

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII NEWS



MEDIA ADVISORY
January 27, 2005

Contact: Susan Miller, 808/295-0659
Center on Disability Studies

UH MANOA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND VSA ARTS OF HAWAII-PACIFIC LAUNCHES “HONOLULU HOT WHEELS” PROJECT

WHAT: A news conference will be held to announce the launch of “Honolulu Hot Wheels,” a high school arts partnership between public, private and charter schools, the UH Mānoa College of Education and VSA arts of Hawaii-Pacific, promoting the value and importance of inclusive arts education in the lives of students with and without disabilities.

WHEN: Friday, January 28, 11 a.m. - noon

WHERE: Honolulu Advertiser Building on Kapiolani Blvd., At the Bike-Bike

WHO: Arts Advocate Meleanna Myer, Farrington High School T-Shirt
Theatre members; VSA arts president Ann Katherine Reimers

BACKGROUND: “Honolulu Hot Wheels” is a first-of-its-kind inclusive public art education awareness and fundraising project slated to involve hundreds of students and teachers with and without disabilities from Hawai‘i’s public and private schools. With the involvement of local businesses and non-profit organizations, teams of high school student-artists will be painting original designs on the Honolulu City and County’s 300 “Bike-Bikes” (the bike-shaped bicycle racks) located in various business districts across O‘ahu.

Hawai‘i businesses and non-profit organizations are asked to support Hawai‘i school art teams by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 for every bicycle rack it wishes to sponsor.

BACKGROUND: In return, businesses and non-profit organizations will have the chance to

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(CONTINUED) pick out a customized art design, which will be painted onto its bike-bike rack(s) and have a stenciled plaque with business’ name displayed on the bike rack(s) from March-June 2005.

The funds raised go to Hawai‘i’s public and private schools for art supplies and materials, and to College of Education to support the career development of adult artists with and without disabilities.

The project is coordinated by the UH Mānoa College of Education, Center on Disability Studies and VSA arts of Hawai‘i-Pacific.

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Promoting the Creative Power in People with Disabilities

**In Partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Education
Center on Disability Studies and Art Education**

January 25, 2005

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STOP DATE: April 1, 2005

CONTACT David Asato, 781-7579

Honolulu Hot Wheels Project Coordinator

Hawaii Businesses and Non-profit Organizations

Asked to Commission

School Teams in

“HONOLULU HOTWHEELS” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Inclusive Public Arts Education Event

Celebrating 2005 National Youth Art Month

SLOGAN: Art works for our keiki.

Honolulu—The University of Hawaii College of Education and VSA arts of Hawaii-Pacific are inviting Hawaii businesses and non-profit organizations to join in the celebration of National Youth Art Month in March 2005 by participating in “Honolulu Hot Wheels” — a first-of-its-kind inclusive public art education awareness and

fundraising project slated to involve hundreds of students and teachers with and without disabilities from Hawaii’s public and private schools.

With the involvement of local businesses and non-profit organizations, teams of high school student-artists will be painting original designs on the Honolulu City and County’s 300 “Bike-Bikes” (the bike-shaped bicycle racks) located in various business districts across Oahu.

The Honolulu Advertiser, Clear Channel Communications, and KHON 2 have teamed up as media sponsors and supporters to help promote inclusive arts education, civic beautification, and public pride in the creativity of our keiki.

“Honolulu Hot Wheels is an opportunity to inspire greater support for inclusive arts education through public awareness” University of Hawaii College of Education Dean Randy Hitz said. “The school teams model inclusion with students with and without disabilities working side by side.”

“Civic beautification has been around for a long time,” UH-Manoa Associate Professor of Art Education Betty Lou Williams said. “You take what you have as the circumstances and look at the possibilities. We aren’t doing anything extraordinary, just revisiting bike racks that have been black forever.”

According to arts advocate Meleanna Meyers, “Art works for our keiki. Giving kids a canvas or a bike rack gives them the opportunity to constructively use their talents and abilities as opposed to tagging or graffiti — it builds civic pride.”

In the weeks to come, the UHM-VSA arts of Hawaii-Pacific will be contacting businesses and non-profit organizations. However, if a business knows it would like to sponsor one or more bike-bike rack(s), call the COE at 781-7579 or send an email to Paikahale@aol.com.

Hawaii businesses and non-profit organizations are asked to support Hawaii school art teams by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 for every bicycle rack it wishes to sponsor. In return, businesses and non-profit organizations will have the chance to pick out a customized art design, which will be painted onto its bike-bike rack(s) and have a stenciled plaque with business’ name displayed on the bike rack(s) from March-June 2005.

The funds raised go to Hawaii’s public and private schools for art supplies and materials, and to College of Education to support the career development of adult artists with and without disabilities. VSA arts classes are held at the Hawaii Artsplace in Pearl City and its Website can be viewed at www.vsarts.hawaii.edu.

Racks are located in Kailua, Honolulu, Waikiki, Kapahulu and Chinatown. Racks and school teams will be matched with businesses and non-profit organizations on a first come first served basis.

Along with VSA arts, UHM, other Honolulu Hot Wheels partners and supporters include: Hawaii Consortium for the Arts, Finance Factors Ltd., Council on Arts Education, Inc., and Americans for the Arts. The partnership aims to promote the value and importance of inclusive arts experiences and civic pride in participating in the creation of arts in public places.

VSA arts of Hawaii-Pacific is an affiliate of the national VSA arts organization in Washington, D.C. a partnership with the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.
www.vsarts.org.