

## Rum distiller and 9 others win Taste Awards

A company producing rum on Oahu's west side has been named the year's top startup manufacturer by the Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association.

Manulele Distillers, which produces Ko Hana Rum out of the Kunia Corridor of farms and manufacturing enterprises, was among 10 honorees Saturday at the association's Taste Awards, held at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Resort.

The startup award goes to a company established since 2010 that has brought a new product

or process to the local industry. The Taste Awards recognize individuals, companies and products for their performance, innovation and contributions to the industry and community.

>> **Product of the year:** Oils of Aloha macadamia nut oil

>> **Innovative marketing:** Hawaii Poi Co., also known as Taro Brand

>> **Community service:** Kualoa Ranch

>> **Supplier of the year:** Rengo Packaging

>> **Advocate of the year:** Ken Kanter of Douglas Trade Shows

>> **Hawaiian agriculture award:** Wailea, supplier of hearts of palm and tropical spices

>> **Manufacturer of the year (fewer than 50 employees):** Hawaiian Chip Co.

>> **Manufacturer of the year (50 or more employees):** Kauai Coffee Co.

>> **Lifetime achievement award:** Aloha Shoyu Co.

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