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## HAWAIIAN-INSPIRED VEGAN MEAL PREP

Today's meal prep blog features 4 delicious **Hawaiian-inspired vegan recipes** that are ridiculously tasty and easy to make! Make sure to watch the video below for visual references!

Watch the video on my YouTube channel here! The https://youtu.be/awdCp5K7blA



## **TASTE OF THE TROPICS**

In one of my latest Community Post polls on <u>YouTube</u> I asked you, my audience, what kind of meal prep videos you wanted to see next on the channel this fall, and many of you voted for Hawaiian... so here you go! And because I love fresh tropical flavours I thought why not share some Hawaiian-inspired recipes in this vegan meal prep?

This Hawaiian-themed vegan meal prep has all the sweet, savoury, and tangy notes to transport you to a tropical paradise—all while staying high-protein, plant-based, and meal-prep friendly! Let's dive into this week's meal plan featuring **Hawaiian Fried Rice**Casserole, Crispy Hawaiian Garlic Tempeh, Sheet Pan Hawaiian BBQ Chick'n, and a lightened-up Hawaiian Macaroni Salad.



## **WHY SHOULD YOU MEAL PREP?**

Meal prepping is a great way to help you save time cooking in the kitchen during the week, it can save you money and prevent you from ordering take out 8 times in a week— which can help your wallet and also with weight loss! Cooking nutritious, balanced meals at home means you know exactly what's going into your food, and you're more likely to eat food that you've lovingly prepared instead of letting it go to waste.

Also, if you're new to eating plant-based, meal-prepping can help you stick to a plant-based diet! From tangy and sweet **Hawaiian BBQ Chik'n** to refreshing **macaroni salad**, this spread will bring the taste of Hawaii right to your kitchen—perfect for those wanting to keep meals high-protein, plant-based, and easy to prepare!

## **WHAT'S ON THE MENU?**

Here's a quick rundown of the wholesome recipes you'll be prepping:

- Hawaiian Fried Rice Casserole This easy, oven-baked dish brings all the classic
  flavors of fried rice but with a tropical twist. The jasmine rice is mixed with savoury soy
  sauce, mirin, aromatic Chinese 5 spice, and juicy pineapple for a burst of sweetness.
  Combined with protein-rich tofu scramble and peas, this casserole is the perfect balance
  of flavors and textures.
- **Crispy Hawaiian Garlic Tempeh** For a protein-packed dish with a little kick, try this crispy tempeh coated in a garlic-ginger pineapple sauce. The air-fried tempeh comes out golden and crispy, then it's tossed in a tangy, sweet, and slightly spicy sauce for a slap-you-in-the-tastebuds flavour experience.
- Sheet Pan Hawaiian BBQ Chick'n This one-pan dish features soy curls, veggies, and pineapple for a hearty yet easy Hawaiian BBQ meal. Coated in a tangy pineapple sauce, it's great served over rice or as-is.
- Hawaiian Macaroni Salad (Lightened-Up) No Hawaiian-inspired meal is complete without macaroni salad! This version uses a homemade silken tofu mayo for a creamy, lightened-up option. Tossed with crunchy carrots, celery, and a touch of paprika and turmeric, it's the perfect cooling side dish.



## **SHOPPING LIST**

You'll need a blend of fresh produce, pantry staples, and plant-based protein sources to pull this off. Here's your complete shopping list:

- Proteins: 1 block silken tofu, 1 block extra firm tofu (for <u>tofu scramble</u>), 2 blocks tempeh
- **Fresh Produce**: Frozen peas, green onions, 1 jalapeño pepper, 2 carrots, 1 celery stalk, 2 onions, red & green bell pepper, garlic cloves, 1 lemon
- Canned Goods: 2 20 oz cans of pineapple chunks in juice
- Grains: jasmine/basmati rice
- Pantry Staples: Sugar/granulated sweetener, dry macaroni noodles, apple cider vinegar, molasses, liquid smoke, tomato paste, nutritional yeast, coconut sugar, maple syrup, rice vinegar, sesame oil, veggie broth, cornstarch, 1 bag of soy curls
- **Spices**: Smoked paprika, garlic powder, turmeric powder, black salt, ground ginger, red chili flakes, Chinese 5 spice

