

RETAIL THERAPY

# A Cure for Your Cravings



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## SWEET AND SALTY

While New Jersey has its saltwater taffy and the folks in France prefer their macaroons, people from Hawaii have enjoyed the mouthwatering aroma and flavor of the distinctive local snack known as crack seed. "As a kid I would suck on the seed until there was no flavor," laughs Kon Ping Young, the owner of the historic Crack Seed Store on the side street of Waiialae Avenue in Kaimuki. "I have many customers who come in looking to satisfy their childhood memories." Brought to the Islands in the 19th century by Chinese immigrants, crack seed can be found in the candy section of any grocery store in Hawaii. Flavors range from the popular sweet li hing mui (preserved plum) to the bold flavors of lemon peel and kakimochi (Japanese rice cracker). They can even be added to the traditional slurpee for a distinct island treat. "Thirty years ago, a kid requested for me to put the juice from the wet li hing mui in his slurpee," squints Young. "It became a hit and it's now our most popular seller at the Crack Seed Store." Crack Seed Store, 1156 Koko Head Ave., Mon-Sat., 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sun. noon to 4:30 p.m. Closed every last Sunday of the month.

## Made In Hawaii

More than just SPAM musubis and rubbah slippahs, products made in Hawaii showcase the Islands' ever-evolving mix of history and culture.

- From its humble beginnings of "just a bowl and a spoon," **For J's Hawaii** can be found at 15 statewide locations, including Whole Foods and the Trump Hotel Waikiki. Flavored salts, sugars, marinades and spreads are made of fresh, local ingredients and are constants in well-stocked kama'aina (local) kitchens. For more information, visit [forjshawaii.com](http://forjshawaii.com).

ferent products." Meaning "brave, bold, and fearless," koa was the name used for ancient Hawaiian warriors who carved their combat weapons, canoes, paddles and even surfboards out of this strong, beautiful wood that's endemic to Hawaii. For store locations, visit [hawaiianaccessories.com](http://hawaiianaccessories.com).

- Once a full-time lifeguard at Hanauma Bay and a labor relations representative with the State of Hawaii Police Officers Union (SHOPO), Curtis Wilmington, the co-founder of **Hawaiian Accessories**, has scripted his own success story since opening a tiny kiosk at Windward Mall in 1989. "I love woodworking and all the jewelry pieces are my designs," says Wilmington. "When I first started, we only sold small paddle pendants but now we have more than 200 dif-



- Along the racks of **Aloha Aina Boutique**, there are rows of sherbert tie-dye maxi dresses, delicate sea-shell jewelry and patterned canvas clutches. Every visitor can't help but fall in love with the array of local designer wear and hidden gems that replicate Hawaii's laid-back yet luxurious lifestyle. Royal Hawaiian Center, Suite 214C, 808.924.4333.



- Feel the rush and remember fond memories of Hawaii with a piece of poetic photography from artist **Clark Little**. Haleiwa Town Center, 808.626.5319.

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