



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2009

PIANO MUSIC FILLS THE AIR AT ROYAL HAWAIIAN CENTER AT HELUMOA STARTING FRIDAY, MAY 1

Additional Lei Day activities available

WAIKĪKĪ – Award-winning recording artist Aaron Salā is one of the performers lined up for Royal Hawaiian Center’s new piano music program, starting Friday, May 1, 2009. Hawaiian piano music will fill the air daily (except Sundays) from 4-6 p.m. at the Pā’ina Lānai food court located on Level Two, Building B.

Royal Hawaiian Center is officially launching the program on Lei Day, May 1. Also performing that day will be the Kawika Trask Trio, Ku’uipo Kumukahi and more. Lei sellers will have fresh flower lei available for sale, as is the Hawai’i custom on Lei Day.

Lei Day Activities

- All Day – Lei sellers in The Royal Grove
- 9 a.m. – Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Waiau Hawaiian language immersion school visit to The Royal Grove
- 12 p.m. – Kawika Trask Trio, The Royal Grove
- 4 p.m. – Aaron Salā on Piano, Pā’ina Lānai
- 6 p.m. – Ku’uipo Kumukahi, The Royal Grove

“Piano playing and singing were very much enjoyed by Princess Bemice Pauahi Bishop. We thought that including Hawaiian piano music at Helumoa – the former home site of Princess Pauahi now occupied by Royal Hawaiian Center – would be a fitting tribute,” said Manu Boyd, Royal Hawaiian Center cultural director. “Princess Pauahi penned the final codicil of her will establishing Kamehameha Schools while at her Waikīkī home in the Helumoa coconut grove.”

Aaron Salā, a Kamehameha Schools graduate, studied the Hawaiian piano stylings of Mahi Beamer and the late Aunty Leila Hoku Kī’aha as part of his master’s thesis. He is widely sought after for piano accompaniment on recordings and live performances. He recently released his second CD, “Napo’ona Mahina: The Illusion of Reality,” and will perform some of those selections at Royal Hawaiian Center. His performances often inspire impromptu hula and guest vocalists.

(more)

In addition to Salā on piano, Joe Māhoe and other artists will also perform. A set schedule of piano performers will be circulated at a later date. Regular entertainers at Royal Hawaiian Center include the Kawika Trask Trio (Tuesdays), Pu'uhonua (Wednesdays), Keoahu (Thursdays) and Ku'uipo Kumukahi and the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame Serenaders (Fridays). These evening performances begin at 6 p.m. Polynesian Cultural Center performs at 11 a.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays, and the Royal Hawaiian Band performs the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

The Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, contact Lei 'Olu Guest Services at (808) 922-2299 or visit www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com.

FREE PARKING: offer good through June 30, 2009

Royal Hawaiian Center has the largest garage in the heart of Waikīkī with 10 levels of parking and more than 600 stalls located adjacent to the Sheraton Waikīkī Hotel. The Center's free parking promotion, valid through June 30, 2009, offers 4 hours of free parking with any restaurant or food court validation. LEVEL4 validations apply for \$5 parking after 10 p.m. Dining and entertainment validations can be combined with retail validations of \$2 for 2 hours. No minimum purchase is required for validation.

Royal Hawaiian Center, the premier shopping and entertainment destination in Waikīkī, consists of more than 310,000 square feet along a three-block stretch of Waikīkī's famed Kalākaua Avenue. A dynamic mix of 110 world-class retailers, restaurants and entertainment options are offered at the four-level Center. The Center is situated on more than six acres of prime real estate in Waikīkī and is owned by Kamehameha Schools. To learn more about the Center, visit www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com.

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Contacts:

Melissa Malahoff-Kamei (808) 539-3435
McNeil Wilson Communications
melissa.malahoff@mwc-anthology.com

Ms. Sam Shenkus (808) 931-3110
Royal Hawaiian Center
s.shenkus@festivalcos.com