



**Hawaii United Okinawa Association
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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HONOLULU - The 36th Okinawan Festival is at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend - September 1 and 2, 2018!!

The Okinawan Festival promises to be a weekend full of delicious food, great entertainment, and lots of fun for people of all ages! This free event has been voted "Hawaii's Best Ethnic/Cultural Festival" in the Honolulu Star Advertiser's Hawaii Best People's Choice Awards (2015 and 2016). The Hawaii Convention Center will be the setting for two levels of featured entertainment, food and activities. Be sure to visit the "Festival" on the 1st floor exhibit hall level and the "Mura – Village" on the 3rd floor. Special performances from Okinawa will include the winner of Radio Okinawa's Miuta Taisho (song contest), minyo (folk music), Eisa (drummers), hula, and yui-buyo (line dancing).

Your favorite Okinawan food booths and vendors will be present along with new experiences on the third floor. The indoor bon dance will be held on Saturday from 5:30 - 9:30 pm. There is great excitement and anticipation to continue "**Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha**" with the community!

FESTIVAL HOURS:

September 1 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Bon Dance 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

- Live entertainment and activities: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Bon Dance: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm (limited food booths will remain open until 8 pm)
- Center parking open from 7:00 am
- Shuttle from McKinley High School begins at 7:00 am, last shuttle at 10:00 pm
- Convention Center doors open at 9:00 am, closes at 10:00 pm

September 2 (Sunday) 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Live entertainment and activities: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
- Center parking open from 7:00 am
- Shuttle from McKinley High School begins at 7:00 am, last shuttle at 5:00 pm.
- Convention Center doors open at 9:00 am, closes at 5:00 pm

Web & Social Media

- Website: www.okinawanfestival.com
- Facebook: Okinawan Festival
- Instagram: @okinawanfestival
- Hashtag: #okifest2018

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

NEW! - Awamori Tasting at Okinawan Festival

An alcoholic beverage native to Okinawa, awamori has been a part of Okinawan culture since the 15th century. The first-ever Awamori Tasting will feature 10 types of awamori. Tickets will be available at the door or online at <https://hnlitix.com/events/awamori-tasting>. Guests will have a chance to sample Japan's lesser-known spirit in two ways:

1) Awamori Tasting & Food Pairing - Purchase a \$25 ticket which includes 6 small plates paired with 6 Awamori cocktails. Sample dishes from Senia, Agu Ramen, Mariposa, Alan Wong's, Pagoda and MW Restaurant.

- Saturday, Sept. 1 from 1–3 p.m.

2) Awamori Tasting - Purchase a \$5 ticket and receive two - 1oz tastings of Awamori. Purchase multi-tickets for more tastings.

- Saturday, Sept. 1 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and at 3–5 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 2 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–3 p.m.

NEW! - Movie Screening from Okinawa

Special movie screenings brought to the Okinawan Festival by the Okinawa Convention & Visitor Bureau. Screenings will be in the Emalani Theater (Room 320, 3rd floor).

1) JIMAMI TOFU - 2017 HIFF award winning movie! Tickets are \$9 premium for guaranteed & early seating or \$5 at the door. For tickets: <https://jimamitofu-okifest-2018.eventbrite.com>.

- Saturday, September 1 at 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
- Sunday, September 2 at 11:00 am & 1:45 pm

2) ART ISLAND OKINAWA - A beautiful documentary about four artists in Okinawa. Free, but ticket required for admission. For tickets: <https://artisland-okifest-2018.eventbrite.com>.

- Saturday, September 1 at 9:30 am & 1:30 pm
- Sunday, Sept 2 at 9:30 am

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