## **ORDER OF PREP**

- 1. Wash all veggies needed for all recipes
- 2. Make the fried rice casserole
- 3. In the meantime, air fry the crispy tempeh and make garlic sauce
- 4. Air fry soy curls & make Hawaiian BBQ sauce, toss with veg & bake
- 5. Make tofu mayo, cook macaroni noodles and make Hawaiian macaroni salad
- 6. Store all recipes in food storage containers and refrigerate

## A NOTE ON OIL

Using a **high-quality extra virgin olive oil** for this meal prep is ideal, however if the price of olive oil is as expensive for you as it is for me where I live, any neutral-tasting oil like grape seed, avocado or sunflower oil is fine.



## **RECIPE #1: HAWAIIAN FRIED RICE CASSEROLE**

This easy, oven-baked dish brings all the classic flavors of fried rice but with a tropical twist. The jasmine rice is mixed with savoury soy sauce, mirin, aromatic Chinese 5 spice, and juicy pineapple for a burst of sweetness. Combined with protein-rich tofu scramble and peas, this casserole is the perfect balance of flavors and textures.



#### Ingredients:

□ 1½ cups jasmine rice
☐ 2 cups veg broth
☐ 2 tbsp soy sauce
☐ 2 tbsp mirin
☐ 1 tbsp sesame oil
☐ ¾ tsp Chinese 5 spice
☐ 1 cups frozen peas
☐ 1 540ml can diced pineapple, strained
☐ 1 batch tofu scramble (recipe here in this YouTube short)
☐ 1 tbsp garlic powder
☐ Black pepper to taste
☐ Chopped green onion for garnish



- 1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
- 2. Mix together all ingredients in the casserole dish except the green onions. Press the rice underneath the liquid, cover with foil or lid and bake for 40 mins.
- 3. Check rice for doneness, if al dente, cover again and bake for 5 to 7 minutes more.
- 4. Remove from the oven, uncover and let stand for 5 minutes. Serve in bowls, garnish with green onion and sesame seeds and enjoy!



## **RECIPE #2: CRISPY GARLIC TEMPEH**

For a protein-packed dish with a little kick, try this crispy tempeh coated in a garlic-ginger pineapple sauce. The air-fried tempeh comes out golden and crispy, then it's tossed in a tangy, sweet, and slightly spicy sauce for kick-you-in-the-tastebuds flavour experience.



#### Ingredients:

#### Sauce:

soy sauce (tamari for gluten-free)		
uice		
)		
nced		
d ginger		
es (optional)		
Everything Else:		



1 large jalapeño, sliced
1 tbsp olive oil
½ tsp salt

- 1. Preheat air fryer to 400°F and chop tempeh into 1" cubes, and slice the jalapeño into coins. Toss the tempeh and jalapeño in a large bowl with 1 tbsp olive oil and ½ tsp salt. Transfer to air fryer basket and air fryer for 20 minutes until golden and crispy.
- 2. In a small saucepan whisk together all the sauce ingredients, minus the cornstarch slurry, and bring to a low simmer, until just hot and steaming. Stir in the cornstarch slurry and stir to combine until it begins to thicken, about 3 minutes or so.
- 3. Toss in the air fried tempeh and jalapeños until evenly coated.



## **RECIPE #3: SHEET PAN HAWAIIAN BBQ CHIK'N**

This one-pan dish features soy curls, veggies, and pineapple for a hearty yet easy Hawaiian BBQ meal. Coated in a tangy pineapple sauce, it's great served over rice or as-is.



