

PBS Hawaii to Debut Star-Studded Cast

A star-studded cast of Hawaii residents will appear on PBS Hawaii Sunday, November 18 at 6:30 pm HST to help the statewide public television station engage public support for its campaign to build a new home. The 90-minute live broadcast of the NEW HOME Campaign is available online via livestreaming on PBSHawaii.org

The program will be rebroadcast and also available online on Thursday, November 22 at 8:00 pm HST.

Broadway performer Loretta Ables Sayre will host the program, featuring slack key guitar master Keola Beamer; singer Marlene Sai; YouTube sensation Ryan Higa; singer/composer Paula Fuga; jazz singer and PBS Hawaii Board member Jimmy Borges; singer/musician and PBS Hawaii Board member Kawika Kahiapo; entertainer Danny Kaleikini; slam poet Kealoha; voice coach Neva Rego; ukulele impresario Roy Sakuma; storyteller and Enterprise Honolulu President and CEO Pono Shim; Searider Productions educator Candy Suiso; Hawaii and San Francisco public broadcasting executive Mary Bitterman; and iconic artist Pegge Hopper. Singers will be accompanied by Dan Del Negro on the piano and John Kolivas on bass.

The program is intended to raise public awareness and financial support for a \$30 million capital campaign to develop a site that the station purchased at 315 Sand Island Access Road at Nimitz Highway. PBS Hawaii must vacate the University of Hawaii Manoa building it has occupied for 40 years because the university needs the space for expansion.

To date, the public television station has raised more than half of its goal.

“We belong to the community. We want all of our citizens to know that Hawaii’s sole member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) needs a new home, a place to grow into a greater vision,” said PBS Hawaii President and CEO Leslie Wilcox.

PBS Hawaii is the island home of the nationally recognized statewide student news network HIKI NŌ, as well as Sesame Street, Antiques Roadshow, NOVA, PBS NewsHour, Frontline, Great Performances and Masterpiece.

The private nonprofit organization teams media and education, and is supported primarily by individuals, businesses and grants. Federal funding accounts for one-seventh of the station's budget.