



CULTIVATING 'HONU'

A Kaneohe playwright expands his educational musical to an

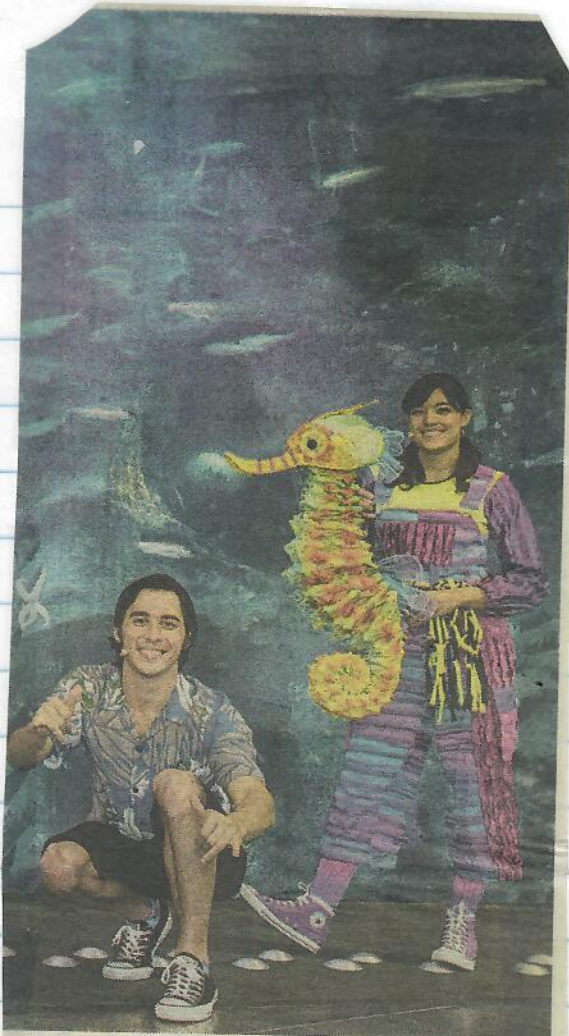
The musical "Honu by the Sea" made its debut as a one-act trial at the Royal Hawaiian in 2012. The show has since been performed at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and several aquariums around the world.

By Wayne Harada
Special to the Star-Advertiser

Johnson Enos, a playwright, actor and musician from Kaneohe, has been nurturing his production, "Honu by the Sea — the Musical," for the past four years. The project started as a modest experimental work in progress, a Disneyesque environmental fantasy involving a Waikiki surfer who encounters undersea denizens when he finds a magic star that enables him to spend

one day beneath the sea.

It made its debut in 2012 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel's Monarch Room as a one-act trial balloon, directed by Ronald E. Bright. "Honu" incorporated an environmental theme and introduced Enos' own brand of "Guardians of the Sea" — a collection of ocean figures such as Malia the honu (sea turtle), Shaka the crab, Nalu the toothless tiger shark, Kapper the sea horse, Surf the Hawaiian monk seal, a trio of opihi and a villain named Slicker.



COURTESY JOHNSON ENOS

elaborate two-act production

The show played two additional summers at the Pink Palace and since has toured the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and several aquariums in a tour supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The production has now notably been staged in Seattle, Sydney and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Beginning Wednesday, audiences will get to see it in its full glory, with professional costuming and staging suitable for the Hawaii Theatre stage.

'HONU BY THE SEA - THE MUSICAL'

Where: Hawaii Theatre
When: School matinees (one-act), Sept. 9-18; public performances (two-act), 2 and 7 p.m. Sept. 12, 19; 2 p.m. Sept. 13, 20

Cost: \$5-\$10; family pass available from \$55

Info: 528-0506, www.hawaiitheatre.com

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

HSA

9/18/2015

Downpours flood highway in Kau district

Heavy rain on Hawaii island Thursday afternoon forced the closure of Highway 11 between the 58 and 59 mile markers in the Kau district.

In reporting a flash flood warning Thursday night, weather officials said the rain in the afternoon was causing runoff, flooding the highway between Pahala and Naalehu.

At 5:45 p.m. Thursday weather officials reported that the highest 24-hour rainfall count was 1.4 inches in Piihonua and 1.32 inches at Hilo Airport.

Police advised motorists to drive with caution and be aware of possible ponding and runoff.