

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** gmjjo@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2573 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

**LATE**

**HB2573**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Ozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To:Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts; and Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Honorable Members of the House committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts RE:SB 3107 and HB 2573: Relating to the State Instrument Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Honorable Members of the Committees. I am submitting testimony in STRONG support of SB 3107 and HB 2573 which would designate the 'ukulele the official string instrument of Hawai'i. For over 100 years, the 'ukulele has been an iconic instrument associated with Hawai'i. Throughout Hawaii's history, the 'ukulele has played a special and essential role in Hawaiian music. Soon after its introduction, the 'ukulele was quickly embraced by the Merrie Monarch himself, King David Kalakaua. King Kalakaua was an avid 'ukulele player and possessed a great appreciation for both traditional Hawaiian music as well as the musical innovations of His time. Designating the 'ukulele as our official state string instrument would not only recognize this unique instrument but also pay tribute to the world class 'ukulele musicians from our great state of Hawai'i and throughout the world. It is for these reasons that I stand in STRONG support of SB 3107 and HB 2573. Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit my testimony. Aloha and mahalo, Melissa Ozaki Resident of Waikoloa, Hawaii

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# LATE

## SUPPORT - HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR

I am a Hawaiian and a performer of Hawaiian Music. Every recording I have done featured the Hawaiian Steel Guitar - **it is HAWAIIAN!**

The Hawaiian Guitar later to be known as the Hawaiian Steel Guitar was invented by a HAWAIIAN - Joseph Kekuku of Laie, Oahu. He attended the Kamehameha School for boys where other Hawaiian boys took up on the instrument - learned, played and began performing with it soon catching on to non-Hawaiians and started making its way around the world by both Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian invented instrument influenced America's Country Western music that continues to keep its place in performances and recordings.

Much like the Hawaiian language, feather work, canoe building and navigation, creating mele or poetry, the Hawaiian Steel Guitar is an indigenous artform.

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar was not introduced to Hawai'i - it comes from nowhere else - **it is HAWAIIAN!**

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar must be Hawai'i's official state musical string instrument.

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** dainkane@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2573 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

**LATE**

**HB2573**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dain P. Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! Please accept my testimony in strong support of recognizing the 'ukulele as Hawai'i's Official State String Instrument. It's familiarity and access throughout Hawai'i & around the world is second to none. From our young keiki to our beloved kupuna, the 'ukulele provides the opportunity for all levels of skill to play. In our public & private schools, you continue to see our youth toting their 'uke wherever they go. Our senior programs... many strumming their 'ukes while their life long friends dance the hula... so many examples of why the "ukulele deserves this special recognition! Mahalo!

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**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:26 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** stefsakamoto@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2573 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

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**HB2573**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stefanie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am in strong support of HB 2573, Relating to the State Instrument, which would name the ukulele the state string instrument. While there may be other instruments that could serve as the official state instrument, none are as well-known or as widely recognized as being from Hawaii. Virtually all Hawaiian music contains the recognizable sound of the ukulele. As a former member of the Waiakea Intermediate School Ukulele Band, I would be proud to call the ukulele the State Instrument of Hawaii. Please pass this measure out of committee. Mahalo.

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# LATE

To: Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts; and

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Honorable Members of the House committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

From: Sam Kamaka, Fred Kamaka Sr., Chris Kamaka, and Fred Kamaka Jr.  
Residents of Kaneohe

RE: SB 3107 and HB 2573: Relating to the State Instrument

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My name is Fred Kamaka Jr., and I am here today with my father, Fred Kamaka Sr. on behalf of my family to support Senate Bill 3107 and House Bill 2573 which would designate the ukulele as the official string instrument of Hawaii. My grandfather, Samuel Kamaka Sr. began making ukuleles in 1916, and my family will soon be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hawaiian ukulele making. My family continues to make our instruments using many of the same techniques of my grandfather, and we are known for our traditional Hawaiian ukulele sound and design.

Today, we are only one of many manufacturers of ukulele worldwide. We handcraft our instruments in Hawaii at our Kakaako factory on South Street, where we have been located since 1959. Although today we cannot keep up with the worldwide demand for the instrument, it was not always that way. As my uncle and father can tell you, in the 1960's and 70's, the popularity of the ukulele waned. It was thought that the ukulele was on its way out, and that it was simply an instrument from Hawaii that was just another passing fad.

But the ukulele, this humble four-stringed instrument, was not a quitter. Even during this downtime, Hawaii public schools continued to teach children how to play the ukulele, local people and Hawaiian musicians kept on strumming. Even people like George Harrison of the Beatles, bucked the downward trend, and in famous footage from the 70's, busted out his 4-string Kamaka concert ukulele to jam with fellow band member Paul McCartney.

And so began the glorious come back, the huge resurgence of interest in the ukulele beginning in the 80's, increasing in the 90's and surpassing all expectations to the present day, not only locally, but nationally, and internationally. The ukulele can now be found everywhere. For example, although many people know that we have made ukulele for musicians such as the late Genoa Keawe, Israel Kamakawiwoole and Jake Shimabukuro, we have also made ukulele for Ziggy Marley, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Eddie Vedder, Bill Cosby and Adam Sandler. Even Matthew Morrison played a Kamaka tenor during the first season of Glee, singing Israel Kamakawiwoole's "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Having a ukulele is like carrying a piece of Hawaii with you wherever you go.

