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The 15th 'Ukulele Picnic Presents the International 'Ukulele Festival of Hawai'i

Newly Named International Ukulele Event to be Held on July 27th at Kapiolani Park

Honolulu, Hawai'i (March 1, 2024) – The 'Ukulele Foundation of Hawai'i today announces the renaming of its annual signature event to "The 15th 'Ukulele Picnic Presents the International 'Ukulele Festival of Hawai'i" and is scheduled for Saturday, July 27th, 2024, at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. Founded in 2009 as 'Ukulele Picnic in Hawai'i, the annual all-day 'ukulele event is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a reimagining of its event with deeper connections to the Hawai'i 'ukulele community with support from Roy Sakuma, founder of 'Ukulele Festival Hawai'i.

"In commemoration of our milestone 15th anniversary, we have decided to rename our event to 'International 'Ukulele Festival of Hawai'i' to further our mission of fostering stronger ties to the local community and spreading a message of Aloha from Hawai'i to the world," said Kazuyuki Sekiguchi, event organizer and representative of 'Ukulele Foundation of Hawai'i. "Imagine the thousands of ukulele fans from around the world gathering in Kapi'olani Park with our local community, enjoying this festival together—it's truly a wonderful scene to behold. We eagerly anticipate this joyful event and all the smiles that the 'ukulele brings. See you on July 27th at Kapi'olani Park!"

The stage at the Kapi'olani Park bandstand will feature renowned Hawai'i and international performers including Raiatea Helm, Jake Shimabukuro, Kala'e Camarillo, Mika Kane, Jody Kamisato, Craig & Sarah, Cynthia Lin, Kalei Gamiao, Corey Fujimoto, Crossing Rain, Ukulele All Stars and Tomoki Suzuki, Nine Ukulele jazz Orchestra, and more

Keiki performances will include the Roy Sakuma Ukulele Studios, 'Ukulele Hale, and Kapālama Elementary School,,

Additionally, there will be 'ukulele display booths by famous 'ukulele makers from Hawai'i and a special collection of vintage 'ukuleles from the Hawai'i State Archives.

Event Overview:

Name: The 15th 'Ukulele Picnic Presents International 'Ukulele Festival of Hawai'i

Location: Kapi'olani Park Bandstand, Waikiki

Date & Time: Saturday, July 27, 2024, from 9:30am –Sunset

Official URL: www.ukulelepicnicinhawaii.org

Social Media:

Facebook (www.facebook.com/ukupichawaii)

Instagram (www.instagram.com/ukulelepicnicichi)

X (formerly Twitter) (<https://twitter.com/ukupichawaii>)

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SUPPORT FROM HAWAII'S 'UKULELE COMMUNITY

The event's transformation is made possible with the support and advise of Roy Sakuma, co-founder and host of 'Ukulele Festival Hawai'i for 52 consecutive years.

"On behalf of 'Ukulele Festival Hawai'i, we congratulate Kazuyuki and the 'Ukulele Foundation of Hawai'i on celebrating 15 years of sharing their love and passion for the 'ukulele with Hawai'i and the world," said Roy and Kathy Sakuma. "For 52 years, it has been our mission to spread laughter, love and joy through the 'ukulele and we are thrilled that 'Ukulele Foundation of Hawai'i will perpetuate the 'ukulele through their newly named 'Ukulele Picnic Presents International 'Ukulele Festival of Hawai'i."

Through shared passion and respect, the friendship between Sekiguchi and Sakuma exemplifies the unifying power of music and their shared vision of bringing people together from all over the to celebrate Hawai'i's beloved instrument.

About Kazuyuki Sekiguchi and 'Ukulele Picnic in Hawaii

Kazuyuki Sekiguchi, a founding member of Japan's Southern All Stars, has left an indelible mark on the music scene, shaping the band's distinctive sound and captivating audiences across generations. While his contributions to Southern All Stars are legendary, Sekiguchi's musical journey took a new turn in 1991 after his fateful meeting 'ukulele master, Herb Ohta, sparking a deep passion for the 'ukulele.

Inspired by Ohta's mastery, Sekiguchi traveled from Japan to Hawai'i to see 'Ukulele Festival Hawai'i for the first time, setting the stage for his lifelong 'ukulele passion. It was there that he sought lessons from Sakuma, solidifying Sakuma's pivotal role as his mentor. Sekiguchi's deep respect for Sakuma's expertise has remained unwavering throughout his career.

In 2009, Sekiguchi's 'Ukulele Foundation of Hawai'i launched the free "**Ukulele Picnic in Hawai'i**," with its mission of "bringing people together through 'ukulele." This marked a significant milestone in his dedication to promoting 'ukulele culture. Annually attracting over 5,000 attendees from around the world, it was a celebration to appreciate the beauty of the 'ukulele and express gratitude and respect for all Hawaiian music.

In 2022, his commitment to spreading the joy of 'ukulele music culminated in the formation of the 1933 'Ukulele All Stars featuring esteemed artists such as Takagi Boo, Nomura Yoshio, Oginome Yoko, YANAGIMAN, Kimiko Wakiyama, and Yu Hatakeyama. Through his multifaceted career, Sekiguchi continues to inspire and influence musicians and fans alike, leaving an enduring legacy in the world of music.

About Roy Sakuma

Innovative, inspirational, warm, funny and kind are all words used to describe Roy. In over 55 years of teaching the 'ukulele, he has been all these things and more in his role as teacher, producer, promoter and inspiration to thousands of students and the island community.

In the 1960's, as America's youth latched onto the larger, louder, more swaggering guitar, the little instrument from Hawai'i was relegated to the attic. Roy knew the instrument's true worth. And so, for more than 50 years, with his wife Kathy, and their staff of instructors and supporters, his mission has been to spread the joy of the ukulele **teaching students** and promoting the annual '**Ukulele Festival Hawai'i**, the world's first and original 'ukulele festival.