

Connections between Jawaiian Music and the Local Culture of Hawai‘i

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Abstract:

This qualitative study investigates the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. By exploring Jawaiian musicians and fan's perspectives through in-depth interviews, the study aims to detail the relationship between the music and culture. The results of the study reveals that both musicians and fans feel the strong connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. Jawaiian music inspires people to learn about the local culture of Hawaii. The local culture of Hawaii also influences how music is written for musicians. Fans are able to provide an impact to musicians on what songs are about. The culture of Hawaii is spreading Jawaiian music throughout the community. Musicians are continuing to provide songs that provide an impact on individuals in the community and fans are having a role in making Jawaiian music popular. Jawaiian music and the local culture have a coexisting relationship that is providing knowledge to both musicians, fans, and society.

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Introduction:

The dynamic of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii is unique because of all the ever changing elements. Both work together hand in hand by influencing each other in ways that reflect how unique Hawaii is. Jawaiian musician Rudey boy (2020) explains Jawaiian music as: "A diverse range of reggae, local, and free flowing Hawaiian music adopted by the local people of Hawaii " (p.1). Jawaiian music captures what the local people of Hawaii represent as in morals, values, and history. The local culture of Hawaii is unique because of the mixture of ethnicities and tight knit communities. Jawaiian music would not be as popular without the support from the locals. Jawaiian music has also been an instrumental part in spreading the local culture to the rest of the world.

Listening to the lyrics of the songs produced by local artists have a direct effect on how individuals feel about this community. Music becomes a significant part of the culture because of the generations of individuals both young and old that listen to Jawaiian music. The lyrics, instruments, melody, and sound give another point of view in what Hawaii culture is about. This continues to be the case in the past and in the present.

The lyrics of the songs produced by the local artist provide their perspectives of life on the island. The different instruments that are used to perform live Jawaiian music, such as ukulele and slack key guitar, also added to the feel of the island. With that said, these songs are not merely a musician's point of view in how they see the Island according to their values. The songs also reflect and influence the local people's perspective and how they feel about their community. Music becomes a significant part of the culture because of the generations of individuals—both young and old—that listen to Jawaiian music. In short, the lyrics, instruments, melody, and sound give another point of view in what Hawaii's local culture is about. This

continues to be the case in the past and in the present. This study examines the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. The primary focus is on the coexisting relationship between the two dynamics that strengthen each other. This study also explores the identity, meaning, and the history behind Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Literature Review:

Music & Culture

Music is an important part of culture. Researcher Martin Klayton (2012) explains how music is a part of the fabric of society when communicating creativity. He discusses the points in how music gives each person the capability to express their imagination. The culture-music connection has allowed every country, state, or nation to allow the population to take part in contributing to their community. They have been intertwined to give people the ability to use their creative minds to help society communicate on a deeper level. This connection allows the community to reflect on both sides of these two areas.

Furthermore, music is the foundation for every society. Professor Brian Nett (1975) defines how music is the common element highlighted in all social and cultural foundations of any given society. He goes on to say “Each social order develops its institutions and artifacts for perpetuation of itself, and music’s existence is one of the few things common to all cultures” (p. 71). Having a strong foundation to connect the community goes a long way in having a society that works well with one another. Music becomes a bridge to connect all cultures together. Culture is blended into music because of the influence portrayed from the individuals living in the community. Music becomes a tool that other people use to share their culture.

There are also elements that make music extraordinary, this includes the tone, harmony, melody, and form. Culture has an impact on all of the music elements including the rhythm, beat, lyrics, etc. A common connection for all cultures comes from these elements in creating a dynamic musical experience. This contribution becomes important to society by understanding all of the details that go into producing the cohesiveness between both fields. Ethnomusicologist Alan Merriam (1964) explains how these elements give people understanding of another cultural

perspective. Both elements allow individuals to see the importance between each other and the community.

Combining all of the elements will strengthen their understanding of music and culture. People in the community will decide for themselves if they have a connection with one another. Authors Bruce Horner and Thomas Swiss (1957) states “Music and culture is a revelation studied by the public, an impact that goes on in all societies” (p.23). This is what makes music unique. Examining all of the musical elements together strengthen our understanding of the relationship between music and culture.

Culture Reflected in Music

One of the ways the general public will understand another culture is through the form of teaching. Music has provided a level of interest to the standard teaching method. Not every person wants to learn about culture through a lecture. Music has given interesting methods in teaching about culture across the world. Philosopher Robert Walker (2001) describes music as a teaching tool that enhances cultural understanding. He says “Not everyone is interested in learning about culture through a book” (p.11). Music has brought cultural understanding through themes, emotions, social norms, and styles of performance. There are more engaging ways of communicating the importance of cultural background for a nation: allowing more individuals to remember the knowledge they were given because of the interesting aspect of the style or lyrics of the song.

There is a strong foundation for music. Music has a special relationship in sharing the reflection of the atmosphere of each place. Professor Abby Lomax (1976) explores the reflection of culture and musical practice in social and song culture. She says “A culture’s song

performance style has a special cultural and social role to play among human communication systems” (p. 12). The role of music has displayed a communication partnership. This in turn enhances why each culture is unique compared to their peers. The culture embraces the musicians that look to the culture makeup of the place they are performing in. Taking social cues of what the people would like to listen to, whether this would be about life or a particular subject in the nation.

Additionally, music shares a common denominator in communication. Music communicates the culture through the lyrics and vice versa. Allowing open communication in a culture allows the individuals to thrive and find new ideas to improve society. Ethnomusicologist Alan Merriam (1964) describes how an open line of communication is vitally key to music and culture. Expressions and themes come in a variety of ways from contrasting parts of the world. Without music, there would not be a common denominator for individuals to share with one another. Sharing music and culture allows other people to learn about one another. Knowledge is shared with a variety of people.

There are obvious points of how music has an effect on society. There is an underestimated function people do not see when thinking about music. Music has the power to change perceptions. Individuals do not always see both sides of a culture. Music has provided the population more understanding of situations through the styles of producing entertainment. Professor Brian Nett (1975) states “music has provided color to situations that had no detail. Cultures were brought to life” (p.14). Music expresses the characteristics of the community, allowing others to understand the full picture of what the community represents. Music has touched the hearts and opened the eyes of countless people throughout society. They have the

ability to express what they are going through in the community. The power to change perceptions throughout the world goes a long way in making change.

Music & Identity

Inspiring change has come from music as well. Music has inspired us to make a difference in society, creating trends or unique ways to operate in life and encouraging us to try new skills. This has brought out the best of people. Music professors Steven Kelly and Van Weelsen (2004) explain that music has brought out people that operate out of the box. Music has given individuals the ability to reach their creative potential. This has allowed people to access a side of themselves they never knew existed. The power of music has opened the eyes of the public to learn about their own culture.

The reflection of culture and music is evident in today's society. Ethnomusicologist Alan Merriam (1964) discusses the studies of how important recognition to cultural influence interplays between the invention of music making. He says "Music is a product of man and has structure" (p.7). Both subjects intertwine with one another by teaching the people about the identity of where the music comes from. The culture influences the inspiration of the music. Man makes music by using the surroundings, atmosphere, and people to inspire the lyrics. Society mirrors both of these subjects by using the general public's opinion in deciding what is popular. The preferences, degree of difficulty in rhythm, recognition of emotions, and themes.

Music has been proven to provide a connection among individuals. Communication improves when music and culture are involved with the public. Anthropologist Alan Lomax (1976) describes how a culture's song style influences human behavior. This special connection allows individuals to result in behaving in a certain way. The music reinforces what is socially

acceptable to listen to or not. The social norm of a culture is influenced by music. Anthropologist Alan Lomax (1976) says “music and culture is connected to life experience” (p.7). Society thrives on both of these elements working with one another to bring joy to the population. The balance between music and culture shapes the community in how everyone behaves.

There are many ways music has had an impact on society. Music making is an art that cultures encourage. Music instructor Keith Swanwick (1996) discusses music-making as an avenue to understand ourselves, while understanding others. Music making is becoming an open way of communication between people. Keith Swanwick states “music making allows the musician to look at themselves and decide what others want” (p.18). Fans listen to the music and decide what the identity is of the musician. They start to form a relationship with the music and their own identity. This goes into how individuals develop a cultural identity in Hawaii through music.

Developing Cultural Identity in Hawaii

Generally speaking, music is important to a culture because of the effects it has on the people. Music has a way of connecting to the culture. Jawaiian music is no different. John Berger (2012) explains how popular radio stations such as radio stations “KCCN/ FM 100 spread the popularity of Jawaiian music within the Islands” (p.1). The popularity of Jawaiian music has allowed more and more people to identify with what is trending in Hawaii. They have used the music aired on the radio to reinforce their identity as a person. Music is a tool for the community members to express themselves. In this sense, Jawaiian music expresses the local culture of Hawaii. Jawaiian music gives people the ability to express themselves as they are communicating with one another. Although each person has a preference of genres they listen to

make themselves happy, Jawaiian music--being a mixture of genres --allows them to be united under the broader “Jawaiian music.”

