



THE 12TH HAWAI'I COMEDY FESTIVAL



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Hello! My name is **Kimee Balmilero**. I'm a **Kāne'ohe kid**, a **professional actor**, the **founder of the Hawai'i Comedy Festival**, and a **true believer that laughter heals**.

We live in a world that is constantly asking something of us. "Show up!" "Keep going!" "Don't fail!" And **most of us push through**, quietly carrying more than anyone around us knows. **Grief. Stress. Uncertainty.** The weight of just trying to keep it all together. **We rarely permit ourselves to pause, to just laugh, to remember that joy is still available to us**, and that for a couple of hours, **nothing is required of us except to be present**.

That is what the Hawai'i Comedy Festival gives people. And I have watched it work in ways that still move me.

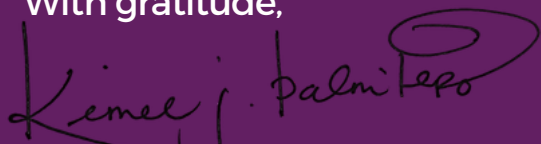
I've seen **strangers bond over a punchline**. I've watched **someone walk in, looking exhausted, and leave lighter**. I've felt an **entire room shift when laughter takes over**. It's not magic. It's human. And **it's necessary**.

This festival is also a **gift to the artists**. Creatives need community. They need a **safe space to take risks, try things out, and get their ideas out of their head** and out into the world. When you're surrounded by people who get it, who are on the same journey, something opens up. This festival creates that space for **local comedians and creatives to find their voice and share it**.

When you **support the Hawai'i Comedy Festival**, you're not just sponsoring a show. You're **giving people permission to exhale**. You're **investing in local artists** who deserve to be seen. You're **investing in the belief that laughter heals**.

I've seen it work. I've felt it work. And I'm asking you to **be part of it**.

