



News Release

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National PBS documentary features local efforts to perpetuate Hawaiian language

HONOLULU, HI – What does it take to save a language? Poet Bob Holman travels across the globe to uncover answers – including a stop in Hawaii to feature ongoing efforts to perpetuate our native language. **Language Matters with Bob Holman** makes its Hawaii broadcast premiere Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m. on PBS Hawaii.

Filmed around the world, the two-hour documentary features Hawaii in the third of three acts. Among those featured: Puakea Nogelmeier, Pele Harman, Kauanoë Kamana, Larry Kimura, Kepa Maly, W.S. Merwin, Lolena Nicholas, Keali'i Reichel and Kau'i Sai-Dudoit.

Holman makes two other global stops:

--In Australia, Holman visits Charlie Mangulda, an Aboriginal songman (poet), who is the only person left on the planet who speaks Amurdak. With linguist Nick Evans, Holman also flies to Goulburn Island off the coast of Northern Australia, where he meets a community of 400 people speaking ten languages, many endangered, all vulnerable.

--In Wales, Holman explores the humor, rage and lyricism of the Welsh people, who brought their language back from the edge of extinction. Currently, three million people live in Wales and speak the native language.

Language Matters with Bob Holman is a co-production of David Grubin Productions Inc. and Pacific Islanders in Communications. For more information, visit the film's website: www.languagemattersfilm.com

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