in the state. Throughout the pandemic, and especially as the vaccination rollout continues, I've been upbeat and optimistic, trusting that live music will return. I've been keeping in

close contact with major talent agencies so that I'm ready to hit the ground running once restrictions are lifted. I am very eager to start bringing live entertainment back to the people of Hawaii as soon as possible.



Sam Shenkus
Vice President, Director of Marketing
Royal Hawaiian Center

How has the last year been for you?

For Royal Hawaiian Center, 2020 was certainly a challenging year, as it was for others in the travel and tourism industry. We were fortunate to have tenants that were deemed as essential businesses, such as ABC Store, remain open throughout the year, and our restaurants and eateries were also able to open for takeaway, as allowed by state and city regulations. Additionally, some shops were able to serve customers through online sales or phone orders. To encourage kama'aina to visit Waikiki, we offered 3 hours of free validated parking with any purchase. Our merchants have really demonstrated resiliency during a very unusual year.

What are your thoughts on the future?

Since 2021 began, all our shops, boutiques, restaurants, and the Pa'ina Lanai Food Court have reopened. We've also been able to restart some of our cultural classes like lei making and most recently, lauhala weaving. And we're continuing our parking promotion offering guests 3 free hours of parking with any purchase. With COVID-19 cases remaining low, more people receiving vaccinations, and travel to Hawaii increasing, we are looking forward to

Continued on page 9.

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Embassy Suites Rehomes Rare Tree

and more about Hawaii's Legacy Forest and Partners

Like everything else these days, HIFF has had to re-imagine their Spring Showcase into a COVID-safe format. Having launched a nationwide streaming platform in 2020 that was remarkably successful in bringing the premier selection of films available exclusively at HIFF to homes across the world, HIFF decided to build on that for the Spring Showcase. HIFF has turned the showcase into 4 mini-festivals, extending the season of premium programming available to people in their homes as Hawai'i recovers and rebuilds from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We look forward to hosting theatrical screenings and live events as part of our Fall Festival this November." says Beckie Stocchetti, HIFF Executive Director."

The mini-festivals will be broken up into four separate sections. Pacific Islanders in Communication featured programming that celebrated the legacy of Pacific Islander stories took place in late April. This month HIFF celebrates J-Fest; an eclectic mix of the latest in Japanese cinema. J-Fest will take place May 13 - 23. Movies were not released at press time, but will be listed on their website by the time you get this. In June they will feature the EAT.DRINK.FILM Fest from June 10-20 and the Vive Le Cinema July 8 - 18th.

Tickets can be bought either per series or per film. Series tickets are \$45 Regular, or \$40 Member, and Individual tickets are \$8 General or \$6 per member. For a list of films, more information, or to purchase tickets go to hiff.org. ~ Pam

In an effort to help make Waikiki a greener place, hotel workers at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk, in partnership with Hui Ku Maole Ola and the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, replanted a rare endemic tree on their property.

The Alula (*Brighamia insignis*) is a very special plant, a rare member of the lobelia family (*Campanulaceae*) endemic to steep sea cliffs on the island of Kauai. As of the year 2000, fewer than 100 of these remarkable plants grew in the wild. It is possibly one of the strangest looking plants around; it has a full head of succulent leaves crowns from the top of a stem. Alula can no longer produce seeds in the wild because its native pollinator moth is now extinct. This tree had become nearly impossible to take care of since it was growing on the cliffs, so they moved it, and as far as the hotel knows, it is the first alula tree in Waikiki.

The hotel has an initiative with the Hawaii Legacy Reformation Initiative (HLRI). For every resort charge guests pay, a part of the proceeds goes towards planting native legacy trees at Gunstock Ranch in Malaekahana that will help to reduce our carbon footprint. Embassy Suites Waikiki has its own forest at the ranch where staff and previous guests can select from a wide variety of native and endemic species and can plant their very own "Legacy Tree."

