



# NAUPAKA NEWS

RELAX, SHOP & PLAY AT WAIKOLOA BEACH RESORT

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Scan code to sign up to receive Waikoloa Beach Resort updates.

Chris Hemmeter (left) and Rohr at the opening of the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa.



## Farewell to the Commish

THOS ROHR, 1939 - 2022

WAIKOLOA BEACH RESORT, THE ISLAND OF HAWAII, AND THE ALOHA STATE lost a great friend, an advocate, and a trailblazing resort development visionary on Nov. 10, 2022, when Thomas Anthony "Thos" Rohr passed away in Honolulu at the age of 83. Known by friends and associates as "the Commish," Rohr is widely regarded as someone who set new standards in the leisure hospitality industry in Hawaii during his storied career.

### ESTABLISHING A PATH

Rohr landed in Hawaii on New Year's Eve 1960, in a tuxedo and a raincoat, having been invited to a party by his pal, Formula

One racecar driver Peter Revson. After seeing his first Waikiki sunrise he decided he was home.

He quickly made a name for himself in the hotel industry, rising through the management ranks and becoming acquainted with many of the state's most dynamic businesspeople.

In 1974 Rohr was named president and CEO of Kapalua Land Company. It was then mostly red dirt and pineapple fields, and he had the mission of creating a world-class luxury resort. He commissioned Arnold Palmer to design and build both the Kapalua Bay and Kapalua Village golf courses. The





This page, clockwise: Rohr at St Andrews with Sean Connery; with Annika Sorenstam at Waikoloa Beach Resort; Rohr with Clint Eastwood at the King's Cup. Opposite page: Arnold Palmer, Robin Rohr and Thos Rohr at St Andrews; Gary McCord (left), Rohr (center) and Peter Jacobsen at the Kings' Cup 1991.

two men became lifelong friends. Deeply involved in the design of the resort, Rohr championed open spaces, the use of natural lighting, landscaping woven into the buildings, and other island nuances in a quest to impart a 'sense of place.'

Rohr and his team eventually built and sold more than 500 luxury condominiums, many off the drawing boards to celebrities and CEOs at black tie events. They became the most expensive leasehold properties in the world at that time.

## SEEING THE FUTURE

When it was announced in the *Wall Street Journal* in 1988 that Rohr was the new president and CEO of Waikoloa Land Company, construction was almost complete on the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa (now the Hilton Waikoloa Village).

Rohr was determined to create a master plan that would maximize the potential of the land and resort and draw visitors from around the world to the Kohala Coast. He set about building The Kings' Shops and eventually the Queens' Marketplace, adding almost 200,000 square feet of shopping and dining space that became an anchor for the resort. His accomplishments included conceptualizing and building the Waikoloa Bowl at Queens' Gardens, where major concert and monthly events have brought the community and resort guests together to enjoy music, food, and culture.

With Rohr's commitment to and love of golf, he oversaw renovations to the Robert Trent Jones II course and built the Kings' Course in partnership

with the late designer and former PGA Tour player Tom Weiskopf. Rohr brought professional and celebrity golf tournaments to the resort, including a three-day golf extravaganza called the Kings Cup. Clint Eastwood, Bill Murray, and an array of celebrities and pro golfers attended the yearly event.

He also signed Peter Jacobsen, Cindy Rarick, and Parker McLachlin to represent the resort on their respective tours bringing wider recognition to the Waikoloa brand.

Rohr was well aware that Big Islanders did not wish to move to other islands or to the Mainland to find work. By organizing a massive letter-writing campaign, Rohr helped create the support that Mayor Steve Yamashiro needed to extend the Kona airport runway. With that, international flights could finally fly directly to Kona. Rohr helped make a reality of the families' dream to make a living and raise their *ohana* on their beloved Island.

No matter what challenges he was facing or what fires he was putting out, Rohr lived in the world of possibilities. The glass was at least half full for him. He taught that you always have the power to say, "This is not how the story is going to end."

