



LATE

LATE

AIRPORT CONCESSIONAIRES COMMITTEE

Honorable Clarence Nishihara
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Senate

Late Testimony

Re: SB 284 – Relating to Transient Accommodation Tax

Chair Nishihara and Honorable Committee Members:

Airports Concessionaires Committee is a non-profit organization whose membership consists of the major concessions at Hawaii's public airports.

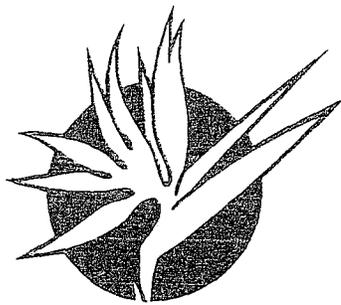
I, Peter Fithian, am the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee supports this bill and requests that funds be designated to continue the Hospitality Greeting and Training Program (Program) at Hawaii's public airports.

Attached is our testimony to the Hawaii Tourism Authority which as you know has cut back on funds for this Program.

While the Program is at all of Hawaii's major airports we have been assisting Hawaii's DOT with its administration of the Program in Honolulu, Kona and Hilo. Rather than continuing the funding of this DOT coordinated Program at \$1,000,000 a year as in the past, we believe the Program can be scaled back with funding of \$500,000 a year for the Program at Honolulu, Kona and Hilo airports. As to Maui and Kauai we ask that you check with them as to their costs and scaling back of the Program by 50% as well at those airports.

We believe this basic Program of strolling musicians with hula dancers is a basic fundamental for marketing Hawaii and encouraging others to return and/or visit Hawaii. Essentially all of Hawaii's tourists travel through our public airports and thus the airports are a gateway for promoting Hawaii. The training is an important aspect of the Program since airport employees, TSA, security and others, are trained in the Hawaiian ways of greeting and sharing the warmth of Aloha with the millions of tourists who visit Hawaii each year.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.



AIRPORT CONCESSIONAIRES COMMITTEE

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hawaii Tourism Authority
1801 Kalakaua Avenue, 1st Floor
Honolulu, HI 96815

December 4, 2008

Re: Hospitality Program at State Airports ("Program")

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our organization comprises most of the concessions operating at Hawaii's public airports. We support your continued funding of the above Program.

As you well know, over 90% of the millions of tourists visiting Hawaii pass through Hawaii's public airports. Our airports are Hawaii's front door where we meet and also say our fond Aloha to our millions of visitors each year. It is extremely important that our visitors' first and last impressions of Hawaii be both positive and a fond reminder of their stay in Hawaii. It's part of our Aloha Spirit. It is part of what Hawaii is all about. It encourages our visitors to tell their friends and relatives to visit Hawaii and experience all of its wonders and that special Spirit of Aloha. Such marketing by millions of our visitors is priceless! Don't you agree?

We were very pleased and delighted when you instituted your Hospitality Program with Hawaii's Department of Transportation, Airports Division (DOT). You filled an important part of Hawaii's Aloha Spirit that was missing and forgotten. Such a Program is more critical and important since the events of September 11, 2001 now prevent friends and well wishers from greeting and spending time saying their fond Aloha to our visitors at our public airports. This Program significantly helps to fill that void.

We were very disappointed to learn that you decided to eliminate 100% of the funding for this critical Program for the 2009 calendar year. We urge you to reconsider and to provide some funding for the continuation of this important Program.

We obtained and attached to this letter various testimonies in support of the Program. For many visitors who may have had a less than positive experience in Hawaii, we believe the Mahalo and the sharing of the Aloha Spirit by way of the Program has often changed their views and memories of Hawaii. This is just part of the wonders when one shares the Aloha Spirit.

In addition to our visitors the Program has been very successful in training TSA, airport security personnel and other workers in the ways of the Aloha Spirit and how to deal with the millions of visitors and other individuals travelling through Hawaii's airports. The results of such training have been

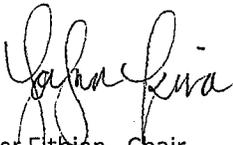
very positive and obviously important. With the constant change over of airport employees, it is critically important that this Program continue with such training. Working at Hawaii's airports with its stringent security measures and time constraints is difficult and thus it is important to periodically remind existing employees and train new employees in the ways of the Aloha Spirit.

