

## Kealakai Center for Pacific Strings Summary

**Mission:** Research, restoration, and celebration of Hawaiian music

**Category:** Arts & History

**Contact:** Kilin Reece, Executive Director

**Address:** 150 Hamakua Drive, PMB 831, Kailua, HI 96734

**Grant History:** N/A

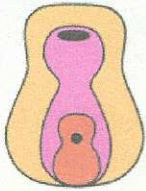
<b>2024 Request:</b>	<b>\$25,000 for general operating support</b>
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**Notes:**

- Digital collection of Hawaiian music and instruments – especially guitars.
- Forest to Frets Program - Uses invasive timbers to teach guitar making to high-risk, underserved youth.
- Performances of historical music.
- Influence of Hawaiian music and instruments on modern music.







KEALAKAI  
CENTER FOR  
PACIFIC STRINGS

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Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation  
81 East Seventh Street, Suite 125  
St. Paul, MN 55101

January 30, 2024

Building &  
Repairing  
String Instruments  
(Guitars et al)

Aloha e, Dorcy Foundation,

The Kealakai Center for Pacific Strings (KCPS) was established in 2019 and is dedicated to the research, restoration, and celebration of Hawaiian and Pacific music, and luthiery history. We believe that the musical arts have the potential to elevate the mind, spirit, and vocational opportunities for the people of Hawai'i and have devoted ourselves to putting this vision to work on the front lines of our communities most pressing challenges.

Projects and Programs:

- **The Pacific String Museum:** Launched in 2023 with the Fender and Martin Guitar Companies, this virtual museum features digital exhibitions of many of the world's most historic stringed instruments and the visionary Hawaiian luthiers and musicians that brought them to life ([www.pacific-strings.org](http://www.pacific-strings.org)).
- **Forest to Frets Hands on History Luthiery Outreach and Education:** This program up-cycles invasive timbers to become Hawaiian Steel Guitar kits, which are assembled through hands on workshops introducing at risk and underserved youth to Hawaiian culture and music history, as well as vocational training in the art and craft of luthiery (<https://www.kcpstrings.com/forest-to-frets>).
- **The Digital Pacific Music Archives and Pūmanamana Mele Index:** A globally accessible archive uniting an international community of cultural and historical archival institutions to illuminate Hawaiian and Pacific music history.
- **The Pacific Strings Collection at the Hawai'i State Archives:** A living collection of vintage stringed instruments available to the public for study, recording, and enjoyment.
- **A Legacy of Hawaiian Song & String, Volume One:** Collaboration with Hawai'i's preeminent female singer, Raiatea Helm recreating iconic compositions from the 19th century, recorded by the leading musicians of today.
- **Hawai'i Music Archives:** The world's largest collection of recorded Hawaiian music totaling over 25,000 albums currently being digitized by KCPS in partnership with the Hawai'i State Archives.



Musicians and luthiers of Hawai'i have shaped the modern soundscape the world enjoys today, yet few know the depth or detail of their stories and contributions. We are working to recenter the Hawaiian voice in the telling of this pivotal history, inspiring our local community while reframing Hawai'i in the global sphere as an epicenter of innovation, excellence, and global influence.

Music has always been used to teach and perpetuate history, religion, myth, philosophy, language and more, especially in Hawai'i. Prior to the advent of Westerners in the late 1700s, oral language, mele (songs), and oli (chants) were the only modes of intergenerational communication in Hawaii. Being fundamental to Hawaiian life and culture, these traditions carried on in the face of monumental social, cultural, economic, environmental, and political changes that would ensue as Westerners colonized the islands. As the Hawaiian kingdom sent monarchs and delegates around the world, so too were Hawaiian musicians carried into international forums where music bridged language and cultural divides. During the decades of social and political upheaval from the overthrow of the monarchy into the 20th century, Hawaiian music stood up as a means to build solidarity, to protest and resist oppression, to celebrate success, to mourn losses, to recall the past and to look to the future.

