

MAKALAUNA FESTIVAL RESUMES AT WAIKIKI BEACH WALK

Renowned festival honoring Gabby “Pops” Pahinui scheduled to return October 15 at Waikiki Beach Walk Plaza Stage

WAIKIKI, Hawaii (September 26, 2022) – Waikiki Beach Walk proudly announces the return of Makalauna, the very special annual festival that honors the late, slack-key virtuoso Charles Philip “Gabby” Pahinui, also affectionately known as “Pops.”

The festival began in 2017 with the installation of the statue of Pahinui next to the Plaza Stage at Waikiki Beach Walk, and had been suspended for the past two years due to the pandemic. Its return is not only another step towards the full return of popular activities and events from pre-pandemic times, but also a deeply significant cultural event. For some, the occasion will be a very personal one, as many people closely associated with the legend will be on hand.



This includes members of the Pahinui ‘ohana, including “Pops” grandson, Kunia Galdeira, himself an accomplished musician, who will be performing, along with a prestigious gathering of local musical friends, artists, entertainers, apprentices, and devotees of the art form along with admirers of one of Hawaii’s greatest musicians.

“Makalauna is more than just a celebration of one of Hawaiian music’s most important stars,” said Kumu Blaine Kia, cultural advisor for Waikiki Beach Walk, and organizer of the event. “It showcases the Hawaiian core belief system and our stewardship as the host culture in Waikīkī. It’s also a wonderfully heartwarming gathering where we are all “Friends of Gabby,” and able to show our affection to the man and his music.”

The prestigious gathering will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, on the grounds of the Waikiki Beach Walk Plaza, fronting the statue of Gabby, where the most momentous parts of the observance will take place.

The tribute will begin with the heralding call of the conch blow, followed by an opening chant. An offering of the *hula* is then presented accompanied in song. A renowned MC & Host will speak on Gabby’s musical life, followed by reflections on his life by members of his family and “friends of Gabby” who will share tributes in the form of *lei*, *oli (chant)*, *mele (song)*, *himeni (choral)*, and *live acoustic accompaniments*. Gabby’s grandson Kunia Galdeira will lead the bestowing of lei upon Gabby’s statue.

The general public will then be invited to pay respects while remaining under protocol of the ceremonies. The ceremonies end with *pule* (prayer), as we all lock in arms with a one-ness with Gabby's spirit. The celebration is then uplifted with live musical tributes by some of Hawaii's finest musicians and entertainers to inspire all music makers to perpetuate our musical traditions for many generations to come.

The current schedule of events:

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Ceremonial Tribute

- Official MC & Host: Kimo Kahoano, with Waikiki Beach Walk Cultural & Entertainment Director Blaine Kia leading the ceremony
- Special Guest: Kunia Galdeira, grandson of Gabby Pahinui leading the lei draping

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Live Musical Tributes

- Jerry Santos & Kamuela Kimokeo, and featuring Kawaikapuokalani Hewett
- Mike Ka'awa with Paul Kim & Analu Aina
- Special Guest Kunia Galdeira (grandson of Gabby) leading a super "Jam Session"
- Kawika Kahiapo with Dean Wilhelm & Joe Berinobis

ABOUT GABBY PAHINUI

Charles Philip "Gabby" Pahinui is considered the person most responsible for the virtual survival, and later, revival of *kī hō'alu*, known as Hawaiian Slack Key in the 1970s. "Pops," as he was affectionately known, created now-considered seminal recordings in the late 1940's through the Sixties, when his plaintive and deeply evocative voice accompanied in the Hawaiian slack key guitar styling essentially kept the art form alive and able to soar to new heights of popularity as part of the great revival of Hawaiian culture in the 1970s.

ABOUT WAIKIKI BEACH WALK

Waikiki Beach Walk is a vibrant shopping, dining and entertainment district on Lewers Street between Kalakaua Avenue and Kalia Road in Waikiki. The more than 94,000 sq. ft. center boasts some of Hawaii's greatest boutique shopping experiences with locally made products, award-winning restaurants, nightlife, and world renown Hawaiian entertainment, making Waikiki Beach Walk a slice of Hawaii life, popular with visitors and residents.

Waikiki Beach Walk is committed to supporting the local community and opportunities to share the Hawaiian culture. The Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame resides at the Waikiki Beach Walk's Royal Room, and in addition to Mele Hali'a, Waikiki Beach Walk also presents weekly live entertainment each Tuesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. during "Kū Ha'aheo," as well as its popular "Ka Lei Hula" program with complimentary hula practice each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Additional musical performances are added during the Christmas holidays and at special occasions, such as the annual Makalauna, celebrating the life and music of Charles Philip "Gabby" Pahinui. For information, visit www.waikikibeachwalk.com/ or <http://jp.waikikibeachwalk.com/>. Follow Waikiki Beach Walk on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) @waikikibeachwalk and [Twitter](#) @WaikikiBeachwlk with #waikikibeachwalk #waikikishopping.