Hawai'i has lost a great leader. Thos Rohr, the Commish, was indeed a comet that blazed through and contributed to our lives, leaving us forever changed in the best of all possible ways. ●

## TRIBUTES

"The Commish will be sorely missed. He was one of the last of his generation of visionaries and entrepreneurs who made Waikoloa Beach Resort and the State of Hawai'i the success it is today." — Scott Head, vice president of resort operations for Waikoloa Land Company

"As brothers, we played golf in many places, shared quite a few drinks, thousands of laughs and great stories, but most of all we were always there for each other. If I ever tee it up again, I will see you right there beside me. You are my hero, T, and I miss you every day. I love you." —James E. Rohr, former chairman and CEO PNC Financial Services Group



"I had the privilege of being married to Thos for almost 30 years. I watched as people and situations were transformed as he scattered joy, humor, and his Midwestern common sense into every encounter. He was indeed a magic-maker of the highest order." —Robin Stephens Rohr

"He was a celebrated wit and raconteur, and he was a great friend to many. He was the king of the one-liners. And we were each other's 911 call." —Paul Spengler, Hawaii Golf Hall of Fame, 1997

"Like his dear friend Arnold Palmer, the Commish was an authentic original. He was a true legend." —NBC Golf commentator Mark Roling



"Guys like Rohr were destined to be legends, as you don't get to oversee large developments like Kapalua and Waikoloa unless you can deliver on BIG ideas. But behind 'The Roar' was a kind-hearted soul." —Roy Yamaguchi, celebrity chef and founder of Roy's Hawai'i

"Thos was a tough, fearless visionary who would always challenge me to see how committed I was to any initiative, project, or mission. I called it passing 'the Rohr test.' —John Monahan, president and CEO HVCB

"With admiration and love, I salute my friend of 30 years. Rohr was a genius for bringing people together from all walks of life, inspiring them to create a vision, and then motivating them to greater heights to make that vision a reality. He certainly did that for me. I am so much richer for having known the Commish." —Brandel Chamblee, lead studio analyst for the Golf Channel

"I am grateful for the special friendship I had with the Commish, a man in charge, a leader. Whenever I was in his company — often playing golf with him, his brother Jim, and Arnold Palmer — it was always an unforgettable occasion, with a lot of laughter and a lot of love." —Jim Nance, CBS Sports broadcaster

"Through Thos Rohr's keen leadership skills and dynamic personality, Waikoloa became known around the world as one of the foremost resort destinations. His love of the Hawaiian culture was infused into everything he touched at Waikoloa, ensuring the rich history and traditions that make Hawai'i so unique would always be remembered. Waikoloa is blessed to have had him infuse his greatness throughout our 'aina." —Cary Boeddeker, president of the Waikoloa Foundation





## Queens’ Marketplace

Open Daily | Store hours vary, please call or visit their websites for hours and more information

Visit Queens’ Marketplace for their ongoing events including first Friday Lei Making, weekly Wednesday Hula, and their Kanikapila Monthly Concert Series every third Saturday.

For more information on Queens’ Marketplace events, visit [QueensMarketplace.com](http://QueensMarketplace.com).

### ART & JEWELRY

**Genesis Galleries**  
(808) 886-1770

**Hawaii Fluid Art**  
(808) 344-4878

**Maui Divers**  
(808) 886-4817

**Lava Light Galleries**  
(808) 756-0778

**Mashka Jewelry**  
(808) 731-7310

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Kozy’s Comedy & Magic Show**  
(808) 430-1957