The corpus of Hawaiian music is of unique value to a range of scholars as it captures the Hawaiian experience and influence over more than a century of social, cultural, economic, and political change, spanning the eras before, during, and after the advent of modern recording technology. Hawaiian music recordings, publications, sheet music, instruments, advertisements, photographs, personal accounts—both in Hawaiian and in English—span time and geography, standing as critical, discovery-level public heritage primary resources for scholars and practitioners of the musical arts. With these resources scattered in public and private collections around the globe, the Kealakai Center for Pacific Strings (KCPS) recognized a critical need to collect and digitize this compendium of Hawaiian music history and in 2022 established a publicly accessible Digital Humanities Information Ecosystem comprised of: The Pūmanamana Mele Index, Pacific String Museum (PACSMU) and Digital Pacific Music Archives (DPMA). With this foundation set, KCPS seeks support to expand this archive with a variety of media formats sourced from private and public libraries, archives, and family collections, interpreted by a dedicated team of Hawaiian language scholars, cultural practitioners, and translators, to be presented bilingually in Hawaiian and English languages.

More than elucidating Hawaiian history, society, and culture, the study of Hawaiian music can add insight to the evolution of musical genres in America and around the globe. Hawaii's pivotal role in the evolution of modern stringed instruments and their related musical styles represents the largest untold chapter in the history of contemporary American, and thus popular global music. By 1915, Hawaiian guitar music was outselling every other genre of recorded music in the U.S., said John Troutman, curator of American music at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Few people know Native Hawaiians inspired the development of the Delta blues slide guitar or that Native Hawaiians inspired country music's incorporation of steel guitar. "And so we've been fighting against these race-based genres of music that cut out really critically important populations of people who were deeply implicated in the origins of that music, including Native Americans, including people from Hawaii, including Latinx people who were just written out of that history — written out of the stories," says Troutman.



The digital platforms of KCPS are accessible to a global community of researchers, students, practitioners, and tradition bearers of all ages. Our Forest to Frets Hands on History program targets young people aged 9-13, with a goal of ultimately developing workshops to serve all ages.

The streaming content we offer at no cost to the public consists of lectures, multimedia digital stories and exhibitions, workshops, and presentations has reached over 150,000 views through social media platforms (Youtube, Facebook, Instagram) and our online platforms average 1000 visits per month. In person workshops to date have been attended by 1500 participants, 125 of which were between the ages of 9-16.

Our online community of visitors encompasses the globe while our in person activities have been primarily in the state of Hawai'i. We have hosted workshops and captured audio and filmed content in Nashville Tennessee, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. Our intention in producing all content is to present Hawai'i as the long running epicenter of a vibrant global network of music and musicians, a community that transcends every boundary and border we imagine to exist, united through the strength of strings we share.

*We would humbly like to request support in the amount of \$25,000 for general operating support for fiscal year 2024.*

With much of our communities philanthropy focused on the critical support of Lāhaina and the needs of those affected by the devastating Maui fires, we have a pressing need for support to continue our work. 2024 will see the fruition of years of research and development in the expansion of our online platforms and the launch of the *Forest to Frets* program. Support from the Dorcy Foundation will be used to create instructional materials and instrument kits to be used in a pilot program set to begin April 1st, 2024. This workshop, offered in partnership with the Queen Lili'uokalani Trust, will see 20 young people assemble Hawaiian Steel guitars, and over the course of 8 weeks learn about Hawai'i's enduring legacy of influence and innovation in the musical arts. We greatly appreciate your consideration!

Mahalo nui loa,



Kilin Reece,  
Founder and Executive Director  
Kealakai Center & Pacific String Museum  
Digital Pacific Music Archives



# Kealakai Center for Pacific Strings Initiatives

Dedicated to the Research, Restoration & Celebration of Hawaii's Enduring Legacy in the Musical Arts and Luthiery.

## Performances & Presentations

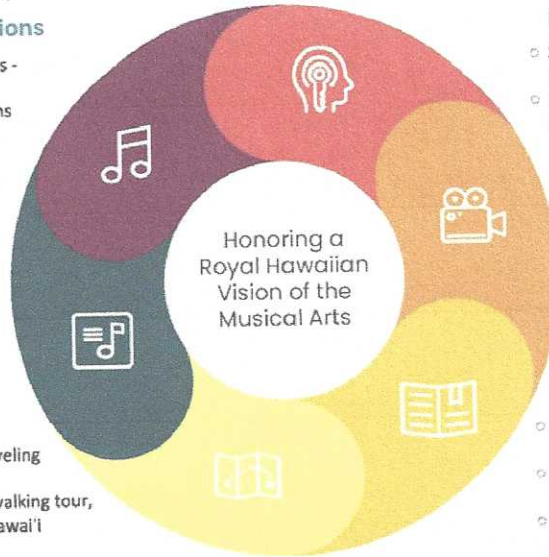
- o *Sovereign Strings Band* Concert Series - Historically informed performances
- o Multimedia educational presentations
- o Traveling and streaming concerts

