

April 21, 2010

Honolulu City Council
530 S. King Street, 2nd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Members of the Honolulu City Council:

My name is Jimmy Borges. I have been a professional singer and musician for 55 years and I know the power of music from many aspects.

I'm writing to implore you to keep our Royal Hawaiian Band alive!

Yes, the Royal Hawaiian Band preserves our culture and our music and yes, the Royal Hawaiian Band enriches the quality of life for all of us in Hawaii, especially our Kupuna...but for me and many like me, it's the fact that they inspire our young people

These musicians aren't just members of a band. They are the mentors, teachers and role models who give our children options toward a better life – they soothe the hearts and spirits of troubled kids and show them that music can be the passage to self-confidence and a productive future. The key words are "options to a productive future."

If Brother Iz were still here, he would tell you firsthand how music changed his life from "bad boy" to "Icon" and he's only one of many that we know about.

Save the Royal Hawaiian Band...save the music. Don't give up on our children – if you do, shame on you!

Respectfully,

Jimmy Borges
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