**Waikoloa Luxury Cinemas**  
(808) 464-3009

### FASHION

**Blue Ginger Family**  
(808) 886-0022

**Cariloha**  
(808) 886-2608

**Coconut Avenue**  
[coconutave.com](http://coconutave.com)

**Crocs™ Shoe Store**  
(808) 886-0213

**Kona Surf N’ Sandals**  
(808) 886-0898

**Mahina**  
(808) 886-4000

**Malibu Shirts**  
(808) 886-0003

**Olivia Clare Boutique**  
(808) 657-4307

**PacSun**  
(808) 886-0415

**Quiksilver**  
(808) 886-0900

**Reyn Spooner**  
(808) 886-1162

**Volcom**  
(808) 886-6888

### GROCERY

**Island Gourmet Markets**  
(808) 886-3577

### REAL ESTATE

**Hawai`i Life Real Estate Brokers**  
(800) 667-5028

**Home River Group**  
(808) 883-9550

**Kona Coast Vacations**  
(808) 329-2140

### SERVICES

**Hilton Grand Vacations Club**  
(808) 886-0945

**KOR Salon**  
(808) 886-8090

**Rider Levett Bucknall**  
(808) 883-3379

**Vacasa**  
(855) 861-5757

**Waikoloa Dental Clinic**  
(808) 886-0891

### SPECIALTY & GIFTS

**Claire’s**  
(808) 886-8905

**Da Big Bags**  
(808) 989-8709

**Hawaiian Quilt Collection**  
(808) 886-0494

**Lids**  
(808) 886-1649

**Pacific Nature**  
(808) 886-8919

**SoHa Keki**  
(808) 909-3888

**SoHa Living**  
(808) 464-4268

**Sunglass Hut**  
(808) 886-0274

### SPORT & ACTIVITY

**Bike Works Beach & Sports**  
(808) 886-5000

**Yoga Barre**  
(808) 333-5378



**SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 30**

## LEI DAY FESTIVAL AT QUEENS’ MARKETPLACE

**2–5:30 pm**

Lei making classes, keiki activities and face painting, lauhala weaving demonstration and classes, Guinness World Record booth

**2–6 pm**

Live entertainment with local artists

**6–7 pm**

Hula show performance

## Kings’ Shops

Open Daily | Store hours vary, please call or visit their websites for hours and more information

### ACCESSORIES

**Mary Jane’s**  
(808) 886-2707

**Michael Kors**  
(808) 886-2653

**Sunglass Hut**  
(808) 886-0593

### APPAREL

**Crazy Shirts**  
(808) 886-9303

**Honolua Surf Co.**  
(808) 886-6422

**Jams World**  
(808) 796-3182

**Kona Harley-Davidson**  
(808) 464-4033

**Noa Noa**  
(808) 886-5449

**Rip Curl**  
(808) 886-1952

**The Kokonut Drop**  
(808) 462-8101

**Tommy Bahama**  
(808) 886-8865

**Tori Richard**  
(808) 886-8308

**Travis Matthews**  
(808) 865-2452

### ART & JEWELRY

**Aesthetic Hawaii  
by Genesis Galleries**  
(808) 731-6280

**Giving Bracelets**  
(808) 445-9951

**Kohala Coast Fine Art**  
(808) 886-4240

**Nā Hōkū**  
(808) 886-7599

**Royal Gold**  
(808) 886-7701

**Tiffany & Co.**  
(808) 886-1931

### ENTERTAINMENT

Live entertainment is back at Kings’ Shops every Tuesday and Thursday, 4 – 5 pm at Center Stage. For more information call (808) 886-8811



### FARMERS MARKET

Explore the Kings’ Shops  
Farmers Market every Tuesday  
from 9 am – 2:30 pm

### LAKESIDE MINI GOLF

(808) 854-4139  
Open Friday-Sunday 4 - 8 pm.  
New pricing, \$10 for adults; \$5 for children/kama’aina. Available for private bookings.

### SERVICES

**Big Island Motorcycle Co.**  
(808) 886-2011

**Compass Real Estate**  
(808) 430-2184

**Hawaii Vacation Condos  
by Outrigger**  
(808) 886-0036

**Hulakai**  
(808) 731-7945

**Kings’ Shops Management Office**  
(808) 886-8811

**Kohala Coast Properties**  
(808) 886-6600

**ReMax Lava Luxury**  
(808) 756-4285

**Shell Gas Station**  
(808) 886-9512

**Team Clean**  
(808) 944-8255, ext. 108

### SPECIALTY & GIFTS

**Martin & MacArthur**  
(808) 886-0696

**Whalers General Store**  
(808) 886-7057

## Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

**Travel Traders**  
(808) 886-8146  
Daily 8 am – 10 pm

**Mandara Spa**  
(808) 886-8191  
Daily 10 am – 5:30 pm

## Waikoloa Beach Resort Golf Shop

### Golf Pro Shop

Open daily 6:30 am – 5:30 pm  
(808) 886-7888



## Hilton Waikoloa Village

Open Daily – Hours vary seasonally.  
All phone numbers are  
(808) 886-1234, with the extension  
noted below:

