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**Maui Arts & Cultural Center Presents Mana I Ka Leo
at McCoy Studio Theater January 16**

WAILUKU, HI – The Maui Arts & Cultural Center will show *Mana I Ka Leo, Power of the Voice*, a locally produced documentary short by 4 Miles LLC, 3 pm, January 16 at McCoy Studio Theater. *Mana I Ka Leo* is a film that examines oli, the Hawaiian tradition of chant through the eyes of three contemporary practitioners – Hōkūlani Holt, Kamana‘opono Crabbe and Kaumakaiwa Kanaka‘ole – who have dedicated much of their lives to preserving and perpetuating the voices and words of their kupuna. Film makers Ruben Carrillo, executive producer/director and director of photography, and Dawn Kaniaupio, executive producer, producer and writer, will attend and Hōkūlani Holt, cultural director, Maui Arts & Cultural Center will host a question and answer session following the show. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Mana I Ka Leo is shot in High Definition (HD) and the audience is taken on a visual journey through some of the most majestic locations in Hawai‘i. The crew shot on Maui at Mākena, No‘ohana Farm in Waikapū and the Hawai‘i Nature Center Iao Valley. In addition, to Hōkūlani Holt, Maui resident and cultural practitioner Charles Ka‘upu is in the film. The other chanters are Sonny Ching, Dr. Taupouri Tangaro, Kamahalo Ka‘uhane and Pohaku Ka‘uhane. Leo Akana Anderson lends her voice as the film’s narrator.

“Throughout the film, Hōkūlani, Kamana‘opono and Kaumakaiwa explain what oli means to them in their daily lives,” said Dawn Kaniaupio. “We knew going into this project that we were going to make a film about oli outside of its connection to hula. We were completely blown away, everyday, by the practitioners, everything we learned and the places we filmed at.”

"I've not experienced until this project of yours (*Mana I Ka Leo*) the constellation of what's behind oli. Many previous works on the subject was paraphrasing written works of oli; indeed the scope of practitioners of oli presented here is what is needed. Great job," said Dr Taupouri Tangaro, Assistant professor and Department Chair Hawaiian life styles and Humanities at Hawai'i Community College.

"Mana I Ka Leo opens a privileged window allowing viewers to see, hear, and feel oli (Hawaiian chants) through the voices of respected Hawaiian cultural practitioners and vibrant Hawai'i landscapes that embody the forces brought forth in oli. It is a rare opportunity that should not be missed," Dr. Kehaunani Abad, PhD, Director Kamehameha Publishing.

Mana I Ka Leo was six years in the making. Along the way the filmmakers worked on numerous other projects. Among them, the 2009 Merrie Monarch Festival and the 2010 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards Show. Both were shot live and presented for the first time in HD format.

During the 2010 Hawai'i International Film Festival, Mana I Ka Leo, Power of the Voice, directed by Ruben Carrillo was voted Favorite Short Film. This was one of the three Audience Awards presented by Hawai'i News Now. The other winners included Favorite Narrative Feature: One Kine Day, directed by Chuck Mitsui and Favorite Documentary: One Voice, directed by Lisette Marie Flanary. Throughout the festival, ballots were distributed for the first screening of every eligible film, 214 in all.

"The status of Hawaii-made films continues to rise," says Anderson Le, HIFF's Director of Programming. Le continues, "It is unprecedented that locally made films has swept all three audience awards and shows that homegrown cinema can compete against its national and international counterparts."

For more information visit <http://www.manaikaleo.com> and listen to filmmakers Ruben Carrillo and Dawn Kaniaupio with Randy Hudnall on Nā 'oiwi 'olina AM940.

Mana I Ka Leo is sponsored, in part, by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

About 4 Miles LLC: Carrillo and Kaniaupio are two of the three principals in 4 Miles LLC, a Honolulu-based company consisting of three partners, Ruben Carrillo, owner of Liquid Planet Studios; Dirk Fukushima, owner of Hawaii Stars; and Dawn Kaniaupio, owner of Alphamedia Corporation. Together they have more than 75 years of combined experience in television production. Their passion for their work has resulted in award-winning programs that are relevant in content and committed to the community.

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