

Paralyzed painter makes comeback

Lester Chang
THE GARDEN ISLAND

Kilauea resident Moses Hamilton was injured in a car accident on October 18, 2002 in Kilauea that left him paralyzed from the neck down and confined him to a wheelchair.

With the support of his mother and father, Cherry and Hawk Hamilton, and Hamilton's three brothers and rehabilitation programs, Hamilton has pledged to re-make his life and to create a career that brings meaning to him.

Hamilton takes that step forward in his life on Saturday, Nov. 20.

That is when Hamilton, who learned to paint with a brush in his mouth during his rehabilitation, will have on display his paintings from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pictures Plus

store at the Kukui Grove Shopping Center.

Kris Dela Cruz, the manager of the store, said the store began showing Hamilton's paintings in August, and after talking with Cherry Hamilton, decided to put more of his work on display.

"I talked with her a few months ago, and she talked about his new career, and we became motivated to show more of his paintings," Dela Cruz said. "We really want to support what he is doing."

By summer of this year, Hamilton had already created 20 paintings, and was learning about computer-generated art graphics.

Hamilton sketched and took photographs as a youngster, and the accident reconnected him with his cre-



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Kris Dela Cruz looks over paralyzed artist Moses Hamilton's paintings on display at Pictures Plus in the Kukui Grove Shopping Center.

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ative side, he said in an interview with the Garden Island this summer.

While recuperating at a medical facility in O'ahu, Hamilton said he saw other people with disabilities paint, and became motivated to do so himself.

Hamilton, an avid surfer before his accident, said others with disabilities set the example for him to overcome obstacles in his life.

As part of his rehabilitation, Hamilton lifts slightly-weight-

ed plastic water bottles with his right hand. His recovery reached the point this summer where he could move his shoulder and neck and a small part of his right hand. Hamilton is scheduled to make an appearance at the Nov. 20 showing, Dela Cruz said. He goes by the name of Mo'sart.

▶ Please call 245-7111 for more information on Hamilton's showing.

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