

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A special treat awaits Big Island audiences on **Thursday, May 27, 7 p.m.** at the **Palace Theatre in Hilo**. The evening is the world premiere of *Rx* -- a feature film written, directed, and filmed by 18-year-old Jesse Tunison of Volcano. This project marks two years of hard work by Jesse and the Kea`au Youth Business Center (KYBC) who produced the film. Last spring, KYBC produced a CD called "Na Ano, Native Seeds, Volume I" which has been enthusiastically received by the Big Island community and beyond. Featuring all-original compositions by Big Island youth, the CD was mixed and mastered at KYBC's own state-of-the-art sound recording studio located in the Kea`au Town Center.

Rx, KYBC's first film project, will be distributed commercially in local theatres. The project was initiated when Jesse was 16 years old. The film features a cast of local actors and was filmed entirely in Hilo, Volcano and other Big Island sites. *Rx* tells the story of what happens when the main character, Jason, a high school drug dealer, encounters a persistent, vengeful detective who lost his own family to high flying teens. Robert Lindbergh and Anna White costar. Other familiar local faces in the film are Peter Serafin, Mwangi Jahi, Nicholas Brousseau, Clay Callaway, Ty Lewis, Wade Cambern and Trina Nahm-Mijo.

After the screening, a question and answer session will be held with the director, Jesse Tunison, focusing on the challenges and lessons learned in creating a full length film. The session will be hosted by Big Island Film Commissioner, John Mason. A reception hosted by MAPS International, KYBC's entrepreneurial culinary team, will

follow in the lobby. Admission to this unique event is \$5 and all proceeds will go to supporting Kea`au Youth Business Center, an award-winning program whose mission is to create, promote, and market education, arts and culture, and health projects and products created by youth to contribute to the economic viability of the County. Pre-sale tickets are available online at: www.kybc808.com or call KYBC at p. 966-6354.

The premiere of *Rx* is a kick-off event for a “Film Production and Digital Media Conference” to be held on Saturday, May 29 from 9 – 5:30 p.m. on the UH-Hilo campus. Featured guest presenters at the conference will be Rick Galendez and Roy Tjioe, partners of Island Film Group from O`ahu who directed and produced “Barbarian Princess” recently featured at the 2009 Hawai`i International Film Festival. For more information about the conference, email: violet@hawaii.edu or jmason@co.hawaii.hi.us.

Submitted by: Trina Nahm-Mijo, p. 640-5109 or nahmmijo@hawaii.edu