

## PRESS RELEASE

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## DAYLONG MASHUP OF ART, MUSIC AND POLITICS AT FRESH CAFE

*Post-primary election event brings together political candidates, visual and performing artists, and community groups to weigh in on The Value of Hawai'i Sept 25*

**EVENT:** *We Value Hawai'i*

**WHERE:** Fresh Café, 831 Queen St. Honolulu, HI 96813

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

**EVENT TIMES:** 1 p.m.-1 a.m.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMMING:** Workshops and Activity Booths: 1-6 pm; Site-Specific Art Installations: 1 pm-1 am; Live Music and Performances: 3 pm-1 am;

Panel Discussion: *Creating Hawai'i: The Future for Arts and Artists*: 6-8 pm

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:** <http://thevalueofhawaii.com/events/wevaluehawaii>

HONOLULU—September 18, 2010 marks Hawai'i's primary election. And people are ready for change. Against a backdrop of a down economy and with many Lingle-era hot-button issues still burning, it seems timely, even mandatory, to ask the question: What is the value of Hawai'i?

Inspired, enraged, and spurred to action by the recently released book *The Value of Hawai'i*, edited by Craig Howes and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, Creative Modern Activism Hawai'i (CMA HI) presents WE VALUE HAWAI'I, a day long event, which calls citizens of all ages and politicians alike into a public forum activated by artwork, collaborative projects, live performances, and hands-on workshops, which address the big issues affecting Hawai'i, such as public education, the future of the arts, tourism, and the environment.

The event is free and open to all ages until 8 p.m. After 8 p.m. the event has a \$5 cover charge and welcomes those 18 and over. Alcohol will be available from 6 p.m onward. Food will be available for purchase from the Fresh Café kitchen, which is open until 2 a.m.

### PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

**Panel discussion, 6-8 p.m.:** *Creating Hawai'i: The Future for Arts and Artists*

People can join scholars, activists, and politicians for a discussion of the future of creative arts in Hawai'i, with a focus on the problems many young artists face in our economy and a second focus on solutions. What do we value about the arts in Hawai'i, and what are we willing to do to protect what we value? What do we value about Hawai'i? Ask any teacher, artist or writer—in Hawai'i there is less and less support and money for the arts, whether it be public elementary school classrooms or grants for veteran cultural groups.

As a result, Hawai'i is experiencing a mass migration of creative people, especially younger artists and musicians, who are leaving Hawai'i for better opportunities elsewhere. As one young local visual artist puts it, "I feel like I don't have a future here, and my children don't have a future here. What can I do?"

**Activity Zones, 1-6 p.m.:** Hands-on workshops and interactive projects will be staged throughout the event.

- David Goldberg, technologist, cultural critic, and educator, will lead EXQUISITE VALUES, a collaborative video essay project in which participants are invited to respond to essay titles from *The Value of Hawai'i*, which include "Hawaiian Sustainability," "Tourism," "The Military," and "Race/Ethnicity" to name a few.
- Vince Ricafort, local artist and cycling advocate, will be there with his EVERYDAY BIKING rack ready to welcome those who pedal to the event and offering tips and tricks on how to make Hawai'i a more bike-friendly place.
- The MAKE A BUTTON! Station will be headed up by local indie music scene leader, Josh Hancock of Black Square.
- WE VALUE PRINTED MATTER station, piloted by FLUX magazine editor and publisher Lisa Yamada, will feature a DIY book-making activity.

**Music & performing art showcase, 3 p.m-1 am:** One of the goals of the WE VALUE HAWAI'I event is to connect with the next generation of community leaders, social justice advocates, and cultural producers. To reach this goal, CMA HI has organized a free, all-ages music and spoken-word showcase at Fresh Café. The event will feature local performers Narwhal, Stephen Agustin, Jon Osorio, Big Mox, Deep Throat, and Youth Speaks Hawai'i. In addition, local music scene heavyweights The Jump Offs and Black Square will wrap things up from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

In addition to a full roster of musicians, the internationally acclaimed and Honolulu-based dance and theater company, Monkey Waterfall, will perform an excerpt from their much heralded *A Shrine to Paradise*. Originally presented in 2007 at Honolulu Hale, *Shrines to Paradise* explores the topic of tourism and its effects on the local community. Resonating with content in Ramsay Remigius Mahealani Taum's essay on tourism and John P. Rosa's essay on race and ethnicity in *The Value of Hawai'i*, *A Shrine to Paradise*, also poses critical questions about Hawaii's identity and value by asking, "*Who are we really and what is hidden behind our most popular icons—hula dancers, Japanese wedding sites, missionaries, tour guides, Waikiki?*" Monkey Waterfall, a dance theatre company, was founded by Yukie Shiroma, Ben Moffat, and Michael Harada to explore the intersection of dance and theatre.

