

SPAM Jam closes Kalākaua Avenue

Annual event attracts more than 25,000 attendees and over a dozen chefs

OAHU • InsideOut

MARCH/APRIL 2015

Song & Dance

Hula hālau prepare for the
52nd annual Merrie
Monarch Festival

**A TALE OF
TWO CHAI'S**

CLASS ACT

Aspiring actors
practice their art

TOQUE OF THE TOWN

LCC culinary program
attracts attention



mauka 2 makai

From the mountain to the ocean and everywhere in between



Hail to the Duke

The spirit of Duke Kahanamoku lives on along the shores of Waikiki.

By Kristen Nemoto

BY THE TIME Duke Kahanamoku was in his 20s, he was a revered waterman. At age 21, he had already broken three freestyle world records in Hawaii. A year later, in 1912, he showed up to the Stockholm Olympics and won Hawaii's first Olympic gold medal as a 100-meter freestyle swimmer and a silver medalist for the 200-meter freestyle relay. The Salt Lake Tribune compared his stealth and inhuman limbs to a "mermaid," who suddenly – when plunged into his home underwater – becomes aware of his arms and feet, exhibiting a skill that's "little less than marvelous." After living in Southern California as an actor, lifeguard and

swimmer, Kahanamoku moved back home to his beloved Oahu where he dove back into the ocean and became known as the "father of surfing."

It has been nearly half a century since the celebrated Olympic surfer passed, yet his footprints in the sand still seem to linger along the shores of Waikiki, a place Kahanamoku once called home since the age of 3. Kahanamoku — including his nine siblings and 31 cousins — grew up where the Hilton Hawaiian Village now stands, and played on the very shoreline that is now rightfully called Duke Kahanamoku Beach. As a way to honor whom many consider the best

in the pantheon of great watermen, the Waikiki Community Center (WCC) will host the 30th Annual Duke Kahanamoku Beach Challenge, a community event that features a friendly competition among canoe paddlers and stand-up paddle boarders, makahiki games, a craft marketplace and live entertainment.

"It gives me great pleasure to honor the man," says Jeff Apaka, community relations director at WCC. "This event is so special because it welcomes spectators, as well as participants in the very place where Duke and his family lived."

Scheduled for Sunday, March 15 at the Hilton, the festivities will kick



“It welcomes spectators as well as participants in the very place where Duke and his family lived.”

off at 9 a.m. with the welcoming of a double-hulled canoe by an oli and kahiko by Halau Hula ‘O Hokolani. At 10 a.m., the canoe races, stand-up paddle race, makahiki games and local crafters will begin.

As Kahanamoku still remains a beckon of aloha for visitors — his iconic bronze statue of out-stretched arms and sturdy surfboard along Waikiki’s Kuhio Beach welcomes millions each year — the Waikiki Community Center’s Duke Kahanamoku Beach Challenge represents the hospitable spirit of the islands that the avid waterman wanted to share with the rest of the world.

“Duke brought us on the map,” Apaka says. “We want to keep our Hawaiian culture going for many more years. We’ll have performers on the stage, Hawaiian crafters and (youths from) Kamehameha Schools run the makahiki games. Let us hope that this will run forever and ever ... for everyone else to enjoy.”

©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)/TOR JOHNSON



DECISIONS, DECISIONS

The question isn’t whether The Kahala is an excellent place to celebrate life’s special moments.

The Kahala never disappoints. Whether it’s fine dining at Hoku’s, cocktails at sunset at Plumeria Beach House, or a refreshing retreat to Kahala Spa followed by afternoon tea at the Veranda.

But where should you begin? We suggest it really doesn’t matter. When you’re at The Kahala, every decision is the right one.



THE KAHALA

HOTEL & RESORT

Honolulu, Hawaii

Reservations: **DINING** (808) 739-8760 **SPA** (808) 739-8938

www.KahalaResort.com

5000 Kahala Avenue | Honolulu, HI 96816-5498 | (808) 739-8888