



MEDIA ADVISORY: July 30, 2007

**Senator Daniel Inouye, Hoku Award winner Paula Fuga
among Heroes of Forgiveness honored**

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HONOLULU: JULY 30, 2007 - Hawai'i International Forgiveness Day announces awards to outstanding people in the Hawaii community and worldwide, who have dramatically demonstrated forgiveness in their lives. **Senator Daniel Inouye, Paula Fuga, Gene and Jan Jones, and Andrea Przbylinski** are diverse: the elder statesman of the U.S. Senate, a hot young Hawaiian singer-songwriter and recent No Hoku Hanohano Award winner, international aid and disaster workers from Kabul, Afghanistan, and a local mother.

Awards will be presented in 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>

The Awards: The four honored at this year's 5th annual festival share one thing in common: their proven inner strength, finding forgiveness in the darkest circumstances and acting on it. **Senator Inouye** will be represented by his Chief of Staff, **Jennifer Sabas**, and is honored for his forbearance in the face of racial prejudice during and after World War II. **Paula Fuga** is honored for her triumph over tough circumstances as a youth in the State's foster-care system and will share her poignant music. **Gene and Jan Jones** are honored for expressing forgiveness through times of terrorism, in Kabul Afghanistan. **Andrea Przbylinski**, from local Waianae Valley, is honored for her forgiving response to the murder last year of her daughter.

Other Key Events: Hawaiian leader **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. Opening and closing oli will be led by **Kupuna Kaunani Awai** and her son, Hawaiians from Waimea Valley, O'ahu.

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. An interpreter of **American Sign Language** sponsored by the Honolulu Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church will make the whole event accessible to the hearing-impaired.

This festival is part of International Forgiveness Day, now held in 80 countries; Honolulu's celebration is one of the largest. The **Hawai'i Forgiveness Project** is a non-profit, non-religious group, helping to weave forgiveness into the fabric of life in Hawai'i. Press package at <http://www.hawaiiforgivenessproject.org/press/> Speaker, interview schedule through **Roger Epstein**, 521-9222; repstein@hawaiiforgivenessproject.org