One of the influential musical artists that sings Jawaiian music is Roman De Peralta. Roman’s local music has an effect on how people see the culture of Hawaii. His perspective of the lifestyle he lives is a direct reflection of how his home town has treated him and his family. This is evident in all of his songs produced. His album *This is the life* (2009) talks about the beauty of the Islands. There is aloha throughout the lyrics that people want to identify with. According to George Kaunahale (1979) “Aloha is the spread of love and fellowship” (p.17). Roman De Peralta mirrors the values and traditions he was taught when living on Oahu. He is just one example of how musicians use their platform to share their culture to the audience. This in turn persuades fans to listen to more Jawaiian music from other artists on radio stations, concerts, and community events.

Jawaiian music has made its way to parts of the world that are far away. The music that has come from Hawaii has touched places including the Philippines and New Zealand. Roman De Peralta (2009) talks about how Jawaiian music has had an effect on parts of the world he did not think he would be able to reach. This genre continues to offer individuals a way to identify themselves and embrace the local culture of Hawaii, even though they are not living here. Many of his songs have talked about the landscape and the people that have inspired him in his songs. The whole world is looking for an identity to live by, the local culture of spreading aloha is something that people can get behind.

As an individual that grew up in Hawaii, Kaunahale (2020) talks about the connection between Jawaiian music that went hand in hand in making the community better as a whole. These aspects connected with one another because of how much influence it had on the

community. Music has had a hand in shaping lives. Jawaiian music teaches you about yourself. The values you cherish when living in the moment. The spirit each person embodies from listening to this genre shows the impact it has on a person's life. Many people would not be the same person without the presence of Jawaiian music. *Aural History* (2012) talks about this genre giving an identity to individuals. The person uses music to describe their personality: whether this be happy, melancholy, creative, etc. Kaunahele (2020) talks about Jawaiian music describing her personality as free and easy going. The local culture is everywhere on Oahu. Weintraub (2015) mentions how the people, atmosphere, and community explains what living in Hawaii means. People in the community not only talk about the local culture being different from Hawaii, but the action is different as well. The action of showing aloha is evident in the Islands.

Fostering Meaning in the Community

Jawaiian music has a strong influence on how people are raised and what is important to them. Music goes hand in hand in shaping a community. Jawaiian music holds individuals accountable for reaching and teaching the general public about Hawaii. In Hawaii, words such as aloha, malama aina, and ohana tie strongly into both fields. Malama Aina means taking care of the land. The word ohana means family. The values from both Jawaiian music impacts multiple generations that live in Hawaii. *Aural History* (2012) talks about the values in Hawaii going back generations starting with their ancestors: "Ancestors going back from the start to uphold lifelong values" (p.9). Lineages from families recognize the importance of keeping words alive. There becomes a sense of pride to uphold the traditions and values passed down from culture and music. Each generation takes satisfaction in upholding and teaching values they learned from culture and music.

The meaning behind lyrics vary from one local musician to another. With that said, one word that connects all of the songs in Hawaii is aloha. When bands perform there is a sense of joy to show the audience how much they enjoy their profession. This is shown throughout the show as the crowd participates. The energy becomes contagious for the crowd when singing along. Aloha is given to everyone listening to the music. Aloha is about love, care, and affection. This word has a significant weight. Aloha is shown in every place where you interact with another human being. This act of kindness happens at any time of the day. Make no mistake, culture is thriving because of the norm spread throughout the state. Sunaina Keonaona Kale (2017) explains how Jawaiian music has brought “a symbol for the local people of Hawaii” (p.27). Aloha becomes the ultimate symbol for what the people stand for, but also for other places that are interested in learning about Hawaii. When the world thinks about the Islands, aloha becomes the word that stands out and shows who we are as a whole.

Another word that brings meaning to music is Malama Aina. Malama Aina means taking care of the land. This is an inspiration for many musicians that look for lyrics that describe the beauty of the Islands. The unique landscapes, ocean, and weather provides the unimaginable words to express the beauty of the scenery. Every person that has the luxury to live on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Big Island, etc knows how special this place in the middle of the ocean is. Many of the local families living in the Islands want to protect the sacred parts of the land to preserve what we have from the past. Native resident of Hilo, Kainani Kahaunaele (2020) discusses how the public has vocalized energy in taking care of the land because of how lucky a place this is. She explains “Hawaii is one of a kind because of the landscape” (p.5). There is only a limited amount of land in the state of Hawaii. One issue that many local people protested to preserve the land was Mauna Kea (2013). Locals wanted to keep this land sacred from technological

advances. Kaunahele (2020) believed in “taking care of the land by themselves” (p.8). Malama Aina is a word that is used throughout many of the lyrics to describe what they see. The band “Sons of Yeshua” (2015) made a song about Mauna Kea. The lyrics say “ We are Mauna Kea, fighting for the land. People rise up to take a stand, He Mauna Kea.” The band talks about the people of Hawaii rising up and fighting for what happens to the land of Mauna Kea. Taking care of what you have is a core value that is upheld to the highest standard today.

Taking care of the land is instilled when you live on the Islands because this is a responsibility people take seriously. Everyone holds each other accountable. If you look back at how the ancestors of Hawaii used to be self sustainable, the modern people could take lessons in how to take care of the land. This applies to Jawaiian music in which lyrics explain the connection of taking care where you reside: the land and ocean. *Aural History* (2012) discusses how preserving the land is a tradition that has been passed down from the first generation that has come into contact with the Islands. The first people that lived here were able to live a sustainable life because of the importance they emphasized. Again, *Aural History* (2012) talks about how they took care of the earth. The Kamehameha family lead by example in taking care of the acres of land. They also knew when to not overharvest. The ocean was used for many food resources, but they did not overfish. If you did not take care of the land, you were not worthy of living on the place you resided. Hawaii has such a limited amount of space to live, they believe in taking care of every inch because of the scarcity.

At the same time, Jawaiian music has had a significant tie to the word ohana. Ohana means family. Jawaiian music has always been a venue where you could take the whole family to have a good time listening to performers. The Waikiki Shell, Blue Note , and Blaisdell Center have been places that host thousands of families and have made memories using musical

experiences. Memories with loved ones are irreplaceable to the normal human being. Hawaii really puts heavy priority on this tradition. Native resident of Hilo, Kainani Kahaunaele (2020) shares a story of how much of her ohana strives on the meaning of aloha. Ohana is a word that glues a variety of individuals together. They realize how crucial taking care of your family will go a long way in having success. Family is the people that will be there for you in the hard times. This state is unique because not only people that are blood related become ohana. If a person is close enough to a friend or family, they become ohana because of the time spent together. Being there for one another is a common practice in the Islands.

Sticking together with your family has been a tradition from the past. Ancestors that first lived in Hawaii talked about not having anything except each other. Researcher George Kahaunaele (1979) talks about how the love for Hawaii comes from music, but also the families in the community. He explains “family being the most valuable gift in Hawaii” (p.18). Family has such a significant part in shaping a person. They have an impact on who you become either positively or negatively. In Hawaii, ohana becomes a common staple to never forget when you are living your life and becoming successful. Remembering who has helped you throughout the process is part of the local culture not many people talk about. All of these words have Jawaiian music mixed together. The meaningful connection is wonderful in how all of these words have a special part in shaping Hawaii. The people use Jawaiian music to preserve the meanings that make the people of this state unique.

A Brief History of Jawaiian Music

The history behind Jawaiian music is astounding. There is an abundance of history behind the music . The lyrics, songs, instruments, and influential icon figures bring valuable history to the curious individuals. Writer Stephen Holley (2018) shares about the profound

appreciation achieved when learning history behind the music. The historical context varies from the traditions, values, and ancestors that made up Hawaii. The stories that came with the songs are another positive effect that allowed children to learn about the culture when they heard this music. The significant factors that resonate with the community involve talking about how impactful musicians influenced generations from before and now. Jawaiian music is popular in the local culture of Hawaii, but this style of music has traveled across the world. There are many musicians that bring curiosity from other ethnicities to learn about the local culture of Hawaii.

