

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PBS Hawaii Showcases Local Directors On *PBS Hawaii Presents: Filmmakers' Forum*

On Thursday April 30th, at 8:30pm, actress, film aficionado, and former broadcast journalist Donalyn Dela Cruz hosts an in-studio discussion with five Hawaii filmmakers. In ***PBS Hawaii Presents: Filmmakers' Forum***, each filmmaker will also present a short film that he or she directed as part of the Pacific Islanders in Communications Short Film Initiative.

The filmmakers and their shorts include: **Dorothy Mane**, showing **“A Legacy”**—the story of a Samoan woman trying to come to terms with the abusive legacy of her family; **Daniel Boulos**, showing **“Ipo Lei Manu”**—a watercolor-style animated depiction of the song by Queen Kapiolani; **Lopaka Kapanui’s “Dreams of a Pagan Tattooed Savage”**—a surreal exploration into Hawaiian self identity; **Vincent Lucero’s Holomua”**—a provocative drama about development versus Hawaiian land rights; and **Leah Kihara’s “i scream, floats & Sundays”**—a visual meditation inspired by Hawaiian women.

Except for **“i scream, floats & Sundays”** (which aired in the short-lived PBS series ***Colorvision***) none of the shorts featured in ***PBS Hawaii Presents: Filmmakers' Forum*** has aired on broadcast television. “Filmmakers’ Forum will give Hawaii audiences the chance to see important works of art about our island culture and at the same time learn about the artists behind the films,” said PBS Hawaii Vice President of Creative Services Robert Pennybacker. “Our ***PBS Hawaii Presents*** Thursday night timeslot is dedicated to showcasing the work of Hawaii’s independent filmmakers, and short films are an important form of independent expression. We are always proud to air long format films funded by Pacific Islanders In Communications (PIC), but the opportunity to expose audiences to these little-seen gems is especially gratifying.”

“PIC is proud of these filmmakers and their work. It’s wonderful that PBS Hawaii is presenting this series as there are not many venues for short films and independent projects,” said PIC Executive Director, Ruth Bolan.

The mission of Pacific Islanders In Communications, or PIC, 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. PIC’s short film initiative lasted from 2001 to 2006 and was created as a means for developing up-and-coming Pacific Islander filmmakers.

It is the hope of PBS Hawaii and PIC that this premiere installment of *Filmmakers' Forum* will be the first of many.

For More Information:

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PBS Hawaii, a member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is a community-supported, noncommercial public television station broadcasting throughout the state of Hawaii. Its mission is to inspire, inform and entertain by providing high-quality programming and valuable services for our diverse island community. Major support of the station comes from the people and businesses of Hawaii. www.pbshawaii.org

Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) was established in 1991 in Honolulu, Hawai'i to address the need for greater representation of Pacific Islander stories on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and beyond. PIC is a member of the National Minority Consortia (NMC). The NMC collectively addresses the need for national programming reflective of America's growing ethnic and cultural diversity. Primary funding for PIC comes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private not-for-profit that distributes federal funds to public broadcasting. Additional funding for PIC comes from foundations, corporations, and private donations. www.piccom.org