Scott Fujii is the President of Hawaii Airports & Tourism Development Association ("HATDA"), a non-profit organization, which works with the DOT in administering the Program. Scott is presently out of town and will be submitting his testimony to you later in support of continued funding for the Program. Rather than seeking full funding of the Program at the level of about \$950,000 a year, I've been informed that HATDA will be requesting funding in the amount of \$250,000. Such amount is about 25% of your total annual funding and we urge you to provide such funds for calendar year 2009. Scott will provide you with more details.

Please continue to support this important Program which not only exemplifies our Aloha Spirit but also encourages our millions of visitors to tell their friends and relatives to visit Hawaii. In our view, this Program plays a critical role in your overall marketing efforts of Hawaii and must not be overlooked.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Please support the Program.

Very truly yours,


Peter Fithian, Chair
Airports Concessionaires Committee

PF:ld

Enclosures as stated

cc: Members of Airports Concessionaires Committee
Hawaii Airports & Tourism Development Association, Attn: Scott Fujii, President

November 5, 2003

My mother treated my sister and I on an eleven day cruise to your beautiful islands.

We had an eleven hour plane layover at your lovely air port. We got to enjoy your singing and watch your talented & graceful dancers. My mom even got one of your lays for smelling! It was really enjoyed and helped the long time go alot faster.

I thank you very much,
Donna Norman
Heide Thomas (sister)
Helga Leuzinger (mom)



"Hungerford, Evi"
<EHUNGERF@amfam.com>
10/16/2008 11:45 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Airport Ambassadors

We recently vacationed in Hawaii. While we were waiting for the flight home from Honolulu, we had the opportunity to see the Airport Ambassadors. It was delightful and refreshing, not only giving us something to do, but also the dancing and music were excellent.

What a lovely surprise! Thanks for this excellent end to a marvelous vacation!

Evelyn Hungerford
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin



"RICHARD SLAGHT"
<r.slaght@msn.com>
10/08/2008 06:59 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

Monday evening, Oct. 5th, I had a night flight leaving Honolulu. I spent time after checking in and going through security walking the airport. While walking through one of the concourses I came upon Po'okela performing for everyone. Enjoyed the entertainment and appreciated having something to do killing time. Even though I am one of those kama'aina living on the mainland coming home a couple times a year for family I enjoyed the music and hula.

I noticed how many tourists stopped and enjoyed the entertainment, taking pictures, having one last bit of Hawaii.

Good idea to fill in otherwise empty time.

Margie Slaght



garciaorale@aol.com

10/06/2008 09:27 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Pōlokela

What a wonderful idea to have this hula group of musicians at the airport. Thank you very much. We had a great time enjoying the performance. Please continue to support them. It gives a very nice impression to the ones who are coming and to the ones that are leaving! Thanks a lot. From California

McCain or Obama? Stay updated on coverage of the Presidential race while you browse - [Download Now!](#)



Judy Toenies
<judyt@gci.net>
10/04/2008 10:11 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

We were at the Honolulu airport last night and while there really enjoyed the performance by Po'okela. The performers voices, the music and dancers were a welcome change from the often blaring music in airports.

We hope you continue have them perform so others can enjoy the Hawaiian music and entertainment.



"PBSI" <PBSI@socal.rr.com>

10/04/2008 06:35 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Airport entertainment

Dear Wesley,

Just a short note to thank you for the show at the airport. On this trip, we brought my mother-in-law who is confined to a wheel chair. Her most memorable part of the trip was your performance. In fact, this morning she asked about the photo of your group. Next week she's taking it with her back to Virginia. The same was true with my mother on her visit.

I hope you are able to continue and expand your program. Such a performance creates a lasting image of Hawaii.

Thanks again and Mahalo!

J Jones

P.S. I am going to forward a few of my calendars to the Rodgers Blvd. address.

PBSI
18292 Hartlund St.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646
(714) 843-1183
(714) 843-1192 fax



"J. Thomas Uhler"
<tuhler@uhlerandvertich.com
>
10/03/2008 10:54 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Airport Entertainment

Got to the Honolulu airport early for our flight on Monday and was pleasantly surprised by the live entertainment. The music was extremely enjoyable, the dancing excellent. The troupe also volunteered to do pictures with anyone and patiently answered questions.

After a delightful two weeks on the Islands, this was an unexpected treat and sendoff.

Mahalo!

J. Thomas Uhler

Uhler and Vertich Financial Planners, LLC
Registered Investment Advisor
1510 Royal Palm Square Boulevard #103
Fort Myers, FL 33919-1068
Phone: (239) 936-6300
Fax: (239) 936-0780
Toll Free: (800) 741-0147

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Sheri Adams
<sheri_adams2002@yahoo.com>

10/02/2008 12:19 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject music in the airport

To whom it may concern,

Last week I was flying home on Delta from Honolulu. I was amazed at the pleasant difference the live music for the flight. I thoroughly enjoyed the use of the email kiosk and especially am thankful for the air conditioning about their travelers and tourists right up to the time of departure. I am so impressed!