Starting off, Jawaiian music was introduced to Hawaii in the late 1970's by Jamaicans. The real popularity did not come into the 1990's. Jawaiian music started to gain popularity because of the similar laid back lifestyle of both local Hawaii people and Jamaicans. Weintraub (2015) describes the evolving history of Jawaiian music. He describes the phenomenon "90's being one of the turning points for popularity of Jawaiian music" (p. 85). This genre of music mixed Hawaiian, reggae, slack-key, and local music together. Before they knew it, Jawaiian music was being played in concerts, on the radio, and on television. People of Hawaii embraced this music, in part, because the variety of instruments used are already familiar to them. The emergence of the ukulele and guitar has had an impact on the people. Seeing local musicians use these instruments makes them inclined to listen to their music. Many musicians started to gain popularity, while performing for the people. This impact did not stop at Hawaii, but started to reach parts of the world unimaginable.

Moreover, the local community made this genre of music popular in Hawaii. This adoption of music had a direct impact on the people at that time in the 1990's and the upcoming future years to today. Again, researcher Andrew Weintraub (2015) describes the history of Jawaiian music as a symbol people cherish to this day. The unique aspect of having a mixture of

genres brings local music together. This music symbol is not just for entertainment, but the evolution of the local culture as well. Jawaiian music became a part of people's daily lives beyond merely listening to the songs. The melody was incorporated into the values that bring Hawaii closer together. Aloha being one of the values. Listening to this genre goes on in television, radio, youtube, and concerts in the community. These events are spent with family and friends that mean a lot to an individual.

Notable Musicians: Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and Kelly Boy Delima

Two influential trail blazers for Jawaiian music are Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and Kelly Boy Delima. They have brought attention to the popularity of Jawaiian music in the Islands of Hawaii. Bringing the community together with their voices and talented ukulele skills. The vision of playing music in Hawaii is cemented in history through generations.

One of the popular artists that brought his own flare to Hawaii was Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, Israel was a Hawaiian musician, singer, and songwriter. He made sound waves that the world could hear. The strum of his ukulele brought people together and so did his nickname Bruddah Iz. He was a musician that touched people with charisma and love for the Islands. Journalist John Berger (2012) covered De Mello saying "IZ continues to grow, experience shows us that if someone hears Israel's voice, they instantly fall in love with him" (p.2). Aloha was shown when he performed for the community in concerts or on the radio. Jawaiin music is not only a genre, but an Island music staple. Many musicians would be singing for one genre, but the public would categorize their songs in the Jawaiian music category. One of his popular songs that taught people about a legendary Hawaii story was his hit single "Maui Hawaiian Sup'pa Man" (1993). Not only did this classify as Jawaiian music because of the style, but this song explained one of the legendary demigod stories told through many generations in

Hawaii. If you are a part of the local culture of Hawaii, you have heard the story of demi-god Maui pulling up the Islands with his magical fish hook. This story opened up an imagination or creativity for children looking for purpose in life. His song brought curiosity to learn about a legendary Hawaii story known by every person. Bruddah Iz's originals shared the values and history of Hawaii stories.

Additionally, Braddah Iz brought popularity to the local culture. He was one of the many musicians that embraced being from Hawaii. He made his livelihood by doing his passion with an ukulele. His talent endorsed how talented and amazing the people of Hawaii are. *Aural History* (2012) expounds about the culture of Hawaii being ingrained in the music of many musicians that perform in this state. The local culture and Braddah Iz was in unity when performing. This man is a local icon because of his natural god given gift. His music brought life to individuals that were searching for purpose in a world that gives no direction. His gift allowed others to express themselves in ways that would be peculiar to the average person. Being yourself was one of his lessons when he used his talent. Inspiration was given when they learned how one of the native locals was thriving. He brought inspiration to his peers, but another generation that was curious in enjoying where they lived. Making a living doing his passion has drawn many people to search for ways to thrive and stay put in Hawaii.

Another prominent figure that has brought attention to Hawaii culture is Kelly Boy Delima. His band Kapena was formed in 1984 and has primarily performed for many popular venues on Oahu. He has used a Jawaian music style in many of his performances. Providing a more upbeat, instrumental sound to his original music, while incorporating the Hawaiian language. This Jawaian musical group has touched the lives of many families because they are a family band. The talented Kelly Boy Delima started off performing with his brothers and now

has transitioned to performing with his wife and kids. The Kapena Group has always performed as an ohana. They resemble what makes the community of Hawaii strong. Family being together and taking care of each other. One of his most memorable moments was his original “Don’t Say Goodbye” (2015). Not saying goodbye to your loved ones is important for many loved ones in the Islands. Families in Hawaii often interpret saying goodbye as never seeing you again. Instead family members say “see you later.” This makes the family feel better when someone leaves. Living close to one another helps lessen the feeling of being alone. They can always count on ohana to be there.

Surprisingly, Kelly Boy Delima started playing music in 1984. Kelly Boy Delima and his brothers did well in getting popularity among the community. Kelly Boy Delima’s band made up of his brothers took Hawaii by storm because of how talented they were in performing Jawaiian music. He always played music because he enjoyed making people happy with his music. Writer Kevin Allen (2018) discusses how Kelly did not expect how individuals would listen to their music. He admitted that his music fell under the category of the Jawaiian movement. The Jawaiian music movement started happening just around the time his band “Kapena” started gaining popularity. This was another example of how the locals revolutionized music. The local people of Hawaii pushed the popularity of Kelly Boy Delima’s band. Supporting his music through attending concerts, putting his song on radios, and giving publicity through television. They set the tone in what they believed was the new trend in Hawaii. The community of Hawaii made the band “Kapena” popular. This genre has come a long way from the 90’s to now. Kelly has not stopped performing for his fans, he has performed many venues over the years that would bring memories to all people. Being around for a long time has allowed individuals to

learn about the history from one of the bands that would project Jawaiian music to being the trend.

Likewise, the band Kapena has represented Jawaiian music to the fullest potential. What they stand for in representing as a family brings inspiration to families across the Islands because of their sense of unity together. In Hawaii, ohana is a central part of life. Surviving and thriving together is what makes this place great. *Aural History* (2012) also talks about not letting the local culture of Hawaii die because of the community not keeping the tradition going. Kelly Boy Delima has not only inspired thousands of families, but continues to help struggling families through music. There are families that sometimes struggle, but accepting the faults and being united is something that stands out. Standing strong together as a local culture gets us through many problems that rise through life.

Moreover, Jawaiian music has had the same connection in providing history to musicians. Jawaiian musicians look at history or past events to find inspiration for the songs they create. Every musical artist needs to draw inspiration from somewhere. The past is carried through music. Jawaiian music has sparked curiosity within the community to learn about the ukulele. Jawaiian music sparked people's interest in learning ukulele and the history of the instrument. The 4 string ukulele has a history that goes back to the 1800's. Historians John King and Jim Traquada (2003) talk about how the Portuguese people brought the introduction of the ukulele in 1879. An interesting instrument that would make soundwaves across the Islands. This musical tool gained a popular name among the locals. They called the ukulele the "Jumping Flea" because musicians were able to use their fingers to make melodies. Little did they know that this instrument would be a generational symbol allowing many generations to express themselves in a creative way.

Similarly, King and Traquada (2003) discuss the development and exposure of the ukulele. This instrument is a symbol for the Islands and Jawaian music. There have been and continues to be many musical artists that use the ukulele as their main instrument to create songs. Many of the musicians play ukulele in Hawaii. Bruddah Iz and Kelly Boy Delima are two musical artists that used the ukulele to reach the public. Speaking to the public through music has had a significant impact on people. This symbolic instrument has given people knowledge of history. This avenue of communication differentiates from the normal lecture of history. Allowing the individual to be engaged, while being entertained by lyrics that sound good. Many kids grow up learning about the background of the ukulele not because they intend to, but Playing the ukulele gives them the opportunity to learn about its history. Opening up the conversation of what the ukulele means through the years in the past. Also the aspect of seeing everyone know how to play the ukulele, makes people want to learn. Playing the ukulele is a common sight in Hawaii. Learning how to play this instrument may come naturally for many, like learning to surf and enjoy the sunset on the beach.

With this in mind, they also learned that Queen Lili'uokalani was one of the influential individuals to make the ukulele famous. All of her legendary songs were performed with an ukulele. They were the spearheads in intertwining the ukulele with the culture of Hawaii. Many of the ukulele performances were intertwined with hula, chants, and other traditions. Learning about historical traditions complimented in allowing people to learn about Hawaii. The ukulele has made many iconic individuals love strumming the 4 string musical tool. After the Queen made the ukulele popular among its people, this popularity continues to this day.