Whenever people ask us, "what is the best ukulele for me?" we always tell them, the ukulele that makes you happy when you play it. Because it's not about a brand, or a maker, so much as it is about the joyful and resilient spirit of this humble instrument that is directly reflective of the hearts of the people of our state. The simple, laid back, happy, no worries, underdog of an instrument... that is our ukulele.

The world sees it as Hawaii's string instrument, and I am here on behalf of my ohana to say let's make it official. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony today, and as my uncle tells everyone he meets, keep strumming.

Aloha and mahalo,  
Fred Kamaka Jr.  
Resident of Kaneohe

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:04 PM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** kekoa.kaluhiwa@gmail.com  
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**LATE**

**HB2573**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kekoa Kaluhiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a native Hawaiian musician and entertainer, I strongly support recognizing the 'ukulele as Hawaii's official state instrument. Mahalo for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 2573.

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**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:12 PM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** dean@HawaiiGoesFishing.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2573 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

**LATE**

**HB2573**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean Sensui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There are no other instruments quite like the ukulele which has gained immediate international recognition as being uniquely Hawaiian. I wholeheartedly support this bill.

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# LATE

HB2573: Official State Musical Instrument

March 12, 2014

Aloha mai kakou,

I am writing against the proposal of the ukulele being the official state musical instrument of Hawaii. Although it was made popular here, it is not native to Hawaii.

I am related to the Nunes family, who brought the ukulele from Portugal about 3-4 generations ago. Although it has been stated that it had originated there, it's origins link to Israel.

Anyway, may I propose an instrument that is native to Hawaii: the `Ohe Hano Ihu. It is the oldest Hawaiian instrument that I know of. It has beautiful tones and is very easy to make.

If you need to talk to anyone about this Hawaiian instrument, the best person to talk to is Uncle Calvin Hoe (Hakipu`u), a native Hawaiian master craftsman. For years he has made thousands of `ohe hano ihu for Kamehameha Schools and is definitely a living treasure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kealani Makaiwi

kmakaiwi@gmail.com

To the House Committee reviewing bill HB2573,

My Name is Emmalani Keauokaiwahine George. I am an active member of my local Civic Club, a windward resident, a *kua`aina*, a *ka po`e hula* and above all a Hawaiian.

This letter is to serve as my testimony against HB2573. There are several reasons that I object to this bill.

While I am proud that the ukulele has become such a renowned instrument connected to Hawaii and perfected by many from the islands, I do not feel it accurately or appropriately represents my Hawaii. The Ukulele was a foreign introduction produced by Portuguese men and based on the Portuguese Mandolin. I feel it would misrepresent the true Hawaii and its native people to pursue making the Ukulele the state instrument and will only further the ha`ole (foreign) notion of “tiki torches”, “moonlite beaches”, and “topless dancers”.

Why haven't true Hawaiian instruments been considered? I know the Steel Guitar (created by a Hawaiian named Joseph Kekuku from Laie, Oahu) and Kihoulu (Slack Key Guitar) have been mentioned by others as better candidates for the state instrument, but Hawaiians were producing and creating musical sound way before those. Instruments such as the Pahu (drum) and Ohe Hano Ihu (bamboo nose flute) were both used to produce melodies and songs, and still are used to this day. The state should be fostering the growth and preservation of Hawaiian culture, not replacing it with non-native elements. What does making the ukulele portray to the younger generation?! Its misleading. It's as if you would be officially saying that the ukulele is an authentic Hawaiian instrument, and that's not the case.

I humbly ask you to reconsider house bill HB2573. Help our state, our people, and our children accurately represent and hold fast to our culture. Either kill the bill or consider other instruments that were created by Hawaiians and truly represent our islands.

I hereby submit my testimony in opposition to house bill HB2573.

Me Ka ha`aha`a,

Keauokaiwahine George

# LATE

March 12, 2014

To whom it may concern,

Aloha mai, my name is Jordan Takekawa, born and raised in Kāneʻohe, on the island of Oʻahu. I am writing this testimony in response to HB2573, a bill to have the ukulele as Hawaiʻi's state instrument. With that said, I am writing to **oppose** this bill.

I am a proud alumni of Kamehameha Kapālama and a former student of Kumu Alan Akaka, one of Hawaiʻi's greatest steel guitarists. Although my studies with Kumu Akaka did not involve learning to play the steel guitar, I was taught its history and background.

You may be considering the ukulele due to its popularity and easy ability to learn. Yes, it is a treasured part of Hawaiian mele for years before and will continue to be for years to come, but that does not make it a proper choice when considering an instrument to represent our state. It is of Portuguese origins and was **introduced** to Hawaiʻi.

The Hawaiian steel guitar is the only instrument that can truly represent the State of Hawaiʻi. It was created by a Hawaiian man, Joseph Kekuka back in 1874 and has been (at least in my mind) the sound of Hawaiʻi ever since. Just the fact alone that a Native Hawaiian man created such a beautiful instrument should be support enough to re-write this bill in favor of it.

Let us acknowledge acts and objects that are truly 'Made in Hawaiʻi'. I am asking you to humbly consider my testimony as well as others who are in opposition of this bill, to appoint the Hawaiian Steel Guitar as the official instrument of Hawaiʻi.

Mahalo nui,

Jordan Takekawa