

February 2026



HIPCC  
P.O. Box 1839  
Hilo, HI 96721

Website: [hipcc.org](http://hipcc.org)

**The 3 Arms of our Chamber continue to fulfill our Goals with the Chamber addressing Business and the Economy; the Scholarship Fund and Center, Education; and the Center, our Portuguese Culture.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 15, 2026 – 2026 Malasada Shuffle 5K and Spring Festa  
Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Luau Hale,  
799 Pi'ilani Street Hilo, HI

	<p><b>Register NOW!!</b></p> <p><b>2026 Malasada Shuffle 5K Run/Walk/Shuffle</b></p>	
	<p>Race Day: Sunday, February 15, 2026 Starting Time: 7:30am Location: Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Lū'au Hale 799 Pi'ilani Street, Hilo, Hawai'i Cost: \$35 – Register by February 8, 2026 \$45 – Register between February 9-14, 2026 <b>NO REGISTRATION ON RACE DAY!</b></p>	

**On Site Registration Saturday February 14th 3-6 pm Outside Aunty Sally's Luau Hale**

April 1, 2026 – Scholarship Application Deadline Extended to June 1, 2026

February 2026 Newsletter



**2026**  
**A New Beginning**



**FELIZ ANO NOVO!**

**2025 came to an historic and memorable close.** Our Center accepted the honor of being the location for the 20<sup>th</sup> House of the Azores in the world. This partnership with the Azorean government will provide resources not available in Hawaii and real time exchanges to enrich international experiences.

2026 promises to start with a **bang** with the Malasada Shuffle 5K Run, Walk or Shuffle beginning at 7:30 a.m. on February 15<sup>th</sup>, ending with a fresh malasada for each participant, and followed by our Spring Festa at 9:00 serving up delicious Portuguese food, entertainment, exhibits and Aunty Mary's Store.

**And to top this new year off, the construction of our new Center will begin** with the laying of the slab and building erection very soon. It is a year to look forward to with enthusiasm and once again we ask each of you for your highly appreciated support.

**MUITO OBRIGADO!**

Mahalo Nui, Archie Hapai III, HIPCC President, 2019-2026

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 2 - Official Partnership with Azores Launched; It's Happening! HIPCC Cultural and Educational Center Construction to Begin
- 3 - Malasada Shuffle 5K Run/Walk/Shuffle & Spring Festa
- 4 - UPCOMING EVENTS: **February 15, 2026** Malasada Shuffle 5K and Spring Festa  
Malasada Shuffle 5K Run/Walk/Shuffle Registration (More information inside)  
**April 1, 2026** – Scholarship Application Deadline Extended to June 1, 2026

## Official Partnership with Azores Launched

December 19, 2025 proved to be an exciting way to end the year with our Azorean "Ohana", Dr. Jose Andrade, Director of Communities and Eng. Antonio Ventura, Secretary of Agriculture and Food, coming to Hilo to make our partnership with the Azores official via the signing of a Protocol of Cooperation. This was preceded by an afternoon in historic Honokaa featuring its Portuguese history and followed by a tour featuring Hilo's Portuguese history and a community reception. The signing brought together House of the Azores Hawaii Board members and officers from Maui, Oahu and Hawaii Island to commemorate this event. The new Center will provide a location for the newest Azorean House, with the Azorean Government providing resources and the Center committee implementing programs and events through this new partnership. Exciting times to come!



### It's Happening!

## HIPCC Cultural & Educational Center, Construction to Begin

We are poised to begin building the Center we have all worked so long and hard to make a reality. A contract was signed with General Contractor Heartwood Pacific on December 5, 2025 to begin slab work followed by building construction. As mentioned previously, we will have the shell built by the general contractor and finish up with the help of others. If you can help with experienced landscaping, painting, laying tiles or carpentry, or know other professionals who are willing to volunteer or give us a reasonable bid, let us know. We are especially looking for subcontractors to work with us. The schedule calls for our part in August. If you can fit this into your schedule, please let us know. With everyone helping, we will produce an amazing Center that everyone can learn from and enjoy. Your help is most appreciated. Contact Marlene Hapai at [mhapai@aol.com](mailto:mhapai@aol.com) or 808-557-4540 if you can help.

Write and mail donations to: HIPCC CEC P.O. Box 1120 Hilo, HI 96721.



**Hawai'i Island Portuguese Chamber Of Commerce Cultural And Educational Center**







<https://register.chronotrack.com/r/89604>

On Site Registration Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm Outside Aunty Sally's Lū'au Hale

## Sunday, February 15, 2026

**7:30am – Malasada Shuffle 5K Run/Walk/Shuffle**  
**9:00am - 2:00pm Spring Festa**

**Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Lū'au Hale - 799 Pi'ilani Street, Hilo**

FOOD • EXHIBITS • AUNTY MARY'S STORE • ENTERTAINMENT

EXHIBITS	SCHEDULE	FOOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lyman Museum</li> <li>Honoka'a Heritage Center</li> <li>Ka'ū Multicultural Society</li> <li>Portuguese Genealogy</li> <li>Portuguese Language</li> </ul>	<p>7:30am Malasada Shuffle 5K</p> <p>8:30am Awards</p> <p>9:00am Spring Festa Begins <i>Welcome/Opening</i></p> <p>10:00am Entertainment <i>Kaumana Sunrise Band</i></p> <p>11:45am <i>Luzia (Portuguese Music)</i></p> <p><i>Sophia Hanoa &amp; Bernie Freitas</i></p> <p>2:00pm Adeus – Aloha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malasadas</li> <li>Portuguese Sausage Hot Dogs</li> <li>Portuguese Bean Soup</li> <li>Vinha d'Alhos</li> <li>Portuguese Sweetbread</li> <li>Cinnamon Sweetbread</li> <li>Portuguese Pickled Onions</li> </ul>

**For more information:**  
 Marlene Hapai, Ph.D.  
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 (808)557-4540

**DONATE BY CHECK:**  
 HIPCC Cultural & Educational Center  
 P.O. Box 1120  
 Hilo, HI 96721

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
[www.hipcc.org/donate](http://www.hipcc.org/donate)

MUITO OBRIGADO TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS





















Mahalo to University of Hawai'i Hilo Women's Cross Country Team & Youth Challenge Academy

### Scholarship Application Deadline April 1<sup>st</sup> Extended to June 1, 2026

The Hawai'i Island Portuguese Chamber of Commerce will again be awarding three \$2,000 academic scholarships. Applications and required documents must be received or postmarked by **April 1, 2026**. For more information visit our website [hipcc.org/scholarship](http://hipcc.org/scholarship) or contact Billy Andrade at 808-938-9567.