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Kani Ka Pila Grille Celebrates 18 Years of Live Hawaiian Music at OUTRIGGER Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort

Anniversary Celebration Set for Friday, March 13, 5-9 p.m.



HONOLULU – One of Waikīkī’s most beloved live music venues, Kani Ka Pila Grille (KKPG), will celebrate its 18th Anniversary on Friday, March 13 from 5-9 p.m., honoring nearly two decades as Hawai‘i’s home for authentic, community-rooted Hawaiian music.

The evening will feature:

- **5-7 p.m.** – Live music by Ka Hehena
- **7-9 p.m.** – Performances by Kawika Kahiapo and Bobby Moderow Jr.
- Special guest artists joining the stage in true kanikapila style
- Reservations recommended | 808-924-4990 | kanikapilagrille.com

Guests in attendance will be entered to win a two-night stay at OUTRIGGER Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort and a \$100 dining credit (must be present to win). Additional giveaways will take place throughout the evening, and Executive Chef Dean Kamiya will also be unveiling a new menu at Kani Ka Pila Grille.

A Living Legacy of Hawaiian Music

Since opening in 2009, Kani Ka Pila Grille has welcomed an extraordinary roster of Hawai‘i’s most respected artists, including Ledward Kaapana, Kapena, Ho’okena, Weldon Kekauoha, Sean Nā’auao, Nathan Aweau and many more.

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The venue's name, "kanikapila," meaning "let's play music," was gifted by legendary slack-key guitarist Cyril Pahinui, who performed weekly on Wednesday's to help establish KKPG as an authentic gathering place grounded in Hawaiian tradition and community.

Over 18 years, KKPG has welcomed approximately 2.6 million guests, drawing both kama'āina and visitors for nightly live performances that celebrate the sounds and stories of Hawai'i. Through partnerships with organizations such as Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts and the Henry Kapon Foundation, KKPG continues to nurture and elevate Hawai'i's music community.

Central to that mission is the annual Kani Ka Pila Grille Talent Search Competition, launched under the leadership of Luana Maitland. The 2026 Talent Search will begin accepting entries in June, with the live competition scheduled for August 22, 2026. Aspiring traditional and contemporary Hawaiian musicians are invited to submit a DVD music sample or digital link of a past performance to luana.maitland@outrigger.com. Past winners have gone on to record albums, earn Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards and establish lasting careers in Hawaiian music.

Kani Ka Pila Grille Nightly Performance Schedule, 6-9pm (*not including special guests)

- Sunday – Nathan Aweau
- Monday – Sean Nā'auao
- Tuesday – Kala'e Camarillo
- Wednesday – Ei Nei
- Thursday – Kawika Kahiapo
- Friday – Ka Hehena
- Saturday – Ho'okena

**March Special Guests: Olauniu (3/15, 3/22), Kahiau Lam Ho (3/21) and Rickey Kamai (3/29)*

Saturday Cultural Programming: O Ke Kai Series

The celebration continues on Saturday, March 14, when OUTRIGGER Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort hosts the O Ke Kai Series with Friends of Hōkūle'a and Hawai'iloa from 9a-12p at the A'o Cultural Center. Honoring the art of wayfinding, the immersive morning will feature hands-on canoe building and restoration with the crew, canoe-lashing and compass navigation demonstrations, keiki activities and live music by Kawika Kahiapo. The O Ke Kai Series celebrates Polynesian navigation traditions and Hawai'i's enduring oceanic heritage.

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ABOUT OUTRIGGER RESORTS & HOTELS

For more than 75 years, OUTRIGGER has charted a journey of discovery – expanding from Hawai'i to premier resort destinations including Fiji, Mauritius, Thailand and the Maldives. The privately held hospitality company invites guests to 'Come Be Here' with authentic Signature Experiences and the [OUTRIGGER DISCOVERY loyalty program](#) – a member of the award-winning Global Hotel Alliance (GHA). OUTRIGGER's multi-branded portfolio includes OUTRIGGER Resorts, Hawaii Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER®, The Kapalua Villas Maui and OUTRIGGER Honua Kai Resort & Spa while also managing select properties from top international hotel brands including Embassy Suites by Hilton®. Find out more at [OUTRIGGER.com](https://www.outrigger.com) or visit [@OUTRIGGERResorts](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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