They are by no means the only hotel working to preserve our island home for generations to come. The Kahala Hotel & Resort has had a partnership with the HLRI for years and is planting endemic forests on Oahu and Hawai'i Island. They have created multiple programs to choose from that encourage guests to get involved as well. On Earth Day, the Kahala planted their 10,000th tree as they work towards their goal to plant 200,000 native milo trees near Gunstock Ranch.

The 'Alohilani Resort is also a partner, pledging to plant 100,000 trees with HLRI to do their part in helping to revive



Simeon Miranda, GM of Embassy Suites places a lei around the newly planted alula.

Hawaii's endangered hardwood species and rehabilitate a native ecosystem. The hotel adds a \$5 "tree fee" to each stay that goes straight to HLRI's reforestation program. On the Big Island, HLRI has already planted 400,000 trees on 1,200 acres—designated as the first Gold Standard Certified Forest Carbon Credit in North America by the World Wildlife Fund. To date, the only koa carbon credit in the world. The forest is pumping clean

oxygen into the atmosphere at an astonishing rate: one koa tree alone can offset a weeklong vacation for a family of four. Each of the trees planted is tagged with an individual radio-frequency identification chip that records everything from their genetic makeup and health to the story of their planting. Guests who plant a tree can track their tree online throughout their lifetime.

It's not just hotels. The Hawaii Convention Center created a special initiative with HLRI in 2016 and has committed to planting 1 million Legacy Trees across the state. When walking through the Convention Center, guests can view a collection of featherwork art reproductions commissioned by HLRI created to represent their commitments to support the restoration of Hawaii's forests, endangered birds, and other species.

Oahu's first Legacy Forest is located at Gunstock Ranch and offers tours Monday thru Saturday. Once there, guests can walk in the footsteps of Hawaiian royalty where the wind whispers, the birds sing, and the earth lives. Experience this historic place in various ways: horseback rides, off-road experiences, and walking/hiking tours that wind through mountain trails, tunnels, caves and offer spectacular ocean views of Windward Oahu. Be sure to complete the experience and be a part of Hawaii's history by planting your very own Legacy Tree. Go check out their websites, hawaiianlegacytours.com or gunstockranch.com for more info. ~ Pam

COVID Conversations

Continued from page 7.

welcoming more guests back to the Center.



Vince McCarthy
Executive Chef
Merriman's Honolulu

How has the last year been for you?

From March - June 2020, Merriman's Honolulu was completely closed for the safety of our team and our guests. During that time, our Merriman's 'ohana came together to distribute food to our employees on a weekly basis. We worked with local purveyors who generously provided food for free or at a significant discount, and we were able to distribute over 23,000 pounds to employees at all Merriman's locations.

When the Mayor announced that Oahu restaurants could reopen last June, the Merriman's Honolulu management team put together a plan for reopening outdoor dining and rolled out a new concept-driven by our culinary team. We wanted to offer an experience in a casual setting that was quick, safe, had great food, and could be ordered to go. The concept of the outdoor grill and beer garden was born. We operated entirely outside from July - October and were able to remain open when Oahu reverted back to stay-at-home orders last August.

In September, we started to consider how to safely reopen the dining room. Our guiding principle was to prioritize the safety of our employees. By keeping our employees safe, we would in turn keep our guests and the community safe. We installed glass partitions on all the booths and focused on airflow. Our HVAC system brings in enough outdoor air to turn it over 24 times per hour - more fresh air exchanges than the standard hospital room. We also refreshed the UV light bulbs, which kill viruses and other microorganisms, in our air handling units. We even purchased carbon dioxide monitors to monitor CO2 levels inside

the restaurant. Once we felt assured our dining room was safe, we reopened for indoor dining last October.

The outdoor grill was such a success that we have since ordered a custom grill and will be reopening the outdoor grill early this summer!



Breana Grosz
General Manager
International Market Place

How has the last year been for you?

First, we've missed seeing your smiling faces in Waikiki and hope to see you all again soon as Hawaii reopens. While our center remained open to support a handful of our essential business, it saddened us to see Waikiki come to a

standstill. Our team remained on property with a keen focus on ensuring the health and safety of our tenants and customers who we are truly thankful to for their continuous support and aloha. The ever-changing environment led us to some creative activations like our Spend \$50, Get \$25 promo, Music & Mixology virtual concert series, Shopper Surprise & Delight, and our Community First campaign which highlighted mall employees and supported local non-profits with donations totaling \$30,000.

