

Taro Talk

NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



In the summer of 2013, It was this Koi Pond in the Manuel's backyard in Hampton, Virginia that sparked the interest in growing the Kalo (Taro) Plant.

Our Mission

Feed the People
Perpetuate the Culture
Educate the Keiki

Our Vision

Cultivate tropical and produce plants and trees that are unique to the Polynesian culture. To malama kā mākou (care for our) Kalo by cultivating, harvesting, and distributing the freshest kalo and tropical products possible to our valued customers. Establish the capability to mass produce: Laulau, Luau, Poi, Kulolo, Taro Fries, and Taro based products on a large commercial scale.



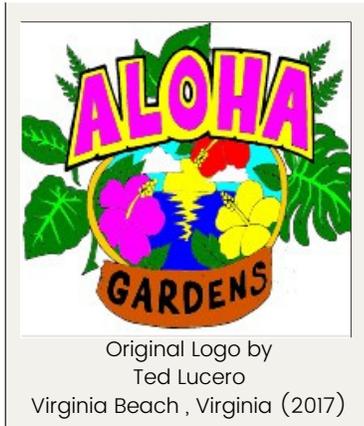
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2025 Revamped Logo

As we expand our operations into Florida, we also revamped the original logo which was created by our maika'i hoa (good friend), artist, Ted Lucero, Virginia Beach, Virginia. With the vision to move Imua (forward), Aloha Gardens is committed to our Polynesian roots community. We hope you like our new Revamped 2025 Aloha Gardens Logo.



Original Logo by
Ted Lucero
Virginia Beach , Virginia (2017)



2025 Revamped Logo

Taro Tour 2024

We delivered over 80 Kalo Bundles: July to October 2024. Our Host Ohana Team secured locations for the Kalo Pick-Up for their city. Several Hawaiian Restaurants also served as our pick-up locations and thank the host sites for allowing the Hungry Hawaiians/Polynesians to gather at these pick-up locations.

July '24
Texas Run

Aug '24
Great Lakes Run

Sep '24
Central Mid-West Run

Oct '24
Rocky Mountain Run



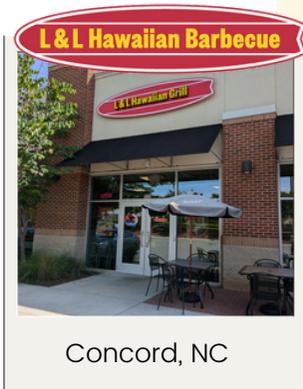
KaloBuyDaBundle

Restaurant locations provided a “hiki no wahi” (Excellent location) for Islanders to gather and meet each other and share the Aloha.

As we have improved our processes, our efforts to distributing for the “KaloBuyDaBundle” activity has allowed us to become more efficient in our harvesting, packaging, and transporting processes. We appreciate all the customers that purchased the KaloBuyDaBundle, it quickly became our “Best Seller” product. For 2024, the Kalo Bundle consisted of as many as 52 to 56 medium to large leaves per bundle. Coupled with the purchase of the 10 lb BagOfLeaves, some families made as many as 100 laulau servings.

We want to thank the following Hawaiian Restaurants for being the Kalo Pick-Up location on the Taro Tour 2024 route:

L&L Hawaiian BBQ - Katy, TX | L&L Hawaiian BBQ - San Antonio, TX
L&L Hawaiian BBQ-Arlington, TX | L&L Hawaiian BBQ-Killeen, TX
L&L Hawaiian BBQ-Concord, NC | Taste of Hawaii-West Fork, AK
Mo' Bettahs Hawaiian Style Food, Moore, OK | Da Real Aloha BBQ, El Paso, TX
...and more locations will be available in 2025. Stay Tuned - Try Wait!



Festivals & Events

AGs was able to support these 2024 Festival and Events by providing Tropical Staging Decor and Vendor Booth appearances:

- Apr: Aloha Fiestaval, Trader's Village, San Antonio, TX
- Jun: South Pacific Cultural Festival, Walterboro, SC
- Jun: North Carolina Pacific Arts Festival, Jacksonville, NC
- Jun: Halau O'Aulani Ho'olaule'a, Arlington, VA
- Jul: Yorktown Poolside Luau, Yorktown Naval Weapon Station
- Aug: Da Frozen Ohana - Hands-On Group LauLau - 100 Servings: 30 Mins
- Sep: NC Ka Pu'uwai 'O Hawai'i Club-Annual Luau-Hands-On LauLau - 100 Servings: 29 Mins



