



From: Fern Gavelek Communications, 808-329-0833
Contact ferng@hawaii.rr.com for digital event photos
Media Contact & Event Organizer: Chris Manfredi, 808-929-9550,
cmanfredi@kaufarmandranch.com

KA'U COFFEE FESTIVAL PERKING MAY 19-28

Ka'u, Hawai'i Island—The ninth annual Ka'u Coffee Festival celebrates its award-winning brew with a host of events starting May 19 and continuing through the weekend of May 27-28 with a java-jumpin' ho'olaulea'a on Saturday and the Ka'u Coffee College educational series on Sunday.

Supported by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and a bevy of sponsors and volunteers, the Ka'u Coffee Festival is designed to celebrate Ka'u as a premium coffee growing origin and a unique visitor destination. Many events are free, while others require a nominal fee and reservations. All activities feature the exceptional flavor and aroma of Ka'u coffee and the remarkable people and special place that produces it. Kindly note the 2017 festival schedule is subject to change; check www.kaucoffeefest.com for the latest information.

On Saturday, May 13, the annual Miss Ka'u Coffee Pageant showcases the crowning of 2017 Miss Ka'u Coffee and her court. 6 p.m. at the Ka'u Coffee Mill. \$10 admission. Contact 808-928-0606 or trinimarques@yahoo.com.

Friday, May 19 - Pa'ina & Open House at historic Pahala Plantation House featuring music, hula, food and house tours 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Corner of Maile and Pikake in Pahala. Hosted by Pahala Plantation Cottages, Ka'u Chamber of Commerce and *The Ka'u Calendar* newspaper. Free, donations accepted for Miss Ka'u Coffee Scholarship Fund. www.kaucoffeefest.com, www.pahalaplantationcottages.com. 808-928-9811.

Sunday May 21 - Ka'u Coffee Recipe Contest offers a free, 2 p.m. cooking competition with cash prizes at Ka'u Coffee Mill. Entries are accepted in pupu, entree and dessert categories and all recipes are made with Ka'u coffee. Free coffee tasting and meet Miss Ka'u Coffee. Find contest entry info at www.kaucoffeemill.com or call Lisa at 808-928-0550.

Monday, May 22 - Observe the heavens from the summit of Makaanau at Ka'u Star Gazing, 5:30-10 p.m. \$35 with refreshments and shuttle transportation departing from Ka'u Coffee Mill. Sign up at www.kaucoffeemill.com or call 808-928-0550.

During the week visit Ka'u coffee farms. Enjoy the scenic and historic beauty of Ka'u, Punalu'u Black Sand Beach, Honu'apo fishponds, the cliffs of Ka Lae—the southernmost place in the U.S.—and the nearby Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Stay in one of the many accommodations in Ka'u. Visit www.kaucoffeefest.com for participating coffee farms and accommodations.

Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25 - Explore historic flume systems of the sugarcane era and development of hydroelectric power on a Ka‘u Mountain Water System Hike in the Wood Valley rainforest 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Limited to 30, \$40 includes lunch. Visit www.kaucoffeemill.com or phone 808-928-0550.

Saturday, May 27 - Festival fun bubbles over with the free Ka‘u Coffee Festival Ho‘olaule‘a—a full day of live music, hula, food booths, local crafts, keiki activities, educational displays, guided coffee tastings and farm/mill tours headquartered inside and out of the Pahala Community Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It’s a great place to “talk story” with Ka‘u coffee growers. The Ka‘u Coffee Experience offers Ka‘u coffees prepared using a variety of methods by professionals from 9:30 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Farm tours with shuttle transport are 9:30 and 11 a.m., plus 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m., \$20. Call 808-929-9550 or visit www.kaucoffeefest.com.

On Sunday, May 28 learn about the specialty coffee industry with presentations given by notable coffee experts at the Ka‘u Coffee College at Pahala Community Center. The Ka‘u Coffee College has become known for hosting some of the most renowned industry professionals from around the globe. Free, donations appreciated. Call 808-929-9550 or www.KauCoffeeFest.com.

Founded in coffee traditions dating to the 1800s—Ka‘u coffee burst onto the specialty coffee scene by winning numerous coffee quality awards. These accolades highlight the unique combination of people and place that makes Ka‘u coffee a favorite across the globe. The festival’s mission is to raise awareness of Ka‘u as a world-class, coffee-growing origin.

Ka‘u Coffee Festival vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information and festival updates, visit www.kaucoffeefest.com, follow Ka‘u Coffee Festival on Facebook and @kaucoffeefest on Twitter, or call 808-929-9550.