The 7th annual Windward Ho‘olaule‘a Saturday, Sept. 22, will feature a star-studded line-up of Na H_k_ Hanohano award winners and something for everyone: ‘ono food, unique island crafts, keiki games, a silent auction and high-tech Imaginarium shows to take visitors on tours of the universe.

The “Homegrown Celebration,” which runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Windward Community College’s campus, is coordinated by WCC and the Kaneohe Business Group. Admission is free.

This year, the Ho‘olaule‘a is also part of the Celebrate K_ne‘ohe calendar of events.

“We’re honoring the people and heritage of this community,” said Ho‘olaule‘a co-chair Janis Chun. “The day will showcase WCC’s programs and new facilities, local businesses, community groups and entertainers with ties to this side of the island.”

The event also offers people a chance to see some of the new educational opportunities at WCC — from the biotech medicinal garden to the new Lanihuli Observatory to the latest show in Gallery ‘Iolani and other art programs.

Among the entertainers are Kaukahi, winner of four H_k_s, including 2007 Group of the Year; Na Kama, winner of a 2007 H_k_ for Hawaiian language performance; Holunape, 2006 Group of the Year; and perennial favorite Kapena.

The schedule also includes WCC’s Ron Loo and Pila Nahenahe, Hawai‘i Loa, the Castle Jazz Band, Kupa‘aina and several Windward halau.

New this year is a silent auction with proceeds going to benefit WCC programs and student scholarships. Any business interested in donating a product or service is welcome to call silent auction co-chair Karen Quimoyog at 235-7377 or email kquimoyo@hawaii.edu.

Among the items up for bid so far are two autographed footballs from UH coach June Jones; an all-day boating excursion with a tour of Coconut Island and K_ne‘ohe Bay; hotel certificates to the Four Seasons Lodge at Koele or Manele Bay, the Sheraton-Waikiki, Turtle Bay, and Schrader’s Windward Country Inn; theatre and restaurant certificates; family outings to the Honolulu Zoo and Kualoa Ranch; rounds of golf; women’s jewelry and clothing; and an entire Dickens village set of collectibles.

“We’re very grateful for the tremendous community support of this event,” said WCC Chancellor Angela Meixell. “The college has some wonderful new facilities and a tremendous amount of talent to share.
-2- WINDWARD HO'OLAULE'A

The Ho'olaule'a gets us all working together, to benefit future students and the Windward side.”

The college’s Imaginarium, created by WCC professor and Teacher-in-Space candidate Joe Ciotti, will show “Flights of Fancy” and take visitors on an imaginary trip through the solar system. Showtimes are 10, 10:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m. at $2 per person. In the evening, the show will be “Search for Life in the Universe” at 7 p.m. Tickets will range from $3 for children 12 and younger to $5 for adults.

Tickets will be available at the Imaginarium box office or in advance by calling 235-7433.

WCC’s Gallery ‘Iolani will also be open that day with a new show featuring the work of WCC art professor Paul Nash and his wife, Kapi‘olani Community College art professor Noreen Naughton.

There’s still time for crafters or food vendors to sign up for a booth. Just go to www.wcc.hawaii.edu/hoolaulea and download an application or call Sheri Tamamoto (crafts) at 754-4211, stamamoto@gmail.com or Gerrene Yukuno (food) at 358-2685, gyukuno@hawaii.rr.com

For more details, check the web site at www.wcc.hawaii.edu/hoolaulea.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

9:15 – 10 a.m. – Na Kupuna O Ko‘olau
10:15 – 11 a.m. – Pila Nahenahe
11:15 – noon – Al Barcase_s Halau
12:15 – 1 p.m. – Castle Jazz Band
1:15 – 2 p.m. – Kupa’aina
2:15 – 3 p.m. – Celebrate K_neʻohe song winners
3:15 – 4 p.m. – Halau Hula O Napunaheleonapua
4:15 – 5 p.m. – Holunape
5:15 - 6 p.m. – Hawaiʻi Loa
6:15 – 7 p.m. – Na Kama
7:15 – 8 p.m. – Kaukahi
8:15 – 9 p.m. - Kapena

###