

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Puana Ka 'Ike lecture explores Hawaiian naming practices

KAMUELA, Hawai'i—October 11, 2011—Earl Kawa'a will explore the importance of names from the Hawaiian perspective in an upcoming *Puana Ka 'Ike* lecture in Kona and an *Eia Hawai'i* presentation in Hilo. Kawa'a's free presentation, "Hawaiian Naming Practices" will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Campus Center Room 301, and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 21, in the ballroom at the Keauhou Beach Resort in Kona.

Kawa'a will discuss spiritually motivated names such as *inoa Po*, names that mark events and incidents; names of winds and rains; names of tools, plants, fishes, and more. Kawa'a's presentation will combine *mo'olelo* (storytelling) and *kūkahekahe* (conversational) formats, coupled with true and enlightening *mo'olelo* for the soul.

"Do you know the meaning and *mo'olelo* of who named you and why your name was chosen for you?" Kawa'a asked. "In addition to learning about the names, we'll explore how important names are from the Maoli perspective."

Kawa'a is one of five children who grew up in an isolated community in Halawa Valley on Moloka'i. He grew up speaking Hawaiian, fishing, and farming taro. Kawa'a joined the Domestic Peace Corps and served as a VISTA Volunteer on the Acoma Indian Reservation and later served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era. Knowledgeable and skilled in fishing, farming, and crafts, he is also an accomplished therapist and possesses knowledge in *la'au lapa'au* and *lomilomi*, as well as two methods of *ho'oponopono*.

Kawa'a is sought after in the academic arena and Hawaiian communities as a teacher, community organizer, and mediator due to his ability to combine Western and Hawaiian modalities. He is a skilled orator and writes poems in English, Hawaiian, and haiku, a Japanese form of poetry. He has also been called upon to deliver keynote speeches to both local and international audiences.

For more information on Kawa'a's presentations, contact Joy Cunefare at (808) 534-8528 or e-mail info@kohalacenter.org. For lecture schedules and webcasts of previous lectures, visit <http://kohalacenter.org/puanakaike/about.html> and www.keauhouresort.com/learn-puanakaike.html.

Puana Ka 'Ike lecture explores Hawaiian naming practices, page 2

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The Puana Ka 'Ike and Eia Hawai'i lecture series are presented in partnership with Keauhou-Kahalu'u Education Group of Kamehameha Schools, The Kohala Center, the Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and Keauhou Beach Resort.

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