In the same fashion, ukulele is the main instrument that many families, including kids, adults, and elderly are able to learn to play. People that grew up in Hawaii, teach about why the

ukulele is the most vital instrument that people use to express themselves when singing. King and Traquada (2003) talk about ukulele being played by adults that teach their kids. Ukulele is closely tied with one of the beloved traditions to entertain special occasions. Ukulele is a popular instrument for people of all ages. Those who grew up in Hawaii are cognizant of the fact that ukulele is the most vital instrument used in songs. Not only people enjoy listening to the sound of ukulele, this musical tool is also used in hula. Hula is a dance performed in Hawaii to honor the gods and praise the chiefs. It is also a dance performed with ukulele in special occasions such as weddings, graduations, birthdays, and luaus. According to Kaunahlele (1979) Luaus are a Hawaiian party or feast. This dance with the melody of the ukulele brings joy to many families living throughout the Island. Also hula allows the individuals living in Hawaii to honor the past while celebrating the present. The historical relationship between hula and the ukulele becomes fascinating to learn about for all generations. Hula and ukulele is one part of what makes Jawaiian music interesting and great for people that are immersed in the local culture of Hawaii.

This level of connection is clear in saying how much Jawaiian music has made in providing a positive impact on the people living in Hawaii. Listening to Jawaiian music and living in the local culture of Hawaii shapes a person's identity to be the person they are today. They gain meaning in what their life means to them. Learning about traditions and meaning behind songs allows the normal person to happily live in the Islands. All locals living in Hawaii as a bonus get to learn about the rich history of where they are living. This relationship is constantly evolving between Jawaiian music. The beauty and impact made on the individuals is dynamic. We will continue to see both of these elements help one another.

Research Question

Music and culture influences one another. The world has found that the community is heavily involved by both of these subjects. Hawaii is one such community. Understanding the relationship between the two will allow people to see how music reflects the tradition, value, and culture of the community. Moreover, music is one of the few elements that connect the world. Kenneth Williams (2002) talks about music being a universal language that communicates about cultures in a variety of ways. In Hawaii, Jawaiian music is the language that communicates the uniqueness of the local culture and lifestyle.

Jawaiian music is influencing the community's past, present, and the future. Respected author Andrew Weintraub (2015) discusses how Jawaiian music has been dominating the soundwaves of the local community for a long time. He also goes on to explain how the local culture has had an effect on what the music portrays. Exploring Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii will help us better understand the relationship between the two.

Research Questions:

RQ1. What is the relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii from a musician's perspective?

RQ2. What is the relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii from a fan's perspective?

Definition of Key Terms

Jawaian music and the local culture of Hawaii are two essential components in this study. Jawaian music is a mixture of Hawaiian, reggae, and local genres that the audience enjoys. The local culture of Hawaii is the values and traditions that represent the community. The term musicians in the context of my study is professional musicians who play Jawaian music at venues such as the Waikiki Shell, Blue Note Hawaii, and Hula Grill, etc. Jawaian Musician Rudey boy (2020) talks about diverse local music people choose to listen to in Hawaii. The definition for fans in this study are those who have a strong interest in or admiration for a particular person or thing. The Webster dictionary (2011) talks about a fan being a devoted spectator. This applies to Jawaian music fans who become avid listeners of the genre. Weintraub (2015) explains the embrace of the local music lifestyle that brings the community together with the various genres. These venues consist of concerts, parties, and restaurants where musicians are able to perform for the public. Embracing the new or old mixture of genres helps show the adaptation and acceptance of Hawaii culture. All generations allow Jawaian music to thrive in the community. They support the local musicians that create one of a kind Jawaian music. Speaking to the community through this type of music resonates with everyone because of the meaning behind the songs. Musicians regularly show what living and performing in Hawaii means to them. “Don’t Say Goodbye and Maui Hawaiian Sup’pa Man” were songs that represent the movement of the Jawaian music era. Kelly Boy Delima and Bruddah Iz were held under the category of what Jawaian music was coming to fruition in the 90’s.

In return, the local culture of Hawaii is the melting pot community of cultures that are accepted. This multiethnic community is the center of what makes Hawaii a unique place to live. All of these variables make up Hawaii with the support of the people. Again, Weintraub (2015)

discusses the local culture of Hawaii. Values being held to the highest standard in representing what the local community stands for. An example would be aloha being the staple to hold Hawaii together.

Methodology

This study explored the connections between Jawaiian music and local culture of Hawaii. In order to answer my research question, I conducted in-depth interviews with Jawaiian musicians and fans in Hawaii. I interviewed five Jawaiian musicians and five fans of Jawaiian music. Professor Keith Punch (1998) states the strength of qualitative interviews. “Gathering social details of the participants in their own words provides the interviewer distinctive experiences” (p. 22). This method was effective for my study because I needed a variety of perspectives from musicians and fans of Jawaiian music. These experiences became valuable to understanding my research.

Specifically, this research seeked out volunteers to speak about Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. I used my personal connections from the music industry to recruit musicians that perform Jawaiian music. Each fan and Jawaiian musician has had at least 2 years of experience in this field. Whether this be performing as musicians or fans listening to Jawaiian music. Interviewing expert Maria Tongco (2007) discusses how the snowball sampling allows research participants to recruit other participants. I asked one musician to be part of my interview and this person asked who else would be taking part in this study. Then I was able to get other musicians from this person and fans from other Jawaiian musicians that loved listening to their performances. Snowball sampling allowed me to have my group of interviewees that are musicians and fans of Jawaiian music.

There were 2 groups of questions for musicians and fans of Jawaiian music. (See Appendix A and B for interview questions). I asked the musicians questions on their experience of performing Jawaiian music. Then this transitioned to another category of questions of how Jawaiian music has had an impact on the culture and community. For the fans, they had a similar

set of questions of how long they have enjoyed Jawaiian music. The next set of questions will ask about the impact of the music from a fan perspective.

The interview sessions were done with two different sets of questions for Jawaiian musicians and fans. Each interview was audio-recorded and all of the answers were transcribed. Finding connecting themes and concepts during all of the interviews was interesting. There were overlapping similarities from both musicians and fans of Jawaiian music. I analyzed the interviews using thematic analysis. Thematic Analysis is “qualitative data analysis method that involves reading through a data set” (p.11) of *Thematic Analysis: Striving to Meet the Trustworthiness Criteria*. Researcher Norris Nowell (2017) explains the patterns and themes that come up during an interview. This became an important part of the study, while allowing the effectiveness of thematic analysis. I looked for patterns between the musicians and fans. This was important because I was able to use these patterns and see where both perspectives crossed over each other or related. This helps explain the dynamic between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Results

The results of the data were gathered from all ten participants willing to share their knowledge of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. There were 5 Jawaiian musicians and 5 fans that listened to Jawaiian music. All of the participants reside on Oahu. All participants chose to be anonymous, alias names will be used to report the interview results. I will be going over the results of the musicians, then the fans. For both Jawaiian musicians and fans, they will be categorized by themes from the interview questions. Both interviews from musicians and fans will be discussed in this chapter.

Understanding the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii will help the community. Giving this knowledge to the community will help them understand why it is important to support Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. Musicians and fans have given an insight from each side between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. Analyzing all interviews has allowed cross section comparison between both groups. Each fan and musician was able to reveal a special quote and experience that stood out to them. The cross connections between both parties became clear that Jawaiian music connects to the culture of Hawaii in a variety of ways. Both males and females emphasized this part in their interview. All participants did not want to have their identity known, therefore alias names are used to report the results.

Table 1: Demographics of musicians and fans

Albert- Musician	5 years experience	Kaneohe
Bob- Musician	3 years experience	Kaneohe
Carl- Musician	2 years experience	Hawaii Kai

Daphne- Musician	2 years experience	Ewa Beach
Eliza- Musician	6 years experience	Waipahu
Abby-Fan	22 years experience	Kapolei
Bianca-Fan	15 years experience	Kailua
Chaz-Fan	3 years experience	Kalihi
Derrick-Fan	10 years experience	Waianae
Eli-Fan	2 years experience	Wahiawa

The table above shows 5 musicians that have had at least 2 years of experience. The fans of Jawaiian music have also had at least 2 years of experience in listening to this genre. They are all from the Island of Oahu.

Each participant has unique experience and knowledge. Giving the time to share their life experiences will allow the readers to comprehend and visualize what they are talking about. The connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii will be told individually throughout the entire results section.

Background of Jawaiian Musicians

In the beginning of the interview, background information was given on years of experience they played Jawaiian music, what year they started performing, and notable venues they have performed in. Many of the musicians have learned to perform at a young age while living in Hawaii. There were notable venues each person had performed at, including Duke's Waikiki and Hula grill that would hold up to 100 people. There were also instances in which some musicians would perform at Blue Note Hawaii for hundreds of fans. Waikiki shell on the other hand was one of the most popular venues in which there were thousands of individuals ready to hear you perform.

Albert was the first musician to be interviewed. He has performed in various restaurants around the Island such as Duke's Waikiki, Moku Kitchen, Hula Grill, etc. He explained how Jawaiian music had an impact on him at a young age of nine years old. Albert understood how much learning Jawaiian music at a young age would give him an advantage in performing for audiences. He started performing for these restaurants in 2017. He has not looked back since performing at his first restaurant called Moku Kitchen.

