

## Parties & Socials

Ideas for parties and other social events.

---

### 50th Hula Happening

Hawaii became the 50th state 50 years ago this month. In keeping with our Hawaiian [Theme of the Month](#), plan a special party to celebrate the event.

**Begin with a clever title for your event.** Some suggestions include:

- "50th Hula Happening"
- "A Golden Hawaiian Anniversary Party"
- "A Golden Hawaiian Gala"
- "A Lulu of a Luau"
- "Aloha Affair"
- "Ukulele Tea"
- "Pineapple Party"
- "Wacky Waikiki Party"



### Advertise Your Event

Make a special [SIGN](#) to post on your bulletin board. Simply type in the name of your event and the specifics. Include party details in both English and [Hawaiian](#). You might say something like:

Aloha kâkou! (Greetings all!)  
'Olu'olu hele mai pa'ina! (Please come to the party!)

### Attire

Ask guests to dress in bright colors, Hawaiian print shirts, and muumuus. Pass out beachcomber hats, leis, and grass skirts for people to wear. (*Tip: Make inexpensive hula skirts from drawstring trash bags - preferably green ones. Cut the bottom off, then make thin slits to create the hula grass skirt. The drawstring allows for one-size-fits-all.*)

### Room Decorations

- Use a tropical color scheme - lemon yellow, green, hot pink, melon, orange, and bright blue. Add gold since this is the 50th anniversary of Hawaii becoming a state.
- Dangle large gold 50th anniversary cutouts and Hawaiian flags from the ceiling of the room. Click [HERE](#) for some to print.



- Make the party room look like a tropical paradise by decorating it with exotic paper or silk flowers, colored holiday lights, paper lanterns, etc.
- Suspend a ukulele from the ceiling, use beach chairs, tiki torches, and other Hawaiian accents.
- Stand a surfboard in the corner. (**Tip:** Borrow one from a surfer friend, or create one from inexpensive styrofoam board.)
- Mount a few travel posters on the walls and hang garlands of homemade tissue flowers (tied along green ribbon).
- See if your local florist carries inexpensively-priced orchids (now available in most big flower markets), or ask about tropical flowers such as Bird of Paradise, Hibiscus, Red Anthurium, or Red Ginger flowers.
- Add lots of palm fronds. (**Tip:** You can make your own palm trees by cutting out palm fronds from green construction paper and gluing or taping them to cardboard tubes.)
- Scatter additional Hawaiian decor around the party room, which can include tiki carvings, paper mache parrots on perches, and colorful fish.

### Table Settings

- Use a raffia table skirt around the buffet table.
- Cover tables with tropical fabric or colorful beach towels. Add fish netting and scatter "beachy" items, such as seashells, starfish, and sand dollars on the net.
- Arrange silk vine foliage around food serving pieces.
- Use beachcomber hats (multi-color or plain) upside down to hold different snacks and munchies.
- Shop the dollar stores and discount marts for tropical-inspired serving pieces, plates, and napkins. Save money by mixing bright colors and designs found on sale.
- Use baskets to hold cutlery and cups.



### Centerpieces

- Fill vases and jars with sand and seashells and place a candle in the center.
- Use fresh uncut pineapples and coconuts as centerpieces.
- See our [Decorate & Accentuate](#) page and make "Pineapple Hula Girl" centerpieces.

### Food/Menu

Serve coconut shrimp for appetizers and have bowls of macadamia nuts as snacks. For the main dish, serve some form of barbecued pork with grilled sweet potatoes, teriyaki chicken with grilled pineapple slices, or skewered shish-kebobs over rice. Serve fruit salad that includes pineapple, kiwi, and mango.

How about pineapple upside-down cake or coconut meringue pie for dessert? If you want to put on a show, make a "volcano cake." (Put a small piece of dry ice in the middle of a chocolate bundt cake.)

For drinks, make mai tais or pina coladas, alcoholic or virgin, or anything that can accommodate a paper umbrella!

## Nametags

Translate your guests' [Names into Hawaiian](#). (Simply type in the person's name.) Then, type the new names on these [NAMETAGS](#). (Or, erase our text and handwrite.) Print on sheets of self-adhesive computer paper or use a pin to attach.



## Music/Entertainment

Play ukulele music, [Don Ho songs](#) like "Tiny Bubbles," Elvis Presley's "Blue Hawaii," "[Hawaiian Wedding Song](#)," "My Little Grass Shack," and "[Theme from Hawaii Five-O](#)." See our [Music Matters](#) page for some great downloads.

## Icebreaker

Stand at the door and greet everyone with a lei and an "Aloha." Be sure to have some loose flowers available for identifying guests as "single" or "taken." If not romantically involved, the flower goes behind the right ear; if taken, behind the left ear. This will lead to plenty of conversation and get your party going.

## More Fun and Games

- [Hawaiian Name Game](#). Make a game out of the nametags above. Give all of the guests several rubber bands for their wrists. Ask guests to call each other by their Hawaiian names. If they used their real name, they lose a rubber band. The person with the most rubber bands at the end of the party wins.
- [Hukilau Dance](#). See our [Exercise & Healthy Living](#) page for music and the directions.
- [Hula Hoop Games](#).
  - Award prizes for the person who can hula the longest, and for the person who can successfully hula the most hoops.
  - Place several hoops on the floor and try tossing beanbags into the circles.
  - Hang a hoop from the ceiling and toss foam balls through the hoop.
  - Or, play a relay game. Divide your group into teams. Each team joins hands in a circle with a Hula Hoop hanging from one person's arm. The person with the hoop must step through it and pass it to a neighboring player without letting go of his/her teammate's hands. The next player

then does the same thing. The team that gets the hoop back to the starting player first wins.

- Puzzles. See our [It's Puzzling](#) page for Hawaiian puzzles to solve.
- Other Hawaiian Games. See [Games People Play](#) and play the "Hawaiian Alphabet Game" and a game of 'Ulu maika. Or, play a game of [ALOHA Bingo](#).
- The Big Kahuna. The award goes to the party guest who arrives with the most colorful Hawaiian shirt.
- Hawaiian Shirt/Dress Runway Show. Set up a place to do the runway. Find three judges and give them all numbers from 1-10 on paper for them to hold up when the models come down the runway. Have all of the guests line up. As each guest walks down, the judges give their score. The winner is the one with the highest points and the best luau costume!
- Funny Photos. Purchase a [life-sized luau cutout](#) and take everyone's picture. They make great party favors.



### Prizes and Party Favors

Click [HERE](#) and print some gift tags that say "MAHALO - That's 'Thank You' in Hawaiian!"

Cut them out and punch a hole in the top. Thread a piece of ribbon through the hole and tie it to a small gift - such as a packet of tropical trail mix, sunglasses, lei, etc.



### Another August Party Idea

Visit our [Another Year Younger](#) page for ideas for this month's birthday party.