



MEDIA ADVISORY: July 20, 2007
Hawai'i International Forgiveness Day Combines Local and International Heroes With Focus on Children

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HONOLULU: JULY 20, 2007 - The 5th annual **Hawai'i International Forgiveness Day** reaches out to a diverse audience again this year with a free festival for people of all ages and walks of life, open to the public. Doors open at **1:00 p.m., Sunday August 5, Kaimuki High School**. Directions: <http://snipr.com/kaimuki>

Key Events: Hawaiian leaders **Nalani Olds** begins with a dramatic remembrance of Queen Lili'uokalani and her prayer about forgiveness. **Kupuna Kawohiokalani** (Aunty Betty Jenkins) brings the Queen's story into the present, with the **Bowl of Light**, a celebration of cleansing.

Paula Fuga, budding Hawaiian music superstar and winner of this year's Na Hoku Hanohano Award for most promising new artist, receives a **Forgiveness Hero Award**, based on her experience in the state's foster-care system. **Gene and Jan Jones**, aid workers who spent the past four years in **Kabul, Afghanistan** helping victims of war and terrorism, share stories of conscience and forgiveness.

IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre sends a dancer from their upcoming new show, "The Living Tarot," called **The Fool**. The de-facto poet-laureate of Honolulu, **Jeff Gere**, brings a medieval "light puppet" performance of **The Return**, the story of knights returning from Jerusalem.

From **Farrington High School** comes the hot student drama group, **T-Shirt Theatre**, with an original play in pidgin, **All Because of One Egg**, based on a short story by Leo Tolstoy. Hosts include local teacher-authors **Jerry Jampolsky** and **Diane Cirincione**. Featured are stories (plus milk and cookies) with **Wally Amos**; free **forgiveness massage** from the American Institute of Massage Therapy; children's art from the **Dalai Lama's** recent Maui visit, **Aloha Peace Wall**; free **forgiveness food** from Volcano Joe's, with a full, nutritious forgiveness meal available for \$4; a participatory **forgiveness canvas** painted by everyone who attends.

Forgiveness Arts Awards will be announced, with winners of the statewide Images and Poetry Awards; entries open until August 2 at <http://www.hawaiiiforgivenessproject.org/awards/>

This festival is part of International Forgiveness Day, now held in 80 countries; Honolulu's celebration is one of the largest. Opening and closing oli led by **Kupuna Kanani Awai**, a Hawaiian from Waimea Valley, O'ahu.

The **Hawai'i Forgiveness Project** is a non-profit, non-religious, multi-cultural group, helping to weave forgiveness into the fabric of life in Hawai'i. Press package at <http://www.hawaiiiforgivenessproject.org/press/> Speaker, interview schedule through **Roger Epstein**, 521-9222; <repstein@hawaiiiforgivenessproject.org>