

NEWS RELEASE



PBS Hawaii | 2350 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

For Information:
Roberta Wong Murray
808-973-1383
rwongmurray@pbshawaii.org

August 18, 2011

PBS HAWAII PRESENTS: *UNDER A JARVIS MOON*
WORLD BROADCAST PREMIERE THURSDAY AUGUST 25
FREE SCREENING HAWAII THEATRE WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24

They endured rats, sharks and enemy fire. And not all of them returned home alive. Hawaii's only public television station will broadcast the world premiere of PBS Hawaii Presents: *Under a Jarvis Moon* on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 8:30 pm.

The one-hour documentary, produced by Bishop Museum, tells the true story of over 130 young men, mostly native Hawaiian students from Kamehameha Schools, who were sent by the U.S. government to occupy the remote Pacific islands of Howland, Baker and Jarvis from 1935 to 1942. The film shares many of these stories in the colonists' own words, using interviews, photographs, log book entries and government documents.

Documentary production was several years in the making. When PBS Hawaii's Vice President of Creative Services Robert Pennybacker viewed a work-in-progress at a public screening, he saw the potential for a statewide and even a national audience. Pennybacker outreached and advised director-producer Noelle Kahanu and her production team on how to rework the project to meet PBS standards for production quality and objectivity. PBS Hawaii provided Bishop Museum with funding for additional editing, an original music score, narration and other items needed to make the documentary ready for broadcast. The completed film was directed and produced by Kahanu and Heather Giugni. Co-producer Lisa Altieri edited the film.

"*Under a Jarvis Moon* tells the story about a forgotten chapter in Hawaii's history," said Pennybacker. "Our involvement in the project reflects a critical aspect of PBS Hawaii's mission—to recognize Hawaii-based stories that must be seen by the public-at-large, then do whatever we can to make sure those stories see the light of day."

On the evening before Thursday's broadcast, a free community screening at Hawaii Theatre Center sponsored by PBS Hawaii, Bishop Museum and Pacific Islanders in Communications takes place on Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. PBS Hawaii President and CEO Leslie Wilcox will emcee a pre-screening program to be attended by

three of the surviving colonists: Manny Sproat, George Kahanu Sr. and Paul Phillips, along with their families. Hawaii's U.S. Senators Akaka and Inouye as well as U.S. Representative Hanabusa will also be present to acknowledge the introduction of a Congressional Resolution honoring the men.

For free tickets, please call the theatre box office at (808) 528-0506.

In 2012, *Under a Jarvis Moon* will be shown on PBS stations nationwide through a collaboration between PBS Hawaii and Pacific Islanders in Communications.

About PBS Hawaii

Hawaii's only public television station, PBS Hawaii, reaches viewers across the island state. Locally owned and independent, we are evolving on-air and online to best serve the people of Hawaii. Through quality programming and community interaction, we connect with citizens of all ages to share trustworthy information, culture and the arts, and lifelong learning.

Be a PBS Hawaii fan on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/PBSHawaii>

Friend us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/PBSHawaii>

Visit us online at <http://PBSHawaii.org>

About Bishop Museum

The Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last direct descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum is recognized as the principal museum of the Pacific, housing the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Pacific artifacts and natural history specimens. More than 400,000 people visit the Museum each year, including over 40,000 schoolchildren. For more information, please call (808) 847-3511 or visit www.bishopmuseum.org.

About Pacific Islanders in Communications

The mission of Pacific Islanders in Communications is to support, advance, and develop Pacific Island media content and talent that results in a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary challenges. Established in Honolulu in 1991 as a national nonprofit media arts corporation, PIC is a member of the National Minority Consortia, which collectively addresses the need for programming that reflects America's growing ethnic and cultural diversity. Primary funding for PIC and the Consortia is provided through an annual grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Visit www.piccom.org for additional information.

###