## Digital Museum

- o Kaula Piko Exhibit migrated online
- o Queen Lili'uokalani Music Education Resource & Research Center
- o Interactive features and timeline
- o Publically accessible Hawai'i Music Archives

## Exhibits & Tours

- o *Kaula Piko - The Source of Strings* Traveling Exhibition
- o "Honolulu Soundscapes" app-based walking tour, sharing historic sites and sounds of Hawai'i



## Educational Curriculum

- o School of Hawaiian Luthiery - Woodworking, engineering, & CAD design vocational training
- o K-12 Curriculum Development - *String Ensemble Styles of the Hawaiian Kingdom*

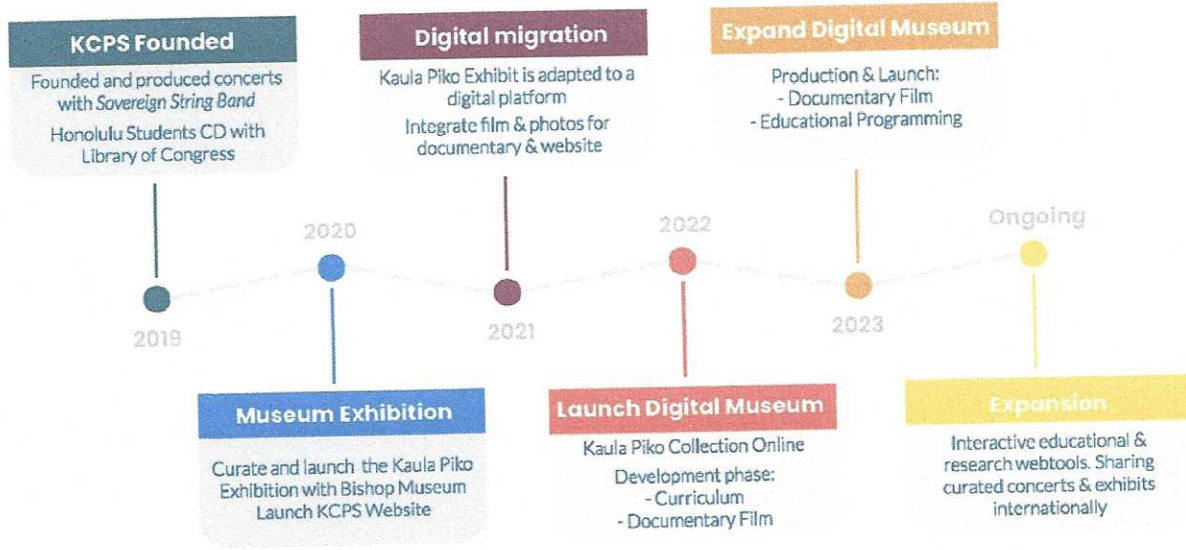
## Documentary Film

- o Development and Production of feature length documentary film
- o Integrate film content across KCPS projects
- o Screenings and promotional events