With gratitude,



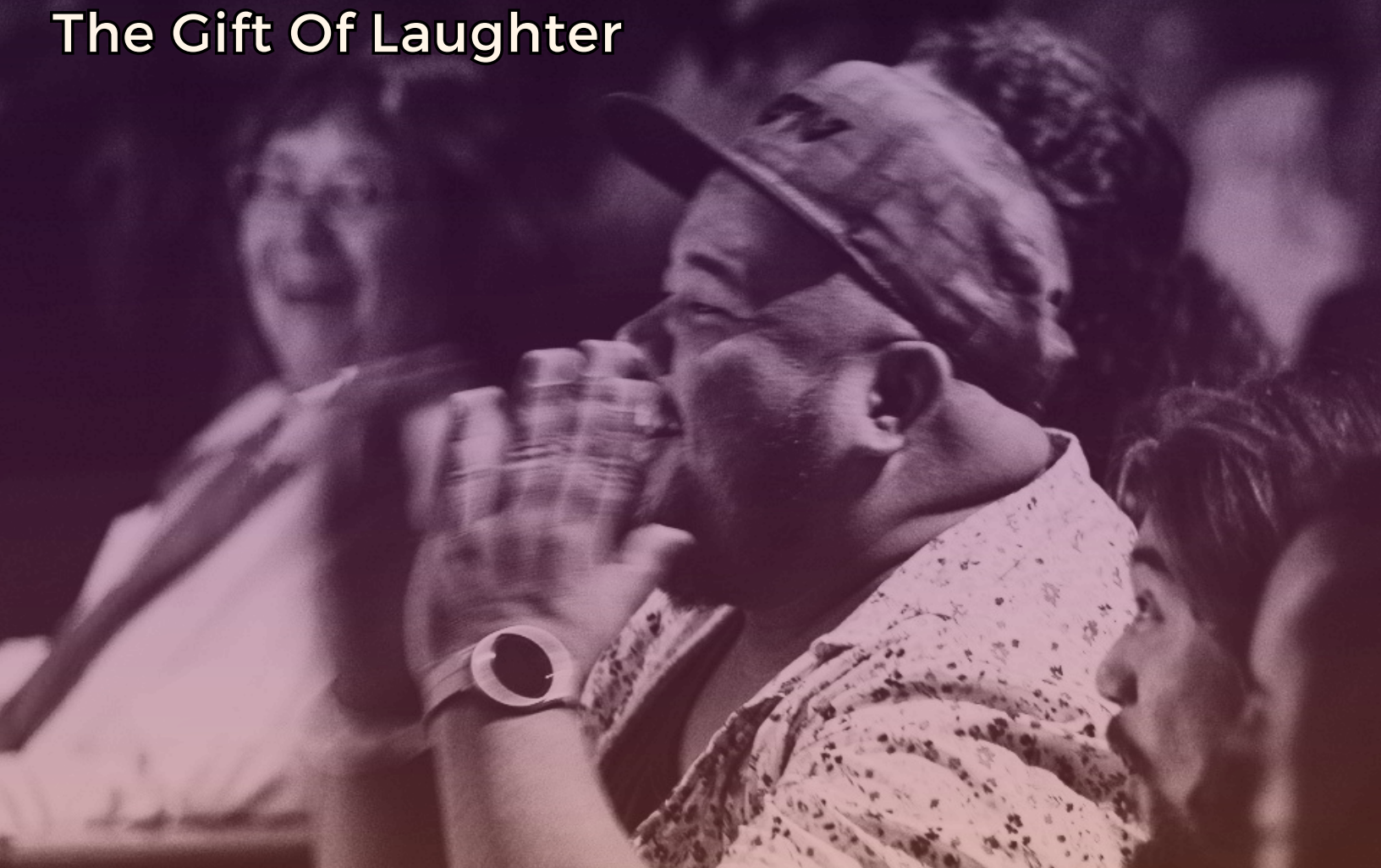
Kimee J. Balmilero

Founder, Hawai'i Comedy Festival



OUR MISSION

The Gift Of Laughter



The Hawai'i Comedy Festival is a showcase of original comedy highlighting the work of local comedians, writers, directors, actors, and musicians. What started as the Hawai'i Sketch Comedy Festival has grown into a full comedy platform with one clear mission: to support Hawai'i-based creative entrepreneurs at every level and give audiences the gift of laughter along the way.

OUR STAGE

It's Like "Saturday Night Live" in Hawai'i

Think of us as Hawai'i's version of Saturday Night Live. Over the past twelve years, the Hawai'i Comedy Festival has written and produced twelve live sketch comedy shows and nine original musical comedies, featuring top local comedians, musicians, and performers. We've built a reputation as the go-to stage for live original comedy right here at home. And we don't stop there. In 2018, we expanded our network by inviting Asian AF and Filipino AF to our stage, a perfect fit for our Hawai'i audience. In 2021, we conceived and produced the first-ever Polynesian AF comedy variety show, and in 2024, we premiered the first-ever AAPI AF Show to celebrate our tenth year and AAPI Heritage Month, both in partnership with the nationally recognized Asian AF network. And this fall, we're taking our show to Los Angeles for the Asian AF 10th Anniversary Special, the first time we'll perform our original comedy outside of Honolulu. Original. Local. Funny. And now, LA-bound.



OUR PEOPLE

Highlighting Local Talent



At the end of the day, this festival was built for and by Hawai'i. Our stages have featured local comedians Tumua, James Mane, Jasmine Bautista, Ian Shippen, Josh Staples, and Michael Madsen, and many local writers and actors, including Ryan Okinaka, Ixchel Lopez-Durant, Dylan Chace Lee, Jose Ver, Moku Durant, and Elexis Draine, musicians Keahi, Emi Hart, and Chris Lind, and comedy troupes Improv Hawai'i and The Improv Superette. The talent has always been here. We just shine a spotlight on it.

OUR HOME

The Doris Duke Theatre at HoMA

We've found our home at the Honolulu Museum of Art's Doris Duke Theatre, one of O'ahu's most beloved and respected cultural venues. With a capacity of 300 and a reach that extends well beyond the theatre walls, through HoMA's established supporter base, out-of-town visitors, and media coverage, the Hawai'i Comedy Festival connects with thousands of people across the island and beyond each year.



