

# **It's for the birds - PRESS RELEASE**

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Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project Fundraiser-"It's for the Birds: A Gala Event"

October 14, 2009- MAKAWAO, HAWAII- On Saturday, November 14, the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project is hosting its inaugural fundraiser, "It's for the Birds: A Gala Event" at the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center, in Makawao. The event, which runs from 4-8pm, recognizes Maui's native forest bird species, including the rare Maui Parrotbill. Proceeds will benefit future research and recovery efforts by the bird conservation group. The evening will include a keynote presentation by Jack Jeffrey, one of Hawaii's most well-known conservationists and photographers, presentations by MFBRP and the San Diego Zoological Society's captive breeding program on Maui, and music by Maui's very own talented musicians Halemanu and George Kahumoku. Complimentary pupus, fine wine, and beer will be served, and guests will be invited to bid on a selection of items at the silent auction. Tickets are \$100 per person (a portion is tax-deductible).

The event is co-sponsored by The Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center, Jim Busuttil and St. James Spirits of California, Tedeschi Winery, Soup to Nuts Catering, Bobbie Becker and Maui Mountain Home Grown Coffee, Maui Brewing Company, and Island Rents. Among the items available for purchase at the silent auction are passes to Maui Ocean Center, tickets to Ulalena, Dolphin Snorkel Adventure for Two with the Pacific Whale Foundation, local art, yoga passes, gift certificates to the Stopwatch, jewelry, and more.

To reserve a seat, the public may call 573-0280 by Monday, November 2. Checks should be made payable to Tri-Isle RC&D (MFBRP's parent organization) and sent to 2465 Olinda Road, Makawao, HI 96768.

Formed in 1997, Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project's mission is to develop and implement techniques that recover Maui's endangered birds and restore their habitat through research, development and application of conservation techniques. MFBRP focuses on the most critically endangered of the surviving Maui honeycreepers. The Project combines habitat management with ornithological research to discover the reasons for the rarity of these birds and the ways in which we can prevent their extinction.

BIOS

*Jack Jeffrey*

As a long time resident of the Big Island of Hawaii, wildlife biologist, photographer and birder, Jack Jeffrey, is intimately familiar with Hawaii's hidden valleys, remote rainforests and rare birds. He brings to his images the knowledge from over 30 years of observation and study of Hawaii's endemic birds, as well as those from around the Pacific. He combines a naturalist's curiosity with a photographer's patience and technical skill to produce beautiful images. Jack is a recipient of numerous conservation and photography awards including the prestigious National Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography.

#### *Halemanu*

Halemanu is among Hawaii's most sought after musicians. He has performed over 4500 live and studio performances throughout Hawaii, Japan, and North America. He is a prodigious vocalist, ukulele player, and guitarist who works as soloist and sideman. In recent years he has been teaching students guitar and musical concepts. He was featured on a segment of the Travel Channel and has also performed for several local and west coast television stations. He has played on several local artist's albums and most recently his debut album, which was released in 2008.

#### *George Kahumoku Jr.*

He's been called Hawaii's Renaissance man: George Kahumoku Jr. is a three-time Grammy Award winning master slack key guitarist, songwriter, world-wide performer, high school teacher, former principal, sculptor, story-teller and a farmer so in tune with his islands that he has won several state and national awards for his work with the land. After extensive touring, Kahumoku recently returned to Maui to settle down and teach Art at Lahainaluna High School.