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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New “Aloha ‘Āina” Radio Series Begins on HPR September 21 Station partners with The Kohala Center to explore traditional Hawaiian kinship with the natural world

(Kamuela and Honolulu, Hawai‘i) On September 21, The Kohala Center, a Hawai‘i island-based nonprofit, and Hawai‘i Public Radio launch a 13-week original radio series entitled “Aloha ‘Āina.” The series, comprised of 65 approximately two-minute segments, explores the roots and historical endurance of the values of aloha ‘āina, commonly translated as “love of the land.” Commentary is provided by noted Hawaiian scholars and leaders, such as Puanani Burgess, Sam ‘Olu Gon, Davianna McGregor, Jonathan Osorio, and Walter Ritte. The series is researched, written, and narrated by Julia Steele.

Between September 21 and December 18, “Aloha ‘Āina” airs on HPR-1 every weekday at 8:18 a.m., during the popular NPR news magazine *Morning Edition*. An encore broadcast is planned on HPR-2, with the second 13 weeks starting in January 2016. The series will be archived on hawaiipublicradio.org.

Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, president and CEO of The Kohala Center, said “When we first sat down with HPR a year ago, our goal was to help listeners—all listeners—deepen their reverence for the land and natural resources that sustain us. With the words ‘aloha ‘āina’ gaining heightened prominence in local, and even global, discourse and consciousness in recent months, the timing of such an exploration couldn’t be better. We’re excited and truly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Hawai‘i Public Radio to bring this series to the people of Hawai‘i and the world.”

“The Kohala Center brought all the necessary elements with their proposal,” said HPR’s President and General Manager Michael Titterton. “They share our commitment to community enrichment and, as a research organization, they have the credibility to shape a rigorous and thoughtful exploration of the connection between indigenous wisdom and our modern relationships with the natural environment. ‘Aloha ‘Āina’ is the perfect complement to our earlier series ‘Mahalo ‘Āina,’ which illustrated the importance of healthy Hawaiian forests.”

The series begins with episodes exploring the historical origins of aloha ‘āina and concludes with predictions for its future. In the weeks between, topics addressed include ahupua‘a systems, the significance of kalo, some of Hawai‘i’s visionary chiefs, the emergence of art that paid tribute to the land, Captain Cook’s arrival, the Māhele, land hui, the PKO (Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana), the work of community-based organizations such as Sust‘āinable Molokai, and more.

Beamer continues, “Here in Hawai‘i, we are surrounded by a unique and incredible natural and cultural landscape, but what does it really mean to engage, to connect, to develop an intimate kinship with the environments and ancestral knowledge that have nourished and sustained these islands for centuries? Our hope is that this series, and the voices who contributed their mana‘o to it, will invite listeners to deepen their understanding of aloha ‘āina and inspire them to incorporate these values into their everyday lives.”

The series’ writer and host is Julia Steele, an editor at Hawai‘i’s largest magazine, *Hana Hou! The Magazine of Hawaiian Airlines*. At *Hana Hou!*, she has written and edited numerous award-winning articles about Hawai‘i. She holds a bachelor of arts in Pacific history and journalism from the University of

Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Juris doctorate from Stanford Law School. Ms. Steele was the founding editor of *Honolulu Weekly* and has also worked as a writer for Stanford University and as the editor of *Pacifica* magazine.

About The Kohala Center

Founded in the year 2000, [The Kohala Center](#) is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education. We turn research and ancestral knowledge into action, so that communities in Hawai'i and around the world can thrive — ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially. Our main areas of interest are energy self-reliance, food self-reliance, and ecosystem health.

About Hawai'i Public Radio

HPR is a private, non-profit organization which broadcasts classical, jazz, and international music; and in-depth news and informational programming from National Public Radio, American Public Media, Public Radio International, and other local, national, and international program sources, as well as programs produced by Hawai'i Public Radio. In December 2014, Charity Navigator, the premier charity evaluator, awarded HPR its third consecutive four-star rating for exceptional fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

HPR's mission is to serve the entire population of the state of Hawai'i with two excellent program streams. HPR-1, the news magazine and fine arts stream, can currently be heard on O'ahu and Kaua'i (KHPR 88.1 FM and 88.5 FM); Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i (KKUA 90.7 FM); East Hawai'i (KANO 91.1 FM (Hilo) and K234AN 94.7 FM (Waimea)); Kaua'i (K269GD 101.7 FM); and West Hawai'i (K239BV 95.7 FM). HPR-2, the news, local talk, and music stream, is found on Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i (KIPM 89.7 FM and KIPH 88.3 FM (Hana)); West Hawai'i (KIPM 89.7 FM and KHPH 88.7 FM); the newest station in south Hawai'i (KAHU 91.7 FM); O'ahu and Kaua'i (KIPO 89.3 FM; KIPL 89.9 FM). HPR is online and streaming at hawaiipublicradio.org and hpr2.org; as well as on Facebook ([FB/hawaiipublicradio](https://www.facebook.com/hawaiipublicradio)), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and other social media platforms (@WeAreHPR™). Free iOS and Android™ apps for "Hawaii Public Radio" are available for download from the App Store or Google Play™. HPR-1 and HPR-2 may also be heard via cable broadcasts from Oceanic Time Warner (channels 864 and 865) or Hawaiian Telcom TV (channels 661 and 662).

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CONTACTS:

Liam Kernell
Director of Communications
The Kohala Center
Main: (808) 887-6411 • Mobile: (808) 937-9735
lkernell@kohalacenter.org

Phyllis S.K. Look
Director of Marketing
Hawai'i Public Radio
Direct: (808) 792-8220 • Mobile: (808) 492-8736
plook@hawaiipublicradio.org



Note on Hawaiian spellings:

In our print communications, HPR takes special care to include the 'okina (glottal stop) and kahakō (macron) marks used in the

proper spelling of Hawaiian words. Due to compatibility issues with certain Web browsers and/or search engines these marks may not display correctly.