Similarly, Bob was a performer that had led many concerts in more known venues such as Blue Note and Waikiki Shell. His style and enthusiasm in singing Jawaiian music had captured the audiences that were there to hear him perform. Bob appreciated the challenge of having to be able to create music that inspired and brought individuals together. Bob has started playing for significant venues since 2019. He does not shy away from the bright lights because he enjoys every part in spreading joy to people that love Jawaiian music.

Now Carl, identified himself as someone that used Jawaiian music to teach others about the culture. This interviewee shared his life story of how high school gave him an urge to pursue a career in teaching music. The full time job of this interviewee is actually a music teacher at a community college. He is able to teach students about the subject of music during the weekdays and on weekends he is able to perform. Carl performs at food eateries on the weekends with his guitar. He has started performing on the weekends since 2020 off and on because of covid shutdowns.

Furthermore, our next person interviewed was Daphne. Daphne was curious about learning Jawaiian music. Her audience is usually at parties or small shows in Waikiki. The streets of Waikiki is where she usually performs, this is where live street performers are able to show off their talent. She humbly tells me about her love for Hawaii and why she performs. She knows

she is not the most talented artist in putting on a show, but she loves what she does. Her passion for Jawaiian music and the culture of Hawaii is what brings her joy. Her life as a musician is during the night on weekdays. She has performed since 2020 as well.

Our last musician being interviewed was Eliza. Eliza has an impressive resume of being a female musician on social media and in person. Out of all the musicians, she has the most experience in playing Jawaiian music on Oahu. She has also had the luxury to perform for Waikiki Shell. Eliza's Youtube channel has also allowed her to become known over time. Technology has given her another platform to be able to show off her talents more than other musicians. Eliza has been performing since 2016.

The relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii in showing how each person has been impacted in being a musician. Each participant has a unique story in how many years they have performed as musicians based on how they find out about Jawaiian music. The local culture of Hawaii has influenced their music in the venues they perform in Hawaii. Finding time and making their schedule available to perform for the community. Jawaiian music and the local culture has had a significant role in shaping their life backgrounds.

Experience as a Musician

This section describes how each Jawaiian musician had an experience that would shape their identity and bring meaning to their life.

The musician Albert has a vivid memory that would shape him for the rest of his life. He talks about a concert from the famous Kapena band that made him want to pursue a career as a local musician in Hawaii. His roots of growing up in Jawaiian music has given him an identity to represent the best version of himself. Albert says “ Without Jawaiian music, he does not know

where I would be today.” He goes on to thank the Jawaiian music band Kapena on how much they influenced his direction in becoming a musician.

Bob as a performer believes creative freedom through music will inspire all people that come to Hawaii. He surprisingly did not learn music from any of his family members, but through youtube. After thousands of hours of learning chords and lyrics to create his own songs, he realized how much Jawaiian music inspires change. Initially Bob did not see himself as a musician because he did not think he was good enough. His confidence gained from Jawaiian music gave him an identity. Once he started not caring about what people thought, he started to gain confidence and perform at bigger venues.

Eliza thanks her mentors for grooming her to be the successful musician she is today. Her style of performing comes from Kimie Miner, another musician. She describes her music career as a song being written out throughout the years. She believes she is in the beginning of her prime of her career. She believes that there are many opportunities to perform here in Hawaii and around the world.

The participants shared their experiences in how Jawaiian music shaped their identity. Jawaiian music gave Albert, Bob, and Eliza an identity when they perform as musicians. The local culture of Hawaii influences which venues they perform in. All of the venues are popular because of the people that attend in the community. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii are intertwined in giving each musician inspiration to write unique lyrics that inspire the community.

Jawaian music's influence on culture/community

In the last part of the questions for Jawaian musicians, we go over whether Jawaian music and culture influence one another, if knowledge is gained from listening to Jawaian music, and if there is an impact on the community through Jawaian music.

Albert believes this genre of music has a generational wave of what Hawaii culture is about. His beliefs are in helping each other and serving the community you live in. This reflection of selflessness is what the community respects the most. Taking care of your neighbor is what Albert believes has the most impact. Albert believes the community becomes closer because of the presence of Jawaian music. The other musician Bob also believes in the cohesiveness of the community. Cohesiveness as in working together to make Hawaii a great place to live. Bob's purpose in life is to "bring the community of Hawaii together."

Carl has first hand experience in seeing young adults become interested about the culture of Hawaii because of Jawaian music. Every opportunity he is able to sing for people, he shares about the culture of Hawaii . He says "Hawaii's culture is immersed in the music of all local musicians." He describes Jawaian music as a tool to teach the world about the beautiful culture of Hawaii. Aloha is one word that is constantly taught with his music when he performs. Carl believes the knowledge people gain from the background of Jawaian music is the first step of teaching the world about Hawaii and our values. He says more people will use Jawaian music in classrooms of all grades in school.

Now Daphne specifically says " Jawaian music and the culture of Hawaii will connect for days to come because of how much they influence one another." For Daphne, music and culture has influenced her in an abundant way. Ways in which she has seen in her own life that strengthens her love for Hawaii. She has met many community members that have had a

significant impact in shaping her life today. Jawaiian music has opened doors for her that did not seem to be a possibility for her. She owes Jawaiian music a great deal of gratitude and will continue to perform in the future.

Eliza has an interesting quote about Jawaiian music. A direct quote from Eliza says “The roots Jawaiian music has on the people of Hawaii will continue to grow because of the growing popularity, the culture and its values is what makes Hawaii amazing.” She knows her music is touching the community because of the fan letters and testimonies she receives on a regular basis. She will continue to write music because she wants to give back in the way her mentors supported her. Eliza continues to inspire her fans everyday. Eliza also says “ I hope Jawaiian music continues to inspire millions of people around the world, I appreciate the support we get from the radio stations and our fans.” Eliza continues to want to make an impact on the Islands with her music.

Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii’s relationship with one another was evident in this section. Many of the values that are important to people in Hawaii are shown in songs that are played by Jawaiian musicians. The local culture of Hawaii encourages the community to support the musicians by buying their music and attending their concerts. The values and lyrics that are performed teach individuals in taking care of one another. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii compliment one another by bringing the community together and teaching important values to people living in the Islands.

Background of fans

This section will be going over the background of each fan of Jawaiian music. Being a fan of Jawaiian music will shed light on if there are connections between Jawaiian music and the

local culture of Hawaii. They will be sharing how they were introduced to Jawaiian music, what Jawaiian music has done for them, and how long they have been a fan of Jawaiian music.

The first Jawaiian music fan to be interviewed was the energetic Abby. Abby had grown up in Hawaii in Kapolei. She enthusiastically described to me how Jawaiian music is her favorite genre of music. Making her a fan that did everything possible to support local musicians. She talks about how local artists create content for Hawaii and it gives her the urge to support them by buying their music or going to their live events in person. She has been a fan of Jawaiian music for 22 years.

Now, there is Bianca who has been a fan of Jawaiian music for 15 years. She was introduced to this type of music when she was young as well. She describes Jawaiian music as a unique part of her life that brings her joy. The happiness that Jawaiian music gave her has been real in the past and in the present today. Jawaiian music has also taught her many values that she talks about in the next section.

Now Chaz, she was mostly into mainstream pop music her entire life living in Hawaii. When she began college, many of her friends she met on campus told her to listen to Jawaiian music. Ever since her friends told her about this genre of music, she has enjoyed listening to both pop and Jawaiian music. Chaz has been listening to Jawaiian music for only three years.

Derrick knows about the Jawaiian music movement from all of the past, present, and future. His abundance of knowledge came to fruition as he explained how Jawaiian music influenced his life and the community. Jawaiian music made him understand the beauty of Hawaii. He also has multiple experiences with Jawaiian music, but his favorite memory was meeting his wife at an Anuhea concert in Maui. He has been a fan of Jawaiian music for ten years.

The last interview came from Eli. Eli is a father that was introduced to Jawaiian music from his children. He became fascinated by how the music was upbeat and had a great rhythm to each song. His sons wanted their father to take them to a Jawaiian music concert that was happening at Waikiki shell. Eli has been a fan of Jawaiian music for 2 years.

The background of the fans explained how they were introduced to Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. The local culture of Hawaii allowed each person to be introduced to Jawaiian music in some way. This allowed Abby, Bianca, Chaz, Derrick, and Eli to see how much Jawaiian music means to the community. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii become intertwined because of the impact it has made on each fan's life in a positive way.

Impact of Jawaiian music

This section explores the impact Jawaiian music had on their lives, including reflection on the experiences that shaped their identity. The identity found through listening to Jawaiian music is just one example in how the community of Hawaii comes together. These interviewees all have significant reasons in which they talk about memories that will be a direct reflection of how much influence Jawaiian music has.