#### Ingredients:

#### Sauce:

Reserved juice from pineapple chunks (use entire amount from can)
1/4 cup coconut sugar
1/₃ cup lemon juice
1 to 1½ tbsp molasses
1 tbsp liquid smoke
1 small can tomato paste
1 tbsp cornstarch
8 oz. bag of Soy Curls
1 onion, chopped
½ red bell pepper, chopped into large chunks
½ green bell pepper, chopped into large chunks
1 20 oz can of pineapple chunks in natural juice (drain and reserve juice for sauce)
3 tbsp nutritional yeast



☐ ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce or tamari
☐ 8 oz. bag of Soy Curls
☐ 1 onion, chopped
☐ ½ red bell pepper, chopped into large chunks
☐ ½ green bell pepper, chopped into large chunks
☐ 1 20 oz can of pineapple chunks in natural juice (drain and reserve juice for sauce)
☐ 3 tbsp nutritional yeast
☐ ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce or tamari

- 1. Put 8 oz. of Soy Curls into a bowl and cover with hot water--let soak for about 10 minutes. Drain well. In the same bowl toss the soy curls in the nutritional yeast, and soy sauce, transfer to an air fryer basket and air fry for 10 minutes at 400°F, until slightly browned.
- 2. Chop the onion and peppers. Drain the pineapple juice into a bowl and set the juice aside for the sauce.
- 3. In a small saute pan mix the ingredients for the sauce, except the cornstarch. Bring to a low simmer until hot and steaming, then make a cornstarch slurry and mix into the sauce, stirring frequently until in thickens. Turn off heat and cover.
- 4. Preheat oven to 375°F and to a large baking tray add the chopped onion, chopped peppers, and pineapple chunks then add in the cooked Soy Curls to the vegetable mixture.
- 5. Pour the sauce directly over the veggies and soy curls, toss to combine, then roast in the oven for 25 to 30 minutes until the veggies are softened and the soy curls are browned. Serve on its own or over rice.



## **RECIPE #4: LIGHTENED UP HAWAIIAN MACARONI SALAD**

No Hawaiian-inspired meal is complete without macaroni salad! This version uses a homemade silken tofu mayo for a still very creamy, lightened-up option. Tossed with crunchy carrots, celery, and a touch of paprika and turmeric, it's the perfect cooling side dish.



#### Ingredients:

#### Silken Tofu Mayo:

☐ 1 15oz can chickpeas, or about 2 cups cooked chickpeas
☐ 1 12 oz package silken tofu, gently patted dry on a paper towel
☐ 1 tbsp lemon juice
☐ 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
☐ ⅓ teaspoon sea salt
☐ 1/2 tsp kala namak (black salt)
☐ 1 teaspoon dijon mustard
☐ ½ tsp maple syrup or agave
Everything else:
☐ 1 pound dry macaroni noodles, gluten-free if needed ☐ 2 then apple cider vinegar



2 carrots, shredded
1 celery stalk, finely diced
1/4 cup onion, grated
1¼ cups vegan mayo (store bought)
2 tsp granulated sweetener
½ tsp smoked paprika
½ tsp garlic
1/4 tsp turmeric
kosher salt, to taste
ground black pepper, to taste

- 1. **Make the oil-free mayo**: Add all the mayo ingredients to a food processor blender and blend on high speed for 15 to 30 seconds until combined and creamy. Transfer to a jar and store in the fridge.
- 2. Cook the macaroni noodles according to package directions. Then drain and rinse with cold water.
- 3. While the noodles cook, prep the onion and carrots. Once the noodles are rinsed, add to a large mixing bowl. Add the apple cider vinegar, carrot, onion, mayo(s), sugar, salt and pepper and stir well to combine. Transfer to a food storage container and chill in the fridge for 2 hours, but overnight is best.



## **MEAL PREP TIPS**

**Batch Cooking:** Cook and store the fried rice casserole, tempeh, and BBQ chick'n separately in meal prep containers for easy grab-and-go lunches.

**Fresh Garnishes:** Add fresh garnishes like chopped green onions or sesame seeds just before serving to keep flavors bright.

**Keep Sauces Separate:** For the crispy garlic tempeh, store sauce separately if you prefer extra crispiness on the day of serving.