

HB1275

RELATING TO THE STATE INSTRUMENT.

Establishes and designates the `ukulele as the official `auana musical instrument of the State. Establishes and designates the pahu as the official kahiko musical instrument of the State.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

For hearing Thursday, March 19, 2015

Re: HB1275 RELATING TO THE STATE INSTRUMENT.

Establishes and designates the 'ukulele as the official 'auana musical instrument of the State. Establishes and designates the pahu as the official kahiko musical instrument of the State.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

There's no doubt that the 'ukulele is the instrument which local residents, and the whole world, recognize as most distinctively Hawaiian. If we follow the custom of naming a single item to be "THE state instrument" it would be the 'ukulele.

Some folks complain that the 'ukulele was not created entirely in Hawaii but is an adaptation of an instrument brought from

Portugal. But that's no reason to deny the label of "state instrument" to the 'ukulele.

Everything in Hawaii except the land itself -- all plants, animals, and people -- came here from elsewhere. Over time, after centuries of inbreeding due to lack of contact with outsiders, distinctive varieties evolved, now called endemic, indigenous or "maoli". Indeed, all people known as "Native Hawaiians" (including those with 100% native blood) have genomes adapted from ancestors who came from Asia, Europe, or America on voyaging canoes, ships, or airplanes. They did not spring forth from the 'aina like goddess Venus on Sandro Botticelli's scallop shell.

Some Hawaiian sovereignty activists insist that the only things that are truly or distinctively "Hawaiian" were here already before Captain Cook arrived in 1778. So when it became clear that the 'ukulele had overwhelming support to be named as the state instrument, Hawaiian activists felt a need to stop that from happening by bifurcating the title "THE state instrument" into two categories of ancient and modern, and of course using Hawaiian language words "kahiko" and "'auana" to designate the two categories.

So be it. It's a reasonable compromise and (in accord with their Asian ancestry) saves face for the Hawaiian activists. The billions of people throughout the world who know and love the 'ukulele will be pleased to learn that it has been officially designated as the state instrument. And a few thousand who know the word "pahu" can take pride that it has been called "the official kahiko musical instrument of the State" -- even though the sovereignty activists deny that there is any State. How wonderful is that!

The best thing about this bill is that the legislature is ratifying the choices made by Hawaii's children.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1275 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 4:27:28 PM

HB1275

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for GVO on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [GVO Testimony](#)
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1275 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM
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HB1275

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for GVO on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Morris	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing to urge passage of this bill establishing the Ukulele as the official 'auana musical instrument of the State and the Pahu as the official kahiko musical instrument of the State. 1. Anywhere in the world that the ukulele is known it is accepted to be the instrument of Hawaii. 2. As early as 1879 the original 5-stringed Braguinha was introduced to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants. 3. Hawaiians nicknamed the braguinha 'ukulele (pronounced oo-koo-lay lay) translated as "jumping flea", because of the movement of the player's fingers. 4. Manuel Nunes and his brother Octavio first brought the instrument from Madeira where Octavio was the most famous luthier at the time. 5. It was first played publicly by a Portuguese immigrant named Joao Fernandez a virtuoso on the instrument who was soon performing command performances for the Ali'i, including King Kalakaua, Queen Emma, and the future queen, Liliuokalani. 6. One of the most important factors in establishing the ukulele in Hawaiian music and culture was the ardent support and promotion of the instrument by King Kalakaua. A patron of the arts, he incorporated it into performances at royal gatherings. 7. Hawaii's first commercial 'ukulele maker was Manuel Nunes, a furniture maker who scrapped his furniture business to produce 'ukuleles exclusively somewhere on King St. In 1916 (which at the time cost about \$5). 8. The ukulele has played a prominent role in Hawaii from the introduction of western melody and harmony by missionaries to our Hawaiian Music renaissance of the 1970 and 80's. 9. Eventually, mainland companies cashed in on the Ukulele linking it to the romance of the islands, Hawaii's swaying palm trees, luaus, Hula, and moonlit beaches. 10. In the early 1900's The Honolulu Ad Club patented the 'ukulele, making it Hawaii's very own. 11. Today, ukuleles built by local luthiers using many of the indigenous woods of Hawaii are in great demand worldwide. 12. The Ukulele's popularity is worldwide and Hawaii is its undisputed birthplace. 13. For its' rich island history and its' beloved acceptance as an integral part of our island heritage it is only right that the Ukulele should be recognized by our State, as it is by the rest of the world as the auana musical instrument of Hawaii.

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