Please pass on the word of thanks to all who were instrumental in making this nice change happen at the airport.

Sincerely,

Sheri Adams Idaho



"joplin500@juno.com"
<joplin500@juno.com>
09/29/2008 05:39 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Koko Ali'i Music

Dear Airport Ambassadors,

I recently had the good fortune to witness Po'Okela - Koka Ali'i Music with Casey Olsen and Dennis Keohokalole at the airport before my departure. These musicians and dancers are superlative!

They were my only chance to see traditional dance and music during my visit. I simply wanted to thank you for providing this wonderful service to the visitors of your airport.

A Sincere Mahalo,

Jason Joplin

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - VISITOR INFORMATION PROGRAM
HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
300 RODGERS BLVD., #4, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1897
TELEPHONE: (808) 836-6417 *FAX: (808) 836-6689

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

How may we serve you better? How would you rate our service or experience with us? We welcome your comments, ideas & suggestions. Please take a few minutes to fill out this form. MAHALO!

NAME: Robin Kelsey
(MR. MS. MRS) (PRINT)
ADDRESS: 124 W. Ocean Ave.
PHONE #: (561) 732-9740 CITY: Boynton STATE: FL ZIP: 33435
DAY/DATE: 9/28/08 TIME: 7:15 pm

E-MAIL: _____
LOCATION: @ Towards gate 18 entrance

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:
(USE REVERSE SIDE IF NECESSARY)

The Hula Hawaiian music and
dancers was GREAT!
Loved it!
Thank you
→ hope it continues.

FOR VISITOR INFORMATION PROGRAM USE ONLY:			
RECEIVED BY:	<u>Donna Miller</u>	DATE:	<u>9/29/08</u> TIME: <u>19:15</u>
SUPERVISOR:	<u>Spencer Vella</u>	DATE:	<u>9/29/08</u> TIME: <u>23:15</u>
Referred to for Action:	<u>Wes Yonamine</u>	DATE:	<u>OCT 1 2008</u> TIME: <u>10:36 am</u>



"Jeffrey Schneider "
<jeffrey@jeffreyschneider.com>

09/26/2008 12:15 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject hula at Honolulu airport

I just wanted to commend Hawaii Tourism Authority for the fantastic music and hula entertainment at the Honolulu airport. I had a 2 hour changeover and the aloha spirit of it all lifted and enriched me. The dancers with their beautiful smiles and gestures touched me, infected me with a smile which I brought back with me to the mainland. A wonderful final and lasting impression of the wonderful time spent in Hawaii.

mahalo!!

Jeffrey Schneider



"chaplaingolden @netzero .net
"
<chaplaingolden @netzero .ne
t>

09/25/2008 05:37 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Airport ambassadors

Thank you very much for entertaining us with your wonderful aloha musicians. We had a wonderful time in Honolulu and the wait at the airport become enjoyable because of your musicians and dancers. I certainly hope that you expand your troop or at least give the current group a raise or special recognition. They did a wonderful job of expressing the Aloha spirit of Hawaii. Thank you so much

Rita Golden

157 Frick Rd.

Leonard, Mi 48367



anpet1@bigpond.net.au

09/24/2008 09:28 PM

Please respond to
anpet1@bigpond.net.au

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Entertainment at the Honolulu Airport.

Hi

We loved the entertainment, sat through the breaks waiting for them to come back. Wonderful idea and the kids loved the music and dance too

Keep up the good work, should be more of it

Best regards

Peter Temby

Sent via BlackBerry® from Telstra



Cherish Hilton
<cherishhilton@yahoo.com>

09/24/2008 11:18 AM

Please respond to
cherishhilton@yahoo.com

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject great talent

I'm a frequent visitor of the Hawaii island and wanted to say, that I really enjoy the Hula dancers and the beauty of the island. It's a great experience getting on an 6 hour flight. The Monday crew is awesome and should be recognized for their talent.

 *Cherish F. Hilton*



"Joyce Voysey "
<joyce.voysey@bigpond.com
>

09/19/2008 10:52 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject comments

Hello from Gold Coast, Australia

I have the poster Po'okela and note your request for comments.

We thought the dancing and music was a wonderful thing to happen just before leaving Hawaii. Quiet and beautiful and modest.

