



Barefoot Mahalo

AANR West Hawaii Naturist News & Updates

December 2025

In this issue:

- **The History of Naturism in Hawaii:
Cultural and Legal Perspectives on Nudity**
- **Friends of Little Beach Maui
Latest Beach News: On The Beach**



Welcome to the First Edition of Barefoot Mahalo

A Publication of AANR West

by *Dustin Cox, AANR West Director*



Aloha and welcome to the inaugural issue of Barefoot Mahalo, a new voice for naturism across Hawaii as part of the AANR West Region. This publication was created to celebrate the vibrant, diverse, and ever-evolving naturist community throughout Hawaii—where sun, sky, and open space meet a way of living that values freedom, authenticity, and respect for all bodies.

In these pages, you'll find stories that inspire, resources that empower, and perspectives that reflect the true spirit of naturism in Hawaii. From club highlights and regional events to personal experiences, travel features, and thoughtful discussions about body positivity and naturist culture, Barefoot Mahalo aims to be both a welcoming front door and a gathering place for longtime naturists and newcomers alike.

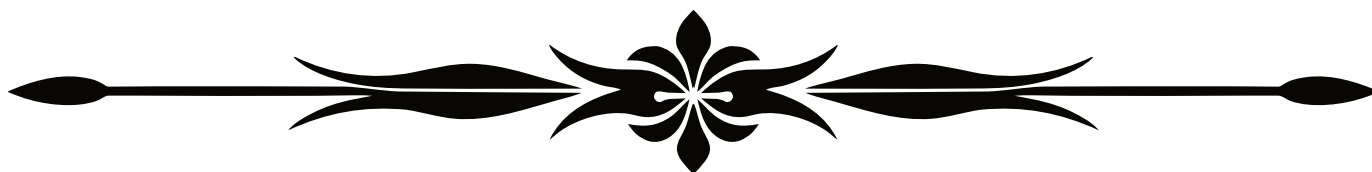


Our name, "Barefoot Mahalo," captures the heart of what we believe: gratitude for nature, for community, and for the simple joy of living comfortably in our own skin. Whether you practice naturism at home, at your favorite club, along a quiet Hawaiian beach, or anywhere the breeze meets your shoulders, this publication is for you.

Thank you for joining us on this new journey. We're grateful you're here and we look forward to walking this barefoot path together.

Mahalo,

Dustin Cox, AANR West Director



Hawaiian Naturist Park is a clothing-optional eco-retreat tucked into a lush rainforest on the Big Island, just minutes from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It features bamboo bungalows, a 16×32 ft pool, lava-rock outdoor showers, a sauna, and a laid-back, family-friendly vibe. The retreat runs off-grid with solar power and rainwater, promoting a body-positive, nature-centered experience.

Learn more: HawaiiNaturistPark.com





Hawaii Naturist Park

No current or
upcoming events.

Submit events via email to
publicrelations@aanrwest.org

AANR Participating Business

Swim Free Hawaii

No current or
upcoming events.

Submit events via email to
publicrelations@aanrwest.org

AANR Participating Business

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!



**Join AANR
TODAY!**



aanrwest.co/join

PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM



AANR Membership Directly Supports Nudist Rights!

Any AANR member will tell you that belonging to AANR is a winning proposition: the community of new nudist friends you will make; the freedom of feeling the air on your skin while participating in fun activities at an AANR club or resort, at a nude beach, or a non-landed club event; the way you will be accepted for who you are, not what you are wearing. Membership within the AANR community makes everyone a winner.

As an AANR Member...

You'll enjoy knowing you are part of the oldest mission-based organization advocating for nudist rights, protection from unfair treatment, and expanded nudist-friendly places. Your membership directly supports AANR by providing help with nudist rights on the local level and nationwide.

