



ISLAND FLAVORS Poke
plates served at the festival

SAVE THE DATE

Poke My Heart

Take a tropical culinary trip without leaving your beloved Surf City at the **I Love Poke Festival** (\$65, onoyum.com), set for June 28 at the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort. Since its first local showing at Don the Beachcomber in 2011, the foodie fest and cooking contest has exploded in palatable popularity and now attracts more than 500 culinarians who come for a taste of the traditional Hawaiian dish, all served up by 20 of our coast's finest chefs. So, why's it all so popular? "O.C. is where surf culture lives, and surf culture is tied into all things Hawaii, so it's a perfect fit," says curator Nino Camilo, who first created the event in San Diego in 2010. This year, Ben LaFleche of Shades and Julio Hawkins of Fly-N-Fish are among those who will battle for best poke title (past winners include Shawn Gole of North Shore Poke Co.). Between rounds, guests will indulge on a luauworthy spread of grub and groove to island-style tunes. And that, adds Camilo, will bring "aloha-filled smiles all around." —*Ruchika Bajaj*