



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2026

Media Contact:

Julie Hirano Kaneko

juliek@aiohawaii.com

Phone: (808) 469-6846

NEWS RELEASE

**Pan-Pacific Festival Announces Summer Festival Dates and New Theme
*Volunteers Still Needed for Festival Events***

Honolulu, HI—The Pan-Pacific Festival Foundation is pleased to announce the 43rd Annual Pan-Pacific Festival, returning this summer from June 12 to 14, 2026, from Ala Moana to Waikīkī. Supported by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority through its Signature Events Program, the festival continues its legacy of cultural exchange, community celebration, and global friendship.

New this year is the theme “Celebrating One Ocean, Many Cultures,” which symbolizes the unity that binds Pacific cultures. It reflects the expanding circle of exchange across the Pacific Rim and the continuous cycle by which traditions are shared, adapted, and passed from one generation to the next.

“We are excited for another celebration of Hawai'i's rich local heritage with our 43rd Annual Pan-Pacific Festival,” said Yusuke Komoriya, Pan-Pacific Foundation president. “New this year is our theme that represents the core of why we established and continue to hold the Festival each year. We want our local community to participate and experience the festivities, alongside the visitors who come from across the Pacific for this special event.”

The theme invites participants to honor the beauty of diversity: every performance, craft, dish, and tradition showcased during the festival contributes to the rich diversity of Pacific heritage. From hula to taiko, Okinawan eisa to contemporary island fusion, the festival celebrates both ancestral roots and innovative expressions.

Pan-Pacific Festival Announces Summer Festival Dates and New Theme

Page 2

Festival Weekend Overview:

Performing Arts Showcase: Starting on Friday, June 12 the Pan-Pacific Festival will showcase performances from Ala Moana to Waikīkī through Sunday, June 14, from local taiko groups and dance groups, and more!

Pan-Pacific Hula Festival: Located at the Kūhiō Beach Hula Mound, events start from Friday, June 12 through Sunday, June 14 with hula halau from both Japan and Hawai'i performing. There will be several stages with performances by local artists, Japanese dance groups, and more, along with delicious festival food, treats, and much more.

Pan-Pacific Ho'olaule'a: The ho'olaule'a block party kicks off on Friday, June 12, from 7 to 10 p.m. along Kalākaua Ave. from Seaside Ave. to Uluniu Ave. and will feature performance stages, various food and festival food booths, as well as other vendors. The Bon Dance is also along the ho'olaule'a route.

Pan-Pacific Parade: The festival concludes with the Pan-Pacific Parade on Sunday, June 14, beginning at 5 p.m. along Kalākaua Ave.

Volunteers & More Information:

Volunteers may email volunteer@panpacificfestival.org. The full schedule can be found at panpacificfestival.org

###

About the Pan-Pacific Festival:

Founded as Matsuri in Hawai'i in 1980, the festival grew to embrace the many cultures across Hawai'i and the Pacific. Now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Pan-Pacific Festival Foundation continues its mission of fostering intercultural friendship and global community. For more info visit panpacificfestival.org