

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

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Mt. Kaala Coffee to open at Ilikai

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A coffee-roasting company from the North Shore will open its first retail shop at the Ilikai Hotel this summer.

Mt. Kaala Coffee will open a shop on the lobby level of the Ilikai in a renovated unit that's part of the Ilikai Shops. The new store will have a coffee counter, retail area and outdoor seating and will feature coffee drinks, baked goods from Signature Sweets in Wahiawa, retail products from the North Shore and Mt. Kaala's roasted whole-bean coffee.

Mt. Kaala owner John Alvarez worked for the Coffee Gallery at the North Shore Marketplace in Haleiwa before going out on his own with a wholesale coffee-roasting business.

The Mt. Kaala roasting facility, which is located in Waialua, next door to the Waialua Soda Works factory, roasts beans from all over the world, including all the Hawaiian Islands where coffee is grown, Alvarez said.

"We're not a Starbucks or a Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, just small guys taking a stab there," Alvarez said.

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