

31st Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

Official Festival Art "Cherry Blossom Days" by Patti Pease Johnson



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024
9:00AM - 3:00PM

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

HISTORY AND CULTURE | DEMONSTRATIONS | ENTERTAINMENT | ARTS & CRAFTS



#WaimeaCBF

Souvenir Booklet Design by Kathy Sprinkle

Words by Fern Gavelek

Photos Courtesy Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

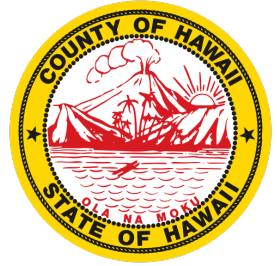
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Aloha and Konichiwa,

As Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, it brings me great joy to extend a warm welcome to you to the 31st Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival.



The Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival commemorates the blossoming of the original 20 cherry trees planted in 1972 by the Waimea Lions Club at Church Row Park and observes the time-honored Japanese tradition of hanami, or "cherry blossom viewing party."

Much like the fleeting beauty of the Sakura (cherry blossom) bud, our time is precious and brief. Let us savor the beauty of our life's bloom. May we embrace our challenges, value our moments with loved ones, uplift those around us, extend a helping hand whenever possible, and above all, give gratitude for each day. In doing so, our community will thrive and grow, and we will enjoy its beauty, together.

I am honored to serve as your mayor, and I look forward to many more cherry blossom festivals to come, celebrating the promise of spring, the warm hospitality of our residents, and the harmonious blending of cultural heritage that continues to make the County of Hawai'i a truly beautiful place to call home.

With Aloha.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor
County of Hawai'i



2024 Festival Planning Committee

Morty Carter, Jr.-- Chairman
Elyse Stevens, Lori Lei Katahara, Bert Mukai -- Assistants

Margo Mau Bunnell
Rochelle delaCruz
Colene DeMello
Capt. Jeremie Evangelista
Fern Gavelek

Gene Ishihara
Nancy Male
Colin Miura
Jim McDonough
Amy Nishiura

Duane Puhi
Annu Shionoya
Kathy Sprinkle
Clarence Yee

Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival Celebrates Hanami

In its 31st year, the 2024 Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. February 3 at multiple venues sprawling from the Parker Ranch Historic Homes to the historic planting of cherry trees at Church Row Park.

Delicate pink blossoms, often backdropped by a crown of snow atop Maunakea, attract thousands each year to the annual festival. Presented annually the first Saturday in February under the direction of the Culture and Education Division of the County of Hawai'i Parks and Recreation Department, the community event is a favorite with both visitors and residents alike.

At the core of the festival is the blooming of cherry trees at Church Row Park and the age-old Japanese tradition of hanami, which literally translates to hana (flower) and mi (look) or "cherry blossom viewing party." Harking from the 7th century, hanami celebrates the fleeting beauty of nature while heralding the arrival of spring.

Cherry Trees Arrive in Waimea in 1953

Cherry trees first came to Waimea in 1953 as a living memorial to Fred Makino, founder of Hawai'i's former Japanese language newspaper, *Hawaii Hochi*. The late Isami Ishihara, a noted Waimea gardener, bonsai master and festival volunteer, propagated more trees. He donated the seedlings to the Waimea Lions Club for community beautification and the club received permission from the county to plant the trees in 1972 at Church Row Park.

Through the years, the Waimea Lions Club nurtured the trees—which aren't native to Hawai'i—replacing those that died. The late Hisao Kimura, who was a professional agronomist, was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the partnership between the county and the club in caring for the trees. Church Row Park is currently home to 75-some trees.

During the festival, the Lions Club offers an informative photo display chronicling the club's planting efforts through the years.



Festival Portal QR includes:

- Digital version of Souvenir Program
- Activity Line-up and Festival Map
- Entertainment Schedule

Festival Founded in 1994

Under the direction of former county Parks and Recreation Director George Yoshida, the festival originated in 1994 in Church Row Park and has evolved over the years to involve numerous community organizations providing fun activities throughout town.