**Dancing Dolphins and  
Big Island Marketplace**  
ext. 1744, 1746

**Dolphin Quest Gift Shop**  
ext. 1216

**Journey**  
ext. 1546

**Kohala Spa Essence and  
Kohala Spa Retail Shop**  
ext. 1768 or ext. 1228

**Nā Hōkū**  
ext. 1750

**Things Hawaiian**  
ext. 1232





MARRIOTT RESORT  
WAIKOLOA BEACH

Marriott.com

## SUNSET LŪ'AU

Mondays and Wednesdays | 4:45 pm

EXECUTIVE CHEF JAYSON KANEKOA HAS UNVEILED A NEW MENU for the popular Sunset Lū'au with the freshest of ingredients harvested from Hawai'i Island farmers. Experience an authentic *imu* pit presentation and the *ono* tastes of a J.A. Farms Garden Salad, Waipi'o Valley Poi, Keahole Shrimp, Hoio fern shoots, Pulehu steaks, and grilled chicken with Hamakua mushrooms.

Following dinner take a journey to Tahiti, New Zealand, Hawai'i, and Sāmoa through the songs and dances of these Pacific cultures. The spellbinding Samoan fire knife dance is a spectacular sight to see!

General ticket prices start at \$186 for adults, \$91 for *keiki* 6-12 years old, and *keiki* five and under are FREE. Premier ticket prices include preferred seating, floral lei, and a Hawaiian treat. Premier seating prices start at \$223 for adults, \$128 for *keiki* 6-12 years old, and *keiki* five and under are FREE. Rates exclude Hawai'i state tax and are subject to change.



For reservations visit [thesunsetluau.com](http://thesunsetluau.com)

Cancellations must be received 24 hours before your scheduled Luau. There will be no refund if cancellation is not received 24 hours out.



(808) 886-1234 | [HiltonWaikoloaVillage.com](http://HiltonWaikoloaVillage.com)

## Legends of Hawai'i Lū'au — Our Big Island Story

Sundays, Tuesdays, Fridays  
5 pm | Kamehameha Court

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CULTURAL IMMERSION of our *lū'au* at Hilton Waikoloa Village. Brought to you by Tihati Productions, the Legends of Hawai'i Lū'au dinner and show brings to life the ancestral songs and dances that retell the epic stories of Hawai'i Island and her remarkable people.

You'll receive a lei greeting upon arrival and have the opportunity to capture memories with photos with our *lū'au* performers. The meal includes island favorites such

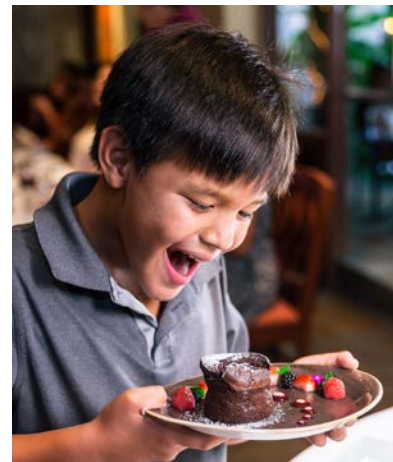


as hulihuli chicken, seared island catch-of-the-day, and the traditional *imu* kālua pig, and fresh daily Hawaiian style desserts. Our signature mai tais are made with fresh pineapple juice.

Make reservations in advance at [legendsluau.com](http://legendsluau.com).  
Book early to get your spot.

## DINING GUIDE

Restaurants open daily unless noted.



### GOLF COURSE

Tropics Ale House  
and Restaurant  
(808) 886-4287  
[TropicsAleHouse.com](http://TropicsAleHouse.com)

Lunch and dinner  
11 am – 10:30 pm

### LAVA LAVA BEACH CLUB

(808) 769-LAVA (5282)  
[LavaLavaBeachClub.com](http://LavaLavaBeachClub.com)

Open for Dinner 4 pm daily



CLOCKWISE  
FROM ABOVE:  
Roy's Waikoloa  
Bar & Grill;  
Kamuela Provision  
Company; Lava  
Lava Beach Club

### HILTON WAIKOLOA VILLAGE

(808) 886-1234  
[HiltonWaikoloaVillage.com/dining](http://HiltonWaikoloaVillage.com/dining)

#### Nui Breakfast

A lavish breakfast  
and a la carte options in  
a relaxed atmosphere.

7 – 10 am

#### Nui Italian

Authentic, family-friendly  
Italian dining including  
stone-fired pizzas, pastas,  
salads, and more.

