

BOUTQUES CAUA'I

Written by AMBER NIGHTINGALE Photos by GIL COPE

Like an accessory to Kaua'i's scenic splendor, the island's top boutiques provide a distinctive shopping experience guaranteed to please. From island chic to elegant ensembles, each boutique flaunts its own character. Just in time for fresh spring styles, Kaua'i Lifestyle Magazine is proud to feature some of the island's most happening, fashionable hot spots. Indulge in these spotlighted locales and find what's trending for you.

Buttery soft fabrics and comfortable sophistication polish the store walls of Cake Boutique. Texture and beauty epitomize this boutique's modish collection of silks, cottons and cashmeres, alongside bamboo and organic fibers.

With seven years of success in outfitting women, owner Mary Jane Deffner knows the importance of having a wardrobe item that is both "classic and long lasting." Featuring a wide array of dresses, beachwear, lingerie, local jewelry, hats, bags, clutches and more, Cake Boutique represents around 30 designers, over half of which are local.

Highlighted locally crafted designs such as vintage tropical bags by *Tiki* Shiki, attractive ageless styles from Chez Chanterelle, and one of a kind silk dresses specially handcrafted for Cake by Isaura Garner, are some of the boutique's specialties. Amy Vieira's brilliant hand dyed scarves (made right in Kīlauea town), Ali Avalon's bracelet jewel wraps and the renowned jewelry by *Julie Mai* are also key shining items.

Cake Boutique appeals to both young and mature women, and Mary Jane emphasizes her method of looking at body shapes as opposed to numbers. Passionate about empowering women, especially those with a little curvature, she explains, "I love watching women be transformed when they step out of the dressing room. I wish for them to feel better about themselves, smile more and project that confidence in the world."











Vibrant, multi-hued color schemes and island-inspired artwork paint Halelea's whimsically refined concept as a featured hot spot. Blending a boutique within a gallery of Hawaiian artistry for the past seven years, Halelea has firm community values with aims to provide a quality environment that supports local artists.

Proud to exhibit all original artwork, the shop also boasts a sweet handpicked selection of clothing, accessories and jewelry that uniquely represents forty artists and designers. *Machine Machine's* panache dresses from Kalaheo-born Shannon Hiramoto are a must see, next to Jana Lam's wallets with personally crafted silk screen fabrics. Sharon Leton and Caitlin Odum are the island's premiere sunrise shell jewelry designers, and *Veronica* presents enchanting embellishments as well.

Owners Anna and Chad Ulmer, a dynamic wife- husband team, feel the significance of sharing art with Kaua'i. Chad explains, "We want to give the community and visitors a place to come and look at something beautiful inside, while warming their hearts and having a really fun shopping and cultural experience."

Halelea's signature artist, O'ahu-based Jaime Allen, alongside plein air painters Jenifer Prince and Pierre Bouret, strikingly decorate the gallery with a playful palette. Works by several other artists like Robin McCoy also adorn the walls-precisely selected for their expertise and exceptional quality.



Poised within Hanalei's verdant landscape, I Heart Hanalei's stylish beach boutique is a classic stop on the way to the bay. A Hanalei shopping staple, this spot is home to some of the island's juiciest trends, along with the added bonus of cascading waterfalls and misty rainbows across the way.