One of Abby's most memorable experiences meant a significant amount, when she was at a Kapena concert in 2008 at Waikiki Shell. Kapena told her to chase her dreams. Abby says "The Kapena band spoke to her backstage and told her to pursue her dreams. Anything worth accomplishing will have to come with hard work." This exchange between the entire band would motivate her. Years later, she then had accomplished her dream in becoming a nurse in Hawaii for Queen's Medical Center. This has been an event that had an impact on her life. She has chosen to pursue her dreams because of Kapena.

Now going to another fan named Chaz. Chaz followed the singer “Roman De Peralta” because of his style of singing. Roman De Peralta has been an Island wide phenomenon in singing about Hawaii culture. She believes his impact on her life has shaped more of her identity in finding who she wants to be in the future. When she talked about her life she says “Jawaiian music was a presence that was there, but I did not really care for it.” She believes every person has a different path in finding their identity. Jawaiian music was the first step in remembering who she is and how proud she is to be from Hawaii.

Similarly, Eli talked about how the younger generation has propelled this genre of music across Hawaii. He also talks about the radio stations and the community coming together to support local music. He says “Music from Hawaii is nothing short of a powerful tool in giving the people an identity.” His purpose in life is to raise his sons into great men that have great values. Eli believes Jawaiian music teaches his son values that are important to him.

In this section, Jawaiian music and the relationship with the local culture of Hawaii allowed each fan to develop their own identity. Jawaiian music gave them inspiration to choose who they want to be in their life. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii becomes part of who they are as they navigate through their own life. Abby, Chaz, and Eli use the music and culture of Hawaii to represent the values they believe in. Being proud to listen and identify with Hawaii is the after effect of the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Impact on society and culture

The last part of the interview questions focused on the impact on society and culture. The interviewees talked about how Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii complimented one

another in having an impact on how they lived their life. Learning from Jawaiian music was also a significant factor in learning words and values in Hawaii.

Abby says “Listening to music from musical artists that come from Hawaii brings the community together, they are able to see a real person conquer their dreams.” This brings inspiration to every person thinking about pursuing a goal. She knows Jawaiian music and the culture of Hawaii is intertwined with one another. She said “If people can’t see a correlation, they are not connected with the music or culture.”

The second fan of Jawaiian music Bianca started understanding the impact of the words in the songs when she was 10. The words that resonated with her were ohana and aloha in Jawaiian songs. Bianca of course listened to Jawaiian music because this gave her happiness, but she learned about her own culture as the years went by. Musicians bring her words that represent Hawaii and later she is able to do her own research. She states “Musicians have taught her more about the culture of Hawaii than any teacher or book would.” She loves learning and uses music to introduce people to the culture of Hawaii. The memories of all the songs she remembers has given her an appreciation for her own culture. She mentions how the community listens to everything coming from locally grown musicians.

Derrick says “Jawaiian music holds many doors in introducing the culture of Hawaii. This has a direct effect on the musicians, fans, and the community in becoming closer.” He explained the energy and presence was a feeling that won’t be forgotten because of how electrifying the atmosphere was. The concert in 2008 with his now wife showed how much people in the community love the lyrics. The aloha shown through the music inspires the people of Hawaii to be inspirational to everyone they come into contact with. Derrick explained that

“Jawaian music and the culture of Hawaii is like eating lau lau and poi. Both go well together and have a cultural influence.” He still blasts the music on the radio to his day job everyday.

Eli gives credit to his two sons in explaining what Jawaian music does for society and the next generation. Aloha and ohana is what his sons talk to him about the most when listening to the local musical artists. Eli is glad his sons are learning and is interested in the culture they are being raised in. He praises all Jawaian musicians to keep on producing new music. His sons are just one example of the influence they are providing the next generation.

The relationship between Jawaian music and the local culture of Hawaii has had an impact on the fans. The perspective from the fans explain how the community has become closer because of Jawaian music. The local culture of Hawaii is to support one another and to carry the important values such as aloha in their hearts. As fans, they believe musicians have taught values to the community. The local culture of Hawaii and Jawaian music is connected to one another because of the individuals in Hawaii. Generations are being affected by how much Jawaian music has done for the culture of Hawaii.

Thematic Analysis

Finding the patterns between all musicians and fans of Jawaian music was interesting. The musicians and fans share many themes and they will be introduced in this section. The beauty of each interview was the way they were introduced to Jawaian music and the culture of Hawaii. Each individual had a unique experience in explaining their point of view. There were memories, influential people, and places that allowed each person to listen to Jawaian music. The passion and reminiscing of each participant showed how much this subject means to them. You could hear the passion in their voice and the adoration in their eyes when doing the

interview. Many of the participants would be interested in participating in more interviews if another researcher would want their point of view. Each individual expounded on their experience, while sharing what was important for them to share about Jawaian music and the local culture of Hawaii. There were connections between both musicians and fans.

Through analyzing all the interview data, four themes emerged. The 4 themes were identity, impact, community, and culture.

Identity:

Both musicians and fans of Jawaian music had many similarities that crossed over each other. Cultural identity became a significant point in connecting both sides. Jawaian music has given the individuals being interviewed an identity to fall back on. Every person being influenced by a Hawaii musical artist has had a lasting effect on who they wanted to identify themselves as. This type of music has shaped them into who they are today. Many of the musicians that perform in venues were inspired by other musical artists that were singing. The fans were also inspired to become who they are because of influential Jawaian musicians. The influence musicians have on their peers and fans was a connecting factor that both sides had a similarity on.

An interesting part that stood out between musicians and fans of Jawaian music was how much the band Kapena came up during the interviews. Kelly Boy Delima, leader of the band Kapna, had been one of these talented musicians in Hawaii that produced music that reached all generations. Kapena is one of the few old school bands that was popular in the 90's and is popular today. Both Albert and Abby applaud their unique evolving music to relate to both eras in the 90's and now. Kapena's music became a classic to all generations in the past and future. Albert and Ally were inspired by Kapena to become who they are today, even though Albert is a

musician and Abby is a nurse. Kelly Boy Delima made an impact on their lives. The band Kapena has also made an impact on who they are today as well. Kelly Boy Delima and his band are just one example of how their music gives identity to the people of Hawaii.

Impact:

Another connection to be apparent in all interviews was the distinction of how Jawaiian music has made an impact on all of their lives. Jawaiian music has allowed all participants to make important memories in their life. This applies to what role of their career they are doing now. The impact of Jawaiian music has given people inspiration to pursue what they want in their lives. This inspiration has allowed every person to become passionate and energized in finding what our purpose in life is. All of this inspiration has come from the music being in Hawaii. The inspiration to choose who you want to be has come from Jawaiian music. They also explain how Jawaiian music has been brought up in Hawaii culture. Hawaii's culture has allowed a platform for this genre to blossom into a growing industry.

Inspiration from Jawaiian music has had a role in changing or becoming who they were meant to be. Derrick says "Jawaiian music holds many doors in introducing the culture of Hawaii. This has a direct effect on the musicians, fans, and the community in becoming closer." Derrick and Bob both believe in the significant impact of bringing the community together. Both Derrick and Bob believed the aloha shown through music will give others inspiration to help others find their way in life. Finding their purpose to inspire will go a long way in helping others. Inspiration spreads fast when many people in the community are listening to the same message of inspiring others. This connection takes place from both sides because of Jawaiian music being in Hawaii and spreading through the community.

Inspiration:

Another effect Jawaiian music provides individuals is inspiration. The inspiration in choosing who you want to be in life. Jawaiian music has provided musicians and fans the confidence to become who they are meant to be. Inspiration goes a long way in making people successful and productive in contributing to society. Abby and Eliza both use Jawaiian music to inspire themselves or others in their respective work fields. Inspiration gives individuals the urgency to keep on striving to be better. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii provides inspiration when living in Hawaii. Being surrounded by ambitious people that are filled with aloha helps the community. All musicians and fans inspire the people that are in their life. Each person reaches someone that another person could not reach. Musicians and fans each have their own individuals they come into contact everyday.

Teaching:

As Jawaiian music opens the doors for people to learn about the local culture of Hawaii, the ability to teach individuals comes into effect. Jawaiian music teaches people that listen to this genre about the local culture of Hawaii. The interest through music allows others to be more interested in the culture of Hawaii. Both Carl and Bianca talk about how Jawaiian music has taught them and others about the local culture of Hawaii more than any other book or speech. Carl, being the musician, uses his music to teach fans about the importance of keeping the local culture of Hawaii alive. Teaching others the value of Hawaii is the message shown throughout his songs. Bianca being a fan of Jawaiian music, appreciates how much the local culture of Hawaii has taught her words such as aloha and ohana. Teaching is another effect that comes into play within Hawaii when Jawaiian music is performed and listened to throughout the community.

