

315 Sand Island Access Road  
Honolulu, HI 96819-2295

ph: 808.462.5000  
[pbshawaii.org](http://pbshawaii.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT****Jody Shiroma**

PBS Hawai'i

[jshiroma@pbshawaii.org](mailto:jshiroma@pbshawaii.org)

808.462.5026

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**HIKI NŌ GIVES VOICE TO STUDENT INSIGHTS ON LIFE UNDER COVID-19**

(HONOLULU, HI) -- PBS Hawai'i's statewide student news network HIKI NŌ is launching seven brand-new weekly episodes that feature Hawai'i-student reflections on their lives in the COVID-19 era.

The weekly episodes kicks off on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm with the documentary, **HIKI NŌ at STN 2020: Life Goes On**. The program follows 13 HIKI NŌ school groups that traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the annual Student Television Network (STN) convention, only to find the convention cancelled the day before it was to commence due to COVID-19.

The documentary chronicles the students' emotional progression from shock, disappointment, acceptance, resilience and a resolve to tell their stories regardless of the fact that they were no longer doing so for a competition.

The following week's episode, premiering Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, begins the series of weekly shows that feature students reflecting on life under COVID-19 directly into the camera, from the safety of their respective homes. Topics for these **Student Reflections** range from the impact the pandemic has had on student's families, what they miss most from life before the pandemic, how they are compensating for that loss, to what gives them hope, and virtually any thoughts on how they feel about the "new normal."

The series culminates in stories produced during the upcoming HIKI NŌ 2020 Spring Challenge, in which students will compete for prizes awarded to the best stories created during a set, four-day production window. The theme of the Challenge is COVID-19.

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