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**TOP 10
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**THE
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**20 YEARS
OF BEING
GONE WITH
PETE TONG**

The Crystal Method

Slowly changing the way
America sees EDM



The Electric Islands

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Beyond the vestiges of beaches, hula dancers, and tiki décor Hawaii's nightlife proves to be much more vibrant and lively than most imagine it to be. When the sun sets in paradise, a rumbling distant beat echoes between the buildings, beckoning it's locals to follow it into the awaiting smoke and laser filled rooms. Much like many other cities, Hawaii's electronic music scene started in its warehouse district (Yes Hawaii has a warehouse district). Ravers in Hawaii's late 90's were ruling the night in their phat pants and visors, bumping their loud bassy beats till the crack of dawn. Several years have passed, and while there are obviously still underground parties prevalent in Hawaii's party scene, most of its original underground has been traded in for the many weekly and monthly club events that Hawaii hosts today.

While popular locations such as Waikiki may seem like the perfect destination for finding a fun night out, any local will tell you that this is further from the truth than most tourists realize. Right back where it began, Hawaii's real nightlife seems to be hiding in the clubs and alleys near the downtown and Chinatown areas. There has been a resurgence of nightlife activity in these formerly run-down parts of the city, and the local popularity of its offerings is at an all-time high. There is a growing collection of different bars and clubs in the area and seeing that each is just a stone's throw away from each other, there is quite literally never a shortage of something to do. When the First Fridays of every month rolls around, Hawaii's famed "First Friday's" night pulls crowds of people roaming the sidewalks and blockaded streets of Chinatown. It is, by-far, one of the most anticipated nights of every month, and between the many art

galleries, club events, and good ol' bar hopping, it is no wonder why every Friday Chinatown is filled with thousands of people looking for a great night.

Some notable clubs and venues include the famed SoHo Mixed Media Bar, Lotus Soundbar, Nextdoor Honolulu, and Mercury Night Club. Collectively, these leaders in the local club scene consistently offer great nights for many of Hawaii's adventurous local party goers. A solid weekly event at SoHo Mixed Media Bar named 'Tap That Thursdays' always guarantees a great experience with a plethora of visiting headliners on the regular. An anticipated event at Mercury is a drum & bass monthly called 'Subfonix' hosted by Pacific Jungle, which just celebrated their 6th year of bringing the bass to Hawaii's locals. The rabbit hole goes deeper into a unique members-only underground club called Asylum After Hours. This club is a MUST visit for any avid clubber/partier passing through the islands. Nights turn into days but honestly who is keeping track when there is a constant flow of amazing talent running through Asylum's DJ booths.

Hawaii's club scene has always been strong and prominent, but there have also been a few key contributors to the local rise of EDM and the many events tied to its music. Like true veterans of the Hawaiian EDM scene, companies like 00-Spot Promotions and Hawaii Livewire/Pure Coalition have always been on the frontlines exposing the islands to a wide range of big-name talent. While 00-Spot has been working closely with Los Angeles based company Go Ventures, to throw Hawaii's largest EDM event: Love Festival - Bringing out artists such as: Morgan Page, Jack Beats, Frankie Bones, Carl Cox, and Mark Farina (Just to name a few). The past 6 years, Hawaii Livewire/Pure Coalition has been

building their reputation for bringing out the best trance names in the business. And with acts like (But not limited to): Arty, Tritonal, Cosmic Gate, Ben Nicky, Myron & Shane 54, Alex Morph, and Menno De Jong, Hawaii Livewire/Pure Coalition has undoubtedly lived up to that reputation. And new to the headliner game in Hawaii are companies like Odin Works, Franconi Legacy Productions, and Audible Emissions. Collectively, these new but strong companies have brought out numerous talented individuals such as: DJ Colette, S3rl, Dj Caffeine, Lisa Lashes, Headhunterz, Christian Martin, Superstar DJ Keoki, Kane Ian, JJ Flores, and Alex Zelenka.

Although the roster of talent that runs through Hawaii's shores can be impressive, perhaps the most impressive aspect of its music scene is that you will find a great atmosphere that is almost untouched by harsh pretentiousness and the politics that come with any town full of party promoters. The people are friendly and welcoming, but are still able to maintain a tight-knit community within its own musical culture. The neutrality and open-mindedness of all the individuals who throw and attend Hawaii's many events are an inspiration to us all. The vibes are pure, the air is clean, and the crowds share a deep rooted connection to the music and each other. With a growing number of quality events to experience, all centered in one naturally beautiful place, one could say that Hawaii can quite easily be considered the American Ibiza. ■