OUR CIRCLE

Industry Recognition

Our festival has featured celebrated performers including Amy Hill (Lilo & Stitch, Magnum P.I.), Isa Briones (The Pitt), Ian Anthony Dale (Hawaii Five-0), Moses Goods (Chief of War), Brook Lee (Miss Universe), JR DeGuzman (Star Search, Comedy Central), Kaipo Dudoit (Lilo & Stitch), Gilbert Galon (Tiger Belly Podcast), Alex Song-Xia (Netflix is a Joke, Rick and Morty), and Hawai'i's own Guy Hagi. We've even received shout-outs from Bill Burr and Wayne Brady, who mentioned us on social media in our very first year.



Our guest mentor program has brought in working professionals at the top of their craft, including Kathryn Burns (Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Key & Peele), Chris Renfro (Queer as Folk, Brooklyn Nine-Nine), Jiavani (Dropout TV, Between Two Ferns), Zach Reino (Off Book Podcast), and Will Choi, co-creator and lead producer of the renowned Asian AF Festival.

OUR FOUNDER

Kimee Balmilero - "Only child from Kaneohe..."

Kimee Balmilero is a Filipino American actor, comedian, writer, and producer born and raised in Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i. She discovered her love of performance under the mentorship of renowned Hawai'i theatre director Ronald E. Bright at Castle High School, and has been making people laugh ever since.

She is best known for her series regular role as Medical Examiner Dr. Noelani Cunha on Hawaii Five-0 and Magnum P.I. An original Broadway cast member of Mamma Mia!, her screen credits include Disney+'s Doogie Kamealoha, M.D., and the Daytime Emmy-nominated children's series Hi-5.

In 2022, she joined ABC's pilot Josep, playing comedian Jo Koy's sister Geraldine in the first TV pilot centering around a Filipino-American family produced by a major network.

Since returning to Hawai'i in 2012, Kimee has been a driving force in the local comedy scene. She founded Improv Hawai'i, the longest consecutively running improv company in the state, and the Hawai'i Comedy Festival, now in its 12th year.



She recently performed her original comedy at The Hawai'i Theatre alongside Ronny Chieng, Sheng Wang, Simu Liu, and Dylan Adler for the live show "Ronny Chieng and Friends." In May 2019, Kimee conceived and founded AAPI AF and Polynesian AF in partnership with Asian AF, with Hawai'i AF set to debut in Los Angeles at The Asian AF Festival in September 2026.

OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNER

Hawai'i Based 501(c)3 Non-Profit ID8.org

The Hawai'i Comedy Festival is proud to partner with ID8, a Hawai'i-based 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to foster ideation and expression to create positive impact. From K-12 school curriculum and corporate workshops to film production and entrepreneurship programs, iD8 champions creativity and innovation across our community in tangible ways.

For a festival built on original work, local voices, and the belief that creative expression matters, ID8 is the perfect home. Their support makes donations to the Hawai'i Comedy Festival fully tax-deductible, and their commitment to Hawai'i's creative community runs just as deep as ours.

ID8.org



SUPPORT MATTERS

This doesn't happen without people like you



Every sponsor and donor makes it possible for us to pay our artists, produce original shows, keep ticket prices accessible to our community, and continue building a platform that Hawai'i can be proud of. Behind every laugh in that theatre is a team of local comedians, writers, directors, musicians, and producers who showed up and gave it everything they had. Your support is what makes that possible.



For the artists, your investment means someone believed their work was worth showing up for. It means a local comedian got to stand on a real stage in front of their own community. It means a writer saw their words come to life. For many of our performers, the Hawai'i Comedy Festival is the first time they've had a professional platform to share their voice. That first step matters more than we can say.



For the audience, your support means two hours of pure joy. Two hours of shared laughter with strangers who, for a little while, all needed the same thing. A break. A breath. A reminder that life can still be fun.

