

**“SEEDS OF HOPE” TO PREMIERE AT  
HAWAI’I INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

The new documentary film, NA KUPU MANA’ OLANA (SEEDS OF HOPE) will have its world premiere on Saturday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the 2012 Hawaii International Film Festival at the Dole Regency Stadium Theater in Honolulu.

This 86 minute film, directed by award winning filmmaker, Danny Miller, tells the story of how Hawai’i is returning to local and traditional methods of growing food.

According to the film, “for over 1,000 years the Hawaiian People produced enough food to support an estimated population of one million. Today, 85% of their food is imported. And if current trends continue, Hawaii’s last agricultural lands will be gone by 2040.”

“The film celebrates the courageous work of farmers and educators throughout the state who are growing new ideas for increasing local food production, through traditional, sustainable and organic methods,” according to Danny Miller, the film’s director, writer and editor who is based in Pahoa, HI.

The film offers an in-depth look at the history and future of Hawaii’s agriculture and how Hawaii’ s unique physical isolation and the rising cost of shipping food across vast oceans have created powerful incentives for the people of Hawai’i to return to the land. *“To return to the paradise that once fed them.”*

Production began in 2009 when the Hawai’i Rural Development Council teamed up with filmmaker Danny Miller to create a film that would inspire the public to support more sustainable local food production and the preservation of Hawaii’s remaining agricultural lands.

The Hawai'i Rural Development Council (HRDC) is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to promoting and supporting the rural-based economic welfare of the State and the HRDC board of directors includes representatives from nonprofit and regional support organizations; federal, state and county governments; private sector and community representatives; and Native Hawaiians.

The production team traveled to all the major islands and began filming interviews with the innovative farmers and educators that are finding solutions for making Hawai'i less dependent on food imports. Editing began in 2011 as the production continued filming interviews. Finally after three years of filming and editing, the film was completed in September of 2012. The finished film includes interviews with over fifty farmers, ranchers, scientist and educators who provide a wealth of information on Hawai'i's rich agricultural history and a vision for a more sustainable agricultural future.

“It was a daunting tasks, to cover all the important issues, history and individuals that have shaped Hawai'i's agricultural past and future. There are so many powerful stories of farmers fighting to keep their farms alive and educators developing new ideas to inspire young people to become farmers. It was a great adventure and honor to meet these amazing people throughout Hawai'i,” says director, Danny Miller.

Moving from Hollywood to Hawai'i in 2004, Danny began work on a series of films about protecting Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. His films, SAVING KA'U'S COAST and THE PUNALU'U EXPERIENCE helped to protect the Ka'u Coast on the island of Hawai'i, the longest undeveloped coastline in the state. His documentary, HO'OKELE WA'A: TURNING THE CANOE, won the 2010 Maui Film Festival Audience Award for the Best Documentary Made in Hawai'i and demonstrates how native Hawaiian traditional practices are important tools for making Hawai'i and the world more sustainable. In 2012, he completed the film CHANGING TIDES, which examines the impact of ocean debris on Hawai'i.

“I hope this film will inspire everyone to begin planting backyard gardens, engage in

efforts to protect agricultural lands and to support local farmers by buying locally grown food. Everyone can make a difference,” says SEEDS OF HOPE, Director Danny Miller.

SEEDS OF HOPE was made possible with funding from the Hawaii Rural Development Council, Hawai'i Community Foundation Pikake Grant, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Pohaku Fund, Kosasa Family Fund Under Hawai'i Community Foundation and the Sidney E Frank Foundation.

For more information on SEEDS OF HOPE go to: [www.seedsofhopethemovie.org](http://www.seedsofhopethemovie.org)

To purchase tickets for the film's premiere go to: [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org)