HAWAII NEWS

Add as a preferred source on Google

Steel Guitar Hall of Fame is moving to Hawaii



By John Berger

Today • *Last updated 11:38 p.m.*



COURTESY HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES

The State Department of Accounting and General Services' Hawaii State Archives is home to the instruments, recordings and other historical items that will make up the future Steel Guitar Hall of Fame.

The Steel Guitar Hall of Fame is one step closer to having a permanent brick-and-mortar home with the organization sending its archival collection of recordings, photos, and historic

instruments, and plaques honoring Hall of Fame inductees, to the Hawai‘i State Archives in Honolulu.

The announcement was made Saturday by Michael Scott, president of the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame, and Hawai‘i State Archivist Adam Jansen.

“For years, people have asked when the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame would have a permanent home,” Scott said “We knew that wherever that home would be, it had to meet a very high bar — historically, culturally, educationally, and ethically. Honolulu met every one of those requirements.”

Jansen said that he was “beyond thrilled” that the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame is coming to Hawaii.

“It’s fitting that an instrument whose locus began in the Hawaiian Islands would now also have its museum located in this same place,” he said. “Furthermore, the Hawai‘i State Archives exists to keep records of historical and cultural value. This speaks to both our hearts and our professional mission.”

Funding for a separate Steel Guitar Hall of Fame facility has not been obtained, and no date for construction has been announced, but the Hawai‘i State Archive will provide temperature-controlled storage, strict security, and professional stewardship. All materials will be preserved in perpetuity, fully indexed, and digitized, with broad online access for for all.

When the Hall of Fame is built, the facility will honor the innovators, players, builders and promoters of the instrument, house permanent exhibits, provide interactive displays featuring instruments, tuning systems and sound demonstrations, and serve as the anchor for future programming and traveling exhibitions. The building will include a concert stage, and space for educational programs and workshops.

The Hall of Fame also will be the site of steel guitar festivals and induction ceremonies.

“Our role is to ensure these materials are protected forever — and also used, studied, and shared,” Jansen said. “This project reflects best practices in preservation, digitization, and public access. It is rare to see a collection of this scope paired with such a clear and forward-thinking vision.”

Hawaiian steel guitarist Joseph Kekuku is credited with discovering the technique in 1885, and then refining it several years later when he was a student at Kamehameha Schools. When Kekuku and other Hawaiian musicians took the steel guitar to the mainland, it was adopted and adapted by country, blues and pop musicians across the United States and Canada, and then by musicians around the world. Steel guitar even topped the Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart when the Santo & Johnny hit, “Sleep Walk,” held the top spot for two weeks in 1959

The Hawaiian steel guitar continued to thrive and evolve in Hawaii throughout the 20th century to the present day.

The Steel Guitar Hall of Fame was established in the United States in 1978. Inductees include Jerry Byrd (1978), Sol Hoopii (1979), Dick Kaihue McIntire (1982), Joseph Kekuku (1993), Barney Alvin Kalanikau Isaacs, Jr. (1999), and Santo & Johnny Farina (2002).

Visit steelradio.org.

See more: Editors' Picks Entertainment

0 COMMENTS