

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LARRY PALMER
(626) 799-5985

**CATHERINE BAUKNIGHT'S DOCUMENTARY
'HAWAII: A VOICE FOR SOVEREIGNTY'
DEBUTS TO AUDIENCE ACCLAIM AT 2007 MAUI FILM FESTIVAL**

"Hawaii: A Voice for Sovereignty," a pilot documentary created by world-class, award-winning photojournalist Catherine Bauknight, debuted to audience acclaim at the prestigious Maui Film Festival in June 2007.

The documentary left viewers speechless from its opening frames – which features authentic native chants. The deeply moving piece captures intimate interviews with indigenous people of Hawaii as they express their fears of the imminent loss of their culture and land as a result of the unchecked commercial development of the islands which has occurred since the takeover by the United States government in 1893. An in-depth interview with Dr. Haunani-Kay Trask, author and professor of Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii illustrates the political element of the dilemma, as she explains the controversial "Akaka Bill" (also known as the Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act) which will have an indelible impact on the culture and native Hawaiians' ability to determine their own destiny and federal recognition. The bill has recently been approved in committee on a bipartisan vote and is awaiting approval by the full U.S. Senate.

The documentary was honored with three showings at the Maui Film Festival . Additionally Bauknight was featured as a speaker discussion of her work as a highlight to the initial screening of the work, which was chosen from among 1,000 entries submitted.

Bauknight is a Pasadena, CA-area resident who has been a professional photographer for more than two decades whose work has appeared in Time, Newsweek and People magazines, the New York Times, USA Today and Rolling Stone; she was one of five international journalists who risked their lives covering the Tiananmen Square massacre.

“Civilizations are defined by their cultural traditions,” Bauknight states. “To enhance the awareness and understanding of cultures, my goal is to document the fabric of ethnology through visual journalism.”

Bauknight’s exploration of cultural identities, now concentrated in the development of her documentary, had its origins within her photojournalist background. Among her many notable still photography projects are “The Renaissance of the Catawba Indians,” exhibited at the Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.; “The Tiananmen Square Massacre,” exhibited throughout the U.S. and profiled on the Fox Family Channel series *Courage*, produced by Danny Glover, and “Ethiopia – Bad Water,” produced for World Vision. Her photographic work also has appeared in several books, including “The System is Broken,” “World Youth Day: Pope John Paul II,” and “Tiananmen Square.”

Bauknight has served as an Adjunct Professor of Photography at California State University, Fullerton and Cal State Polytechnic University, photo instructor in the Julia Dean Teen Scholarship Program sponsored by the Ronald & Catherine Gershman Foundation, and is Vice President of the board of the Visual Artists Guild. Additional information is available on the website www.catherinebauknight.com

###