Other things about the airport I appreciated: Going out into the open air to reach Gate 33 and the little oasis that provides business needs.

We think Hawaii (particularly the North Shore where we stayed) to be a great place to visit. We found the people in services like shops to be everything one could ask for in friendliness and joy.

Best wishes,

Joyce Voysey



Jason Stricker
<stricker@insighteducationgroup.com>

09/17/2008 09:39 PM

To "wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov"
<wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Live music at airport

The music and dancers were absolutely fantastic! It made the wait for my flight so pleasant. I actually enjoyed waiting so I could listen to the music and watch the dancers.

Thank you!

Jason Stricker
Chief Operating Officer
Insight Education Group, Inc.



Brian
Sekiguchi/AIR/HIDOT@HIDO
T

09/09/2008 07:20 AM

To Brennon Morioka/ADMIN/HIDOT

cc "Wesley Yonamine" <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>,
Kenneth Muranaka/AIR/HIDOT, Joann Y
Shin/ADMIN/HIDOT, Tammy S Mori/ADMIN/HIDOT

bcc

Subject Fw: Hilo visit

History: 📧 This message has been forwarded.

Good news, good job by VIP on the HTA funded entertainment.

Sent by Good Messaging (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Brian Sekiguchi/AIR/HIDOT on 09/09/2008 07:20:51 AM-----

----- Original Message -----

From : Sheri S Yoshizawa/AIR/HIDOT

To : Brian Sekiguchi/AIR/HIDOT@HIDOT, Chauncey Wong Yuen/AIR/HIDOT@HIDOT,
James Davis/AIR/HIDOT@HIDOT, Gene Matsushige/AIR/HIDOT@HIDOT

Cc :

Sent on : 09/08/2008 05:00:12 PM

Subject : Fw: Hilo visit

Fyi

----- Forwarded by Sheri S Yoshizawa/AIR/HIDOT on 09/08/2008 04:57 PM -----



"Kris Martin "
<JKM.Martin@xtra.co.nz>
09/06/2008 11:46 AM

To <airadministrator@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject Hilo visit

Aloha

Recently I was fortunate to travel to Hawaii and visit the Big Island. My partner and I arrived through the Kona airport and left via Hilo. We have both traveled extensively around the world and we were both extremely impressed with the quality of the departure lounge at Hilo. I am not sure whether you have a Hawaiian band and hula dancers performing all the time, but they were terrific. The furnishings in the lounge itself were very comfortable. I was so impressed that I just wanted to say – well done. Without doubt the best airport I have ever been too.

Kia Ora

Kris Martin



"Humpherys, Aaren L."
<HumpherysAL@deseretmgt.com>

09/09/2008 04:20 AM

To "wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov"
<wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Mahalo Po'okela

Aloha,

For the past three years I've been traveling to Oahu for business and every time I leave the airport to go back to Salt Lake City on Delta at 10pm gate 22, I've enjoyed the wonderful music and dancing of Po'okela. Thank you. I look forward to my next visit.

*Aaren L Humpherys, CPA
Audit Supervisor
Deseret Management Corporation
(801) 323-4218
fax: (801) 538-0655*

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"Gail Picken "
<picken@gmail.com>
09/07/2008 02:53 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

Hello Wesley

I just want to thank whoever is responsible for having Po'okela, the Hawaiian musicians, serenade me as I waited for my departure flight to the mainland. Such melancholic music mirrors the sentiments of most of us travellers leaving this paradise either temporarily or forever. It was such a nice touch, and atmospheric enough to cause to young girls to join in and perform a hula for the audience. It created a wonderful ambiance and made the pre-boarding wait so much more pleasurable. The musicians themselves were excellent. I had listened to quite a bit of Hawaiian music during my stay and these musicians easily percolated to the top, as the best I'd heard.

Again, thank you.

Gail Picken



"neil levine "
<nclevine@msn.com>
08/29/2008 08:19 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Music at Honolulu Airport

The musicians and dancers were the best thing at the airport. They were great

BTW the food court needs work.

Thanks.



<8012326501@mms.att.net>
08/28/2008 07:29 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

This is a wonderful idea to have this band perform at the airport! Keep up the great work



teako10@telus.net
03/17/2008 01:59 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Airport entertainers

THANK YOU. We truly enjoyed the performers at the airport as we left Honolulu, we had to wait for over 4 hours for our flight, and they really made the time fly by. Keep it up and hope to see you all next year, Thank you again. loved your State. Keith and Brenda Temple. Alberta. Canada.