Membership Dues Levels and Descriptions

Direct Individual – 1 Year \$65 ebulletin (Hardcopy available for a fee) & Discounts at participating clubs & businesses

Direct Individual – 2 Years \$115 eBulletin (Hardcopy available for a fee) & Discounts at participating clubs & businesses

Premier Direct Individual – 1 Year \$128 ebulletin, Invitations, Discounts at participating clubs & businesses, Optional Free Gift, Additional perks are given at numerous AANR Clubs and a durable silver Premier Card

Premier Direct Individual – 2 Year \$241 ebulletin, Invitations, Discounts at participating clubs & businesses, Optional Free Gift, Additional perks are given at numerous AANR Clubs and a durable silver Premier Card

Elite Life Direct Individual – \$2,262.50 One-time membership fee, ebulletin, Invitations, Discounts at participating clubs & businesses, Optional Free Gift, Additional perks are given at numerous AANR Clubs, and a durable Elite Life Gold Card

Full Life Direct Individual – \$1,462.50 One-time membership fee eBulletin & Discounts at participating clubs & businesses, Durable Life Gold Card

The History of Naturism in Hawaii:

Cultural and Legal Perspectives on Nudity

Barefoot Mahalo Staff

Hawaii, known worldwide for its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and relaxed lifestyle, has a nuanced history when it comes to nudity and naturism. From indigenous cultural practices to modern legal frameworks, the approach to public and private nudity in the islands reflects both deep-rooted traditions and contemporary societal shifts.

Indigenous Hawaiian Culture and Nudity

Prior to Western contact, traditional Hawaiian society had different standards around the human body and clothing compared to modern Western norms. In pre-contact Hawaii, nudity was not inherently sexual or taboo. Men and women often wore minimal clothing suited to the tropical climate. Young children typically went unclothed, and adults wore simple garments like the malo for men and pa'u for women during work or ceremonial events.

Nudity was often practical rather than provocative, particularly in daily life or during activities like fishing, swimming, or hula. Certain forms of adornment, such as tattoos, leis, or body paint, held cultural significance and were more emphasized than covering the body. In essence, the human body was normalized as part of everyday life rather than something to hide.

Western Influence and Legal Restrictions

The arrival of European and American missionaries in the 19th century marked a sharp shift in attitudes toward nudity. Victorian-era modesty standards became embedded in local laws and social norms. Public nudity was increasingly criminalized under ordinances and statutes imported from the mainland U.S., reflecting broader Western discomfort with exposed bodies.

By the early 20th century, Hawaiian laws were in line with typical U.S. decency standards, prohibiting public nudity outside of designated contexts. Swimming nude or being naked on public beaches could result in fines or other legal penalties. Socially, public nudity became stigmatized, and the indigenous traditions of casual bodily exposure were largely suppressed.



Little Beach, Maui



The Emergence of Modern Naturism

Despite restrictive legal frameworks, Hawaii gradually saw the emergence of naturist communities and private resorts in the mid-20th century. These spaces offered a legal and socially acceptable place for nudity, recreation, and connection with nature. Locations like Hawaii Naturist Park on the Big Island provide members with a private, clothing-optional environment, reflecting a modern approach to naturism where consent and privacy are central.

Photo: Fernanda Kenfield

Naturism in Hawaii today is largely practiced in private settings, though some beaches are informally known for clothing-optional sunbathing. Public nudity remains illegal under Hawaii law, particularly on public beaches and parks, though enforcement is typically complaint-driven rather than proactive. Membership-based clubs and resorts allow naturists to enjoy their lifestyle without legal risk, fostering a sense of community in an otherwise conservative legal environment.

Cultural Acceptance and Contemporary Perspectives

Modern Hawaiians often approach naturism with curiosity rather than outright hostility. The islands' reputation for openness, aloha spirit, and close connection to nature aligns philosophically with the principles of naturism, even if legal restrictions prevent widespread public practice. Conversations around body acceptance, wellness, and personal freedom have created a subtle shift in attitudes toward naturism, particularly among younger generations and visitors.



Photo: Flux Hawaii

While the legal landscape remains restrictive, Hawaii's naturist movement has found a niche where cultural respect, private spaces, and informed consent allow nudity to coexist with local norms. Naturism in Hawaii today reflects a careful balance: honoring ancient traditions of body acceptance while navigating contemporary legal realities.

Looking Forward

Hawaii's naturist history is a story of adaptation and compromise. From the casual nudity of pre-contact society to the strictures imposed by Western law, and finally to the private naturist spaces of today, the islands reflect the broader tension between cultural norms and individual freedom. As discussions around body positivity and personal autonomy continue to grow, Hawaii may see a gradual evolution in how nudity is perceived and practiced—always within the framework of respect for local law and community standards.



Swim Free Hawaii

If you're looking for a truly liberating way to experience the waters of Hawaii, **Swim Free Hawaii** offers a unique clothing-optional boat charter departing from Honokohau Harbor in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island.

