

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIFF PRESENTS 'SUNSET ON THE BEACH' FILMS
Public Invited to Free Movie Screening

HONOLULU, HI (October 06, 2009) – Get those beach chairs and blankets ready for not one, but two exciting evenings of cinema on the sand. Sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu, HIFF's 'Sunset on the Beach' is being held two nights during the festival, Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18. Everyone is invited to attend this free public event in Waikiki.

Showing on October 17th is **SAVING LUNA** (93 min), directed by Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit, which tells the story of a baby male orca named Luna who gets separated from his family on the rugged coast of Vancouver Island. This leads to battles between government and First Nations, and between those who love Luna and those who think he should be killed.

Screening on October 18th is the film **PIDGIN: THE VOICE OF HAWAII** (57min), directed by Marlene Booth, which captures the essence of multi-ethnic Hawaii. This film profiles this working-class language from its rise as plantation jargon to a source of island identity and pride. Viewers on Sunday will also see the short film **RIP SMART** (22min), directed by Steve Bristow, an all computer animated adventure about Hawaiian Action Sports star Rip Smart, who wins the Surf Tour Championship then sets a speed record as he and his Team save the World from the sinister Harry Czar.

Sunset on the Beach regularly invites the community and visitors to enjoy free family-friendly movies on a 30-foot screen erected right on the sand of Queen's Surf located across from the Honolulu Zoo. Food and craft vendors open at 4:00 PM and musical entertainment begins at 6:00 PM on the stage set in front of the larger-than-life screen. The film starts at 7:00 p.m.

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. For more information please visit us at 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.

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