Dan or Alison
<danandalison@gci.net>
03/04/2008 04:41 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject mahalo!

Hello!

I just wanted to send a quick message to you, to say thank you for the airport hula and music show last night! We had come from Kona to Honolulu, and were waiting right at Gate 22 for our flight to Anchorage during your show. We sat right down on the carpet with our 3-year-old daughter and watched the show, and all really really enjoyed it. The music was very fun and the hula was so beautiful to watch! It gave us such a nice boost, especially when we were feeling sad about leaving Hawaii and going home! We had such a great time on our vacation, and the hula and music was really a nice farewell for us. I just wanted you to know that your efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you, and mahalo!

Alison Arians



liliana@castroman.net
02/27/2008 08:14 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Congrats!

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Hawaii, and was pleasantly surprised at the airport. Being a very brief trip, the Po'okela group was the only opportunity to witness the beautiful musical and dancing unique cultural tradition, I would miss otherwise.

Thanks for allowing take this experience home!

Sincerely, from Panama:

Liliana,



"Rita Jensen"
<mjentwin1@msn.com>
02/27/2008 05:19 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Airport Ambassadors of Hawaii,

Feb. 27 08

I'm a few months late in sending my note of appreciation, but better late than never. I traveled alone to Oahu to see my grandchildren in January. After 2 wonderful weeks with them and my daughter, I ventured to the airport alone to begin the long journey home. Of course with the airport security requirement of arriving early, I always have 2 hours of 'dead' time to wait.

What a nice surprise when I happened upon a little concert right there in the walkway of the terminal holding area.

I heard the Po'okela group sing and watched them dance the beautiful hula. Since I was alone, and knew no one, I eagerly joined in to learn the hula too.

They were professional, talented, and warmed my heart. They made me want to stay right there in Hawaii.

What a wonderful idea to meet and greet new arrivals, as well as send Alohas to those leaving.

Thanks for the memories.

Rita Jensen



"CATHY A MORGAN"
<morganc23@msn.com>
02/20/2008 01:59 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Airport Ambassadors

History:  This message has been replied to.

On February 18 my friend and I had a 2 hour wait in the Kauai airport and were THRILLED to have the entertainment near the Delta gates. We found the trio and hula couple to be excellent! They did such a nice job of talking and interacting with as well as entertaining tourists. We stayed at a condo rather than a hotel with free hula shows so this was a real bonus for us. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Cathy Morgan
Fort Collins, Colorado



JerilynKZ
<jburtch@mtaonline.net>
02/18/2008 05:21 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc

Subject Thank you for Po'okela!

What a lovely finishing touch to our vacation! They even got my husband doing a little hula with our little girl. This was a real treat. Transformed a dreadful wait into a lovely memory. Thank you.



Jerilyn Burtch
Palmer, Alaska



"Ruth" <rkennedy@pldi.net>
02/15/2008 04:51 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Thanks

We want to thank you so much for entertaining us Wednesday evening at the airport . We had several hours to spend at the airport and your music certainly made the evening go faster.

My husband is the one that requested Steel Guitar Rag and he really appreciated you playing it. I know we would have paid a lot of money somewhere else to see a show of this quality. Please pass our thanks on to the Tourism Authority for providing this entertainment.

We are back home in Watonga , Oklahoma where the temperature is 20 degrees with snow and ice in the forecast. We should have stayed in Hawaii longer!!

Sincerely,
Ruth Kennedy



Margaret Cottle
<mmcottle@mac.com>
02/14/2008 03:56 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

Dear Hawaii Tourism Authority, Thank you so much for sponsoring Po'okela at the Honolulu airport. We stood and listened and watched for over an hour and we were very blessed by the wonderful music and dance, and also by the friendliness of the performers. It was so wonderful to have such a great show to help us to pass the time while we waited. It was a great treat to have such a high level of performance at the airport. Thank you very much. Blessings, Margaret



Dbgenghis@aol.com
02/11/2008 11:33 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Airport hula entertainment

IT was GREAT! helped pass a tiring waiting time . Learned something and thought they were terrific.
Carolyn Jo GLen Kaye, recent tourist/visitor from NM

The year's hottest artists on the red carpet at the Grammy Awards. Go to AOL Music.
(<http://music.aol.com/grammys?NCID=aolcmp00300000002565>)



"Wally Chopyk "
<chopyk@interlog.com>
02/04/2008 10:19 AM

To "\"Hawaii Tourism Authority\""
<wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Honolulu International Airport Entertainment

Just a few words to let you know how much we enjoyed and appreciated the Hawaiian songs and dancing at the Honolulu International Airport to help pass away the time waiting for our flight. The Po'okela group were great at entertaining. It was a nice finale to our Hawaiian Island holiday. Mahalo.