Alamo Aloha Fiestaval
San Antonio, TX



NC Pacific Arts Festival
Jacksonville, NC



SC Pacific Cultural Fest.
Walterboro, SC



Halau O'Aulani
Fairfax, VA



Cheatham Annex Poolside
Luau, Yorktown, VA



Ka Pu'uWai 'O Hawaii Club
Garner, NC



Da Frozen Ohana LauLau
Mackinaw City, MI



Taro Tour 2025

We are going to take our commitment to the next level.... Our challenge is to schedule up to 8 Separate Runs which could reach as many as 50 cities and double our Host Ohana count. If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, it's very possible we will make a Kalo Pick-Up at a city near you. We'll let the below picture talk for itself.



The Taro Tour 2025 Schedule is coming together. We have already identified 20 cities for the 2025 schedule. If you would like the "Kalo Run" to be stop near you, please send us an email and we will do our best to go to your area. For now, here are the targeted cities as shown above by the Kalo leaf markers.



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Survivor Ventures Partnership

In 2024, Aloha Gardens partnered with Survivor Ventures, Norfolk, VA.. to employ their client Valdez (Sevin) Ruffin to work in the Kalo Kountry Virginia Taro Patch. His employment helped AGs Cultivate and Harvest over 200 Kalo Plants. Sevin's efforts allowed AGs in Virginia fulfill over 50 Kalo Bundles during the 2024 Harvest Season.



Manny with Quintina, and Sevin from Survivor Ventures, Norfolk, VA

Kalo Kountry Florida

We have established our Kalo Kountry Florida location in Wesley Chapel, Florida. Unfortunately, the two hurricanes...



Aloha Gardens
Kalo Kountry Florida
Wesley Chapel, FL

Merchandise

These items will be listed on our website by mid-February 2025. Simply visit our website (www.alohagardens.org) and go to the [STORE] tab, see whats available, and place your order. Over time, we will be adding more merchandise as they become available. You'll also be able to purchase merchandise at the 2025 festivals and events we will participate in - A hui hou! Pictured to the right, Merch: T-Shirts, Coffee Cups, The Last Hawaiian Princess Book, and Magnets. Little by Little we will add more merchandise.



Employment Opportunities

Aloha Gardens will be hiring two **Part-Time Gardener and Harvester** – one for each Kalo Kountry Taro Patch: Hampton, VA and Wesley Chapel, FL. This is a temporary Summer-Fall 2025 position from June to November 2025. Send us your resume if you like be considered for these positions. You must have transportation and be a US citizen to apply for these positions.

Note – Kalo Kountry Florida. The Florida Position will have lodging accommodations so that the worker will reside at the farm. For more in information about these positions visit our website: www.alohagardens.org

What's Coming

As we prepare to take our operations to the next level. We are planning to increase our crop yield from 600 Sq Ft to 1900 sq ft.

Our Merchandise via our on-line “Store” is gearing up to have apparel and other merchandise such as coffee cups, tumblers, stickers, potholders, cooking aprons, key chains, magnets, and calendars, etc. The merchandise line is called: “Kalo Gold.” Where ever you see this brand logo, you’ll know it’s from Aloha Gardens.



Polynesian Festivals & Events Coast-To-Coast

Public group · 1.3K members · AI enabled



Stay connected with the upcoming Polynesian Festivals & Events by joining our Public Facebook Group. This Facebook Group is for all Poly Festival & Event organizers that wants to get the word out about their special event by reaching a wider community. Be sure to join the group on Facebook so you don't miss out on upcoming Polynesian Festivals and events.



Lastly, Be the First in Line to Order your KaloBuyDaBundle Products

Please note that every KaloBuyDaBundle event we've scheduled, has always sold out. Knowing early, when and where our Kalo Pick-Ups are held can help you get your order in early.

Aloha Gardens is planning on harvesting from the Kalo Kountry Florida Taro Patch as early as mid-April 2025. Hope to see you at our vendor table at the San Antonio Alamo Aloha Fiesta, Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27, 2025, Trader's Village, San Antonio, Tx.

To get the early bird announcement on this first 2025 harvest, we invite you and your friends to sign up for our FREE Taro Tour Newsletter so that you'll be the first to know when the [Buy Now] button is active to take your order.

Simply, go to our website (www.alohagardens.org) and add your email to our email list.

Subscribe to the Taro Talk Newsletter

Stay updated with Aloha Gardens.

