

# POINT OF NO RETURN



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## **First Solar Flight Around the World and Historic Landing on Oahu to be Showcased at HIFF 2017 Film Premiere**

Honolulu, Hawaii, October 25 — The Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF 2017) is slated to launch the world premiere of *Point of No Return*, a feature-length documentary that takes viewers behind the headlines of one of the great scientific adventure stories of our century—with Pilot André Borschberg, the filmmakers, local government and environmental leaders appearing in-person on Sunday, November 5 in Honolulu at the Dole Cannery Stadium 18 IMAX & RPX.

This isn't the first time Hawaii has embraced the efforts of the pioneering crew. On July 3, 2015, André Borschberg charted the longest nonstop solo flight in history. The journey from Japan to Hawaii took five grueling days, five nearly sleepless nights, and 5,545 miles to complete. It was a milestone for aviation and clean energy.

But technical difficulties would keep the Solar Impulse aircraft grounded until vital improvements could be made, and that's when the Aloha State stepped in.

Hosted by the University of Hawaii at its hangar at Kalaheo Airport in Kapolei, the crew's eight-month pit stop drew enthusiastic crowds from the university and local public, including Hawaii Governor David Ige—just as Hawaii embarked on an ambitious clean energy journey of its own. Around the same time, the Governor signed legislation directing Hawaii's utilities to generate 100 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2045.

Milestones like these have not been lost on San Francisco Bay Area-based filmmakers Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly, who followed the pilots and crew for ten months—including several months on Oahu during some of the most make-or-break moments in the flight's journey.

"I want this story of ingenuity and grit to give people hope against the huge environmental challenges we're facing today," says Kanaly. "And to premiere in Hawaii where it all came to fruition is very special to us. It's at the heart of this story."

"The spirit of this plane has a natural connection to Hawaii and the people who live here in the islands," adds Dockstader. "Existing in harmony with nature, not at the cost of it."

It's that shared sense of unity and purpose that has inspired the filmmakers to invite likeminded pioneers and supporters to join them—not just at their premier, but in the fight for a cleaner future.

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## **Let the public know about this once in a lifetime opportunity.**

*Point of No Return* screens Sunday, November 5 at 5:15 p.m. and Thursday, November 9 at 2:45 p.m. Single general admission tickets are \$14 and available now on [hiff.tix.com](http://hiff.tix.com) or the Regal Theatres' box office (808-447-0577). Regal Theatres Dole Cannery Stadium 18 & IMAX is located in Honolulu (735 Iwilei Road, Honolulu, Hawaii).

## **ABOUT THE FILM**

Thirteen years ago, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg began building what many experts said was impossible—a solar-powered airplane capable of flying day and night. With the wingspan of a 747 jet and the weight of a car, Solar Impulse is extremely fragile. High winds or turbulence can snap the wings in two. But the dangerous and historic trip tests more than their technology. In an unheated, unpressurized cockpit, the solo flight across the Pacific Ocean becomes a feat of endurance unlike any other in aviation history. Technical failures, unplanned landings, and stormy weather put the entire mission in jeopardy and drain the spirits of the team. To succeed, both Bertrand, a psychiatrist and balloonist, and André, an engineer and jet fighter pilot, must set aside their differences and go against the advice of their crew. *Point of No Return* explores what it takes to do something truly groundbreaking, and documents how their journey captivated people around the world. Learn more at [www.pointofnoreturndoc.com](http://www.pointofnoreturndoc.com).

## **ABOUT THE HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Hitting Honolulu screens from November 2 to November 19, the festival will present 160 films from over 45 countries. Through their programming, HIFF continues to advance understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America by presenting films from around the world. Learn more at [hiff.org](http://hiff.org).

## **PHOTOS, BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND TRAILER**

[www.pointofnoreturndoc.com/#press](http://www.pointofnoreturndoc.com/#press)

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