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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HENRY KAPONO & FRIENDS ARE "BRINGING THE MUSIC BACK" TO THE WAIKĪKĪ SHELL

Created by the Grammy-nominated Hawai'i musician and featuring an all-star lineup of local musicians, "Home in the Islands™ with Henry Kapono & Friends" celebrates the soundtrack of growing up in Hawai'i and will be the state's first major live music showcase in more than a year.

The Hawaiian Islands presents "Home in the Islands™ with Henry Kapono & Friends" brings Hawai'i's most iconic and emerging musical artists together on one stage for one magical night under the stars, featuring Henry Kapono, Kalapana, Keola Beamer, Jerry Santos, Amy Hānaiali'i, Kapena, Ledward Kaapana, The Mākaha Sons, Brother Noland and Robi Kahakalau with many more musicians to be announced in the weeks ahead.

Tickets for *Home in the Islands*™ with Henry Kapono & Friends go on sale today at \$65 for reserved seats and \$35 for lawn seating. In addition, a \$150 VIP package includes early entry to the concert via an exclusive VIP entry gate and access to special restrooms, and a no-host bar.

Tickets may be purchased online at **www.ticketmaster.com** or at the Blaisdell Box office on Tuesday - Saturday, **8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (808) 768-5252.** To promote a safe and family-friendly event, *Home in the Islands*[™] will be a "Tier 5, Outdoor Event*" with a fifty percent venue capacity allowing Henry & Friends to share their music with families of all ages.

Set for September 25, from 6 to 10 p.m., the *Home in the Islands™* concert is "Bringing the Music Back" and is a partial benefit for the Henry Kapono Foundation. \$1 from every ticket and a portion of the show's proceeds will go toward helping the many musicians, stagehands, audio engineers, lighting technicians, and backstage crews that were mainly put out of work over the past 17 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another significant element of *Home in the Islands*™ is to welcome audiences back to the enjoyment of a concert setting, once again kicking back and listening to live music on the vast lawn of the Waikīkī Shell under the stars. "We're excited about bringing the community together in healing and fellowship as we celebrate the music soundtrack of growing up in Hawai'i and how lucky we are to live in our Home in the Islands," said Henry of the concert. "There's no better Hawai'i venue than the outdoor setting of the Waikīkī Shell and no better backdrop than Diamond Head!"

Henry further stated, "Our goal is not only to further support our industry through the end of COVID and beyond, but also to thank the people of Hawai'i for supporting Hawai'i's music and music industry. This concert is to bring us all

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together to celebrate the challenges we've overcome and have a once-in-a-lifetime experience through the joy of music and friendship."

The Home in the Islands™ concert is presented by The Hawaiian Islands, thanks to support from the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). "With Home in the Islands™, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, alongside our partners at DBEDT Creative Industries and the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, is honored to support, and above all, mālama our music community's talented, skilled and hard-working local musicians and backstage individuals who are still in much need of regaining their footing," said Kalani Kaʻanāʻanā, HTA's chief brand officer. "Our mission of Mālama Kuʻu Home (caring for my beloved home) encompasses the various ways we can give back to our community and mālama one another by reviving live music and the arts for everyone to come together and enjoy."

Additional support for *Home in the Islands*™ comes from the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association and DBEDT Creative Industries.

As we put 2020 behind us, the *BEST IS YET TO COME*! So, get ready, Hawai'i as Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, Hawai'i music legend Henry Kapono, and a star-studded lineup of his amazingly talented musician friends bring live music back to the Tom Moffatt Waikīkī Shell in an evening filled with song, *FRIENDS*, and *GOOD TIMES TOGETHER*!

For more information on *Home in the Islands*™ with Henry Kapono & Friends, visit <u>www.henrykapono.com</u>.

*Mask wearing is strongly encouraged while standing in line or crowded spaces and is required when entering the restrooms. Grab and go food and beverage will be available to be consumed at the ticket holder's designated seat. Should the State and City COVID restrictions be loosened further or removed, capacity for the *Home in the Islands*™ concert will be adjusted accordingly.

ABOUT HENRY KAPONO & THE HOME IN THE ISLANDS™ CONCERT

Produced by Kapono Inc., *Home in the Islands*™ is the musically ambitious concert brainchild of the Grammy-nominated and multi-Nā Hōkū Hanohano award-winning Henry Kapono, who over the many months of the pandemic profoundly missed playing live music.

Doing his best to stay and share positivity during such unprecedented times, Henry took to the digital airwaves launching his daily Positive World video series on YouTube. These live stream positive messages and performances from his backyard were aimed at bringing joy and comfort of music into people's lives and homes during the pandemic.

As the pandemic continued, Henry grew increasingly concerned not just for the local musicians like himself, who were no longer able to perform but also for the behind-the-scenes folks in audio, lighting, and other industries for whom setting up, putting on, and breaking down shows was their livelihood. So, to provide moral and financial support to a battered industry, Henry and the Henry Kapono Foundation, with support from The Kawakami family, jumped into action and launched a stimulus-type of a program called the "We Are Friends" giving program. Ultimately this effort provided close to \$200,000 worth of Foodland gift cards to almost 400 professional music families in need.

As 2020 came to a close, the need for work became a top request from Hawai'i's music industry. With this in mind, Kapono Inc and the Henry Kapono Foundation produced a Holiday Live Stream concert at the Hawai'i Theatre, followed by a 13-week live concert series at Blue Note Hawai'i collectively putting well over 100 professionals back to work while raising \$30,000 for the Henry Kapono Foundation.

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As COVID-19 restrictions and the pandemic began to subside, Henry started creating a concert event that would bring live Hawai'i music, musicians, and audiences back together in a big way. Soon enough, *Home in the Islands*™, the concert, was born.

ABOUT THE HENRY KAPONO FOUNDATION

The Henry Kapono Foundation (HKF) was founded in 2018 by renowned Hawai'i entertainer Henry Kapono as an opportunity to give back and perpetuate his lifelong passion for music and his home in the islands. Dedicated to keeping Hawai'i's music and culture thriving, as well as providing assistance and education to Hawai'i's music industry professionals, community, and Keiki, the HKF offers music and community grants; fosters and guides Hawai'i's musicians in music business education, digital resources and financial aid information; sponsors concerts and events offering musicians opportunities to perform; and partners with other nonprofits and businesses to support Hawai'i's music industry further. To learn more about the foundation, or to join Henry is his effort to support the music community with your kind donation, visit www.henrykaponofoundation.org.