Aloha... Walter & Marilyn Chopyk
Toronto, Canada



"normansmithe "
<normansmithe@comcast.net
>

01/31/2008 09:10 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Po'okela

Mahalo for the lovely welcome by the Po'okela group at the Honolulu airport. For a hectic place, as the airport, it is a soothing experience to hear the music and to see the lovely the hawaiian dance. Great group.

Magalo again

Eugenia and Norman Smithe
Seattle



Frank_Hardt@ak.blm.gov
01/28/2008 06:21 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject

I was recently in Honolulu on business and enjoyed very much the music of Po'okela at the International Airport. I flew in and out on Alaska Airlines and appreciated their music and dancing. Please consider continuing this great program.

Frank A. Hardt

Jan. 25, 2008

Airport Ambassadors of Hawai'i:

I wanted to let you know how much I (and my group) enjoyed the music and dancing provided by "Po'okela". They were excellent and entertaining and we passed the long hours of waiting at the airport in an enjoyable way. My friend and I even did a hula (one we had learned on our cruise) with them. I think what I liked best was seeing how much they enjoyed what they were doing - constantly smiling, being relaxed, and so good at what they did - entertaining the crowd.

We loved our trip to Hawai'i and because of you, our last day spent at the airport was not so tiring.

Aloha and thank you! (Makalo?)

Colleen Mumley



Colleen Mumley
1632 Maquam Shore Rd.
Swanton, VT 05488



"Larry & Cheryl Struchen "
<thestruchens@gmail.com>
01/24/2008 06:24 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Airport Entertainment

We spent 4 hrs. at the Honolulu Airport Jan.23, 2008. Thank goodness for the Hawaiian singing /dancing group that was there - Po'okela. It made our long wait soo much more enjoyable.

Thank-you!

The Struchens



MM A
<sher-jaan@hotmail.com>
01/21/2008 02:39 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

Hello,

I would just like to say that my visit to the Hawaii International Airport was one of the most wonderful times I have had in an airport! Keep up the great work! Thanks!

Shed those extra pounds with MSN and The Biggest Loser! [Learn more.](#)



Jane Petrich
<jpetrich@gci.net>
01/18/2008 06:29 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject airport ambassadors/Po'okela

I was at the Honolulu airport on the evening/night of January 16th (gate 23 Alaska Airlines) and really enjoyed and appreciated the music and dancing. Thank-you!

Jane Petrich

Kodiak, Alaska



"Sarah Pike"
<sarah.p.pike@gmail.com>
01/12/2008 12:57 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Thank you for the show!

Dear Kiau, Clint & Po'okela -

On November 16, 2007, we were in Honolulu Airport at around 7am, waiting for our return flight to Vancouver, Canada. We came across your dancers - and you were one of the highlights of our trip! We hadn't seen Hawaiian dancers or received leis on our trip, so thank you so much for making our visit complete!

I have included the photos we took of your show, plus some of our daughter, Katie, dancing with her lei once we got home - and a final shot showing what it looked like outside when we got home - very rainy! We miss Hawaii!

Sincerely,

Sarah Pike
Vancouver, BC

You have been sent 11 pictures.

IMG_0300.jpg
IMG_0301.jpg
IMG_0302.jpg
IMG_0304.jpg
IMG_0305.jpg
IMG_0306.jpg
IMG_0309.jpg
IMG_0314.jpg
IMG_0315.jpg
IMG_0318.jpg
IMG_0320.jpg

These pictures were sent with Picasa, from Google.
Try it out here: <http://picasa.google.com/>





"Williams, Patti"
<pattiw@wharton.upenn.edu
>

01/11/2008 10:56 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Airport Ambassadors

I am writing just to say how much we enjoyed the music and performances at the airports in Maui and in Honolulu during our recent visit. We only got the name of Po'okela in Honolulu, not the name of the performers in Maui, but it was really fun to have them at the airport. It made the waiting time go very quickly!

Thanks,
patti

Patti Williams
Associate Professor of Marketing
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
3730 Walnut Street, 700 JMHH, Philadelphia, PA 19104
phone: 215-898-0670



"Debbie Hepner"
<dhepner@holmeshepner.com>

01/10/2008 12:12 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Po'Okela Entertainment at Honolulu Airport

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment at the Honolulu Airport – Great Idea! The music and dance enhanced our last moments on the Islands...we're planning our next trip as we speak. Please continue with this wonderful program. Aloha!