Community:

A point that both sides discussed was how Jawaiian music brings the community closer. With Jawaiian music being a constant genre played in the community, it became no surprise that everyone believes in how this became a pattern. The pattern in how popular Jawaiian music came among the community. Many people in Hawaii support each other when they believe in you. The lyrics, rhythm, and musicians singing these songs allowed people to come together. Many of these songs are played in restaurants, the radio, on tv, and other venues. The community always comes together for anything that is produced in Hawaii. This becomes a common occurrence for people to support each other if they live here. Jawaiian music also teaches the community about the Hawaii culture. This genre has brought friends, families, and strangers together to enjoy the presence of music. Going through the interviews, specific memories were shared involving loved ones. There are many examples, but I will be using Albert and Eli's point of view to illustrate the community becoming closer.

Many participants talked about how Jawaiian music is allowing the community to become closer. People with similar tastes are able to discuss or talk about a subject. They are also able to sing together. Eli talks about the radio stations and the community coming together to support local music. The way radio stations and communities come together to support Jawaiian musicians by marketing their music and attending their concerts. Radio stations encourage the community to buy each Jawaiian musician's music and the community attends their in person concerts. Radio is an important part of the popularity of Jawaiian music because of the people this streaming platform reaches. The radio has been a platform for Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii to connect with the general public. This is just one example of how different parts of the community come together because of Jawaiian music. Musicians and fans become

closer together because of this exact joy for music. This in turn has a consequence of everyone in Hawaii getting to know each other in some way through this melody. Jawaian music has made a way in getting to know your neighbors living on the same Island. This tune has allowed another generation to get closer to their community and closer to their culture as well. Eli and Albert both agree how the community is directly involved with Jawaian music. This brings individuals together to support the music.

Culture:

In addition to community members becoming closer, the local culture of Hawaii becomes a crucial part in what Jawaian music does for the community. The path this melody introduces is significant in teaching the community about the culture of Hawaii. Many of the musicians and fans become interested in the tune and lyrics of the music. Then they start learning about the culture and the meaning of the words. They also learn about the values expressed in the lyrics. Jawaian music draws people's interest because of the rhythm and in return allows individuals to gain knowledge about Hawaii.

Both musicians and fans had a lot to talk about how Jawaian music gives people curiosity to learn about the culture of Hawaii. The background knowledge of Hawaii is being shared in the classroom, but in different places throughout the community. Adults, kids, and the elderly are able to teach one another about the values of Hawaii. This becomes a valuable tool in strengthening the community. Carl and Eli see the value of Jawaian music providing an avenue to learn about the local culture of Hawaii. The values and meanings of words like Aloha become important to understand. Summarizing all of the interviews, the word aloha is brought up at least once. Many of the songs representing Jawaian music have the word Aloha. This becomes a path to teach people about the local culture. The beautiful part of teaching aloha is through the

evidence of showing what the community values. This genre of music directly allows the word aloha to be taught everywhere.

Music & Culture

Every participant was able to explain why there was a intertwined relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. Jawaiian music is the perfect tool to explain the culture. This creative way gives people another way of learning. The local culture of Hawaii also influences the music made because of the values passed down from generation to generation. Musicians find inspiration when living in the Islands. Each talented person is inspired by the people and the landscape of Hawaii. Musicians and fans are in agreement on how Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii influences one another. They both play a role in Hawaii to educate and entertain the community. Learning and having fun at the same time because of music and culture is what makes this relationship work. The joy that is given to each individual means something for both Jawaiian musicians and fans.

The quotes from each person were unique and informational in these interviews about Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. One quote from Eli stands out and explains the relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. Eli says “Jawaiian music and the culture of Hawaii is like eating lau lau and poi. Both go well together and have a cultural influence.” He talks about how the meal of lau lau and poi is always linked to one another. Lau lau and poi is a popular dish in Hawaii everyone eats and loves. Lau lau is popular in Hawaii because of the taste of the meat and fish wrapped with Ti leaves. Poi is also locally grown smashed taro that they eat with the lau lau. This meal is a perfect example of how Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii go well together. You can’t talk about one subject and not have another conversation where music or culture starts. Each interviewee had a unique

explanation of the relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii, they all emphasized the closeness of the relationship. There are many experiences and explanations that explain the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Discussion

Looking back at the literature and interviews, they all had some type of relation that brought Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii together, whether this was cultural identity, community, or history of Hawaii. Every participant was able to explain how Jawaiian music played a role in their lives. The scholarly sources have similar information of what my interviewees were explaining in their interviews. This was in regards to how Jawaiian music had an impact on the local culture of Hawaii. Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii has evidence in the literature that perfectly cross relates to what musicians and fans were explaining with testimonies. Every quote exemplified why each person was passionate in giving their thoughts on this study.

One of the points that *Aural History* (2012) makes is, talking about how Jawaiian music gave an identity to individuals. John Berger (2012) speaks about how radio stations and media outlets support local musicians and music. John Berger (2012) also explains how popular radio stations such as radio stations “KCCN/ FM 100 spread the popularity of Jawaiian music within the Islands” (p.1). The media outlets supporting Jawaiian music played a role in bringing an identity to the people living in Hawaii. Radio being a platform for musicians and fans is important because they are able to access Jawaiian music from restaurants, cars, and any public place with radio. Jawaiian music according to the interviews has definitely played a role in providing individuals with a cultural identity. Writer Kevin Allen (2018) was able to explain how influential musical artists had a role in making an impact on the culture of Hawaii. In the interviews between Jawaiian musicians and fans, Kelly Boy Delima and the band Kapena had a similar effect in shaping the people they are today. He provided encouragement and inspiration for individuals to achieve their dream. Whether this be in music or another job field. Jawaiian

music provided a way for musicians to inspire the people in the community. Without Kelly Boy Delima playing Jawaian music, he would never have had a platform to inspire them.

Another important part the literature brings up is fostering meaning in the community. The meaning in the community comes from Jawaian music and the local culture of Hawaii. The lyrics explain what Hawaiian words mean. The words that were highlighted in the literature and the interviews were aloha and ohana. The aloha spread throughout the community of individuals was a significant factor that meant a lot to people. Sunaina Keonaona Kale (2017) explains how Jawaian music has brought “a symbol for the local people of Hawaii” (p.27). Aloha became an ultimate symbol for inspiration of Jawaian music. The connection between families was also an important value in the Islands of Hawaii. The Researcher George Kahaunaele (1979) explains “family being the most valuable gift in Hawaii” (p.18). Hawaii is closer to one another apart from the rest of the world. There are people in the community who will help you even if they don’t know you. There is a sense of warmth and satisfaction when people help each other with their problems in life. This is different from other parts of the world that only take care of themselves. Being able to help and show aloha when someone is in need, lets Hawaii stand out from the rest of the world. There becomes a warmth of lending a helping hand, even though they are strangers. Jawaian music and the local culture of Hawaii teaches the community the true actions of aloha and ohana. Jawaian music was able to bring the community together for many of the musicians and fans. There are memories and experiences that live with all of the participants. The local culture is also intertwined with Jawaian music because of how they sing about Hawaii.

The last part of the literature review talked about a brief history of Jawaian music. Explaining the history of influential musical artists would share the values of Hawaii. The

ukulele being an influential factor in teaching people about Jawaiian music. The influential musicians include Queen Lili'uokalani, Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and Kelly Boy Delima. All of these musical artists spread the popularity of Jawaiian music. They played an important role in bringing curiosity to individuals wondering what Jawaiian music is. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and Kelly Boy Delima spread the popularity of Jawaiian music after the 1990's. Notable songs and concerts they performed helped spread the popularity of Jawaiian music. The local culture of Hawaii was incorporated into their songs and lyrics. The people of Hawaii supported their Jawaiian music through attending their performances or listening to the radio. The answers from the participants did not really highlight the history of Jawaiian music. They talked more about the musician Kelly Boy Delima popularizing Jawaiian music. He was a prominent figure that stood out between Jawaiian musicians and fans.

Music and culture have connected people in Hawaii. Kruse (2018) explains the importance of how music celebrates cultures. The ukulele had been a significant part in bringing music and culture together. Kruse (2018) "Music and culture has a history in working together to make society better as a whole" (p.607). They work together by entertaining and educating the community about their values and traditions. In the larger literature, music and culture uses information to reach the community of people in every nation. They are able to connect people through concerts, radio stations, businesses, and schools. Music and culture teaches each other by having meaningful conversations about what is important to communicate to the public. Lyrics and the meaning of songs have an impact on the listeners to be curious of the definition. Culture influences songs that are written because of the values represented in each country.