## Publications & Audio Releases

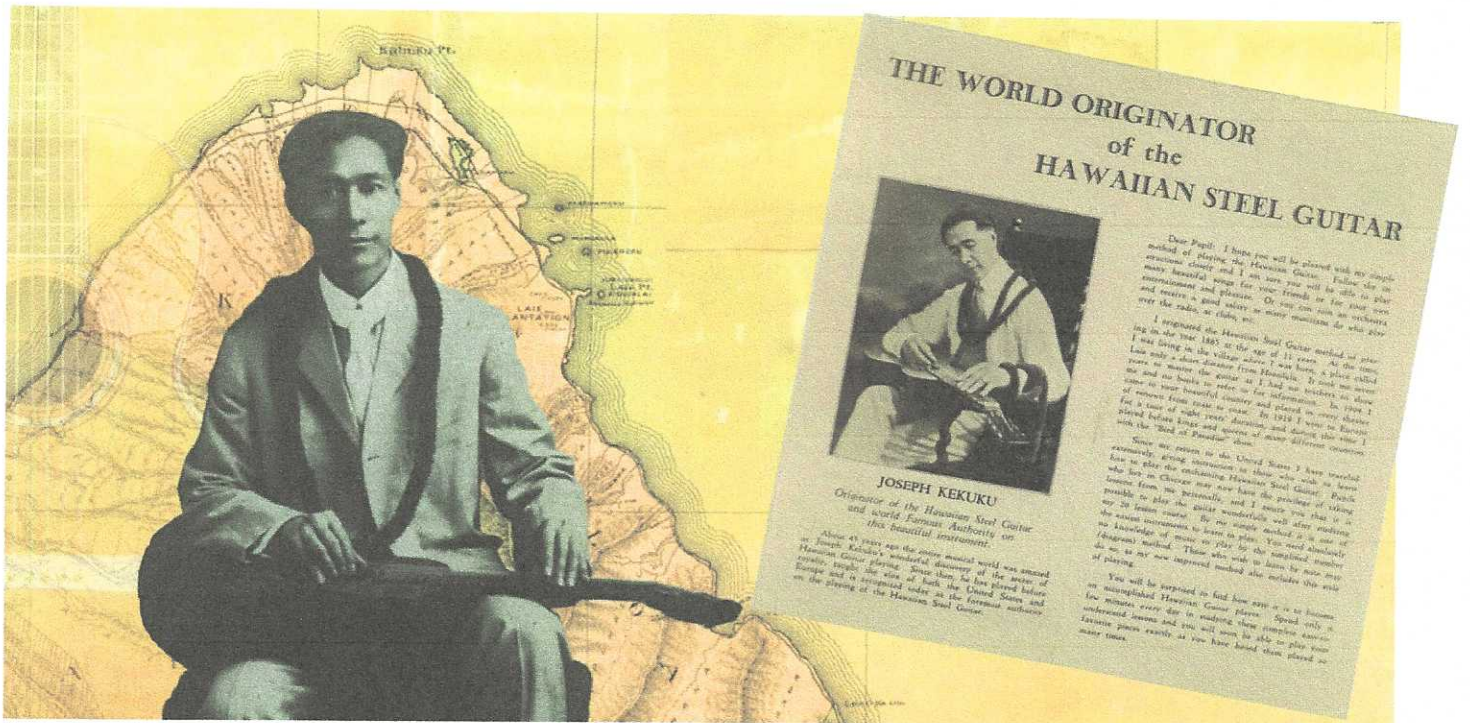
- o *Strings of the Pacific* Photographic Catalogue of Instruments with Susan Middleton
- o *Royal Hawaiian Troubadours Letters Home* with Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier & Maestro Aaron Mahi
- o *Honolulu Students Circa 1905*. A collaborative release with The Library of Congress

## Progress and Path Forward



Building support, knowledge, and awareness of Hawai'i's legacy in the musical arts and luthiery  
 Research & translation, developing relationships, educational programming for youth, community engagement, & more...





Joseph Kekuku invented the Hawaiian method of Steel Guitar playing in 1885 at the age of 11. This radical technique would revolutionize guitar design and lead directly to the advent of the Martin Dreadnought, the first electric guitar, and the Fender Stratocaster.





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10/12/23

Cash Basis

# Kealakai Center for Pacific String Traditions

## Profit & Loss

January through September 2023

9 mos

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Grants	
Corporate and Business Grants	2,189.39
Nonprofit Organization Grants	<u>72,500.00</u>
Total Direct Public Grants	74,689.39
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	<u>11,785.00</u>
Total Direct Public Support	11,785.00
Indirect Public Support	
United Way, CFC Contributions	<u>3,500.00</u>
Total Indirect Public Support	3,500.00
Other Types of Income	
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>16,637.36</u>
Total Other Types of Income	<u>16,637.36</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>106,611.75</b>
Expense	
Fees	3,936.73
Pop Up Music Events	475.78
Miscellaneous Expenses	11,255.36
Donation	1,371.20
Automobile	
Auto Repair Expense	2.00
Gas Expense	150.81
Automobile - Other	<u>79.28</u>
Total Automobile	232.09
Parking Expense	57.00
Web Design	6,487.81
Musician Fees	3,000.00
Business Expenses	
Bank Service Charges	2,250.00
Computer & Internet	3,526.34
Subscriptions	<u>260.81</u>
Total Business Expenses	6,037.15
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	2,361.62
Outside Contract Services	14,201.74
Contract Services - Other	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Contract Services	17,563.36
Facilities and Equipment	
Equip Rental and Maintenance	85.00
Rent	<u>15,453.40</u>
Total Facilities and Equipment	15,538.40
Office Supplies	3,406.13
Operations	
Utilities	226.54
Sales & Promotion	170.55
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	24.99
Postage, Mailing Service	946.63
Supplies	13,581.60
Telephone, Telecommunications	<u>981.75</u>
Total Operations	15,932.06