What are your thoughts to the future?

We're eager to see our tourism industry rebuild and return safely in 2021 and beyond. Our Passport to Shopping program will re-launch in May, offering visitors discounts to select stores and restaurants. The new Kuhio Ave. Food Hall just opened on Level 1 and ShoreFyre and Eating House 1849 are both open on our Grand Lanai, with reopenings of others and fantastic new additions being announced very soon. We have a lot of exciting plans for our concierge program and the center this year so please make sure you email your contact information to our Customer Service Manager Jon Dang, for the latest updates at jdang@infoplacusa.com.

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Aloha Ambassadors

You've seen them on the street as you walk to and from work, the guys in the bright yellow shirts chatting with visitors, offering directions, answering questions or handing out maps or extra masks if necessary. These are your Aloha Ambassadors, an arm of (WBIDA) - the Waikiki Business Improvement District Association, a group dedicated to creating a clean, safe, vibrant resort destination area reflective of its Hawaiian heritage that is attractive and welcoming to both visitors and residents, and if you pass one on the street, be sure to smile and tell them thank you.

Although COVID disrupted their operations for a bit last year, they are back and sharing their aloha once again. WBIDA provides Safety Aloha Ambassadors, Outreach Ambassadors, Hospitality Aloha Ambassadors and a Malama Waikiki Cleaning Crew keeping Waikiki looking beautiful, cleaning sidewalks and sanitizing surfaces. They can be found at kiosks set up at Waikiki Beach Walk, the police substation, and wander the streets of Waikiki from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day providing information, assistance and aloha to everyone they encounter.

The team has worked hard for the past year to ensure Waikiki is cleaner than ever, and that visitors, employees, and residents are safe while in Waikiki. They are always interested in hiring more ambassadors and it's a paid position, so if you're interested in becoming one, call Taylor at 216-2202 and visit waikikibid.org for more information on the organization.

Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony Goes Virtual



An image from a ceremony of years past. Photo courtesy of Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawaii

Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i, the annual ceremony that typically draws tens of thousands of residents and visitors from around the world to Ala Moana Beach on Memorial Day for a moment of collective remembrance, harmony and expressing commitment toward building a brighter future, is going virtual this year and has announced several interactive and virtual activities in place of its usual ceremony.

Since Memorial Day, 1999, the Lantern Floating has been observed annually, first at Ke'ehi Lagoon and then at Ala Moana Beach Park. Every year, Her Holiness Shinso has conducted rites wishing for the happiness of all beings, past, present, and future, providing an opportunity to gather in remembrance and gratitude for all who have laid a foundation for our lives. Elements of the ceremony include reciting a prayer and offering food and water to all in the past, blessing the lanterns, and ringing the bell before the lanterns are released. However, with the pandemic still going on, they will NOT be gathering in person at Ala Moana Beach. Instead, they invite everyone to take part in a variety of virtual and small group in-person activities. These opportunities will allow people to pause and reconnect with loved ones to then act toward a brighter future for themselves and others.

"Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i has become an event that many look forward to as a way to feel connected with loved ones, past and present, in some tangible and meaningful way," said Reverend Craig Yamamoto, community relations manager of Shinnyo-en Hawai'i. "We wanted to offer opportunities for people, near and far, to still feel connected and supported by Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i, while keeping our communities safe and healthy."

With social distancing and safe participation as a priority, an immersive experience through an art installation. *Many Rivers, One Ocean: An Interactive Experience* will be held on the grounds of Shinnyo-en Hawaii. A large-scale lantern, designed by artist Hide Tsutsui, will be a space for reflection and remembrance. This lantern will be adorned with a silhouette of a kukui tree known as a symbol of light, hope, and renewal. Additionally, artist Boz Schurr and students from Kamehameha Schools will create a four-paneled mural illustrating growth, connection, and hope.

