UH West Oʻahu ‘Uluʻulu Archive to house complete Don Ho collection

KAPOLEI --- The University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu ‘Uluʻulu Henry Kuʻualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai‘i recently acquired the complete collection of the late entertainer Don Ho’s films, videos and personal memorabilia from the Donald Tai Loy Ho Trust. The extensive collection from Hawai‘i’s most famous entertainer includes archival film and video footage and related personal memorabilia from the early 1960s through 2007, and will be housed in the ‘Uluʻulu Archive’s permanent collection.

“As conservators of Don Ho's legacy, we are very pleased to have ‘Uluʻulu’s highly professional staff and state-of-the-art resources to preserve the original materials,” stated a Donald Tai Loy Ho Trustee. “Cataloging and digitizing the collection broadens the opportunity to showcase the significant relevance of Don Ho’s legendary 50-year career for posterity.”

“We are honored by the Trust’s faith in the ‘Uluʻulu Archive to preserve the incredible influence and legacy of Don Ho – an icon who defined our island home for audiences around the globe,” said Chris Lee, founder and director of the University of Hawai‘i Academy for Creative Media System.

‘Uluʻulu Archive staff received more than 150 boxes of mixed-media material and are currently admitting and documenting intake of the extensive collection. The archivists will catalogue and digitize the media and make the files available for streaming online. The physical materials of the collection will be stored in ‘Uluʻulu’s unique temperature and humidity-controlled electronic vault at UH West O‘ahu.

“So far, we have come across thousands of reels spanning decades of Don Ho's career including videotape recordings of the “Don Ho TV Show” that aired daily from 1976-1977,” noted ‘Uluʻulu Archive Head Archivist, Janel Quirante.

One highlight of the Don Ho collection is “Singer presents Hawaii-Ho!” starring Don Ho, the first-ever color television special to be produced entirely on location in Hawai‘i. The program helped to usher Hawai‘i into the consciousness of the American viewing and traveling public.

Born in Kaka‘ako, raised in Kāne‘ohe, and a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Don Ho became an international Hawaiian singing sensation in the 1960s and 1970s and remained a Waikiki showroom fixture until he passed away in 2007. He released his most famous hit song “Tiny Bubbles” in 1966. The star of his own television series, Ho also made guest appearances on many of the most popular television shows at the time including “Laugh In,” “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson,” “The Hollywood Palace,” “I Dream of Jeannie,” “The

The Don Ho Collection will take more than one year to process and digitize after which it will be made available for viewing and research by the public through the University of Hawai‘i library system.

For more information about the Don Ho collection at the 'Ulu'ulu Archive, call (808) 689-2740 or email uluulu@hawaii.edu.

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Established in 1976, the University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu offers quality education, small classes and personalized attention with academic programs that emphasize the exploration of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies. UH West O‘ahu serves approximately 2,700 students at its brand new, state-of-the-art campus that opened in the City of Kapolei in 2012. For more information, visit www.uhwo.hawaii.edu, call (808) 689-2800 or toll-free (866) 299-8656. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.

A program of the Academy for Creative Media System, ‘Ulu‘ulu, the Henry Ku‘ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai‘i, is Hawai‘i’s official moving image archive and located in the UH West O‘ahu Library. The mission of the ‘Ulu‘ulu Archive is to perpetuate and share the rich moving image heritage of Hawai‘i through the preservation of film and videotape related to the history and culture of Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai‘i. For more information, call (808) 689-2740 or visit uluulu.hawaii.edu.

VIDEO CLIP CAPTION: “Singer presents Hawaii-Ho!” (1968) is a non-stop, never ending trip to the groovy side of Hawai‘i. The first color TV special produced entirely on location in Hawai‘i and the first network television appearance of legendary entertainer Don Ho, "Hawaii-Ho!" reveals and explores the beauty, the hula, and the happiness that was 1960s Hawai‘i.

PHOTO CAPTION: Don Ho performing on “The Joey Bishop Show” in 1968.