**We value art, 1pm-1 am** Six visual artists were invited to interpret key concepts addressed in *The Value of Hawai'i*, each to create a unique 11"x17" poster based on one or more of these themes. Event organizers will give away 200 copies of each art poster to those who answer questions related to the book project, such as "What does tourism mean to you?" or "What do you value about Hawai'i?" Invited poster artists include Kate Burlingame, Matthew K. Ing, Joel Gaspar, Ihi Lani, Dana Paresa, Kaycee Phillips, and Bronson Kyu Shimabukuro.

The upstairs loft area will feature site-specific art installations designed to question and/or examine themes highlighted in *The Value of Hawai'i*. Installation artists include: db amorin, Ryan Greenly, Vincent Ricafort, Misa Tupou, and collaborative duo Griffith + Lagaso Goldberg, whose project utilizes software developed by media artists David A.M. Goldberg and Julio Cesar Morales.

**IF NOT NOW WHEN AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC:** Creative Modern Activists (CMA) is proud to present the If Not Now When Award for Visual Arts and the If Not Now When Award for Music. Available to Hawai'i-based artists and musicians, these awards recognize their achievements, encourage the production of new work, and help sustain the creative process. There is a \$500 grant award per genre. Awardees will be invited to participate in a future exhibition/showcase sponsored by CMA; date, time, and location of future exhibition/showcase to be announced at a later date. Announcement of awardees will be made at 8 p.m. at the WE VALUE HAWAII event on Sept. 25, 2010, at Fresh Café. Applicants need not be present to accept award.

CMA is proud to sponsor a variety of artistic events and activities that help foster individual growth within our community through its original programming and the If Not Now When Art Award Grant Program.

**About *The Value of Hawai'i: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future***

ed. by Craig Howes; Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio; A Biography Monograph, Published for the Biographical Research Center, University of Hawai'i

How did we get here? Three-and-a-half-day school weeks. Prisoners farmed out to the mainland. Tent camps for the migratory homeless. A blinkered dependence on tourism and the military for virtually all economic activity. The steady degradation of already degraded land. Contempt for anyone employed in education, health, and social service. An almost theological belief in the evil of taxes. At a time when new leaders will be elected, and new solutions need to be found, the contributors to *The Value of Hawai'i* outline the causes of our current state and offer points of departure for a Hawai'i-wide debate on our future.

Written for a general audience, *The Value of Hawai'i* provides a cluster of starting points for a larger community discussion of Hawai'i that should extend beyond the choices of the ballot box this year.

Contributors: Carlos Andrade, Chad Blair, Kat Brady, Susan M. Chandler, Meda Chesney-Lind, Lowell Chun-Hoon, Tom Coffman, Sara L. Collins, Marilyn Cristofori, Henry Curtis, Kathy E. Ferguson, Chip Fletcher, Dana Naone Hall, Susan Hippensteele, Craig Howes, Karl Kim, Sumner La Croix, Ian Lind, Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Mari Matsuda, Davianna McGregor, Neal Milner, Deane Neubauer, Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, Charles Reppun, John P. Rosa, D. Kapua'ala Sproat, Ramsay Remigius Mahealani Taum, Patricia Tummons, Phyllis Turnbull, Trisha Kehaulani Watson.

Craig Howes is director of the Center for Biographical Research and professor of English at the University of Hawai'i. He is a co-producer of the *Biography Hawai'i* television documentary series. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio is professor of Hawaiian Studies at the Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai'i. He is an author and musician.

**About Creative Modern Activism Hawai'i**

A group of Hawai'i-based artists and scholars formed CMA HI in 2009 to support peace and social justice through the arts. The We Value Hawai'i event is directed by Ara Laylo.

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