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RECOGNITION OF HERB KĀNE HIGHLIGHTS A WEEKEND CELEBRATING POLYNESIAN VOYAGING

Special Events and Activities planned October 21-23, 2011 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel

Herb Kawainui Kāne will be honored as the 2011 Kama‘āina of the Year at the annual Historic Hawai‘i Foundation benefit on October 22.

Herb Kawainui Kāne is being honored for his life’s work as an artist, historian, visionary and one of the founders of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. His meticulous research and visual interpretations inspired the rebirth of Polynesian voyaging in the 20th century. Way finding and open-ocean voyaging are central to Hawaiian culture and Herb Kāne opened the way to this rediscovery. His detailed depictions of historic events in Hawaii’s history are on display in museums, private collections and public places in Hawai‘i.

“Mr. Kāne was one of the guiding spirits of the Hawaiian renaissance. Without him, we wouldn’t have regained our knowledge of Polynesian voyaging, a centerpiece of Hawaiian culture. In a true sense, he has made it possible for the host culture to live and thrive. We can’t thank him enough for that gift,” said Robert Iopa, President of Historic Hawai‘i Foundation.

Kāne is the 24th recipient of the Kama‘āina of the Year award, which honors individuals who have made unique and lasting contributions to the preservation of Hawaii’s historic places and cultural resources. The event is Historic Hawai‘i Foundation’s annual fundraiser and proceeds support the preservation of historic sites throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The Kama‘āina of the Year benefit will take place on Saturday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Monarch Room of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is a lead sponsor of the event. “With his powerful images, stories, and characterizations of what constituted a Hawaiian existence, Herb Kāne defined for us, in great detail, a Hawaiian cultural nation,” said OHA Trustee Peter Apo.

“He helped us find our dignity and restored our honor. Ka wa ma mua – ka wa ma hope. By rediscovering our past he made us relevant to Hawaii’s future. Nowadays, whenever I see men dancing the hula, or a Hawaiian child speaking Hawaiian, or a sailing canoe, or a restored heiau,

or the proliferation of our art forms, I think of Herb. Thank you Herb Kane – from a grateful nation,” said Apo.

The special event includes sunset cocktails, dinner, a tribute to the honoree, and live entertainment. Nā Mea Hawai‘i Cultural Marketplace and Lei Stand will present contemporary Hawaiian arts and exceptional kama‘āina styled lei, which will be offered for sale.

In addition, guests may bid to join an inter-island voyage on Hōkūle‘a as it prepares for its upcoming around-the-world journey. Segments sailing between the Hawaiian Islands will be offered for sale via silent auction.

In addition to the benefit, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation and Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts will present a series of activities to celebrate the heritage of Polynesian voyaging October 21-23.

Additional planned activities will include the unveiling and blessing of the last Herb Kāne painting, “Kamehameha Landing,” at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel entrance to the Monarch Room on Friday, October 21. The private event will be followed by a public screening of the documentary “Papa Mau: The Wayfinder” at 6:30 p.m. in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel Regency Room. This documentary recounts the fundamental role that master navigator Mau Piailug played in reawakening Polynesian pride by teaching Hawaiians the dying art of traditional voyaging without the aid of instruments. The film is sponsored by Palikū Documentary Films and ‘Ōiwi TV. It is open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10.

A discussion of Polynesian ocean voyaging and its rebirth in modern times is scheduled for Sunday, October 23 at 12 noon at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. It is free and open to the public.

Table sponsorships, ticket reservations and additional information about the benefit and the other activities are available at www.historichawaii.org or by calling 808-523-2900. Please check for updates on the latest schedule and details.

A statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation encourages the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities relating to the history of Hawai‘i. Founded in 1974 by concerned citizens who saw the need to protect the Islands’ irreplaceable historic and cultural legacy from destruction, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation has become the driving force behind preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic, supporting smart legislation, and providing direct assistance to make preservation accessible. Through strong partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation helps to unleash critical local energy. Together, we protect the essential character of Hawai‘i.

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