So thank you. For seeing what we see. For believing that laughter matters. And for helping us keep Hawai'i funny, creative, and connected.

TITLE SPONSOR

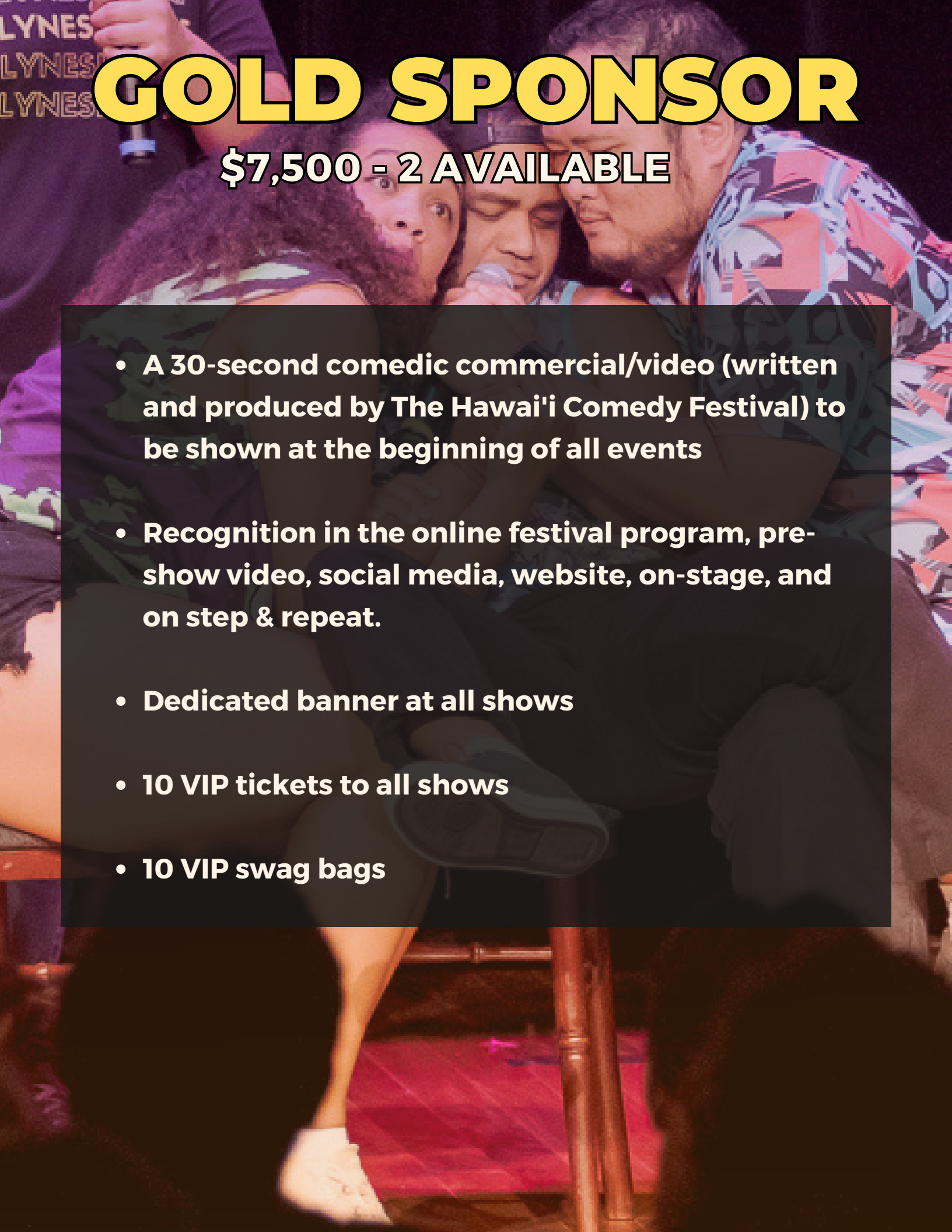
\$25,000 - 1 AVAILABLE

- **The festival will be named after a company or person (i.e., YOUR NAME PRESENTS...)**
- **A 60-second comedic commercial/video (written and produced by The Hawai'i Comedy Festival) to be shown at the beginning of all events**
- **Recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, website, on-stage, and on step & repeat, and all press appearances.**
- **Dedicated banner at all shows**
- **20 VIP tickets to all shows**
- **20 VIP swag bags**
- **Private and personalized Improv Hawai'i Improvised Musical Show for up to 20 guests**

PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$10,000 - 1 AVAILABLE

- **A 45-second comedic commercial/video (written and produced by The Hawai'i Comedy Festival) to be shown at the beginning of all events**
- **Recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, website, on-stage, and on step & repeat.**
- **Dedicated banner at all shows**
- **15 VIP tickets to all shows**
- **15 VIP swag bags**
- **Private and personalized Improv Hawai'i Improvised Musical Show for up to 20 guests**



GOLD SPONSOR

\$7,500 - 2 AVAILABLE

- **A 30-second comedic commercial/video (written and produced by The Hawai'i Comedy Festival) to be shown at the beginning of all events**
- **Recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, website, on-stage, and on step & repeat.**
- **Dedicated banner at all shows**
- **10 VIP tickets to all shows**
- **10 VIP swag bags**

SILVER SPONSOR

\$5,000 - 3 AVAILABLE

- **A 15-second comedic commercial/video (written and produced by The Hawai'i Comedy Festival) shown at the beginning of all events**
- **Recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, website, on-stage, and on step & repeat.**
- **Dedicated banner at all shows**
- **5 VIP tickets to all shows**
- **5 VIP swag bags**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BRONZE SPONSOR \$2,500 - 5 AVAILABLE

- Includes large signage in the lobby/entry area, recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, website, on-stage mention, and step & repeat. Comes with four VIP festival tickets per sponsorship.

SUPPORTING SPONSOR \$1,000 - 10 AVAILABLE

- Includes recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, and website. Comes with two VIP festival tickets per sponsorship.

COMEDY FAN \$500 - 20 AVAILABLE

- Includes recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, and website. Comes with one VIP festival ticket per sponsorship.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Includes recognition in the online festival program, pre-show video, social media, and website. Comes with two festival tickets per sponsorship.

IN-KIND NEEDS:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Press | • Venue Space | • Tech Support |
| • Volunteer Support | • Costumes | • Merchandise |
| • Rehearsal Space | • Props | • Catering |

COME LAUGH WITH US

We'd Love To Connect With You



EMAIL: HI@HICOMEDYFEST.COM

WEBSITE: HICOMEDYFEST.COM

INSTAGRAM: [@HICOMEDYFEST](https://www.instagram.com/HICOMEDYFEST)

ADDRESS: 419 SOUTH ST, #163
HONOLULU, HI 96813



SCAN TO SPONSOR OR DONATE:



DONATION & SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Hawai'i Comedy Festival is a fiscally sponsored project of ID8, a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

SPONSOR/DONOR INFO:

Full Name

Organization (if applicable)

Email Address

Phone Number

Mailing Address

SELECT SPONSORSHIP TIER:

☐

TITLE SPONSOR
\$25,000

☐

BRONZE SPONSOR
\$2,500

☐

PLATTINUM SPONSOR
\$10,000

☐

SUPPORTING SPONSOR
\$1,000

☐

GOLD SPONSOR
\$7,500

☐

COMEDY FAN
\$500

☐

SILVER SPONSOR
\$5,000

☐

CUSTOM AMOUNT
\$ _____

DONOR RECOGNITION:

How would you like your name/organization listed in program materials?

☐

I prefer to remain anonymous

PAYMENT METHOD:

Please make checks payable to: ID8

Memo line should read: Hawai'i Comedy Festival

Mail to: Hawaii Comedy Festival 419 South St. #163 Honoulu, HI 96813