Debbie K Hepner

HOLMES HEPNER & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

813/ 229-0614 telephone

813/ 229-0714 fax



"Stephen Hunt"
<shunt.HOSPO8.HOS1@uab
mc.edu>

01/10/2008 03:14 PM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Thanks to Po'okela

I have visited Hawaii six times over the last 20 years. On my first trip to the islands in 1987, we were greeted at the airport upon arrival by a young lady in native Hawaiian dress and then we were presented with lovely flower leis. I will always remember what a welcoming event that was. It was not part of a travel package and was not prearranged for us.

On a recent visit to Oahu, Kauai, and Molokai, we were leaving from Honolulu to return home on November 28, 2007. At the Honolulu Airport, the group Po'okela was playing for travelers and tourists that evening. They were very talented performers and dancers presented by the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I am thankful that we were fortunate to experience their tremendous Aloha spirit and it was an incredible end to a very enjoyable and wonderful vacation in Hawaii.

Thank you so much for allowing these Airport Ambassadors of Hawaii to give of themselves. They not only sang and danced during traditional Hawaiian tunes, but they also played and performed several Christmas holiday numbers. Please let them know that their performances are appreciated and it is my hope that this type of offering will continue in the future.

Thank you so much to the Airport Ambassadors of Hawaii and to Po'okela!!

Sincerely,
Stephen Hunt
4087 Somerset Ridge
Birmingham, AL 35242



"marion haney"
<mrhaney1@windstream.net
>

01/08/2008 11:34 AM

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject ALOHA

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND COMMENT ON WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF VISITING HAWAII.

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SPEND FEW LAST MINUTES IN AIRPORT BEFORE LEAVING HAWAII IN SURROUNDING OF BEAUTY AND HOSPITALITY OF ITS AUTHENTIC CULTURE.

GREAT MUSIC AND DANCE OF PO'OKELA GROUP WITH THEIR WARM SMILES AND MEMORABLE GIFTS OF FLOWER LEYS STILL ARE IN OUR BEST MEMORIES OF HAWAII.

SINCERELY,
MR. AND MRS. HANEY.



"carpediemkat@netzero.net"
<carpediemkat@netzero.net>

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

01/02/2008 01:41 PM

Subject Thank you!

My husband and I visited Kaua'i (via O'ahu) for our anniversary in October. While awaiting our transfer in the O'ahu main terminal, we were entertained by the group "Po'okela". I just wanted to thank you for providing such a beautiful and authentic welcome to your beautiful state. We really enjoyed them and hope to see and hear them on our next trip.

Sincerely,

Kathy



"robyn vierra"
<rwvierra@gmail.com>
12/31/2007 02:29 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject po'okela

I just wanted to say that the performance by Po'okela at the airport was a wonderful breath of fresh air amidst the airport stress. It was so nice to come out of the security line to a little bit of Hawai'i. The music and dance make travel on Oahu a much more pleasant experience.

Thank you!!
Robyn Vierra



Joyce Choe
<ophthojoyce@yahoo.com>
12/27/2007 07:42 PM

To "wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov"
<wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

Dear Mr. Yonamine

After waiting all day for a delayed flight and then being taken off the plane to wait even longer, it was very nice to have the beautiful music and dancing of this group to brighten up an otherwise tiring and gloomy day.
Thank you,

Joyce and Jeff Kim
South Pasadena CA

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<http://tools.search.yahoo.com/newsearch/category.php?category=shopping>



ARTHUR OLSZEWSKI
<ozoneart@verizon.net>

12/21/2007 12:49 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject po'okela

Just a quick note to say how much we enjoyed the group Po'okela at the airport a few weeks ago. They were not only very entertaining but also very friendly. They made our 2 hr. wait quite enjoyable. If I were you, I'd keep them on board. Aloha!
Art/Myrna Olszewski Pittsburgh Pa.



Stephanie Evans
<Stephanieevans2@mac.co
m>

11/25/2007 06:41 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Airport Music

Dear Sir:

My wife and I recently attended the American Medical Association Interim meeting at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and Hawaiian Convention Center.

While traveling through the Honolulu airport we enjoyed the music and dance provided by Po'okela. It filled the building with a good feeling towards the state and a sense that the state cared about travelers.

Please continue and expand this service.

Stephanie and John P. Evans, M.D.