While activities and locations vary each year, the festival offers plenty of hands-on fun: mochi pounding, bonsai demonstrations, origami making, traditional Japanese tea ceremonies, bon dancing and more. While many venues are within walking distance of each other, Roberts Hawaii graciously provides free shuttle service among select locations.

Attendees are treated to a wide range of local entertainment including taiko drumming, hula and Chinese lion dance, plus sometimes headliners from Japan delight festival goers with authentic Japanese costume, dance, song and instrumentation. Stages outside Parker Ranch Center, Waimea Center, Church Row Park and Pukulani Stables present a wide range of local and ethnic performing arts. Attendees can shop among numerous craft vendors, a farmer's market, tables of Asian-themed collectibles, cherry tree blossoms and cherry-themed art.

All the activities spur the appetite and festival goers enjoy free samplings at staged cooking demonstrations by local chefs. Hungry attendees make their way among numerous broke-da-mouth food booths, Asian baked goods like andagi and refreshing shave ice.

Official Festival Honorees and Art

Since 2007, the festival has often celebrated persons or organizations within the community—whether they are community volunteers, leaders, businesses or colorful characters involved with the festival—as official honorees. Honorees are not named annually and such is the case for 2024. In addition, the Waimea Arts Council (WAC) facilitates a contest for the festival's official annual art that appears on this booklet's cover and the event poster that can be purchased for \$10 at Firehouse Gallery. WAC also presents the annual "Cherry Blossom Art Exhibition" at Firehouse Gallery, located at Waimea's Historic Corner.



Festival Information at Your Fingertips

This Souvenir Booklet shares information on the many community organizations and volunteers who collaborate to present the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival. For the full lineup of things to do, pick up the free, one-page handout titled "2024 Festival Activity Lineup" at festival venues. It is also available online in the Festival Portal; use the QR code in this booklet to access that link. Mahalo!

Parker Ranch Center



Parker Ranch Center is thrilled to once again be a major participant with the annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival for 2024. Visitors to this year's festival can enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment while experiencing the stunning aromas, views and colors of the 31st Cherry Blossom Festival. Located in the heart of Waimea, the center offers plenty of parking.

Parker Ranch Center is part of the 250,000-acre Parker Ranch, one of the nation's oldest and largest cattle ranches. The center was built to serve the needs of the ranchers and their families who made their livelihood on the ranch.

Originally opened in 1968, Parker Ranch Center was reconfigured and designed to an award-winning architectural standard in 2002. It is anchored by local island grocer Foodland and local health food store Healthway's. Signature tenants include Starbucks, Patisserie Nanako, Mahina, Village Burger and Waimea's only food court.

Located in the heart of Hawai'i's paniolo country, Parker Ranch Center invites festival goers to visit the nine-ton "Ikua Purdy Rides Again" statue, courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society and located near the Center's Mamalahoa Highway 19 entrance. Purdy was the 1908 World Champion Roper who was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Inside the center's Fireside Food Court, 32 paniolo murals, painted by local artist Marcia Ray, colorfully adorn the walls. The history of Parker Ranch and Waimea is rich and captivating. It's a story of the land, of the melding of cultures, of cowboys and of community spirit.



The W. M. Keck Observatory

The W. M. Keck Observatory telescopes are among the largest, most scientifically productive on Earth. Research conducted from atop Maunakea on Hawai'i Island using Keck Observatory's two, 10-meter optical/infrared telescopes have led to groundbreaking discoveries—two of which won Nobel Prizes in Physics: one in 2011 for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe and another in 2020 for conclusive evidence of a supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy.



*Keck Observatory Domes atop Maunakea
by Ethan Tweedie Photography*

Keck Observatory is a non-profit organization operated as a scientific partnership between Caltech, University of California, and NASA. Its twin telescopes, equipped with cutting-edge technology, enable astronomers around the world to observe the deepest and darkest regions of space, unraveling celestial mysteries.

Inspired by the awe and wonder of the universe and deeply committed to Hawai'i's community, Keck Observatory's 140-plus employees are dedicated to sharing the knowledge learned from Maunakea, fostering curiosity and exploration through science engagement, community citizenship, and workforce development. The front lawn of the observatory's Waimea headquarters offers activities during the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival.

