



Star  Advertiser
'ILIMA
AWARDS A Diamond Head Theatre Benefit
25TH ANNIVERSARY

A Toast & Tribute

HAWAII'S FAVORITE RESTAURANTS

October 9, 2023



Aloha,

After a pandemic pause, the `Ilima Awards returns to celebrate 25 delicious years of Hawaii’s best adventures in dining. This year we celebrate the resilience of so many of Hawaii’s favorite restaurants plus a forkful of rising stars too. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, these restaurants and DHT’s ohana come together to savor food, fun and friendship to fund the future of performing arts in Honolulu.

Each season, Diamond Head Theatre whips up six sensational shows that entertain more than 50,000 theatergoers from keiki to kupuna. DHT’s year-round menu includes a buffet of educational offerings: classes for all ages in dancing, acting and singing. DHT proudly presents an extensive summer program for keiki, and a premier youth troupe called the Shooting Stars, who will perform for you tonight.

Our gratitude goes out to tonight’s title sponsor, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and all of you. Diamond Head Theatre is Hawaii’s Broadway of the Pacific and we are honored to savor this moment with you.

Mahalo,



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CO-CHAIR



Jennifer Tanabe
CO-CHAIR



Mark Wong
SPONSORSHIP CHAIR

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TIMSA of UH
Seline Williams
Caryn Yee

Lucky Star Giveaway

We've cooked up your next adventure to wonderland. Purchase a \$10 lucky star ticket from a Shooting Stars performer tonight. Cash or credit cards are accepted. Winners will be announced at about 9 pm. All proceeds support Diamond Head Theatre.



ALASKA NATURE ADVENTURE

Fly Alaska Airlines roundtrip for 2 and indulge in a 3-night stay at the picturesque Salmon Falls Resort in Ketchikan, Alaska including all meals and 2 days of fully-guided fishing for 2 or just enjoy some kayaking, hiking, or whale watching.

LOUNGE IN LOS ANGELES

Two can jet on Alaska Airlines to lounge in lively Los Angeles for 3 nights at the hip Hotel Figueroa in downtown close to the city's best shopping and nightlife.

NEW YORK! NEW YORK!

Two can head east on Alaska Airlines to the city that never sleeps, New York City. Enjoy 3 nights at the Park Lane Hotel – a whimsical gem located at 36 Central Park South.



Mahalo

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Kelly Sanders
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The Awards Show

2023



◆

Cast

Loretta Ables Sayre

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES & SPECIAL GUEST STAR

Jody Bill, Emily North, Andrew Sakaguchi, Aiko Schick
& DHT's Shooting Stars

◆

Producers

John Rampage

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

John Rampage & 'Ilima Cast
WRITERS

Emmett Yoshioka
MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Annie Motteler
SHOOTING STARS CHOREOGRAPHER

Nanilisa Pascua
SHOOTING STARS MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Judy Yoshioka
SHOOTING STARS ACCOMPANIST

Anya Teruya, Lauren Teruya & Star Dahl-Thurston
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LIGHTING DESIGN

Deanne Kennedy
SET DESIGN

Kerri Yoneda
SOUND DESIGN

Trudi Melohn
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Tom Bingham
Vincent Green & Taylor Weeks
DECK CREW

Andrea Yoo & Kenji Shimata
FOLLOWSPOT OPERATORS



Beverage Sponsors



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AMERICAN WINE & SPIRITS OF HAWAII
SOUTHERN GLAZER'S WINE & SPIRITS

Miles Jones

WINES BY JOHNSON BROS. OF HAWAII INC.

Lisa Turner

MARTINIS BY JOHNSON BROS. OF HAWAII INC.

Jason Brand

DAQIRIS BY KŌ HANA RUM

American Wine & Spirits

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Kapiolani Community College's
Culinary Arts & Hospitality Programs
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John Santamaria
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Grant Itomitsu
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Aaron Chau
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Plima Winners

Restaurants showcased tonight are in **gold**.

HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

PUBLISHER'S AWARD PESCA Waikiki Beach

DIAMOND HEAD THEATRE

PRODUCER'S AWARD La Bettola at 'Alohilani Hotel

OVATION AWARD L&L Hawaiian Barbecue

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

BEST RESTAURANT Nami Kaze Hawaii

BEST NEW RESTAURANT PESO

BEST LUNCH Plumeria Beach House

BEST FINE-DINING HY's Steak House

BEST CASUAL Maile's Thai Bistro

BEST DESSERT Lady M At Waikiki Tea

BEST NEIGHBOR ISLAND Hanalei Dolphin

BEST BREAKFAST Sweet E's Café

BEST FIRST DATE The Signature Prime Steak & Seafood

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BEST RESTAURANT Senia

BEST NEW RESTAURANT UMI by Vikram Garg

BEST BREAKFAST Koko Head Cafe

BEST FINE-DINING Hoku's at The Kahala

BEST CASUAL Mahina & Sun's

BEST FIRST DATE The Cutlery

BEST NEIGHBOR ISLAND Moon and Turtle

BEST LUNCH Rigo

BEST DESSERT MW Restaurant

Plima Winners



Restaurants showcased tonight are in gold.

HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER RAVE REVIEWS



BEST VEGAN	natuRe waikiki
BEST SEAFOOD	53 By The Sea
BEST BREWERY	Aloha Beer
BEST FOOD TRUCK	La Birria
BEST RISING CHEF	Fête
BEST HIDDEN GEM	Upstairs at Pier 38
BEST STEAKHOUSE	Ruth's Chris Steak House
BEST OUTDOOR VENUE	Hau Tree
BEST PIZZA	Pizza Mamo
BEST BURGER	Chubbie's Burgers
BEST BENTO	Obento Rinka
BEST POKE	Kyung's Seafood
BEST SUSHI	Genki Sushi
BEST NOODLES	The Pig and The Lady
BEST BAKERY	Halekulani Bakery
BEST HAWAIIAN FOOD	Highway Inn
BEST DIM SUM	Yung Yee Kee Dim Sum
BEST SANDWICH/ROLL	Up Roll Café
BEST SERVICE	Restaurant Suntory
BEST WINE SELECTION	Wolfgang's Steakhouse
BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT	Zippy's



Plima Winners



Restaurants showcased tonight are in **gold**.

TOP REGIONAL RESTAURANTS



EAST HONOLULU	Kapa Hale
HONOLULU REGION	Margotto Hawaii
CENTRAL REGION	Kilani Bakery
WEST REGION	Moani Island Bistro
BEST CATERER	Chef Chai
BEST BUSINESS LUNCH	Mariposa
BEST BRUNCH	Podmore
LEEWARD REGION	Rokaru Shabu Shabu
NORTH SHORE REGION	Beach House by Roy Yamaguchi
WINDWARD REGION	Kin Wa Chop Suey
BEST TAKE-OUT	Artizen by MW
BEST CHINESE	Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant
BEST BUDGET FRIENDLY	Sekiya's Restaurant & Delicatessen
BEST CHAIN	Olive Garden
BEST ITALIAN	Noe at Four Seasons Ko'olina
BEST JAPANESE (IZAKAYA)	Izakaya Uosan
BEST JAPANESE (OMAKASE)	Akira Japanese Restaurant
BEST KOREAN	Million Restaurant
BEST FOOD HALL	STIX Asia
BEST MOM & POP	Helena's Hawaiian Food



Mahalo Nui Loa



EVENT DONORS

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Hawaiian Ice Company
Kapiolani Community College
Leahi Hospital
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Obun Hawaii Inc.
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Rainforest at Kilohana Square
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Theatrix Hawaii

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For work on Honolulu Star-Advertiser 'Ilima Awards,
A Guide to Oahu's Top Restaurants.

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POKOLE ST.

Guest Tables

Water & Soda Booth

1

Nami Kaze

2

Chef Chai

3

Johnson Brothers Wine

4

PESCA

5

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

6

Lady M

7

Mahina & Suns

8

Malle's Thai Bistro

9

Hoku's/Plumeria Beach House

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

La Birria Tacos

Service Booth

30

Senia/Podmore

29

Kapa Hale

28

American Wine & Spirits

27

PESO

26

HY's Steakhouse

25

Umni by Vikram Gang

24

Fête

23

Hau Tree

22

MARTINI BAR

DAQUIRI BAR

La Botola

L&L Barbecue

Mariposa

Koko Head Cafe

53 By The Sea

nature waikiki

Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits

Lipstair's at Pier 38

Margotta Hawaii

Aloha Beer

ALOHA AVE.

Diamond Head Theatre

restaurants through theatre lobby