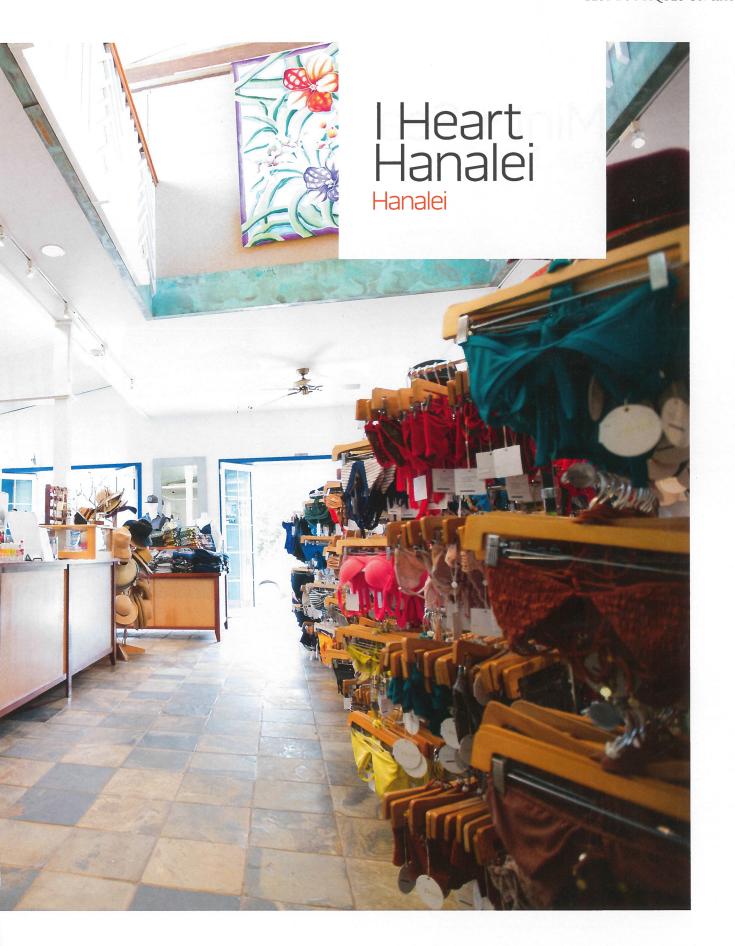
Featuring everything from high-end bikinis and cover ups to Turkish towels and custom made Brazilian workout wear, I Heart Hanalei also has adorable bags, t-shirts, jackets and hip menswear. Now in its third year of sexy success, this boutique provides a one stop locale to outfit both morning beach play as well as a fine dinner at sunset.

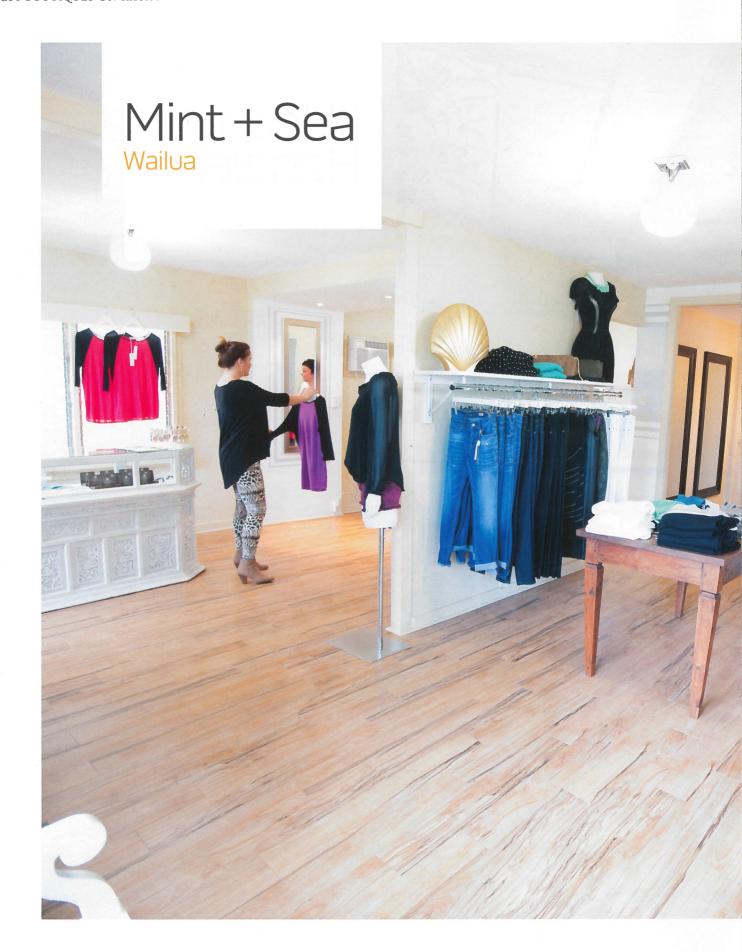
Andrea Smith, the fashion mastermind and owner, explains how her love for the island has inspired her business. "The boutique name says it all. Everyday I paddle out to the bay and say thank you. I'm grateful to have two fashions in my life that I love-the ocean and clothing."