Learn more: www.keckobservatory.org



North Hawai'i Bon Dancers Accompanied by Kona Hongwanji Taiko Drummers

Bon Odori (Bon Dance) originates from the story of a Buddhist disciple who envisioned his deceased mother in the Realm of Hungry Ghosts where she was indulging in her own selfishness. Greatly disturbed, the disciple went to Buddha and asked how he could release his mother from this realm.

Buddha advised his disciple to perform a charitable act in memory of his mother. The disciple did this and thus saw his mother's release. He also began to see the true nature of her past unselfishness and the many sacrifices she had made for him. The disciple, happy for his mother's release and grateful for his mother's kindness, danced with joy.

This dance of joy is Bon Odori, a time when ancestors and their sacrifices are remembered and appreciated. During the festival, the North Hawai'i Bon Dancers will perform traditional Bon Odori movements in lines fronting the entertainment stage in the back parking lot at Parker Ranch Center. They will be accompanied by the Kona Hongwanji Taiko Group. The public is welcome to join in.

Urasenke Hilo Association

The Urasenke Hilo Association annually participates in the festival by offering Chanoyu, the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Chado, "The Way of Tea, is based "on the simple act of boiling water, making tea, offering it to others and drinking of it ourselves." Powdered matcha tea is used, which is whipped into hot water and served "with a respectful heart while received with gratitude."

The Urasenke Hilo Chapter (Urasenke Hilo Association) was established in 1971. It meets and (hopefully) teaches regularly at the landmark Shoroan (Pine Ocean) Tea House on the beautiful grounds of Lili'uokalani Gardens in Hilo.

Through practice and experience of Chanoyu, each practitioner seeks to attain the four essential virtues. They are "wa," which is harmony; "kei" is respect, "sei" is purity and "jaku" is tranquility or the peace of mind that comes with the realization of the first three principles of the philosophy of wabi, meaning quiet or sober refinement.

The Urasenke Hilo Association invites festival goers to be a guest at a traditional Chanoyu and enjoy the serenity of a bowl of tea. The chapter offers several tea ceremonies during the festival 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Parker Ranch Historic Homes.



Asian Dance and Music

The performing arts of Japan returns to the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival during a presentation of dance and music entitled "Sakura Beauty and Spirit." The sakura, or cherry blossom, is the national flower of Japan and represents a springtime sense of renewal and optimism. Dances and choreography are by Shizuno Nasu while Annu Shoko Shionoya, who teaches and performs piano on the Big Island, coordinates participating local musicians and artists.

Shizuno Nasu Dance Institute of Japan is composed of eight dancers, featuring special Buddhist guest Chief Priest Koshin Nagamune. A solo vocalist, he is from Tendai Shomyo Honjoin Tendai-Shu Temple and has performed in many European countries and throughout Japan.

On lyre, is Miyuki Ikessue, who has appeared in concert in Japan, Europe and the US. Also performing is vocalist Lisa Katherine Taylor, bamboo flutist Manuel Roberto and pianist Annu Shoko Shinoya. Featured painting is by Susumu Sakaguchi. The presentation is 2 p.m. at Parker Ranch Historic Homes.



Waimea KTA Super Stores

KTA Super Stores started in 1916, as a modest, 500 square-foot grocery and dry goods store, by Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi. Since then, KTA has grown to a seven-store chain, serving the residents of Hawai'i island. For over 100 years, KTA Super Stores has been committed to our founder's philosophy, which is a commitment to humbly serve the people of our community.

KTA Waimea opened in 1989 to serve the community of Kamuela, later expanding and renovating in 2002. KTA is proud to be a regular venue participant in the festival, often doing food demonstrations and other activities.



Roberts Hawaii

Roberts Hawaii has provided complimentary shuttle services to venues of the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival for years as the company's Big Island team has a sense of "kuleana" (responsibility) to its hometown community. The festival resumed last year after a COVID pause and Roberts Hawaii is again excited to be part of this festive event.

"We are happy to watch the success of this festival and its growth over the years," says Margo Bunnell, Roberts GM of Hawai'i Island. "Our commitment to these types of events is to always be good partners to help preserve the mixed cultures found in the Hawaiian Islands."

