

Kenichi Pacific

78-6831 Alii Dr. • 322-6400


 Very well-prepared sushi in a slightly ritzy atmosphere. In addition to the sushi, they also have other entrées under the fusion genre. Items such as steak, seafood and lamb. In fact, their mac nut encrusted lamb is absolutely wonderful, and unexpectedly unJapanese. The attention to detail is obvious. The molten cake dessert is *ultra* rich chocolate. (Oh, yeah!) It ain't cheap here, but with good service, good food and a good environment, it's easy to recommend. \$15-\$45 for lunch and dinner. In the Keauhou Shopping Center at the south end of Alii Drive. Open nightly, but lunch is only served Tues-Fri.

Sushi Shop Kyotoya

75-5629 Kuakini Hwy • 987-8490


Located in the North Kona Shopping Center on the corner closest to the Kona Brewpub, this *used* to be good sushi at a reasonable price. What happened? The sushi doesn't taste fresh now. Simple hole-in-the-wall (literally) walk-up window, simple outdoor tables. \$5-\$9 for lunch. No credit cards. Closed Sundays.

Teshima's Restaurant79-7251 Mamalahoa Hwy
322-9140

 Clean, friendly place with simple but tasty Japanese, American and local items, such as bento, teriyaki beef and fried fish. There's something for everyone at this family-run restaurant. Our only gripe is that they have a habit of bringing all the food at once, typical of restaurants in Japan. Off Hwy 11 in Honalo, just south of Kona. Lunch is \$6-\$15, dinner is \$10-\$20. Cash only.


KAILUA-KONA LOCAL**Ba-Le**

74-5588 Palani Rd. • 327-1212


 OK, so it's not really local. It's part of a chain of Vietnamese noodle shops with French bread sandwiches. But the food is good for the price. Those who aren't fond of Vietnamese flavors will probably like the sandwiches, beef stew or the roast beef croissant. Lots of veggie items. \$4-\$12 for lunch and dinner. In Kona Coast Shopping Center, Palani Road, Kona.

Kona Mixed Plate

75-5660 Kopiko St. • 329-8104

 Local-style dishes, such as chicken katsu, teri beef, shrimp tempura and bulgogi (which is avoidable). Choose your items, plus mac or tossed salad and rice. They also have burgers and sandwiches. Quality is good, but remember—whether you like it or not depends on whether you like local-style food, which tends to be fattier and saltier than you're probably used to. In Kopiko Plaza off Palani Road. Closed Sun. \$7-\$13. Cash only.

Manago82-6155 Mamalahoa Hwy
323-2642

 It's like eating in Grandma's kitchen. Ambiance is *so* homey. They are famous across the island for their pork chops, which, I'm happy to say, are *not* just like Mama used to make. (Hers were always so dry.) These are moist, fatty and flavorful. (They use an ancient, cast-iron pan.) They bring your sides at the very beginning, and you share them. They also have teri steak, butterfish, liver, etc. For dessert they feature...absolutely nothing. Pick up a Snickers bar in the lobby.

Closed Monday. South of Kona in Captain Cook off Hwy 11 at the Manago Hotel. Can't miss it. \$3-\$6 for breakfast. \$8-\$15 for lunch and dinner.


Rapanui

75-5695 Alii Dr. • 329-0511

We didn't know how to classify them. They call it *island food for island people*. The name comes from a beach in New Zealand where the chef hails from. The menu from around Polynesia offers sate (skewered meat), curry and stir-fry. The beef sate is the best. Ingredients are very fresh, and we like their use of red chilies and lime in the Paw Paw Chicken. If you're allergic to nuts, be careful what you order. Most items come with peanuts, peanut sauce or cashews. Half the desserts are made with peanut butter, as well. Try one of their custom-made iced teas, like the lemongrass ginger mint. Tucked in the back of the Banyan Court Mall on Ali'i Drive. \$7-\$15 for lunch, \$10-\$20 for dinner. Closed Sundays.

KAILUA-KONA MEXICAN**Killer Tacos**

74-5483 Kaiwi St. • 329-3335

 The kind of place you'd never find if someone didn't tell you about it. Tucked away in an industrial area, the name is spot on. (Well, we've never actually seen anyone drop dead here.) Killer tacos, killer burritos, killer portions and killer prices. Pretty deadly, huh? The most expensive thing is the \$7 taco salad, which is...well, you know. Put kalua pig or the spicy ground beef in your burrito, or bag one of the fish tacos. The only thing that needs improving is the salsa—consider substituting it for hot sauce. See Kona map, page 60. Near

the highway, just off Kaiwi, on Luhia Street. \$4-\$8 for lunch and dinner.

Pancho & Lefty's

75-5719 Alii Dr. • 326-2171

We wrote this review several different times, trying to capture our experiences of this dining establishment. We finally decided to abide by the old axiom: If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all. With this in mind, Pancho and Lefty's is located on Alii Drive in downtown Kona. 'Nuff said.

Tacos El Unico

75-5729 Alii Dr. • 326-4033

You won't find fajitas at this shotgun shack. This is as authentic as it gets, right down to the little old lady making your flour tortillas from scratch. Most dishes consist of beans, rice and tortillas next to a pile of seasoned meat or seafood. Flavors are mild, and don't be surprised if you find a bone in your food. If you're not used to authentic Mexican, you may not like it. They have unusual items like goat, beef tongue and beef cheek meat. Their ceviche is good. \$5-\$15 for lunch and dinner. Behind the Kona Marketplace on Alii Drive.


KAILUA-KONA THAI**Kona Taeng-On Thai Food**

75-5744 Alii Dr. • 329-1994

Sorry, but the food's not good enough to warrant the prices. Good menu but uninspiringly prepared. Service is a little cranky. \$10-\$25. Upstairs on Alii Drive across from Kona Marketplace.

Orchid Thai Cuisine

74-5563 Kaiwi St. • 327-9437

 A simple, utilitarian atmosphere in an industrial area. But the food is very good and reasonably