Conclusion

All in all, the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii is clear. The participants see many ways in how they influence each other. This starts with identity, the impact, community, and culture. All stemming from the way Jawaiian music introduces the local culture of Hawaii. The local culture of Hawaii also influences the music through the way musicians create lyrics or songs. They both play a role in giving individuals inspiration to learn about Hawaii. Musicians and fans have created memories that go far beyond their understanding. The doors and connections that have been made open because of music and culture is a commodity that can't be explained. They have experiences that have shaped who they are and how they have met people. The relationship between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii has had an impact on many generations. This in turn has allowed the culture and music to grow in the Islands. The popularity of Jawaiian music continues to be a growing industry for people wanting to listen to local music. The culture of Hawaii is being used to help spread music. The musicians have gravitated in representing the culture of Hawaii every time they perform. The fans have also had a role in making Jawaiian music popular in Hawaii and throughout the world.

Limitations of Study:

There are limitations to the study of connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. This could take into account if there are interviewees coming from another place- in the world, but still have time to get years of experience as being a Jawaiian musician or fan. There could be an argument for bias responses because they are all from Hawaii. Another limitation of this study is the number of people that participated in these interviews. Five musicians and five fans gave experiences that were informative and provided connections, but

there could be an argument that if there was a year to gather more participants, you could get more results. Only doing interviews is another limitation that could be argued about this study of connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii compared to using surveys.

Based on the interview questions, another limitation could be expressed in how I used this sampling method. Snowball sampling was the way this study was conducted. This also was limited to participants in Hawaii. The interviews could be expanded to other places of where people are from. Looking at the interview questions and answers, there could be a limitation argument in how there was an angle of more looking at the identity and community of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. There could have been more of an emphasis on history. All in all, the interviews were informative to provide results in whether there were connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Suggestions for Future Research:

For many interested scholars, more research could be done on a wide scale using surveys. There could also be more participants agreeing to do in depth interviews as well. The participants provided a detailed and in depth response to all of the questions. Another option in researching this particular topic of jawaiian music and local culture would be to get people that are not from Hawaii. But they would also have to have knowledge of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii in order to participate. A wider range of participants with the same or more knowledge of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii will go a long way in explaining the presence of connections or not between both subjects. Similar to the questions above in asking how many years of experience they have performed as a musician in Jawaiian music. The fans would also

have to have at least a number of years listening to this genre. With a larger sample size, there could be more or less connections between musicians and fans.

There are many directions a researcher can go regarding connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. A variety of possibilities could be used regarding Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii because of the opportunities growing from the people of Hawaii. If there are any researchers that would like to find areas to expound upon, gathering information of Jawaiian music is having an effect on generations from kids, adults, and the elderly. Having more interviews from people that are born in different generations would be interesting. The perspective of Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii from people of different ages could be another area more looked into. How generations are influenced by Jawaiian music could be a possible topic that is researched more in-depth.

Another interesting addition to build upon this research is how the ukulele has become popular in Hawaii since it was introduced from 1879. How has Jawaiian music promoted the ukulele on generations performing music? This could become a potential interesting project if they are passionate about Hawaii. Musicians and fans could provide how much Jawaiian music has made an impact on the popularity of the ukulele. The people of Hawaii embracing the ukulele as part of their own because of the culture could be researched more. The ukulele's ascension would be a fantastic addition to connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii.

Appendix A. Semi Structured Interview Guide

Jawaian Musicians

Background of Musician

- 1) How long have you been a musician singing Jawaian music?
- 2) What year did you start performing as a musician?
- 3) What notable venues have you performed at in Hawaii?

Experience as a Musician

- 4) Do you believe Jawaian music has had a hand in shaping who you are today? (identity)
- 5) Do you know anyone that has used Jawaian music as part of their identity?
- 6) Has Jawaian music given you an experience that would bring meaning to your life?
- 7) Has any specific words from Jawaian music made you feel closer to the community?

Jawaian music's influence on culture/community

- 8) Do you believe music and Island culture influence one another?
- 9) Does Jawaian music have an impact on the local community?
- 10) In what ways does Jawaian music inspire change?
- 11) Do you believe Jawaian music has a role in providing knowledge about Hawaii's culture?
- 12) Has the community become closer because of Jawaian music?
- 13) What is the most significant event in Jawaian music history that had an impact on the local community?
- 14) Is there anything else you would like to add?

Fans of Jawaiian Music

Background of fans

- 1) Where are you from?
- 2) When was the first time you were introduced to Jawaiian music?
- 3) How long have you been a fan of Jawaiian music?

Impact of Jawaiian music

- 4) Listening to Jawaiian music, has this played a role in shaping your identity? If yes, explain.
- 5) Do you know anyone that has used Jawaiian music as part of their identity?
- 6) Has Jawaiian music given you an experience that would bring meaning to your life?
- 7) Has any specific words from Jawaiian music made you feel closer to the community?

Impact on society and culture

- 8) Do you believe Jawaiian music and Island culture influence one another?
- 9) Does Jawaiian music have an impact on the local community?
- 10) In what ways does Jawaiian music inspire change?
- 11) Do you believe Jawaiian music has a role in providing knowledge about Hawaii's culture?
- 12) Has the community become closer because of Jawaiian music?
- 13) What is the most significant event in Jawaiian music history that had an impact on the local community?
- 14) Is there anything else you would like to add?



University of Hawai'i
Consent to Participate in Appendix B. Consent Form

Matthew Chun: Researcher

Project title: Connections between Jawaiian Music and the Local Culture of Hawai'i

Aloha! My name is Matthew Chun and you are invited to take part in a research study. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Department of Communications. As part of the requirements for earning my graduate degree, I am doing a research project.

What am I being asked to do?

If you participate in this project, I will meet with you for an interview at a location and time convenient for you.

Taking part in this study is your choice.

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary. You may stop participating at any time. If you stop being in the study, there will be no penalty or loss to you. Your choice to participate or not participate will not affect your rights to services at the UH Communications program.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of my project is to evaluate the connections between Jawaiian music and the local culture of Hawaii. You have experience in either being a musician or fan or Jawaiian music.

What will happen if I decide to take part in this study?

The interview will consist of 14 open ended questions. It will take 45 minutes to an hour. The interview questions will include questions like, Do you believe music and culture influence one another?

Only you and I will be present during the interview. With your permission, I will audio-record the interview so that I can later transcribe the interview and analyze the responses. You will be one of about 10 people I will interview for this study.

What are the risks and benefits of taking part in this study?

I believe there is little risk to you for participating in this research project. You may become stressed or uncomfortable answering any of the interview questions or discussing topics with me during the interview. If you do become stressed or uncomfortable, you can skip the question or take a break. You can also stop the interview or you can withdraw from the project altogether.

There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this interview. The results of this project may help improve the graduate Communications program.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

I will keep all study data secure in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office/encrypted on a



University of Hawai'i
Consent to Participate in Appendix B. Consent Form

Matthew Chun: Researcher

Project title: Connections between Jawaiian Music and the Local Culture of Hawai'i

password protected computer. Only my University of Hawai'i advisor and I will have access to the information. Other agencies that have legal permission have the right to review research records. The University of Hawai'i Communications program has the right to review research records for this study.

After I write a copy of the interviews, I will erase or destroy the audio-recordings. When I report the results of my research project, I will not use your name. I will not use any other personal identifying information that can identify you. I will use pseudonyms (fake names) and report my findings in a way that protects your privacy and confidentiality to the extent allowed by law.

Future Research Studies:

Even after removing identifiers, the data from this study or biospecimens collected for this study (*choose one*) will not be used or distributed for future research studies.

Questions:

If you have any questions about this study, please call or email me at [808-348-8738} or mpchun@hawaii.edu You may also contact my advisor, Dr. Hanae Kramer, at [808-808-8080} or hanae@hawaii.edu. You may contact the UH Human Studies Program at 808.956.5007 or uhirb@hawaii.edu. to discuss problems, concerns and questions; obtain information; or offer input with an informed individual who is unaffiliated with the specific research protocol. Please visit <http://go.hawaii.edu/jRd> for more information on your rights as a research participant.

If you agree to participate in this project, please sign and date this signature page and return it to Matthew Chun

Keep a copy of the informed consent for your records and reference.

Signature(s) for Consent:

I give permission to join the research project entitled, "*Connections between Jawaiian Music and the Local Culture of Hawai'i.*"

Please initial next to either "Yes" or "No" to the following:



University of Hawai'i
Consent to Participate in Appendix B. Consent Form

Matthew Chun: Researcher

Project title: Connections between Jawaiian Music and the Local Culture of Hawai'i

___ Yes ___ No I consent to be audio-recorded for the interview portion of this

Name of Participant (Print): _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Signature of the Person Obtaining Consent: _____

Date: _____

Mahalo!

Consent Form – version #1

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