

August 8, 2011 – For Immediate Release

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### **Nā Mele Wai: Hawaiian Fresh Water Songs**

August 19-24, 2011

Lau Hawaiian Trio

Admission/Tickets: Free and open to the public

Information: (612) 845-7098, [www.kimsueoka.com](http://www.kimsueoka.com)

Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN – Kim Sueoka and Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education present *Nā Mele Wai: Hawaiian Fresh Water Songs*, a sparkling collection of Hawaiian chants, songs, hulas, and stories about fresh water.

Performed by Lau Hawaiian Trio

Kim Sueoka – vocals, 'ukulele, hula 'ili'ili

David Burk – 'ukulele, guitar, lap steel

Rahn Yanes – bass

And special guest Paul Andress – vocals

The importance of fresh water, or *wai*, is reflected in numerous aspects of Hawaiian culture. *Wai* features prominently in Hawaiian place names, traditional land management systems, *mo'olelo* (story-telling), and *mele* (poetry and songs). *Nā Mele Wai* is a collection of delightful songs illuminating Hawaiian concepts of water as a vital resource, a source of enjoyment, and a big player in myths and legends. These interactive concerts are an opportunity to celebrate humanity's shared reverence for water and to explore the place of water in today's world. Lau Hawaiian trio will release a recording of *Nā Mele Wai* in the spring of 2012.

This project is presented in collaboration with Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education. Kim Sueoka is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

#### Preview Performances

**Friday, August 19, 2011, 7:00-9:00 pm**

Butter Bakery Café

3544 Grand Avenue South, Minneapolis

[www.butterbakerycafe.com](http://www.butterbakerycafe.com)

**Saturday, August 20, 2011, 7:00-9:00 pm**

The Nicollet

1931 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

<http://the-nicollet.com>

### Feature Performance

**Tuesday, August 23, 2011, 7:30-9:00 pm**

*Nā Mele Wai* Concert with Resources for Water Education

Lake Harriet Bandshell, Minneapolis

This concert is part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Music and Movies Series.

Resources for Water Education provided by Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education.

[www.mplsmusicandmovies.com](http://www.mplsmusicandmovies.com)

[www.hamline.edu/education/environmental/cgee/index.html](http://www.hamline.edu/education/environmental/cgee/index.html)

### Post-Concert Merriment

**Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 7:30-8:30 pm**

Selections from *Nā Mele Wai* on Summit Avenue in St. Paul

Front lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on-the-Hill

1524 Summit Avenue, St. Paul (one block east of Snelling Ave)

[www.stpaulsonthehillmn.org](http://www.stpaulsonthehillmn.org)

### **About Kim Sueoka**

Vocalist Kim Sueoka is passionate about creating musical insights into the human experience.

Lauded as "radiant" (Cleveland Classical), she is an active performer of Hawaiian historical

music, early music, chamber music, and new compositions. She frequently appears in concert

as a soloist and with The Rose Ensemble and Silver Swan Chamber Ensemble. Her "crystalline voice" (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) can also be heard on a growing number of recordings.

Sueoka is the founder and artistic director of Lau Hawaiian Trio, a new ensemble dedicated to the perpetuation of Hawaiian music with reverence and imagination.

Downloadable press materials, including concert flyers, press photos, and audio samples are available at <http://www.kimsueoka.com/id5.html>