



NEWS RELEASE

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IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ALOHA FESTIVALS SPIRIT OF ALOHA NOMINEE

HONOLULU – From greeting strangers as “aunty” or “uncle,” to a friendly wave or shaka to let someone in front of you while driving, Hawai‘i remains unique and beautiful thanks to our people and their practice of aloha.

To honor and help perpetuate the aloha spirit in our community, Aloha Festivals invited the public to recognize individuals who exemplify the Spirit of Aloha last month. The nominations have been reviewed and three have been posted to the Aloha Festivals website for viewing and public voting.

Members of our community will have until midnight on Monday, September 12 to vote for their favorite nominee. Visit www.alohafestivals.com to review the entries and place a vote.

“We appreciate the time everyone took to submit a deserving friend, family member, neighbor or co-worker as someone who embodies the aloha spirit in our Island community,” said Jay Talwar, Aloha Festivals board member. “We look forward to celebrating the individual who exemplifies and represents this island identity as the Spirit of Aloha honoree.”

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The three nominees are (the write-ups noted below are the actual nomination entries):

Ted Bush

Ted Bush has been on the beach since the age of 5 and trust me he has not been relaxing on the sand or playing in the waves the whole time.

Growing up in Waikiki he was drawn to the water and started working at Waikiki Beach Services when he turned 18. He has been sharing his never-ending aloha spirit with locals and tourists alike ever since. After many enjoyable years of dedicated service helping to provide surf lessons, rentals, burials at sea, and captaining outrigger canoe rides, he is now the owner of Waikiki Beach Services. He continuously proves he is a true ambassador of aloha by educating guests on the local surfing culture while providing top-quality water experiences to all of Waikiki's visitors through the iconic Waikiki beach boy image.

Recently Waikiki Beach Services has worked closely with the Make-A-Wish program to grant wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses who have dreamed of coming to Hawaii to surf and experience Waikiki Beach.

Ted has continued to expand his kuleana by working tirelessly to develop and continue the annual "May Day Waikiki" festival for the past three years to honor and celebrate the history and tradition of the legendary Waikiki beach boys and Lei Day. He has also helped to start a fund-raiser to raise funds for the future "Memorial Wall" for the past Waikiki beach boys.

Ted's many years of dedication to preserve the true spirit of aloha in Waikiki make him more than worthy of this year's Spirit of Aloha Award. Mahalo!

Joshua Buchanan

Joshua is known to many as Mr. Aloha – a guy that everyone can't help but get along with. It's also partly due to his large aloha shirt collection which he amassed while interning during his last year of college. His work there contributed to the effort to bridge the gap in health care disparities among our native populations.

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This selflessness for an aspiring physician is coupled with how he brings people together as a team through his positivity and comedic timing. My classmates and I have noticed he is able to bring light to the rigorous nature of the courses we are taking and relate them to real life experiences. He brings the story of his own life to the classroom to relate to each and every one of our struggles and connect with us on a humanistic level.

He makes sure everyone is recognized for their presence as they arrive in class each morning and leave. This friendly nature is rooted in his homegrown values and educational foundation – he now habitually finds the time to get to know everyone around him.

Joshua does not boast and is a servant to the good of the people of Hawaii in his pursuit of a medical degree. He continues to surprise our class with his accolades in work, volunteering, and athletics. My classmates and I believe he has the potential to make a difference in the underserved communities around Hawaii, no matter how difficult his path may be to get there.

These traits are why my class and I feel he should be recognized for his Spirit of Aloha.

Dorothy Herring

When I met Dorothy 16 years ago something about her smile and spirit stuck with me and it wasn't until 14 years later after walking into MAC 24/7 I realized that it was her natural Aloha spirit that had me hypnotized. I've lived around the world, met tons of people and never have I encountered a being that illuminates a feeling that people save their whole life to come to these islands for, aloha. In the two years we've been together, she has been recognized for lighting up the room at work, whether by patrons online or her own peers voting her Employee of the Year in Ohana. This spirit of kindness, unity, agreeable, humility and patience is not just at work but on an everyday basis. I see the way even friends of our children love her and how, not just her, but my own family embraces her radiance. After hearing your Aloha Spirit nominee commercial I automatically thought about her, the born-and-raised hapa girl that lives next door. She hasn't had anything handed to her, always worked hard and always maintained a positive upbeat attitude. Her spirit is motivating to anyone that crosses paths with her.

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Her co-workers have nothing but reassuring things to say and most love working with her because her "aloha-ness" makes any 8-hour shift on your feet fly right by with continuous smiles. She stands out in any crowd not only because she's two inches shy of 6 feet but because she shines bright with an aloha spirit that draws positivity her way. I hope that my words can give some justice to how truly blessed myself and my children are to share in her natural aloha spirit beauty daily.

Mahalo to the Spirit of Aloha Award sponsors – Hawaiian105KINE, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, KFVE and Longs Drugs.

About Aloha Festivals

Aloha Festivals was first held in 1946 as Aloha Week, and over the past seven decades has become a celebration of Hawaiian culture, integrating the traditions and cultures of the Islands through music, dance, cuisine and art. All festivities are coordinated by a volunteer board of directors. Aloha Festivals is funded by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, corporate and private sponsorships, and sales of Aloha Festivals ribbons and merchandise.

More information about Aloha Festivals and its events can be found at www.alohafestivals.com, Facebook (facebook.com/AlohaFestivals), Twitter ([@AlohaFstvlS](https://twitter.com/AlohaFstvlS)), Instagram ([@alohafestivals](https://instagram.com/alohafestivals)) or by calling (808) 923-2030.

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