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WILLIE K in Concert
2014 Big Island Film Festival at The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i

For immediate release

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII—I—Blues man, jazz artist, Hawaiian songwriter, slack key master, rock & roll, reggae and occasional opera singer, Hawaii's own Willie K brings his considerable talents to the stage on Monday, May 26, 2014, for Big Island Film Festival's "Best of the Fest" concert at The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i. Willie Kahaiali'i, (Willie K) has been entertaining audiences around the world since age 10; won multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards—most recently for "Warehouse Blues"—and a Grammy Award nomination.

An eclectic and charismatic guitarist, Willie K has been called "a Hawaiian Jimi Hendrix," by *Honolulu Weekly*, who also said, "he's Gabby Pahinui, Andres Segovia and Eddie Van Halen rolled into one. Willie can mimic seemingly any style, moving easily between screaming Stratocaster, sweet slack key and jazzy, almost baroque, acoustic 12-string."

In 2011, Willie K appeared on screen at BIFF in "Get a Job," the outrageously funny comedy written and directed by Brian Kohne. The Maui-created film boasted an all-star lineup of top Hawai'i entertainers that also included Eric Gilliom, Augie T, Jake Shimabukuro, Carolyn Omine, Slam Poet Kealoha, Ernie Cruz, Jr., Amy Hanaiali'i, Mick Fleetwood, Pat Simmons, the late Charles Ka'upu, Willie Nelson, and Henry Kapon.

An entertainer with a generous heart, Willie K finds numerous ways to give back to the community. His annual Celebrity Golf Tournament for the Maui Memorial Medical Center's Oncology Department is now in its eleventh year; and he is Hawai'i spokesperson for the

National Kidney Foundation. And, he can add Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center to his credit, as “Best of the Fest” includes a silent auction benefit for this important resource for military families.”

Tickets for “Best of the Fest” with Willie K can be purchased online at www.BigIslandFilmFestival.com. Admission is \$40 at the door (\$30 kama’āina) and \$35 in advance (\$25 kama’āina), \$10 keiki 7-12. Some chairs will be available as will no-host bar, gourmet pupus and other movie snacks (no coolers please).

Best of the Fest includes:

- Silent Auction to benefit Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center, 5-7 p.m.
- Willie K in Concert, 5-7 p.m.
- Audience-voted Best Feature and Best Short Films of BIFF 2013, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Best of the Fest is also a fundraiser for Hawai’i Island Food Basket.

The Big Island “Talk Story” Film Festival is a celebration of independent narrative films and filmmaking, taking place May 22-26, with celebrity guests Jackson Rathbone (the “Twilight” series) and Portia Doubleday (“Carrie,” “Youth in Revolt”). Major sponsors include The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai’i, The Shops at Mauna Lani and Hawai’i Tourism Authority/Hawai’i County CPEP grant. Admission to films is free for active-duty military service members with I.D. For complete schedule information and tickets, visit www.BigIslandFilmFestival.com or call (808) 883-0394.

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