(H) 864-246-0890

(Cell) 864-906-8395

(FAX) 864-246-0890, Home



timnang87@comcast.net
11/23/2007 08:18 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Thanks!

Thank you for the great show at the Honolulu Airport on November 15th. It was very fun to watch you perform!



PJ Quell
<ledpjq@yahoo.com>
11/20/2007 08:32 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

We were at the airport between connecting flights for 5+hours; luckily we stumbled upon this group and I can honestly say that I enjoyed them immensely!! I felt they were more entertaining than the dancers we had seen at the LaHaina (sp) luau. Such great smiles; they appeared to really enjoy performing.

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WRJRPJ@aol.com
11/19/2007 10:02 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Re: airport

HI,

THANKS FOR THE "THANKS".

I RECALLWHAT YOU MENTIONED WHEN I CAME IN 1980 WITH MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS WORKING FOR A CPCU--INSURANCE-- CONVENTION. FACT, THEY JUST HAD IT AGAIN A COUPLE WEEKS BEFORE WE CAME THIS TIME. I ALSO VISITED IN 1998 AND TOOK THE CRUISE SHIP CALLED THE CONSTITUTION, I BELIEVE, WHEN MY SON WAS 27.

THE RECENT VISIT BROUGHT BACK MANY MEMORIES BUT ALSO MANY , MANY CHANGES AND , I AM SORRY TO SAY, NOT GOOD ONES IE PEOPLE, TRAFFIC ETC. FORTUNATELY THE INTERNATIONAL FLEA MARKET AND POLNESIAN CULTURE CENTER , THE SCENERY ETC SEEMED EXACTLY THE SAME. .

WE HOPE TO VISIT AGAIN.

SINCERELY,

RON AND DAWN JOHNSON

See what's new at <http://www.aol.com>



CaroleCT
<katbasil2001@yahoo.com>
10/19/2007 05:08 AM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc

Subject Airport Ambassadors

Aloha,

Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed the music and hula at the Honolulu Airport. We had a long stop over for our mainland flight and the time was well spent enjoying the show. I think it is a great idea to give arriving and departing tourists a first and final look at Hawaiian talent.

Thank you,

Carole Lalor



FRANK A GAYDOS
<f.gaydosdsl@verizon.net>
11/17/2007 08:25 AM

To WESLEY.YONAMINE@HAWAII.GOV
cc
bcc

Subject COMMENT

WE THOUGHT THE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE HONALULU AIRPORT
WAS VERY NICE AND APPRECIATED AS WE LEFT YOU BEAUTIFUL
ISLANDS. MAHALO!!

Frank



Kari Wishingrad
<kwish@vom.com>
11/14/2007 08:28 PM

To wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Mahalo

Yesterday as we were waiting for our delayed plane, I had the chance to hear your music as I grabbed some food.

A lovely woman presented me with a lei and a wonderful welcoming smile. It was a heartfelt touch for leaving a fantastic 10 day on the beautiful island of O'ahu.

Thank you for continuing the Aloha spirit in the airport - it is so appreciated and made leaving a bit easier.

Mahalo and Blessings

Kari

Kari Wishingrad

www.kariwishingrad.com

To contribute to world peace:

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"maryjo"
<maryjo@sunshinemarketing.
biz>

11/13/2007 04:41 AM

Please respond to
<maryjo@sunshinemarketing.b
iz>

To <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Po'okela

My mother and I recently visited Hawaii, it was her dream vacation. Our last stop of course was the airport. She was feeling a little down since our vacation was coming to an end, but when we saw the group playing Hawaiian music, then one of them gave her a lei, it definitely lifted her spirits. Thank you!

Maryjo Evenson

Sunshine Marketing

1130 Hunters Ridge

Battle Creek, MI 49017

269-965-4912 phone

269-832-1499 cell

269-965-5136 fax

maryjo@sunshinemarketing.biz

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From: "G. J. Huysse" <huyssegj@hotmail.com>
Recipients: <wesley.yonamine@hawaii.gov>, <huyssegj@hotmail.com>
Subject: Outstanding Performance
Date: 11/12/2007 04:09:09 PM

We just wanted to thank the Hawaii Tourism Authority for the excellent Hawaiian music and dancing at Honolulu International Airport on Thursday, November 8.

The group, Po'okela was outstanding and very engaging with the audience. We thoroughly enjoyed their show and hope that you will continue to support them and other performers at the airports.

We attached several pictures of the group's performance.

Thank you again,

Garry and Beverly Huysse

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2007_1109Image0279.JPG



2007_1109Image0283.JPG