Lounge and dinner  
5 – 9 pm

#### KPC – Kamuela Provision Company

KPC offers Hawai'i Island's  
most spectacular sunset  
views. Locally sourced  
cuisine, from prime steaks  
to Hawaiian seafood.

5 – 8:30 pm

#### Lagoon Grill

Grab a burger, sandwich,  
salad, or Hawaiian bowl for  
lunch or early dinner and  
watch dolphins playing in  
the lagoon below.

11 am – 5 pm

#### Kona Tap Room

A fun gathering place  
with an array of craft and  
domestic beers and casual  
pub fare.

4:30 – 11 pm

#### Waikoloa Coffee

6 am – noon  
in Ocean Tower

6 am – noon  
in MAKAI



### WAIKOLOA BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA

(808) 886-8165  
[Marriott.com](http://Marriott.com)

#### Hawaii Calls Restaurant & Lounge

Breakfast  
7 – 11 am

Lunch  
11 am – 5 pm

Happy Hour  
2 – 4 pm

Dinner  
5 – 9 pm

MIMOSA MONDAY  
Mondays, 7 – 11 am

TACO TUESDAY  
Tuesdays, 5 – 9 pm

NALU'S POOL BAR  
10:30 am - 5:30 pm daily

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday,  
5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Featuring some of  
Hawai'i's local musical  
artists

#### Aka'ula Lanai

Coffee Shop – Lobby Level  
6 -11:30 am

### KINGS' SHOPS

A-Bay's Island Grill  
(808) 209-8494  
[A-Bays.com](http://A-Bays.com)

8 am – midnight

#### Foster's Kitchen

(808) 657-4500  
[FostersKitchen.com](http://FostersKitchen.com)

Daily lunch and dinner  
3 – 10 pm

#### Gypsea Gelato

(808) 886-1540  
[GypseaGelato.com](http://GypseaGelato.com)

#### Island Fish & Chips

(808) 886-0005  
[KingsShops.com/island-fish-chips](http://KingsShops.com/island-fish-chips)

7:30 am – 9:30 pm

#### Roy's Waikoloa Bar & Grill

(808) 886-4321  
[RoysHawaii.com](http://RoysHawaii.com)

Dinner 5 – 9 pm

#### Island Vintage Coffee

(808) 731-5700

Open daily at 7 am

#### The Original Big Island Shave Ice Company

(808) 895-6069

Tuesday – Sunday  
11:30 am – 6:30 pm



Please  
check with  
individual  
restaurants  
on hours of  
operation.

# DINING GUIDE



Gypsea  
Gelato

## QUEENS' MARKETPLACE

Full-service restaurants.

**Bistro at the Cinemas**  
(808) 464-3009  
[HawaiiCinemas.com/  
the-bistro](http://HawaiiCinemas.com/the-bistro)

**Charley's Thai Cuisine**  
(808) 886-0591  
[CharleysThaiHawaii.com](http://CharleysThaiHawaii.com)

**Kuleana Rum Shack**  
(808) 238-0786  
[KuleanaRum.com](http://KuleanaRum.com)

**Mauna Kea  
Tropical Treats**  
(808) 738-6249

**Romano's Macaroni Grill**  
(808) 443-5515  
[MacaroniGrill.com](http://MacaroniGrill.com)

**Sansei Steak  
& Sushi Bar**  
(808) 886-6286  
[SanseiHawaii.com](http://SanseiHawaii.com)

**Starbucks Coffee  
Company**  
(808) 886-1888  
[Starbucks.com](http://Starbucks.com)



Hawaii Kind Grinds

## QUEENS' MARKETPLACE FOOD COURT

Grab & go and food court  
eateries.

**Dairy Queen/  
Orange Julius**  
(808) 886-1029

**Hawaii Kind Grinds**  
[HawaiiKindGrinds.com](http://HawaiiKindGrinds.com)

**Island Greens**  
[IslandGreensHI.com](http://IslandGreensHI.com)

**L&L Hawaiian Barbecue**  
[HawaiianBarbecue.com](http://HawaiianBarbecue.com)

**Waikoloa Pizza**  
[WaikoloaPizza.com](http://WaikoloaPizza.com)

**Waikoloa Shrimp Company**  
[WaikoloaShrimpCo.com](http://WaikoloaShrimpCo.com)



[WaikoloaBeachResort.com](http://WaikoloaBeachResort.com)