Bunnell adds, "When this festival started 31 years ago for just the pure enjoyment of 'hanami,' the viewing of the beautiful flowers of the cherry blossom trees, we were so fortunate the community wanted to expand this event throughout the town. Roberts Hawaii will always be here for the community and to be part of this major event, which has brought a small town like Waimea to host this time-honored Japanese tradition."

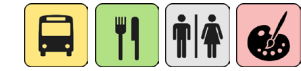
"Where else in the world can one see the magnificent Maunakea as the backdrop for these wonderful 'hot pink' cherry blossoms in full bloom in February?," she concludes.

Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

9:00am - 3:00pm | Saturday, February 3, 2024



Historic Church Row Park



Cherry Blossom Trees & Entertainment
Waimea Lions Club

- Festival History, T-shirt Sales, Lost & Found

Kamuela Hongwanji Open House

- Chef Demos & Tasting
- Asian Food Booths, Sales
- Keiki Activities

Waimea Bon-yu Kai Bonsai Club

- Display, Demonstrations, Sales

Kamuela Liquor Store

- Sake Tasting noon-3 p.m.

Waimea Center



KTA Super Stores Waimea

- Food sampling until 1p.m.

Waimea Center's Center Court

- Koto, Taiko, Lion Dance, Jazz

Historic Spencer House

- Vintage Kimono
- Kokeshi Doll Displays

Keck Headquarters

- Solar Telescope Viewing & Festival Craft Fair

Parker Ranch Historic Homes



- Open House
- Tea Ceremony
- Asian Music and Dance

Waimea's Historic Center



Firehouse Gallery

- Cherry Blossom Art Show
- All-ages Chalk Art

Waimea Preservation Association

- Open House
- Chess Fair on giant 20 ft. chess board!

Thelma Parker Library



- All Ages - Acrylic Painting of Cherry Blossom Branch

Mana Christian 'Ohana Hall

IK Dealer Group

- Vehicle Display on Grass

Parker Ranch Center



Festival Entertainment Stage:
In the Center's back parking lot.

- 9 a.m. blessing opens festival
- Bon Dance
- Mochi Pounding with Kona Hongwanji
- Taiko Drumming
- Local Entertainment
- Craft Fair in back lot and throughout Center

Pukalani Stables



Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch

- Kohala Mountain Express



Kamuela Farmers Market

- 70 food and product vendors
- Cherry Tree Sales
- Chef Demos
- Bon Dance
- Entertainment



Pu'u opelu Road



To Kona via "Upper Road"



To Kawaihae & North Kohala



To Honoko'a & Hilo



Kamuela Farmers Market

The Kamuela Farmers Market was founded December 2015 by a group of vendors who had been working together in Waimea for many years. The goal was to establish a place for the community to gather and support small and local family owned businesses. The market is held at the idyllic historic Pukalani Stables, which was part of the original Pukalani Village in the 19th century and located at 67-139 Pukalani Road in Waimea.

Over the past seven years, the Kamuela Farmers Market has grown to more than 50 vendors offering some of the island's best locally grown produce, "grindz" and goods. Known as "The Heartbeat and Gathering Place of Waimea," the Kamuela Farmers Market has hosted many outstanding musicians and performances at special events and is honored to be an official participant of the 31st annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival.

In 2024, the Market is offering a lineup of entertainment and partnering with the Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch Homeowners Association to provide festival activities, including the Cherry Choo Choo by Kohala Mountain Express. The keiki train rides are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for \$5 at Holu Holu Ku at Parker Ranch next to Pukalani Stables.



Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch Homeowners Association

Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch strives to set an example of how condominium associations can stay involved with its neighbors. Working alongside some of the other non-profits in the Waimea area, Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch assists Pukalani Stables, the local farmers markets and other public events to create a space for Waimea and the

Big Island to enjoy. Many of the Holo Holo Ku at Parker Ranch community members also volunteer around town, stay active with social and community gatherings, and support the greater Waimea area and Hawai'i through different philanthropic endeavors.

For info on the Kamuela Farmers Market, visit kamuelafarmersmarket.com.