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10/12/23  
Cash Basis

Kealakai Center for Pacific String Traditions  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through September 2023

	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Other Types of Expenses</b>	
Advertising Expenses	2,034.39
Insurance - Liability, D and O	2,309.74
Memberships and Dues	156.96
Staff Development	188.48
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<u>4,689.57</u>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
941	1,326.97
FUTA	42.00
SUTA	938.41
Salary	17,346.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	35,192.90
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<u>54,846.28</u>
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>	
Meals	42.02
Travel	
Car Rental	157.69
<b>Total Travel</b>	<u>157.69</u>
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	<u>199.71</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>145,028.63</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-38,416.88
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Expense	
Ask My Accountant	0.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-38,416.88</u></u>



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10/12/23

Accrual Basis

# Kealakai Center for Pacific String Traditions

## Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2023

	<u>Sep 30, 23</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
FHB..0836	13,734.86
Total Checking/Savings	<u>13,734.86</u>
Total Current Assets	13,734.86
Other Assets	
Other Assets	16,500.00
Total Other Assets	<u>16,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>30,234.86</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Other taxes Paid	1,225.14
Payroll Liabilities	
FUTA	42.00
SUTA	-0.01
SITW	-54.72
Total Payroll Liabilities	<u>-12.73</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,212.41
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,212.41</u>
Total Liabilities	1,212.41
Equity	
Owners Draw	-188.07
Unrestricted Net Assets	67,627.40
Net Income	-38,416.88
Total Equity	<u>29,022.45</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>30,234.86</u></u>



## **HISTORY OF AWARDS**

### **Kosasa Foundation**

**2019-2020 \$25,000** Foundation-building for KCPS including creation of website.

**2021-2022 \$50,000** To build phase one of the DPMA.

**2023-2024 \$25,000** Advisory Council consultation, digitization of song recordings in collaboration with Hawaii State Archives, transcription, translation, formatting, cataloging and migrating assets into the DPMA and Pūmanamana Mele Index.

### **C.F. Martin Guitar Company Charitable Foundation**

**2020-2021 \$10,000, 2021-2022 \$10,000** Research conducted in Nazareth PA exploring the long running collaboration of Hawaiian musicians and the C.F. Martin Guitar Company. Company archives shared with KCPS for future addition to the Digital Pacific Music Archives (DPMA).

### **Lili'uokalani Trust**

**2020-2022 \$150,000** To migrate and expand the collaborative exhibition with Bishop Museum *Kaula Piko-The Source of Strings* to a permanent virtual space and online museum, the KCPS Pacific String Museum, which links to the DPMA and Pūmanamana Mele Index.

### **Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

**Kūkulu Ola 2021-2022 \$50,000** To build phase one of the DPMA.

**Kūkulu Ola 2023-2024 \$95,000** Advisory Council consultation, digitization of song recordings in collaboration with Hawaii State Archives, transcription, translation, formatting, cataloging, and migrating digital assets into the DPMA and Pūmanamana Mele Index.

### **Grammy Museum Foundation**

**2022 \$3,000** Digitization of historic audio recordings for use in the Pūmanamana Mele Index and Pacific String Museum.

### **Native Arts & Cultures Foundation**

**2021-2023 \$100,000** To create A Legacy of Hawaiian Song & String and complementary digital journal with musician Raiatea Helm. This album draws from research utilizing the archival resources of DPMA and Pūmanamana Mele Index and will be presented through the KCPS online platforms utilizing immersive, multimedia based digital "Scrollytelling" software to provide interpretive entry points into the online research and resource platforms of KCPS.