

To all:

For the past six and one half years our newsroom at Hawaii News Now has enjoyed the many benefits and competitive advantages of having Mark Platte as our News Director, and Scott Humber as our Assistant News Director. From day one, both men complimented one another well, and their combined efforts have lead our News organization to a position of market dominance, providing Hawaii with the very best in local television news...on-air and online!

I could not be more proud or grateful to each one of them for their individual and combined efforts! They have been tireless in their pursuit of excellence, and they have never backed down from any challenge, big or small, throughout their tenure. We have been most fortunate to have this veteran duo in charge of our day to day news operations all these many years, and we are definitely the better for it, for many reasons, and in many ways!

At times like this I am reminded of some of the most quoted words from the Bible, 'To everything, there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven'. (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8), and so I share this announcement with all of you about a major transition for both Mark and Scott, their respective families, and our family at Hawaii News Now.

Mark Platte has tendered his resignation effective December 31, 2016. He will be relocating to the mainland, Rancho Palos Verdes, a city in Los Angeles county to pursue the next great chapter in his highly accomplished career. Mark's ability to adjust to television news after a stellar 28 year career at leading newspaper publications in Atlanta, Miami, Los Angeles and Honolulu was nothing short of remarkable!

Aside from his deep love for his family, what I came to know and appreciate most about Mark was his love and appreciation for Hawaii, his home for the past 16+ years, his compassion for the human condition, and his clever wit, and off-the-wall sense of humor. Mark's legacy is indelible in this chapter of Hawaii News Now, and as a result, he will be greatly missed, but never forgotten! BRAVO!

Scott Humber becomes our next News Director, effective officially on January 1, 2017, however given the time of year and the many challenges and changes facing us, Scott will be assuming operational control of the newsroom immediately. I have asked Mark to assist Scott in every way possible to best facilitate a successful leadership transition, and I have every confidence all will go well in the days ahead.

I first met Scott 14+ years ago when he joined our team at KGMB. My appreciation and respect for Scott's professional abilities, news judgment, personal integrity, character and work ethic are at the highest level. I have absolutely no reservation in naming him our next News Director at Hawaii News Now with the only caveat being the difficult task ahead at finding someone to replace him as our Assistant News Director. We will begin a national search immediately, and my most sincere hope is that we will be able to find someone to work with Scott in his new leadership role in much the say way Scott worked so well with Mark.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking both of these men for their extraordinary accomplishments to date, and also wishing them great success on their respective new journeys.

**Aloha,
Rick**

RICK BLANGIARDI | General Manager | HAWAII NEWS NOW: KGMB/KHNL