Kohala Mountain Express

The Kohala Mountain Express chugs into Waimea to again offer its trackless keiki train rides at Holu Holu Ku at Parker Ranch next to Pukalani Stables. Train Engineer Clarence Yee of Hawi drives the 10-barrel train that is powered by an authentic looking locomotive (some say it resembles Thomas the Train!). Scenic rides aboard the Cherry Choo Choo are a delight for young children and offer great photo ops! Passengers are charged a nominal fee.



The Historic Spencer House

The Historic Spencer House has been a Waimea landmark for over 180 years. Still owned by the Spencer family, the original home was built in 1840 and boasts being the first western-style house in the area. A kitchen, bathroom and additional rooms were added later. While most of the family furniture has been dispersed, there are some portraits on the walls, as well as ghost stories that typically accompany all old houses.



Over the years, the Spencer House has been a family home, a hotel, a law office and a restaurant. It has also accommodated various offices and businesses. Some parts of the house are currently under repair, but visitors are welcome to walk through most of the building's ground floor to appreciate its historical significance and vintage craftsmanship. E komo mai!

Parker Ranch Historic Homes

In the scenic, pastoral countryside of Waimea, Parker Ranch's two historic homes, Puuopelu and Mana Hale, still reside among the green hills and windswept pastures. These beautiful homes tell the Parker family's story through historic heirlooms, works of art, and everyday things. The homes are open for free to the public for self-guided tours during the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival.

Mana Hale, the two-story, "saltbox" koa-wood house that John Palmer Parker built—almost ship-like with its small rooms, narrow staircase, and low ceilings—was moved from its original location to sit side-by-side with the more elaborate Puuopelu.

Purchased by John Parker II in 1879, the "Hawaiian Victorian" manor house served as the family home through sixth generation heir Richard Smart, who surrounded it with flower gardens and filled it with his extensive art collection, family portraits, antiques and treasures from world travels.

Take a tour of the historic homes of Parker Ranch, a family dynasty that began nearly 200 years ago, with deep roots in the land and intricate ties to the history and monarchy of Hawai'i. Upon arrival, you will receive a self-guided tour pamphlet to guide you through the historic homes, gardens, and grounds. With the exception of festival day on February 3, reservations and availability are booked online, visit <https://parkerranch.com/waimea/explore-self-guided-tours/>.



Kamuela Liquor Store

This long-time liquor store and festival participant is a Waimea landmark located on Hwy. 19 when driving toward Honoka'a. Owner Alvin Wakayama hosts sake tasting for festival goers from noon to 3 p.m.

The recreational beverage and snack needs of the Waimea community have been supplied by several generations of the Wakayama family. Around 1938, Jitsuji Wakayama erected the Kamuela Theatre next door to the then I. Oda Store to expand entertainment offerings once held at I. Oda. Although recollections are varied, the theatre presented dramatic Japanese touring companies, movies and community events. One newspaper article shared about I. Oda described a shibai (farce), performed by locals whose costumes were made by wives of Parker Ranch workers. After WWII, the theatre was discontinued and the operation was devoted to selling beverages.

The store, then overseen by Jitsuji's son, Tetsuro, became known as the Kamuela Liquor Store and the business was established in 1946. Tetsuro married Yukie, the daughter of a noted paniolo from Parker Ranch. Today, Tetsuro's son Alvin continues to operate the store.

Through the years, Kamuela Liquor Store has offered a wide range of spirits, fine wines and beers. In addition, shoppers enjoy a food selection of gourmet products including boutique cheeses and condiments, plus typical snacks.



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

The Kona Hongwanji Temple annually provides a "hands-on" demonstration of mochi tsuki (mochi pounding) during the festival and offers attendees complimentary mochi treats made from the freshly pounded mochi. The treats are flavored with either red bean paste (anko), peanut butter or a soybean powder with sugar (kinako).

Mochi making is a multi-day process. Rice must be washed and rinsed, all wooden equipment soaked, the rice cooked and then pounded. Mochi is believed to symbolize unity and strength because of its sticky consistency. Since mochi rice is pounded, it lasts much longer than ordinary cooked rice and is therefore associated with longevity.

The Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is located in Kealakekua and celebrated 125 years in 2022. The Temple aspires to be the leading Buddhist center for West Hawai'i by providing:

- spiritual guidance and support for living in the 21st century
- propagation programs and activities appealing to people of all ages and ethnicities
- a resource center for Pure Land/Jodo Shin Buddhism.

Waimea Bon-yu Kai Bonsai Club

In 2024, the Waimea Bon-yu Kai Bonsai Club will be entering its 68th year as an active bonsai club. Waimea Bon-yu Kai continues to be an active group in the community and has participated in every Cherry Blossom Festival held in Waimea. The late Isami Ishihara of Waimea was a founding club member as well as the planter of the original cherry trees in Church Row Park.



“In bonsai, the main thing is the Three Point Rule,” Mr. Ishihara once shared. He described it as the bonsai having a triangular shape with the top apex, or point, actually at the top. “You also see this in Japanese flower arranging,” he added. The triangle’s points are called “heaven, man and earth,” he continued. “The bottom is earth, the foundation; it is strong.”

During the festival, visit the Bonsai Club booths in Church Row Park and talk story with the members. There will be bonsai plants on display, bonsai for sale, and an ongoing clinic and demonstrations to discuss and work on any bonsai you may have.

To learn more, the club invites the public to attend one of its monthly meetings offered 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every fourth Sunday of the month, except December, at the Waimea Community Center. For more information, email WaimeaBonsai@gmail.com

So-shin Kai Koto

Based in Hilo, So-shin Kai is a group of koto students under the instruction of Darin Miyashiro that performs at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival. Last year, the group wowed attendees with a performance in the atrium at Waimea Center. Check the QR code for the 2024 Festival Activity Lineup in this booklet for this year’s times and locations.

The koto is an ancient Japanese zither-type instrument with 13 strings and moveable bridges. It measures up to six feet long and a foot wide and is played with picks, called tsume. Said to “represent a dragon,” the koto is related to the Chinese guzheng and Korean gayageum. The national instrument of Japan, the koto has been played for over 1,000 years there. Since the Meiji Era (1868-1912), many new koto pieces have been composed. Koto music often expresses meaningful Japanese customs or seasons, including the sakura or cherry blossom season.



Kamuela Hongwanji Mission

Kamuela Hongwanji Mission is located at 65-1110 Mamalahoa Highway fronting Waimea's Historic Church Row Park. Established in 1954, the temple was originally called Waimea Hongwanji. The name was changed to Kamuela Hongwanji Mission in 1969, so as not to confuse it with Waimea Hongwanji on Kaua'i.

The temple is a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple and is one of 33 temples in Hawai'i associated with Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i in Honolulu. It also maintains close ties with the Nishi Hongwanji head temple in Kyoto, Japan. Rev. Masanari Yamagishi is the resident minister of Kamuela Hongwanji and also serves as the minister for Honoka'a, Kohala and Pa'aulo Hongwanji.

For this year's festival, Kamuela Hongwanji will host its temple open house with Rev. Masanari Yamagishi. He will explain Shin Buddhism rituals and chanting to visitors. Guests are invited to sign the guest book. Kamuela Hongwanji will offer a concession stand with Asian foods such as nishime bento, chichi mochi, Okinawan andagi and more. Plus, the temple's social hall will be hosting several cooking demonstrations by guest chefs from island restaurants, along with fruit/vegetable carving demonstrations and more activities.



Waimea Lions Club

The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve" and the men and women of the Waimea Lions have been honoring that ideal since 1955. Caring for the 75-some cherry trees at the county's Church Row Park is the club's largest service project according to Lions Club Immediate Past President James McDonough. In fact, the non-profit was involved with the planting of the park's first trees in 1972 as a community beautification project.



During the festival, the Waimea Lions offers a large photo display of past festivals at Church Row Park and serves as the official Lost and Found station. In 2024, the club will be selling two designs of festival t-shirts for both youth and adults. Choose from an all white shirt with a multi-colored design or a new black shirt with a white design. Adult unisex shirts are available in S, M, L, XL and XXL while they last.

