

DATE April 22, 2026 RELEASE NUMBER 16|26

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

*Anniversary Celebration Set for Friday, May 8, 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, May 8 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, including Na Hōkū Hanohano award-winning musicians Kala‘e Parish and his wife Kalena Parish, President of the Hawai‘i Academy of Recording Arts (HARA) – who will be announcing this year’s Na Hōkū Hanohano Award Finalists at the event.
- Reservations recommended | 808-924-4990 | [kanikapilagrille.com](http://kanikapilagrille.com)

Kala‘e Parish earned Album of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year at the Hawai‘i Academy of Recording Arts’ 48th Annual Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards in 2025, recognized for his work as a recording artist, songwriter and producer. Parish also received honors for the Christmas album he recorded with Kalena as the duo Kala‘e + Kalena. Guests of the evening will be entered to win a two-night stay at OUTRIGGER Reef Waikīkī Beach Resort, \$100 dining credit (must be present to win) and Blue Hawaiian Helicopter Tour for two.

### **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.

# Media Advisory

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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 Wednesdays 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 the 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](mailto: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 represents everything we love about Hawai'i's music culture - community, authenticity and the spirit of sharing music together," said Sean Dee, Chief Commercial Officer of OUTRIGGER Hospitality Group. "We're incredibly proud of Auntie Luana Maitland and the passion she's poured into this stage over the years. The support from our local music community, the artists who return here again and again and partners like HARA have helped create something truly special. We feel blessed to have such genuine relationships with Hawai'i's musicians and to provide a place where their talent and traditions can continue to thrive."

## **Kani Ka Pila Grille Resident Musicians perform nightly, 6–9 p.m.**

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

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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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