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**PAU HANA WITH A PURPOSE-MOVIE NIGHT EVENT TO SCREEN**

**HIFF AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER "ALOHA BUDDHA”**

HONOLULU: Historic Hawai‘i Foundation and Design Within Reach will present a special screening of the feature film documentary, “Aloha Buddha: The Story of Japanese Buddhism in Hawaii,” on Thursday, November 21 at the DWR Studio at Ala Moana Center.  The event opens at 5:30 p.m., and the 72-minute film will be shown at 6:00 p.m. The screening will be followed by a Talk Story session with filmmaker Lorraine Minatoishi.

“Aloha Buddha” is an insightful documentary about three defining eras of the Japanese Buddhist experience in Hawai‘i. Focusing on the temple as a symbol of the Japanese community in Hawai'i, the video recounts Japanese immigration during the early plantation days, the turbulent World War II years, and the resurgence of multi-cultural Buddhism in Hawai‘i, followed by the decline of Japanese temple congregations.

HHF presented the documentary with a Preservation Commendation in 2012, and it won the Audience Award for Best Feature Documentary at the 31st Hawaii International Film Festival in 2011.

Filmmaker Lorraine Minatoishi is a certified Historic Architect and Architectural Historian who earned her Doctorate of Engineering from Waseda University in Tokyo. She wrote her Ph.D. dissertation on the Japanese Buddhist temples of Hawai‘i. “I was looking at the architectural style of the temples focusing only on that,” Minatoishi said. “However, I realized that the memberships of the temples were going down and I saw that most members were already older nisei and sansei generation. I also realized that this story of the architecture was much broader. The architecture reflected the story of immigration and settlement of the Japanese people in Hawaii.”

In making the film, Minatoishi had hopes for inspiring the public to view Hawai‘i’s history in a broader context, “I would like people to come away with a much greater and better understanding of the history of Hawaii — a big part of the history that has been largely untold,” Minatoishi said. “For Japanese Americans, I would like for them to come away with a greater appreciation of the sacrifices that our ancestors have gone through. Finally, I would like people to come away with an appreciation of Buddhism as a religion. The ministers and members were able to be flexible enough to change the religion to relate to the immigrants and to the larger society to meet the needs of the people.”

**The event is free and requires reservations. Reserve online at www.historichawaii.org.**

Pau Hana with a Purpose is part of an occasional series for HHF members and guests to learn about the historically-, culturally-, and architecturally-significant resources of Hawai‘i in a relaxed setting.

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**Historic Hawai‘i Foundation (HHF)** is a statewide non-profit organization that encourages the

preservation of historic buildings, sites, communities and objects relating to the history of

Hawai‘i. Founded in 1974, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation has become the driving force behind

historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of

historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, and providing technical assistance to make

preservation accessible. **www.historichawaii.org**

**Design Within Reach** is a multi-channel retailer located in Connecticut and 44 DWR Studios in the U.S. and Canada. The Design Within Reach, Honolulu Studio is located at Ala Moana Shopping Center, 1450 Ala Moana Blvd – 3rd Floor, next to Nordstrom. At Design Within Reach, we make authentic modern design accessible. “Within reach” means things not found elsewhere. It means in stock. **www.dwr.com/category/find+a+studio/honolulu.do**