

HAWAII'S "DON'T MISS" SPRING FESTIVALS

Please note that events are subject to change without notice. For the most complete and updated Hawaii calendar of events, please visit Calendar.GoHawaii.com.

MARCH 2008

◆ **March 14-16, 2008**

14th Annual Honolulu Festival (O'ahu) – "Experience the Wonder" at this year's Honolulu Festival which promotes understanding, ethnic harmony, and economic cooperation between the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region. The festival shares a rich and vibrant blend of Asian and Hawaii cultures with the rest of the world through educational programs and activities. For more information, visit HonoluluFestival.com or call 808-926-2424.

◆ **March 22-30, 2008**

Prince Kūhiō Celebration of the Arts (Kaua'i) – A weeklong festival honoring the birthday and birthplace of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, one of Hawaii's most beloved monarchs. Events are free and include Native Hawaiian cultural teaching and demonstrations on coconut frond weaving and lei making as well as a guided hike on the Makawehi sand dunes. The festival winds down on Sunday at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort and Spa hosting the Prince Kūhiō Celebration Lū'au. For more information, visit PoipuBeach.org.

◆ **March 21-23, 2008**

Celebration of the Arts (Maui) – This award-winning festival is Hawaii's premiere hands-on arts and cultural festival, held at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua. *Kama'āina* (local residents) and visitors are invited to experience the "Hawaiian heart and soul" through interaction with artisans, cultural practitioners, workshops, film, food and music. Hawaiian feather art, Ni'ihau shell lei making,

'ohe hano iho (Hawaiian nose flute), printmaking, *kapa* making (Hawaiian bark cloth), primitive fired clay and many others are offered by artists participating in the event. Daily activities include a *keiki* (children) program and continuous hula performances on the Terrace Lawn stage. For more information, visit CelebrationOfTheArts.org or call 808-669-6200.

◆ **March 30 – April 5, 2008**

Merrie Monarch Festival (Hawai'i's Big Island) – The Merrie Monarch Festival is a week-long cultural festival beginning with a *ho'olaulea* (music festival) and continuing all week with festivities and the hula competition. A parade kicks off the festival, with the hula competition set for the following nights at the Hilo Civic Center. The big Merrie Monarch Royal Parade through Hilo on Saturday morning signals end of the festival. For more information, visit MerrieMonarchFestival.org.

APRIL 2008

◆ **April 19-20, 2008**

Kōkua Festival 2008 (O'ahu) – This benefit concert hosted by Jack Johnson benefits the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation and brings together environmental organizations, eco-friendly businesses, musicians, artists, teachers, and community leaders to promote environmental awareness in the Islands. The Kōkua Festival takes place on April 19 and 20 at O'ahu's Waikiki Shell. For more information, visit KokuaFestival.com.

◆ **April 26-27, 2008**

16th Annual East Maui Taro Festival (Maui) – Visit the East Maui Taro Festival to learn about Hawai'i's culture and a food staple of Hawai'i's people. The event features cultural demonstrations, games, arts and crafts, food booths, and music. The festival winds down with a Taro Pancake Breakfast and sweet Hawaiian music. For more information, visit TaroFestival.org or call 808-264-1553.

MAY 2008

◆ **May 2-11, 2008**

Hawaii Romance Festival (O'ahu) – A series of unforgettable live concerts, dinners, and festivities, this year's festival will celebrate romance and highlight Hawai'i as one of the most romantic destinations in the world. The festival features 10 days of events starting with Opening Ceremonies and featuring the full Matt Catingub Orchestra of Hawai'i. For more information, visit MCOOH.com.

◆ **May 15-18, 2008**

Big Island Film Festival (Hawai'i's Big Island) – A "talk story" film festival dedicated to new narrative films and filmmakers held at the Waikoloa Beach Resort. Includes two evening outdoor and one daytime indoor movie venues, as well as social events, music, food, filmmaker panels, awards brunch and salutes to a filmmaker and actor. For more information, call 808-883-0394 or visit BigIslandFilmFestival.com.

◆ **May 18-31, 2008**

International Festival of Canoes (Maui) – Maui's cultural showcase, the "International Festival of Canoes," honors Hawai'i's heritage with Polynesia and provides a link to indigenous peoples all across the Pacific. This two-week festival follows the development of canoe from tree to sea. Master carvers from the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Tahiti, Tonga, Marshall Islands, and Hawai'i, create traditional canoes out of solid logs, using both old-style hand adzes and modern power tools, all in full view of the public. For more information, visit MauiCanoeFest.com or call 808-667-9175.

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Special note to media: The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings (e.g. glottal stop [ʻ], macron [ā] in place names of Hawai'i such as Lānaʻi). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.