

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2009 HIFF PREMIERES NINOY AQUINO & THE RISE OF PEOPLE POWER**  
***Late Senator's Brother-in-law, Ken Kashiwahara, Available for Interviews Oct. 18th***

HONOLULU, HI (October 13, 2009) - The Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is pleased to present the world premiere of **NINOY AQUINO AND THE RISE OF PEOPLE POWER** where media and audience members will have the opportunity to talk with Ken Kashiwahara, the brother-in-law of late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino. The film is a Halekulani Golden Orchid Award nominee for Best Documentary.

Ken Kashiwahara planned Aquino's fateful return to the Philippines to confront Ferdinand Marcos and was also at Aquino's side on the airplane at the moment of his death. Ken will attend the screening on Sunday, October 18th at noon at Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters. He will be available 30 minutes before the screening for interviews and will also take part in a Q & A after the screening. A second screening of the film will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 4:30pm at Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters.

The Late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was the boy wonder of Philippine politics until the object of his criticism, Ferdinand Marcos, declared martial law and threw Aquino into prison. A light bulb glared in his cell around the clock. When at last his frantic wife, Cory, found him, he was so thin he was holding up his undershorts with his hand.

NINOY tells the story of Aquino's extraordinary transformation from brilliant politician of the Philippines to courageous martyr on the world stage in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Hawaii has a special tie to the Aquino legend, ABC's one-time chief international correspondent Ken Kashiwahara. Originally of Kauai, then KHVH Radio and Channel Four, Kashiwahara was the brother-in-law of Aquino. He helped plan Aquino's fateful return to the Philippines to confront Marcos and was near Aquino's side at the moment of death. He vowed to do all in his power to keep Aquino's memory alive and, as part of that mission, will be present for Q & A after the premiere.

During Aquino's eight-year imprisonment at the hands of the Marcos regime, Aquino wrote, studied nonviolence, fasted 38 days and at one point ran for Congress from his cell, constantly inspiring the opposition. When he was taken before a military tribunal, he refused to dignify an unconstitutional proceeding by defending himself. He was condemned to death. Too renowned to execute, too powerful to simply release, Aquino was finally exiled to America for heart surgery.

Three years later, believing with Gandhi, "The willing sacrifice of the innocent is the most powerful retort to insolent tyranny that has yet been conceived by God or man," on August 21, 1983 he returned to Manila.

In his dying moment, his bullet-ridden body fell on Philippine soil. His mother laid out his remains in the family living room. A trickle of mourners became a flood of two million people, followed by three years of massive protests that drove Marcos from the country. The Philippines became the template for the many countries that since have transitioned peacefully to electoral democracy.

The film is emotionally explosive and intellectually challenging. It was shot with two matched HD cameras in Manila, Seoul, Taipei, Honolulu, San Francisco, Boston, New York and Washington DC, by Tom Coffman, whose previous credits include "Nation Within" and "First Battle."

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year's festival. HIFF's 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters from October 15-25. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters or by phone at (808) 548-5905. The film guide is available now online at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org). For more information please visit us at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

### **Festival Information**

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. Plus, DEPARTURES, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival will be held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at <http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink>. For more information please visit our website at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

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