

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB
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MELE KALIKIMAKA

A Hawaiian Christmas is unique. No other state celebrates it like people in Hawaii. Yes, there's Santa Claus and other commercial signs of the secular side of Christmas. You'll find homes and hotels and other businesses decorated with holiday lights, Christmas trees and poinsettia plants.

There is also the religious, more meaningful side of Christmas. There are nativity scenes on display on front lawns, picture windows churches. Christmas songs and carols are heard on the radio and in stores and shopping malls. But you'll hear many of them sung by local vocalists or in the Hawaiian language.

The most unique part of this holiday is the Christmas dinner. For pupus there's poke', edamame, maybe chips with kim chi dip. Typically, there is turkey (again?!), ham, maybe roast beef or a whole salmon, and all the fixings like stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, but you gotta have rice! Large, extended families have a pot luck, so everybody brings something to share: Korean kalbi or bulgogi, Filipino adobo or pancit, Chinese chicken salad, dim sum, a platter of assorted sushi and for dessert, haupia cake, Okinawan sweet potato pie, guave chiffon cake, coconut cream pie and malasadas.

Auwe! I'll be back in California before Christmas. Besides the food, being with extended family is what I miss the most. But what I won't miss is the B52's (big cockroaches that fly)!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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