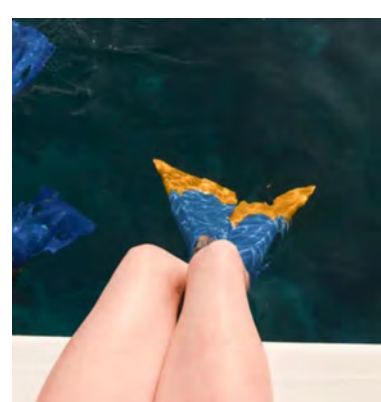
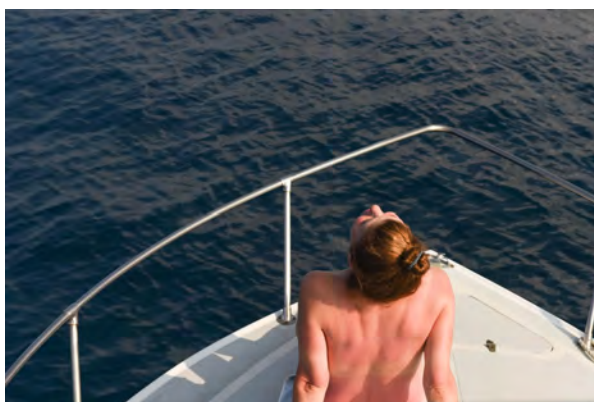
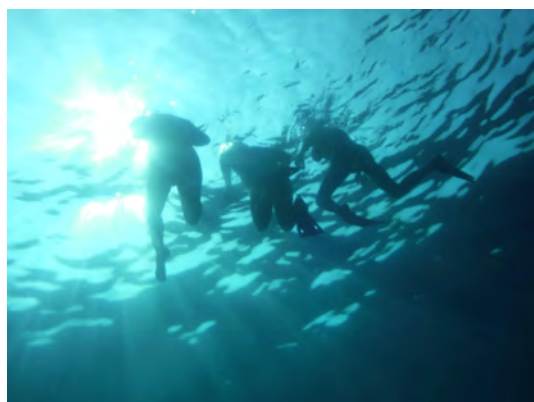
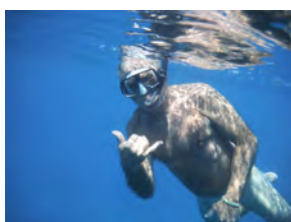


Here's what sets it apart:

- It's marketed as Hawaii's only nude boat charter, giving you the chance to explore snorkeling spots, sun-soak on deck, and float freely in salt water—all in a safe, inclusive, and non-judgmental environment.
- The crew emphasizes comfort and respect

Whether you're a naturist and longtime advocate of body positivity (which I know is one of your key interests) or someone curious to try something new, this charter offers both adventure and a gentle empowerment angle.

Visit their website: swimfreehawaii.com



FRIENDS OF LITTLE BEACH MAUI

Friends of Little Beach (FoLB) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Little Beach in Maui — a world-renowned naturist spot cherished for its freedom, community, and natural beauty. Rooted in decades of countercultural history, FoLB advocates for the rights of nude sunbathers, spiritual seekers, LGBTQ individuals, surfers, and families who gather on this secluded cove. They challenge what they view as discriminatory enforcement by Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), pushing for official clothing-optional status and restoration of pre-COVID beach hours. Through petitions, legal advocacy, and community organizing, FoLB strives to preserve Little Beach as a place of acceptance, environmental stewardship, and aloha.

Photo Credit: Ch...

littlebeachmaui.org

**AANR Western Regional
2026 General Assembly & Convention
August 7-9, 2026
Laguna del Sol, Wilton, California**

Come join us!



 **LAGUNA DEL SOL**

**8683 Rawhide Lane
Wilton, CA 95693**

Friends of Little Beach Maui

Latest Beach News: On The Beach

FoLB Website

The ILLEGAL GATE was removed on July 1, 2025. Friends of Little Beach received a formal response from State Park management advising of this decision. The response results from our 4-count complaint to Maui County which has enforcement jurisdiction. State Parks will also work with the County to have the blue shoreline access corridor signs restored.

