

## Media academy creates statehood documentary



KATHERINE Nichols  
Screen Time

The Academy for Creative Media has produced a statehood documentary that originated in 2004 with a grant and a mission to "allow a platform for diverse points of view on the topic," according to producer/director Anne Misawa, an assistant professor at ACM.

The "huge project," as she described it, will screen in two venues. A one-hour cut of "State of Aloha" airs at 7:30 p.m. today on PBS Hawaii's "Insights" show. An 80-minute feature-length version will be part of the Hawaii International Film Festival in October.

Initially, a mix of professionals and ACM students focused on 30 key interviewees of varying backgrounds from many segments of the community, including Sen. Daniel Inouye, Don Ho and Jon Osorio.

"There is a current dialogue about statehood that is quite interesting," Misawa said. "As a filmmaker, I did not want to go in with my personal agenda. It's not a sovereignty piece. It really is as fair as any documentary can be."

The more they explored the topic, the more they felt the need to address how and why Hawaii became a state. What were the motivating factors? Who wanted it to happen and who didn't? Essentially, the film became a general introduction to the subject in an effort to stimulate further discussion.

After showing a rough cut of "State of Aloha" to academics on the mainland, Misawa said she was surprised by the reaction. Most had no idea that statehood was an issue at all. "They had no context for it," she said.

To share more of the history of Hawaii beyond the islands, Misawa and the team who worked on the project hope to screen the film at festivals around the country. ...

ORGANIZERS OF the Hawaii International Film Festival recently hosted a member appreciation gathering open to the public. Drinks and pupu flowed at Solfo Mixed Media, a downtown bar/art, music, movie space. The festival doesn't start until October, but we got a sneak peek at trailers for some of the films, all of which look intriguing. In particular, "The Real Shaolin," about kung fu warriors, piqued my interest (visit [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org) to watch trailers).

Hawaii International Film Festival director Chuck Bolter and director of programming Anderson Le said the long-awaited "Princess Kaiulani" will premiere Oct. 16 at the Hawaii Theatre. In addition, HIFF is working with ABC to devote the first weekend of the festival to honoring "Lost" before the final season begins. This could include classes and seminars with the principal actors from the show, as well as costumers, set designers and location scouts. The festival also managed to secure "Lost" star Daniel Dae Kim for the HIFF trailer, which will be a simpler, 60-second version of the typical short-film production. ...

IN ADDITION to several best-selling authors such as Mitch Albom ("Tuesdays with Morrie," "Five People You Meet in Heaven") and Ron Powers ("Flags of Our Fathers"), several accomplished screenwriters will make presentations at the Hawaii Writers Conference (formerly called the Maui Writers Conference) next weekend, including Michael Arndt ("Little Miss Sunshine"), Bobby Moresco ("Crash") and Diane Lake ("Frida").

While speaking with conference co-director Shannon Tullus for a previous article, she and I misunderstood each other and I mentioned that in her efforts to incorporate more Hawaiian culture into the three-day affair, she would make a few remarks in Hawaiian. Partially true. Someone will speak in Hawaiian, but not Tullus. Instead, Bibia Glonson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (and a previous participant in the conference's Young Writers Program) will do the talking.

You can register at the door (\$495 for all three days for kamaaina), or sign up in advance at [www.hawaiiwritersconference.com](http://www.hawaiiwritersconference.com).

Contact Katherine Nichols at [knichols@starbulletin.com](mailto:knichols@starbulletin.com).



COURTESY FIGHTING EEL

Fighting Eel styles available in the bridal collection include Dress Ziggy, and on the facing page Dress Senna, center, and Dress Carty.



Fighting Eel  
Made in Paradise

# Fighting for brides

The popular Fighting Eel bridal dresses are offered in several choice colors to fit themes ideal for tropical settings

BY NADINE KAM  
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In plotting the perfect wedding, finessing the dress first leaves brides-to-be with more time to attend to the numerous details that go into making their big day one to remember.

The choice was easy for Fighting Eel owners Rona Bennett and Lan Chung, who took their respective vows in 2005 and 2008 in dresses chosen from their own collections.

Even so, it was a revelation. "The dresses worked really well, especially for our bridesmaids, because they're stretchy, so it was easy for them to find the right sizes, and they could wear them over and over again," said Bennett.

While she opted for a uniform look for her wedding party, she said, "At Lan's wedding they all chose a dress that suited their body type, so that was really cool. Fortunately, our styles suit a lot of different body types."

Bennett's wedding on the island of Molokai also tied in to the trend of destination weddings, and the last thing women want at an outdoor wedding in a tropical setting is a constricting traditional gown or one that's cumbersome and frou frou (think of the packing).

Over the same period of time, women started inquiring about Fighting Eel wedding dresses, so to meet the demand the 6-year-old company has launched a bridal collection that includes several white gowns made of the same soft, drapery modal fabric that characterizes their regular line. In the longer lengths, the fabric takes on a romantic, goddessy look.

Bridesmaids dresses in the same fabric are drawn from popular FE styles, and are offered in several color choices to fit wedding themes. Brides also have the option of choosing one style, or allowing their bridesmaids to pick the styles that best suit them, relying on color to provide the unifying factor.

Midweek style editor Yu Shing Ting was thinking of her bridesmaids when she chose Fighting Eel for her wedding last July.

"I wanted something I knew they would wear again. Fighting Eel is one of my favorite designers and I had a dress in mind."

They did not have the baby blue she wanted, so she opted for green, and like a typical fashion editor she had to have a story, so that's how her eco-themed wedding on the lawn of the Waikiki Aquarium came about, inspired by her bridesmaids' dresses.

"I was thinking in terms of people asking, 'Why are they wearing green?'" she said.

With 11 bridesmaids in her party, she was relieved that she didn't have to worry about siz-



Rona's vows with Jeremy Bennett on Molokai sparked the idea that Fighting Eel works well with the destination wedding.



At Lan Chung's wedding, bridesmaids chose different styles in the same color.



## Win with Fighting Eel

Fighting Eel is giving one lucky bride-to-be an opportunity to win dresses for her bridal party of up to four bridesmaids.

All you need to do is write, in 250 words or less, why you would like to wear Fighting Eel designs on your big day, and include the date of your wedding.

Send entries to FE@starbulletin.com. Entries will be accepted through Sept. 25.

The winner must agree to provide Fighting Eel with a photo of her wedding party dressed in FE.

Fighting Eel is at 47 N. Hotel St. Call 524-1472.



LOOK -> Set your DVRs for the kids. "Wizards of Waverly Place the Movie" airs at 5 p.m. tomorrow on the Disney Channel.

LISTEN -> "By and By," by Lay Low ([www.myspace.com/baralovisa](http://www.myspace.com/baralovisa))

DO -> Nobes Gallery at Ward Warehouse is hosting the Honolulu Woodturners Show on Saturday, featuring demonstrations in front of the store from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds from bowls sold at the event will benefit River of Life Mission. For information, visit [www.nobesgallery.com](http://www.nobesgallery.com).



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