

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **RESTORED TELEVISION STUDIO BLESSED FOR REOPENING LIVE PLEDGE-OF-SUPPORT BROADCAST AIRS TONIGHT FROM NEW STUDIO**

Seven months after a major fire disabled its television production studio, PBS Hawaii today reopened the newly restored and refurbished facility. Kahu Kawika Kahiapo, a PBS Hawaii Board Member and Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning musical artist, offered the blessing as the public television station's staff looked on.

"Thankfully, insurance covered the cost of expert work," said Leslie Wilcox, President and CEO of the noncommercial television station. "For 40 years, this studio has been home to great storytelling productions, and we're eager to put it back into service for the benefit of the public."

The production studio has a new shell including a "cyclorama," a new air ventilation system, new furniture and drapes. All video equipment and lights have been restored.

The station will air its first live broadcast from the new studio tonight at 7:30 pm. The pledge-of-support program, **Na Mele: Na Lani Eha from Iolani Palace presented by Hawaiian Airlines**, features some of Hawaii's top musicians performing songs composed by royal siblings King Kalakaua, Queen Liliuokalani, Princess Likelike and Prince Leleiohoku. The television music special, filmed inside the country's only royal palace, includes performances by Marlene Sai, Robert Cazimero, Nina Kealiiwahamana, Haunani Apoliona, Dennis and David Kamakahi, Aaron Mahi, Kuuipo Kumukahi and the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame Serenaders, Jeff Peterson, Helene Woodward, Ilana Mahiehie Davis and Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus directed by Nola Nahulu.

The program can also be viewed online via live stream at [PBSHawaii.org](http://PBSHawaii.org)

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Blessing caption: Flanked by PBS Hawaii President and CEO Leslie Wilcox and VP Creative Services Robert Pennybacker and with station staff looking on, Kahu Kawika Kahiapo blesses the newly restored and refurbished studio.

After: Restored studio has new insulation, air ventilation system, furniture and drapes.

Before: The studio was stripped down for restoration work.