



**BLUE NOTE HAWAII MAKES THEATRICAL DEBUT WITH MOSES GOODS’
ACCLAIMED ONE-PERSON SHOW “DUKE”**



August 20 performances launch a nine-show, four-island summer tour benefiting Native Hawaiian storytelling nonprofit INAMONA

HONOLULU (July 30) — As Blue Note Hawai‘i celebrates its 10th anniversary, the acclaimed Waikiki venue is expanding its range of offerings with the first theatrical production ever presented on its intimate stage.

On Thursday, August 20, Blue Note Hawai‘i will present two performances of **“Duke,”** an **acclaimed one-person portrayal of legendary Native Hawaiian swimmer, surfer and ambassador of aloha Duke Paoa Kahanamoku**, written and performed by award-winning Native Hawaiian actor and playwright Moses Goods. Performances will take place at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The Blue Note engagement launches the **“Duke” 2026 Summer Tour**, featuring nine performances across O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i island and Maui. Audiences can preview the production, learn more about the artists and purchase tickets for all nine performances at inamona.org/duke.

Through this poignant and powerful theatrical work, Goods brings to life one of the most important and beloved figures in Hawaiian history. Duke Kahanamoku was Hawai‘i’s first Olympic gold medalist, the father of modern surfing and an enduring symbol of aloha, humility and the resilience of the Hawaiian people.

Born in Honolulu in 1890, Duke shattered world swimming records, earned five Olympic medals across three Games, helped introduce surfing to the world, appeared in more than two dozen Hollywood films and served 12 terms as sheriff of the City and County of Honolulu. His lifetime also spanned a period of profound change in Hawai‘i, from the Hawaiian Kingdom through the territorial era and into statehood.

“Duke” premiered at Honolulu Theatre for Youth in October 2015, drawing more than 10,000 attendees during its five-week run. Goods subsequently presented the production at Pregones Theater in the Bronx and at Yale University through the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program. The 2026 tour brings the production home to Hawai‘i and includes the first-ever presentations of “Duke” on Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i island.

Moses Goods

In a career spanning 30 years, Moses Goods has become one of Hawai‘i’s most prominent actors, writers and storytellers. He currently appears as Moku in the Apple TV series “Chief of War” and has held recurring guest roles on “Rescue: HI-Surf,” “NCIS: Hawai‘i” and Marvel’s “Inhumans.”

Onstage, Goods has created and performed an extensive body of work rooted in Native Hawaiian culture, history and perspective. His plays have been presented throughout the Hawaiian Islands and at venues including Lincoln Center in New York City.

Goods is also the founder and artistic director of **INAMONA**, a Hawai‘i nonprofit dedicated to preserving Native Hawaiian stories by providing community resources and opportunities in film, storytelling and theatrical arts. **One hundred percent of net proceeds from the “Duke” 2026 Summer Tour will benefit INAMONA.**

"I started **INAMONA** so that the stories of those who came before us will always be a part of our lives. This performance of DUKE at Blue Note will be a special one. It’s an opportunity to tell his story in a place where every grain of sand still holds his memory, his home, Waikiki," shared Goods.

The Lili‘u Project Reunites for the Tour

The Blue Note Hawai‘i and Maui performances will open, and the Kaua‘i performances will include a 30-minute musical set by **The Lili‘u Project**, featuring vocalist Starr Kalāhiki, multi-instrumentalist and composer John Signor, and guitarist and composer Honybal Sosa.

The Lili‘u Project explores the musical legacy of Queen Lili‘uokalani—one of Hawai‘i’s most prolific and significant haku mele and the Hawaiian Kingdom’s last reigning sovereign—through her compositions, memoirs and other writings.

Duke Kahanamoku was born a citizen of the Hawaiian Kingdom during Queen Lili‘uokalani’s reign and learned to swim one year after the overthrow of the Kingdom and Queen. In 2015, Goods commissioned The Lili‘u Project to compose and record the score for “Duke.” The three musicians reunite with Goods for the 2026 tour.

Hawaiian singer-songwriter **Hawane Rios** will perform a 40-minute opening musical set at the Hilo presentation. Henry Kapon Foundation On The Rise singer-songwriter Tiara Gomes will open both Kaua‘i shows with a musical set followed by a musical performance by The Lili‘u Project and Goods’ presentation of “Duke.”

“Duke” 2026 Summer Tour

The statewide tour begins August 20 at Blue Note Hawai‘i and continues through September 6:

- **August 20 – Waikīkī, O‘ahu:** Blue Note Hawai‘i; 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
- **August 21 – Lihu‘e, Kaua‘i:** Kaua‘i Community College Performing Arts Center; 6:30 p.m.
- **August 22 – Kīlauea, Kaua‘i:** The Porter Pavilion at Anaina Hou Community Park; 6:30 p.m.
- **August 28 – Hilo, Hawai‘i island:** Palace Theater; 7 p.m.
- **September 5 – Kīhei, Maui:** ProArts Playhouse; 3 and 7 p.m.
- **September 6 – Kīhei, Maui:** ProArts Playhouse; 3 and 7 p.m.

For a complete preview of the production, artist biographies, venue information and ticket links for all nine performances, visit inamona.org/duke.

Photos, videos and additional tour assets are available [here](#).

About INAMONA

INAMONA is a Hawai'i-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by Native Hawaiian actor, playwright and storyteller Moses Goods. Dedicated to preserving Native Hawaiian stories, INAMONA provides resources in film, storytelling and theatrical arts to help ensure that Hawai'i's stories continue to be shared through Native Hawaiian voices and perspectives. For more information, visit inamona.org.

ABOUT BLUE NOTE HAWAII

Located in the heart of Waikiki at the beautiful OUTRIGGER Waikiki Resort, Blue Note Hawaii features a year-round lineup of world-class entertainment, from local favorites to international sensations. The intimate, 326-seat club showcases leaders in jazz, blues, reggae, rock, Hawaiian, R&B, pop, comedy and more. Performances are enhanced by a locally inspired dinner menu, featuring shareable small plates, hearty entrees, house-made desserts and a thoughtful beverage program. View the performance lineup at bluenotehawaii.com and follow @bluenotehawaii on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT BLUE NOTE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

With jazz at its vibrant core, Blue Note has maintained its historical excellence while providing its audiences with a range of dynamic, culturally rich experiences and top artistry. The multi-faceted entertainment company owns and operates New York's Blue Note Jazz Club and Sony Hall; The Howard Theatre (Washington D.C.); and Blue Note Jazz Clubs Worldwide (Milan, Italy; Honolulu, HI; Beijing and Shanghai, China; Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan; Napa, CA; Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil) and the Blue Note Jazz Festivals in Napa and NYC.

ABOUT OUTRIGGER RESORTS & HOTELS

For more than 75 years, OUTRIGGER has charted a journey of discovery – expanding from Hawai'i to premier resort destinations including Fiji, Mauritius, Thailand and the Maldives. The privately held hospitality company invites guests to 'Come Be Here' with authentic Signature Experiences and the [OUTRIGGER DISCOVERY loyalty program](#) – a member of the award-winning Global Hotel Alliance (GHA). OUTRIGGER's multi-branded portfolio includes OUTRIGGER Resorts, Hawaii Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER®, The Kapalua Villas Maui and OUTRIGGER Honua Kai Resort & Spa while also managing select properties from top international hotel brands including Embassy Suites by Hilton®. Find out more at OUTRIGGER.com or visit @OUTRIGGERResorts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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