With a wide selection of denims by Current Elliot, Siwy and True Religion, for both men and women, I Heart Hanalei also displays Acacia, Tori Praver and Mikoh bikinis, in addition to locally inspired undergarments from Noe and lacy gowns from Nightcap. With Leilani Bishop's Kaua'i-born luxury fragrance filling the air, you can also browse locally made jewelry and Joie's contemporary threads.











Bringing the latest fads and flair to the Garden Isle, Mint + Sea is clearly filling a needed niche for local ladies. Exuding an "LA meets island" vibe, owner Maikalani Kahana's Hawai'i roots reflect fashionable insights that stem from the core.

"To know that I'm stoking people out when they come in the door is so rewarding. Come in and it brightens your day. People can really express who they are in their style," Maikalani says with a smile.

As one of Kaua'i's newest boutiques — with its grand opening in October of 2013 — Mint + Sea strives to provide affordable clothing without compromising the value. Especially appealing to all ages of women who live their everyday lives here, the boutique carries a large selection of both LA and local designers.

Local *Cross My Heart Denim* has irresistible distressed jean cut-offs, next to *Owlette's* seaside designs and *Posh Pua* swimwear. LA's *Level 99* is a coveted denim line, with *Skinny Bunny* and *Chotayant* as complementary counterparts. Cool bags and colorful clutches are peripheral merchandise, but definitely of worthy mention. For savvy work wear, an afternoon walk or wine night out with the girls, Mint + Sea has a flavor for all.



Emanating the spirit of Kīlauea town, this boutique mingles its funky fashionable appeal with worldly style and local finesse. From chromatic fabrics to exotic hand-crafted goods, Oskar's celebrates diversity and aims to spotlight designers that engage in progressive business practices with an artesian touch.

Incorporating multifarious products like ethnic blankets, velvet seed jewelry, bags, sleek ladies casual wear, inspiring books, artwork, dresses, men's threads and much more, this boutique has an ambience all its own. International designs like *Lemlem's* traditional Ethiopian woven apparel and feminine designs by Sweden-based *By Timo*, accompany classy Parisian men's shirts from *Hartford*.

With a tender eye for avant-garde merchandise, owner Annie Sadler expresses, "I choose items that tug at my heart-where you can feel the hand of the maker. It's important to surround yourself with things that reflect who you are and make you feel a part of this world."

Seven years in the neighborhood has made local Kaua'i talent a poignant element of the boutique. *Kahiki-moe* makes scenic water-resistant zippered clutches, and *Kealopiko's* organic cultural tees balance *By the Sea's* repurposed Indian kantha. Numerous jewelers like divers *Anuenue Washburn* and *Kaiulani Kapumau*, as well as family-inspired *Honey Sanson*, are just a start to the island's rich creativity displayed..







An eclectic assortment of goods assures that no customer is forgotten at Cane Field Clothing and Gallery. Operated by an endearing mother-daughter tag team, Cheri and Tiare Atkins, this business claims the longest history of our featured boutiques. Initially opened by Cheri at Kilohana Plantation in 1986, Cane Field celebrated a grand reopening in April of 2012.

It's impossible not to be enticed by *something* at this locale. Daughter Tiare explains, "My mom and I have a different perspective and age range, so we try to have something for everyone. It's fun-our customers range from their 20's to their 80's."

From *Ipanema* slippers to soap, and graceful maxi dresses to scarves, Cane Field also spotlights men's items. The smooth, silky *Avanti* Aloha shirts are adored by both locals and visitors; alongside Hawaiian print ties, koa cuff links and Kaua'i printed t-shirts and caps. This keeps the gentlemen occupied while the women try on flowy printed pants, beachy hats and fruity lip balms.

The jewelry, made mostly by local Hawaiian designers, is also a special element of the shop. Items from *Beach Babe* and the Big Island's *J Ster*, as well as Cheri's own creations, are exclusive focal adornments. Still shopping? Check out Craig Palmer's eccentric original artwork, unique locally made handbags, and Cheri's vintage photo prints from Kaua'i's early days.

Follow your favorite top boutiques on Facebook and Instagram...let your spring shopping pleasure begin!





