



Primary Contact:
Valerie Corcoran, President
808-990-6511
Valt96750@yahoo.com

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OPPORTUNITIES GALORE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO PARTICIPATE IN 2018 KONA COFFEE CULTURAL FESTIVAL EVENTS

Kona, Hawaii (October 5, 2018)— The 48th Annual Kona Coffee Cultural Festival toasts the roast with 10 days of coffee events from Friday, November 9 through Sunday, November 18. Local residents and visitors are invited to participate in the Festival festivities.

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival experience is unique, enriching and ensures that the story of Kona coffee's cultural heritage continues to be shared with residents and visitors. The cultural heritage of Kona's coffee industry is built on the multi-generational farmers, mainly of Japanese descent who established coffee plantations in the Kona District along with the native Hawaiian host culture who had earlier ties to growing coffee in Kona.

Kona's annual coffee harvest that has sustained this agricultural community for nearly 200 years is celebrated every November. The award-winning Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is recognized as the oldest and one of the most successful food festivals in Hawaii.

Gather up friends, family, recipes, art and lei and be a part of the 2018 Kona Coffee Cultural Festival.

Kona Coffee Cultural Festival Lantern Parade

Community groups and individuals are invited to walk along Alii Drive in the glowing procession of light, music and color on Friday November 9 starting at 5:30 p.m. Great prizes awarded in Best Teen/Adult, Best Youth, Best Children and Best Overall categories. Deadline to enter is November 2.

Entry forms are available at konacoffeefest.com/applications/

KTA Super Stores Kona Coffee Recipe Contest

Foodie Alert! Have you got a favorite recipe using 100% Kona coffee? Brush off those recipes and enter in the professional, amateur, culinary student and keiki divisions. Receive a free 2018 Festival Button and a \$25 KTA Super Store grocery certificate just for entering. There's cash prizes and bragging rights too. Deadline to enter is Friday, November 2 at 5 pm.

Entry forms available at konacoffeefest.com/applications/

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Kona Coffee Cultural Festival Art Exhibit

Artists of all mediums are invited to submit their original works of art exploring Kona's coffee culture. Art must be on the theme of coffee, either by subject matter or medium. Submit entries by 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 20.

Entry forms available at donkeymillartcenter.org

Kona Coffee Cupping Competition

Calling all Kona coffee farmers! Coffee entries must be 100% Kona coffee grown in the district of Kona. Kona coffee entered in the competition will be scored on the globally accepted and recognized Specialty Coffee Association cupping format using a 100-point scale and evaluated in a double-blind format in the commercial and specialty divisions. Pacific Coffee Research oversees the prestigious Kona Coffee Cupping Competition. Drop off deadline is Friday, November 2.

For detailed entry information, log onto pacificcoffeeresearch.com/cuppingcompetition

Kona Coffee Lei Contest

This beautiful event is part of the Festival's Hoolaulea happening at the Makaeo County Pavilion (Old Airport Park) on Saturday, November 17. There are two categories Wili and Kui. Entries must be submitted by 9 am on Saturday, November 17 at Makaeo Pavilion.

All participants in the various events are required to wear a Kona Coffee Cultural Festival button.

For a complete listing of 48th Annual Kona Coffee Cultural Festival events or for more information visit www.konacoffeefest.com. Follow the Festival on social media @konacoffeefest

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About Kona Coffee Cultural Festival

The award-winning Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is recognized as the oldest and one of the most successful food festivals in Hawaii. The 2018 Festival includes 10 days of events that promote Hawaii's unique culture and diversity and supports the Festival's mission to preserve, perpetuate and promote Kona's unique coffee heritage.

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is supported as a Signature Event of the Hawaii Tourism Authority and is made possible through the support of UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd., Kamehameha Schools, Alaska Airlines, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, KTA Super Stores and numerous other corporate and community donors.

Note to editors: For high-resolution Coffee Festival images or to schedule an interview, contact Laura Aquino at 808.326.7820 or email laura@current-events.com.