The Waimea Lions is also involved with the local Blood Bank Canteen, and when the Boy Scout Makahiki is held locally the Lions provide a volunteer snack shop with all proceeds going to the local BSA district. In addition, the club is involved with vision screening in schools, collecting used eyeglasses and participating in the annual Project Vision Van campaign to offer free adult vision screening. Most recently, the club is involved in hearing screening for school kids.

While many of the organization's original members have lost their vim and vigor for active service, the Waimea Lions boasts newly inducted members and welcomes additional members interested in community service. For info, contact McDonough at jimbo5441@aol.com and follow WaimeaLionsClubDistrict50 on facebook.



Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library

Thelma Parker Memorial Library first opened its doors in Waimea in 1951 on land donated to the County of Hawai'i by the world-famous Parker Ranch and its owner, Richard Palmer Kaleioku Smart. Smart named the library after his mother, Annie Thelma Kahiluonapua'api'ilani Parker. In 1978, the State of Hawai'i opened a new and larger Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library (TPMPSL) near its original location and is located at 67-1209 Mamalahoa Highway.

The popular library continues to serve patrons—residents and visitors alike—from a wide geographic area. TPMPSL has the longest name of all 51 libraries in the Hawai'i State Public Library System and is the sole state library without a location name. The facility boasts being the only library in the state selected (in 2017) to be part of the NASA@My Library initiative to promote STEM learning in the community. E komo mai!



Waimea’s Historic Corner



Waimea’s Historic Corner—at the crossroads of Hwys. 19 and 190 and on the corner of Mamalahoa Hwy. and Lindsey Rd.—will have a number of activities during this year’s festival. Almost 100 years ago, the Historic Corner served as Waimea’s civic center. It’s hard to imagine the small buildings on the Historic Corner housed the tax assessor’s office, the courthouse, the library, the gym, and the firehouse. **The Waimea Senior Club** (Lily Yoshimatsu Senior Center) currently uses the former district courthouse and the fire chief’s residence has been converted to the site for the **Hawaii County Elderly Activities Nutrition Program**.

The **Waimea Preservation Association** (WPA) is a local nonprofit focused on “Heritage, Community, and Prosperity.” WPA is a community resource center located in the tiny, former territorial Tax Office Building. Current projects include care of historic Minuke ‘Ole Park behind Parker Ranch Center, support for Waimea Chess Club and headquarters for the Friendly Fridge food distribution serving the needy. WPA also collaborates with other organizations, such as the Rotary Club of North Hawai‘i, with its Peace Pole project and insurance coverage for community events

like Waimea’s Christmas Twilight Parade. Join WPA during the Cherry Blossom Festival for an open house and a chess fair on the big 20-foot-square chess board at the corner.

Since the 1980s, the **Waimea Arts Council** (WAC) has occupied the former bunkhouse for Waimea’s firemen and the garage that housed the fire truck. North Hawai‘i’s oldest arts organization was founded in 1974 to stimulate and encourage the growth of arts. Through its various programs and events, the council brings people together and fosters a sense of community through the arts. WAC is one of the founding groups that started the Cherry Blossom Festival 31 years ago.

The Waimea Arts Council also operates the on-site **Firehouse Gallery**, a venue for local artists to display and sell their work. The artists donate a percentage of their sales to support community arts programs. The gallery is sponsoring the 31st annual “Cherry Blossom and Plein-Air Art Exhibition” during February. Artists will have originals and prints available for sale, including the 2024 festival poster. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday through Sunday and “whenever the flags are flying!” Learn more at www.WaimeeArtsCouncil.org.

“Cherry Blossom Days” by Kea‘au Resident is 2024 Official Festival Art

A painting titled “Cherry Blossom Days” by Patti Pease Johnson is the official art for the 2024 Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival. The painting was selected from a field of 11 entries by the festival’s community planning committee.



The winning art appears on both the cover of the festival’s souvenir booklet and the 2024 poster. Purchase the poster for \$10 at Waimea’s Firehouse Gallery and the free souvenir booklet is available at venues throughout the February 3rd festival. In addition, 8X10 prints of “Cherry Blossom Days” will be sold at the gallery during the Waimea Art Council’s 31st “Cherry Blossom Art and Plein-Air Exhibition.” Pease Johnson will be at the gallery during the festival to sign posters and prints.

