



HIKI NŌ

**For Immediate Release
February 23, 2011**

HIKI NŌ PREMIERES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH ON PBS HAWAII

Hawaii Students from 55 Public, Private and Charter Schools Deliver an Historic Launch Season of Programming from the Nation's First Statewide Student News Network

The Bank of Hawaii Foundation Will Be the Exclusive Broadcast and Webcast Underwriter

They're on the verge of making history. Several hundred students from Kauai, Niihau, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii Island are working feverishly on their first newscasts – their opportunity to tell the stories of their communities to a statewide television audience and on the worldwide web.

With the guidance of their teachers and support from the PBS Hawaii team – *Hiki Nō* Executive Producer Robert Pennybacker, Managing Editor Sue Yim, and Producer/Editor Lawrence Pacheco – these students are creating the first statewide student news network in the nation. Each newscast will be produced by an average of nine school teams.

The Bank of Hawaii Foundation donated \$100,000 and will be the exclusive *Hiki Nō* broadcast and webcast underwriter. "There are stories unique to every community on every island, and *Hiki Nō* allows students to share their perspectives on community issues with all of us," said Donna Tanoue, President of the Bank of Hawaii Foundation. "We're looking forward to seeing students tell their stories their way."

Leslie Wilcox, PBS Hawaii President & CEO, said, "We deeply appreciate the Bank of Hawaii Foundation's investment in the future, giving students across the state equal access to a powerful learning vehicle for 21st-century skills. The program builds critical thinking and teamwork, and we'll see collaborative leaders emerge."

In this first season, *Hiki Nō* will air every Monday at 5 PM, starting February 28, with encores scheduled for Mondays @ 5 pm, Tuesdays @ 12:30 pm, Fridays @ 9:30 pm, Saturdays @ 12:30 pm, and Sundays @ 3:00 pm. *Hiki Nō* programs will also be available at www.pbshawaii.org/hikino

Participation in *Hiki Nō* is open to all middle and high schools in the state at no cost. School teams producing the debut newscast are:

Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, Kauai
Kalani High School, East Honolulu
Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School
Kawananakoa Middle School, Nuuanu
Konawaena High School, West Hawaii Island
Maui High School, Kahului
Maui Waena Intermediate School, Kahului
Sacred Hearts Academy, Kaimuki
Waipahu High School, Central Oahu

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For more information on *Hiki Nō* go to www.pbshawaii.org/hikino or contact Susan Yim, Managing Editor for *Hiki Nō* at syim@pbshawaii.org.

PBS Hawaii's mission is to inspire, inform and entertain by providing high quality programming and vital services for our diverse island community. Major support of the station comes from the people and business of Hawaii. Visit our website www.pbshawaii.org