

**Make-A-Wish Foundation®**  
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M E D I A A D V I S O R Y

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 27, 2011**

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011**

**MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF ALASKA & WASHINGTON AND ALASKA AIRLINES  
BID ANCHORAGE BOY BON VOYAGE**

*Surprise send-off party planned for Friday, April 29 (World Wish Day) as Anchor Activity for First Annual Make-A-Wish® Awareness Week in Alaska*

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, 2011 (World Wish Day – a global celebration in which chapters across the globe will grant wishes simultaneously on the same day)

**WHERE:** Ted Stevens International Airport

**WHO:** Eight-year-old Konapilihi Cortez (also known as Kona which stands for strong and powerful in Hawaiian), is battling cancer. So, a dose of fun in the sun with his five siblings, his mom and dad is just what the doctor ordered and what the Make-A-Wish Foundation will deliver.

**WHAT:** As if family and a vacation to the “happiest place on earth” wouldn’t be enough to take his mind off his health for a while, Make-A-Wish® has an extra surprise in store for Kona on the day of his send-off. When he arrives at the airport, Kona, who loves his Hawaiian heritage and culture, will receive a Hawaiian and Disney-inspired send off party at an Alaska Airlines gate prior to starting his eight-day Disney World vacation. Highlights of the special send-off will include: hula dancers donning “Mickey Mouse ears” performing several dances in Kona’s honor, a hands-on tour of the flight deck and meet and greet with the Alaska Airlines’ crew, a special backpack full of goodies from Mickey Mouse, and some sweet treats donated by Sugar Spoon Bakery. Kona will be flying to Disney World on Alaska Airlines’ specially themed “Spirit of Disneyland II” airplane.

Governor Sean Parnell has proclaimed it Make-A-Wish Awareness Week in Alaska April 25-29 and Kona’s wish send off party will be the anchor activity in the chapter’s week-long celebration.

**TIMELINE:**

11 a.m.	Media meet Alaska Airlines representatives at the Alaska Airlines’ check-in area for escort through security and to departure gate (C-5)
11:30 a.m.	Hawaiian dancing and festivities at departure gate
Noon	Boarding and behind-the-scenes flight deck tour

*Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Alaska & Washington*

12:30 p.m. Flight 86 departs for Seattle

**RSVP:** To arrange access, members of the media planning to cover the event should RSVP with Jennifer Robinson (907) 266-7232 by 12 p.m. Alaska time on Thursday, April 28, 2011. Media will be required to show identification for security clearance and gate access.

**WHY:** *Celebrating 25 years of granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions, the chapter has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1986. From granting six wishes in its first year, to granting more than 300 annually, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Alaska & Washington has brought hope, strength and joy to more than 4,500 local children through its wish granting process. This year, the local chapter will grant 321 wishes. For more information about the local chapter and how you can share the power of a wish® please call 800.304.WISH or visit [www.northwestwishes.org](http://www.northwestwishes.org).*

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