Kaʻūpūlehu Cultural Center







This special place called Kaʻūpūlehu, once believed to be named Kaʻulupulehu (roasted breadfruit) is based on a legend of two sisters, Kolomu'o and Pahinahina, who were visited by Pele while roasting their breadfruit. Stories such as these help define the history of these lands.

The Kaʻūpūlehu Cultural Center programs are designed to be interactive, fun, and educational for the entire family. Please join our mea hoʻokipa (host) as they share the Hawaiian culture and teach you to make crafts that you will be able to take home and share. "Talk story" with Uncle Earl and our kupuna (elders). Make this your first stop during your stay here at Hualālai.



Activities and Programs

Feather Art *

Feathers were used to decorate the cloaks and helmets for the Ali'i (chief). This hands-on activity teaches an intricate Hawaiian art, helping you create a flower from colored feathers.

Ages 4 and up.

Hawaiian Language Classes

Come and join our mea ho'okipa (host) and learn the Hawaiian alphabet and pronunciation of some common words and phrases. Ages 7 and up.

Hawaiian Legends

Hear stories of great chiefs and leaders of Hawai'i and learn how the events surrounding these individuals helped create these great legends.
All ages.

Hawaiian Quilting

We have the tools to help you complete a patchwork... the Hawaiian way. We'll also share some history of the evolution and development of Hawaiian quilting. Ages 12 and up.

Hula 'Auana

Express yourself with modern hula moves accompanied by songs, 'ukulele and other instruments. Ages 7 and up.

Hula Kahiko

You'll experience how every movement in hula has a specific meaning. This traditional style is always accompanied by expressive chants and percussion. Ages 7 and up.

Lei Pua Making *

We'll show you how to string a flower lei. Share it with a loved one as a gesture of "aloha," customary to the Hawaiian way. Ages 4 and up.

Kupuna Program *

Join our kupuna (elders) as they teach the arts and crafts of Hawai'i. From lei making to 'ukulele playing, you will be touched by their knowledge and the stories they share. All ages.

La'au (Canoe Plants and Hawaiian Legends)

Whether these plants are native, introduced or indigenous learn how each were used and the purpose each played which help sustain the Hawaiian communities. All ages.

Lauhala Weaving

Our mea ho'okipa (host) will show you how to weave a bracelet to take home and show to your family and friends. Ages 12 and up.



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'Ohe Kāpala (Stamping)

Learn about this traditional bamboo stamping technique at the Cultural Center. Make a bookmark for yourself or to give as a souvenir gift. All ages.

Oli (Hawaiian Chant)

A Hawaiian chant is a poetic phrase that can welcome someone or share a story. Learn how and why this melodic sound was part of Hawaiian protocol.

All ages.

Oral History of Ka'ūpūlehu *

Join us and learn about this ahupua'a (land division) of Ka'ūpūlehu. You will learn how the Hawaiians sustained life using only marine life from the ocean and fruits and vegetation from this region.
All ages.

Shell Crafts *

Join the mea ho'okipa (host) at the Ka'ūpūlehu Cultural Center and enjoy the art of shell crafting. All ages.

Star Navigation

Learn how the crew members of Hokule'a, the first double-hulled canoe sailed over the Pacific Ocean to Tahiti, navigating by the stars. Hear from our Cultural Specialist the art of ocean voyaging without instruments, using only the natural elements. All ages.

Ti Leaf Lei Making

Ti leaf leis are made in the wili style or braiding technique. To give a Hawaiian ti leaf lei to someone is to wish them good luck. Ages 7 and up.

'Ukulele Lessons

Learn simple 'ukulele chords and play a Hawaiian tune - from the 1950's to present day.

Ages 12 and up.

Voyages of the Hawaiians

How did the Hawaiian community build their nation here in Hawaii. Where did they come from? Learn about how they traveled here to make Hawaii their home. All ages.

*All children under 7 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.





General Information

All the programs at the Kaʻūpūlehu Cultural Center are complimentary.

Hours of Operation

Open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. The Center is located on the ocean side of the Club Shop.

Reservations & Schedules

Weekly schedules are available at the Concierge or Cultural Center. Please call to make reservations (808) 325-8520 (in-house, dial 47) and to reconfirm complimentary programs.

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