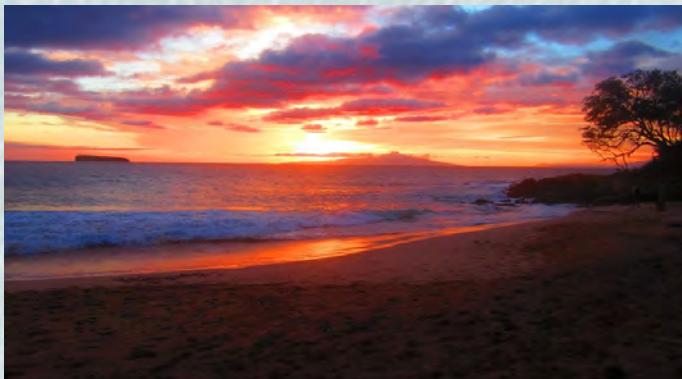
Your chance of receiving a nudity citation is currently almost zero. Our alarm system depends on YOU! As you leave the beach, or are arriving on top of the cliff, check for white DLNR police trucks on Big Beach. If you see, please warn the nearest local folks on Little Beach, who will sound the Cover-Up alarm - a YELL or 3 short, sharp blasts on the whistle !!!

The predictable Saturday and Sunday 4PM DLNR police raids to close the beach and lock the gate have paused since March 10, 2024 (in response to our Petition, submitted to Governor Green). Folks have been remaining on the beach until they are ready to leave (although signage states that it is illegal). The unpredictable DLNR police raids have been occurring at random times but not often. The most recent were: Wed April 16 2025 at 3PM with 0 nudity citations ♦ Thurs March 6 2025 at 4PM with 2 nudity citations ♦ Thurs July 4 2024 at 4:30PM with 1 nudity citation ♦ Thurs Nov 2 2023 at 9AM with 1 nudity citation.

Become a Friend of Little Beach by signing our [PETITION](#) to Governor Josh Green

Clothing-optional normality prevails as it has for 70+ years. Since the beach reopened in March 2021, after the 9 week illegal closure, DLNR police have issued 37 Nudity citations. During 2022, DLNR police also issued occasional Closed Area citations after 4PM on weekends but that has ceased. On weekdays the beach currently closes at 7PM, but with no enforcement, so folks are remaining for sunset. Should you receive a citation "Contact Us" for guidance about a Motion to Dismiss and Public Defender representation.

The weekend 4PM closure is illegal (as is the gate) because the Park management's only justification is administrative convenience. Since March 13 2021, there were 285 occasions of armed police coming to close the beach at 4PM. We estimate that there have been about 43,000 instances of a clothing-optional person forced to leave Little Beach at 4PM, against his/her will, with varying degrees of outrage at the injustice and the frivolous waste of tax payer's money. They pushed the public from a relatively safe beach to Big Beach, the most dangerous Hawaiian beach for spinal injuries. This was at a time when the Big Beach lifeguards were packing up their gear for a prompt 4:30PM departure.



Who is to Blame?

Not the DLNR police (aka DOCARE) - they have far more important work and are only obeying orders originating with the DLNR State Park Management. For 33 years the Park Management had exercised their power not to harass or cite naturists at little beach, then in 2021 they pivoted from Covid to Nudity as their primary focus with no solid reasoning - and no regard for the thousands of Naturists who love and revere Little Beach.

Many people wish to protest, which you are welcome to do, but don't expect consideration. DLNR employees have the attitude of rulers, not public servants.

- Josh Green - Governor - governor.green@hawaii.gov
- Dawn Chang - DLNR Chair (Governor appointed) - dawn.chang@hawaii.gov
- Curt Cottrell - Hawaii State Park Administrator (employee) - curt.a.cottrell@hawaii.gov
- Michael Kahula - Maui State Park Superintendent (employee) - michael.k.kahula@hawaii.gov



Photo: Paia Beach, Maui, Hawaii by Skier Dude CC BY-SA 3.0

FRIENDS OF  LITTLE BEACH MAUI

Guardians of the Shore:

How Community Stewardship Is Shaping the Future of Hawaii Naturism

by Barefoot Mahalo Staff

Across Hawaii, a quiet shift is influencing the future of naturism: a rise in community-led stewardship at popular clothing-optional spaces. While official conversations about designated nude beaches continue at a slow pace, naturists on each island are stepping up to care for the places that have long offered freedom, healing, and a sense of belonging.