A self-taught artist, Pease Johnson claims she’s “exhilarated by nature’s vivid colors and beauty” while crediting her parents for instilling an appreciation of nature. “I relish a rock, a leaf or piece of moss as much as a mountain or the ocean,” she continues. “It’s the simplistic nature of life I find most intriguing. Flow and contrast,

color and form, intuition and newness are what excites me in creation.”

A Kea‘au resident, Pease Johnson creates and teaches art in three mediums: dye on silk, soft pastel and watercolor. She has been leading workshops for nearly two decades at various island locations, including the Volcano Art Center and Hilo’s Wailoa Center.

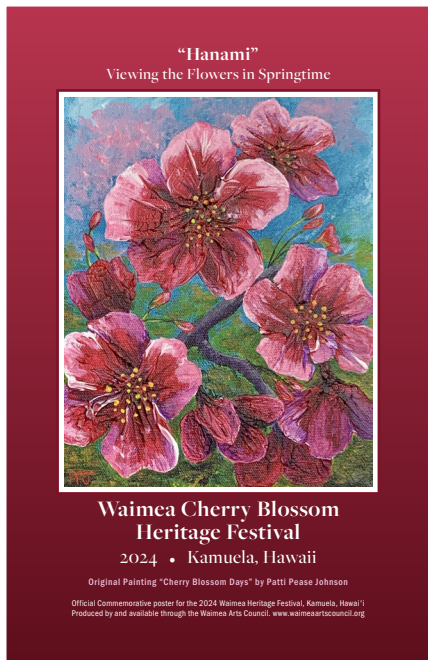
The Minnesota native says her goal of “Cherry Blossom Days” was to accentuate the beauty of the tiny cherry blossoms by “creating a thick, colorful modeling of the petals by using a palette knife.” As this technique can’t be achieved with the art mediums she typically uses, Pease Johnson experimented with a new material—acrylics.

In addition to the Firehouse Gallery in Waimea, find the artist’s work at Volcano Art Center, Big Island Grown in Honoka’a, the Unite Art & Design Shop in Kona and in Hilo at both One Gallery and Banyan Gallery. For info, www.pattipeacejohnson.com.

Limited Edition only \$10

Official Collector’s Poster

The 17x11” poster is only available at the Firehouse Gallery. Find them on Facebook: Firehouse Gallery & Waimea Arts Council 808-877-1052 www.WaimeaArtsCouncil.org



Mahalo!

The Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival is produced by the Hawai'i County Parks and Recreation's Culture and Education Division. At the helm is event coordinator Morty Carter Jr.

Presented at numerous venues throughout Waimea, the free festival is a community-wide effort staged by a dedicated team of organizations, individuals and businesses. Mahalo to those who pitched in to produce the 2024 festival!



- Annu Shionoya—Classic Japanese Music & Dance
- CJ's Promotions
- Fern Gavelek Communications
- Hawai'i County Fire & Police Departments
- Hawai'i County Parks & Recreation Department
- Historic Spencer House
- Holu Holu Ku at Parker Ranch Homeowners Association
- Islandwide Canopy Tents
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- KTA Super Stores
- Kamuela Farmers Market
- Kamuela Hongwanji Mission
- Kamuela Liquor Store
- Kathy Sprinkle
- Kohala Mountain Express—Train Rides
- Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple—Mochi Pounding
- Holu Holu Ku at Parker Ranch Homeowners Association
- Parker Ranch Center (M&J Wilkow Properties, LLC)
- Parker Ranch Historic Homes
- Roberts Hawaii-Free Shuttles
- So-shin Kai Koto
- Thelma Parker Memorial Library
- Urasenke Hilo Association—Tea Ceremony
- Waimea Arts Council—Firehouse Gallery
- Waimea Bon-yu Kai Bonsai Club
- Waimea Lions Club
- Waimea Preservation Association
- W. M. Keck Observatory

"Dark Pink Cherry Blossoms" photo by Barbara Schaefer of Waimea, runner up winner of the Waimea Arts Council's annual Cherry Blossom Invitational Contest. This photo and others are available for purchase at the Firehouse Gallery.