



CONTACT:

Cynthia Rankin
Regional Director of Public Relations
Hilton Hawaii
(808) 947-7817
cynthia.rankin@hilton.com

Dara Young
Public Relations Manager
Hilton Hawaiian Village
(808) 947-7816
dara.young@hilton.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRAMMY-NOMINATED HENRY KAPONO TO BRING
“THE WILD HAWAIIAN EXPERIENCE” TO HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE**

*The Daring New Show will be Featured Every Saturday Starting May 29
at the Resort’s Super Pool Stage*

HONOLULU – (May 20, 2010) – When it was released in 2006, **Henry Kapono’s** wildly unique ***The Wild Hawaiian*** music CD premiered on the top of the Billboard World Music Charts and created a buzz around the world. Nominated for a Grammy in 2007, the Hoku Award-winning work will now be the musical score for Kapono’s newest production, **The Wild Hawaiian Experience**.

Premiering on Saturday, May 29 at **Hilton Hawaiian Village’s** Super Pool stage, The Experience is a journey that embraces and celebrates the core essence of Kapono’s passion for his Hawaiian roots. The show is a fusion of culture and contemporary performance art. From deeply felt Hawaiian classics with an electric sound to a dazzling mix of rock and hip hop, the show features a spectrum of musical styling. Kapono has tapped some of Hawaii’s most notable musicians to be a part of The Wild Hawaiian Experience Orchestra, including Jonathan Hawes (base guitar); Lopaka Colon (percussions); Konrad Kendrick (drums) and Ethan Capone (keyboards).

Poetic vocals by the nationally-acclaimed Kealoha are woven into the show to reflect the core of Kapono’s beliefs that sum up the essence of the show: *Respect, Passion, Courage, Paradise, Music, Unity, Family, Love, Perpetuate and Children*. These core values are entwined in the featured songs: “Na Ali’i,” “He’eia,” “Taboo,” “Hawaii Aloha A Mau Loa,” “Eho Mai,” “Hilo

Hamakahi,” “Na Makua,” “Hi’ilawe,” “Ke Aloha o Ka Haku (The Queen’s Prayer),” “Ehoku Mea Nui” and “Ka Lea, O Ka Manu.” Adding spice and excitement to the music are Kenny Endo (taiko drums), one of Hawaii’s leading personas in contemporary percussion and rhythm; Au Shaolin Arts Society (Chinese Lion Dance) and Tihati Productions (fire knife and hula dancers, torch lighter).

Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. with The Wild Hawaiian Experience starting at 7:30 p.m. every Saturday evening. General admission will be priced at \$20 per person and will include one drink. VIP tickets will be priced at \$35 per person and will include two drinks and premium poolside seating. Prices include validated self-parking. Tickets can be purchased by phone by calling 808-941-5828 or at the door. For more information, visit: hiltonhawaiianvillage.com/wild.

Henry Kapono has been a Hawaii entertainment icon for decades. He has been at the forefront of the island music scene as one half of the renowned, “Cecilio & Kapono” duo. “C&K” as they are known, recorded 13 albums, many of which went on to win Na Hoku Hanohano awards. Kapono launched his solo career in 1981 with 14 albums to date and five Na Hoku Hanohano awards, including one for *The Wild Hawaiian*, which also garnered a Grammy nomination the same year.

Kapono’s musical metamorphosis – from traditional and contemporary Hawaiian music to alternative pop rock – was not done without purpose. “I wanted the songs to say what they were really meant to say,” said Kapono. “My goal in rearranging them was to truly show the immense power that I feel in each song’s lyrics.”

“*The Wild Hawaiian* represents the most traditional and most radical works of Henry Kapono’s career,” wrote Nate Chinen in a review of the music CD for the *New York Times*. “He cross-pollinated cultures with such panache!”

And now, in addition to his ageless music, audiences will be able to enjoy an evening of poetry, dance, theatrics and special effects by Kapono and his cast at Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

###

To access downloadable images of The Wild Hawaiian, click on the following link:
<http://www.hiltonfamilyhawaii.com/press-room-images.aspx>

About Hilton Hotels

Hilton Hotels is the stylish, forward-thinking global leader of hospitality that welcomes guests in more countries than any other full-service hotel brand. The Hilton brand currently includes more than 530 hotels and resorts in 76 countries, and plans to serve travelers in 80 countries by the end of 2011. By offering innovative products, services and amenities, Hilton enables travelers to be at their best 24/7, whether traveling for business or leisure. Start your journey at www.hilton.com.

About Hilton Worldwide

Hilton Worldwide is the leading global hospitality company, spanning the lodging sector from luxurious full-service hotels and resorts to extended-stay suites and mid-priced hotels. For more than 90 years, Hilton Worldwide has been offering business and leisure travelers the finest in accommodations, service, amenities and value. The company is dedicated to continuing its tradition of providing exceptional guest experiences across its global brands. Its brands are comprised of more than 3,600 hotels and more than 590,000 rooms in 81 countries and include Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Hilton, Doubletree, Embassy Suites Hotels, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Hotels, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Home2 Suites by Hilton and Hilton Grand Vacations. The company also manages the world-class guest reward program Hilton HHonors®.

For more information about the company, please visit www.hiltonworldwide.com.