At Little Beach on Maui, Kehena on the Big Island, Polo Beach on Oahu, and several hidden coves on Kauai, regulars have started forming informal “stewardship circles.” These are not official organizations; they are groups of locals and longtime beachgoers who take it upon themselves to protect and preserve these cherished spaces. Their work is simple but meaningful: sweeping trails after storms, removing debris, packing out trash left by visitors, dispersing fire remnants, and gently welcoming newcomers who may not know the local etiquette.



Photo: Hangin' Loose

This everyday caretaking reflects the Hawaiian value of kuleana, a shared responsibility for the land and for one another. What is emerging is a version of naturism deeply rooted in respect, environmental awareness, and community connection. Instead of waiting for state or county approval, naturists are demonstrating what responsible use really looks like.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed. Visitors often comment on the calm, well-maintained feel of these beaches. Even when tensions arise between naturists and clothed visitors or between tourists and locals, stewardship volunteers often act as mediators, helping preserve the peaceful atmosphere that draws people to these shores in the first place.

Although Hawaii still lacks formally recognized nude beaches, community stewardship is becoming a powerful form of advocacy. Local officials may hesitate to consider clothing-optional designations, but they cannot deny the positive impact made by organized, respectful beach communities. By showing that naturists care for these places as much as, if not more than, any other user group, these volunteers help make a quiet, compelling case for future acceptance.



Photo: getnakedcalifornia

For Hawaii’s naturists, stewardship is becoming more than a duty; it is a defining part of identity. It shows that naturism here is not only about body freedom, it is about living lightly, honoring the aina, and building meaningful human connection.

And as the sun dips over the Pacific each evening, someone is often still out there gathering stray cans, smoothing the sand, or tending a trail, helping ensure that these special spaces remain welcoming for generations to come.

Political Activism in Paradise:

Expanding Clothing Optional Spaces Across Hawaii

by Barefoot Mahalo Staff

Hawaii is a place where people feel deeply connected to the land and the freedom that comes with living close to nature. Naturism naturally fits that spirit, yet officially recognized clothing optional locations remain limited. Expanding these spaces supports body acceptance, environmental stewardship, and safe, intentional gathering places for both residents and visitors.



Meaningful advocacy in Hawaii begins with respect and cultural understanding. Pre-contact Hawaiian society held a more relaxed view of the body, and acknowledging that history helps frame naturism as something that aligns with mālama ‘āina (care for the land), kuleana (responsibility), and aloha (kindness and acceptance). When speaking with lawmakers or communities, focusing on these values helps shift perceptions.

Island-by-Island Advocacy

Advocacy looks different across the islands. On O‘ahu, efforts benefit from visible, community-centered approaches through neighborhood boards and recreation groups. Maui’s long naturist history at Little Beach provides a foundation for expanding designated spaces while encouraging respectful visitor behavior. Hawaii Island’s extensive coastline offers strong opportunities for low-impact naturist zones supported by county leaders and environmental groups. On Kaua‘i, preservation-focused communities respond best to proposals centered on small, environmentally sensitive areas developed with cultural practitioners. Meanwhile, on Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i, advocacy is most effective through personal relationships, community meetings, and presenting naturism as a respectful local lifestyle rather than a tourism-driven push.



Photo: Matt McGee

How to Advocate Effectively

Attend county and neighborhood board meetings where beach use and zoning are discussed. Giving testimony, either in person or online, shows officials that naturists are responsible and community-minded. Build alliances with environmental nonprofits, wellness groups, LGBTQ+ communities, and outdoor recreation clubs to demonstrate broad support. Encourage positive visibility by participating in beach cleanups, hosting introductory meetups, and sharing stories that highlight naturism’s values. Use social media to educate the public on etiquette, cultural respect, and environmental care. Support clear county designations that establish marked clothing optional zones with appropriate signage, cultural

awareness, and environmental protections.

With patient, respectful, and unified advocacy, naturists can help create designated clothing optional spaces across all major islands. Doing so honors the body, the ‘āina, and the spirit of freedom that makes Hawaii truly unique.

Hawaii's Nudist Scene Finds an Uneasy Truce

Enforcement at Little Beach relaxes, but gray areas and safety concerns remain.

by Dustin Cox, AANR West Director

As 2025 draws to a close, Hawaii's naturist community is breathing a cautious sigh of relief. The aggressive crackdowns that defined previous years have largely subsided, replaced by a tentative peace between beachgoers and state authorities.