Participants will have the opportunity to write and hang messages of remembrance and commitments to positive action on the trees within the art installation. This interactive experience will offer time and space for participants to feel connected with loved ones, past and present, and gain a sense of hope in the present and toward the future. The Experience will be available from May 21 to June 5 from 5 – 9 p.m. The general public can reserve a time to participate by going to their website. Reservations will be limited due to public health and safety concerns. Those who cannot join in person may submit their remembrances, thoughts, or prayers online. Messages and photos received through June 4 may end up being included as part of the art installation but will not be guaranteed.

Share Your Light - A Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i Special, a 30-minute television broadcast, will air on Memorial Day, May 31, from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. on KGMB. The special will be simultaneously streamed online on their website and the Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawai'i Facebook page and Instagram accounts. lanternfloatinghawaii.com.

~ Pam

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The man who would be KING

Continued from page 2.

place and low demand, he received notice from the hotel that he was being furloughed from them as well on April 18. Like so many other people in this industry, he jumped into survival mode and began the unemployment process.

As he put it, "Double whammy fuki slam" he suddenly realized he was now officially unemployed. Never in his 20-year hospitality career did he ever think something could hit the hotel industry this hard. As the world began to learn more and more about Covid, Hawaii continued to close its doors to the outside world in hopes of protecting its people, and the 2020 May Day festivities were canceled just like so many other events. Gone was his shot of being the first ever Lei King, or so he thought.

Fortunately, after just a few months of unemployment, he was asked to return to both jobs on the same day. Thrilled was an understatement, he says. "I was also so relieved to see that both places were being extraordinarily proactive and making sure to follow all CDC, State, and Federal guidelines to ensure the health and safety of every team member and guest. Seeing the faces of colleagues who have become 'ohana was a huge blessing after not seeing them for months on end. However, the new norm of mask-wearing, social distancing, and new hand sanitizer features at every corner was something we all needed to get used to."



The King surrounded by his Ladies in Waiting, Poetea Salis; Soraya Santos; and Alohapumehana Parker.

Fast forward to 2021 – mask-wearing is second nature now, as is hand-washing, and, apparently Ona's opportunity to be King is still very much alive. As a matter of fact, not only is Ona the very first Lei King in the organizations, his reign might also turn out to be the longest ever for a lei monarch – since it has been extended into this year as well. "There is always light at the end of the tunnel," he says. Even in a pandemic, one thing remains the same – the flowers and blossoms will continue to bloom year-round. So wear a lei, give a lei, make a lei."

About 10 years ago, Ona began riding pā'ū for local parades. That allowed him to get serious about lei making and the various techniques. That worked in his favor, as the Lei court was selected on their lei making abilities, 'ōlelo Hawai'i skills and overall poise. Ona says being the Lei King is a platform that will help him share Hawaii's culture. He hopes to

shine a light on our unique island traditions. He also wanted to send out a special mahalo to all of his colleagues, team members and work 'ohana who have helped and supported him throughout the past two years. "Mahalo to Sam Sun and team at the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Park's and Recreation for your continued flexibility and eagerness to continue perpetuating the Lei Day Festivities during the pandemic. You guys ROCK."

This year, the 93rd annual Lei Day Celebration will be held virtually on Saturday, May 1st. The Honolulu Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) will be broadcasting its first-ever online presentation of the Lei Court Investiture, filled with all of the ceremony, hula, and festivities you would normally see at Kapi'olani Park. Catch the show on DPR's social media platforms. For more info call 768-304 or hit honolulu.parks.com. ~ Pam

Department of Parks & Recreation
presents the 93rd Annual

Lei Day Celebration

Held virtually on Saturday, May 1, 2021

- View the Investiture of the 93rd Lei Court.
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www.honolulu.parks.com or call (808) 768-3041.

2020 Mayor's Grand Prize Winner
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Mahalo a nui loa no ko 'oukou la komaka'i























This is part of the series pages of the City & County of Honolulu.



A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All proceeds from the sale of this publication will be used to support the City of Honolulu's Parks & Recreation Department.

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