The most significant development comes from Maui's Little Beach (Pu'u Ōla'i). Following years of targeted raids and blocked access, July 2025 marked a symbolic victory with the reported removal of the restrictive "illegal gate." While the harsh "zero-tolerance" policy appears to have softened, the community isn't taking chances. A grassroots "Cover-Up Alarm" system is now standard practice, with lookouts using whistles to alert sunbathers to cover up whenever Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) officers appear.



On the Big Island, the atmosphere at Kehena Black Sand Beach remains vibrant but focused on safety. Following a tragic drowning incident in mid-2024, the local Sunday drum circle community has pivoted toward self-policing ocean safety, emphasizing buddy systems to protect visitors at the lifeguard-free beach. Legally, the landscape remains precarious. While the threatening "Indecent Exposure" bills (HB1873/SB2251) died in committee in 2024, activists remain vigilant for potential revivals in the upcoming legislative session. Meanwhile, the movement is diversifying beyond the sand. Events like the recent "N U D I S T" social gathering at Koko Crater signal a shift toward organized networking and high-end wellness retreats. For now, the towels are down, but the eyes are open. Hawaii's nudists have reclaimed their space, but they know their current freedom relies on vigilance rather than permission.

Nude Whale Watching in Kona??

First whale sighting of the year!

by Captain's Chuck & Gloria

Earlier last week as I sat in my dentist's chair (that has a dynamite ocean view) I asked the assistant if they had seen any whales? Her response was, "Yes, a mom & her calf yesterday". Wow, I thought, a confirmed sighting before Thanksgiving! It is always exciting to hear the whales have returned on their journey from Alaska. The best time of the year in Hawaii to encounter Humpback Whales is December through March.

Aloha! We are Swim Free Hawaii and have been doing business for the last 9 years as a Clothing-Optional snorkeling and whale watching charters. We are based out of Honokohau Harbor in Kona, Hawaii. On our charters, when looking for whales, we look for unique signs on the water. When a whale surfaces to exhale their breath, they blow a spray of water up into the air, called a spout that can be seen from a long distance. When we get closer to the sighting, we often see their "footprint". It is a change in the body of water when they break the surface and can tell the direction they are traveling. Some days we are very fortunate to witness a whale breach out of the water.



View our whale video that captures our experiences from these magnificent creatures.

<https://www.swimfreehawaii.com/videos>.

Did you know?

Female Topless Laws in Hawaii

FoLB Website

The Hawaii Supreme Court in the case of [State v. Crenshaw](#) (1979) determined that female breasts are not genitalia (aka private parts) and therefore the exposure of the female breast, under the circumstances of this case, cannot be said to be a lewd act within the proscription of [HRS § 712-1217, Open Lewdness](#). The circumstances of the case were sunbathing at a public beach.

A related statute [HRS §707-734 Indecent Exposure](#) is limited to genitalia exposure and therefore cannot be applied to female breasts.



Photo: John H. Gámez - Flickr

There are no Hawaii laws that prohibit a woman from exposing her breasts, except for within the State Parks. The State Park No Nudity rule is defined in [HAR §13-146-38 Swimming; nudity](#) and [HAR §13-146-2 Definitions](#). The State Park No Nudity rule prohibits female breast exposure but permits male breast exposure. The [Hawaii Constitution, Article 1, Section 3](#) states: ***"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State on account of sex."*** The State Park rule is therefore unconstitutional. That does not prevent a police officer from issuing a Nudity citation, leaving you to make your case in court.

Additionally the US Constitution, [14th Amendment, Section 1](#) applies to sex discrimination. The key phrase is: ***"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."***



**NEW
Photo Guidelines**

The Barefoot Mahalo would love to have your photos so we can have more diverse pictures for our publication. All photos must be 300 DPI or larger. Please keep in mind that we must have a photo release for all parties in the photos. The release can be found at the URL below or by emailing us. Photos may be submitted to social@aanrwest.org.

Photo Release: aanrwest.co/release

We will no longer accept photos that do not meet the new criteria.



For questions, advertising or to submit an article for a future publication of Barefoot Mahalo, please send an email to publicrelations@aanrwest.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Mele Kalikimaka



Barefoot Mahalo

AANR West Hawaii Naturist News & Updates



See you in 2026!

