

THE BEAR RIVER HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



Halau Ku Pono I Kamalani performing at the Utah Ukulele Festival

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The Utah Ukulele Festival

by Emma George

Welcome to Utah's number one ukulele festival! The Utah Ukulele Festival (UUF) is held annually on the first Saturday of August in Logan, Utah. The focus of this festival is on sharing the spirit of Aloha through music, dance, and other cultural expressions.



The O-Town Ukesters performing at the 2026 Festival.

The festival started in 2013 when David Manoa, Denelle Manoa, and Jeffrey Olsen came together to share their love of Hawaiian culture and ukulele music. The festival ran from 2013 to 2019 in Logan, Utah, but the COVID-19 pandemic put an end to it. In 2026, the Utah Ukulele Festival partnered with the Bear River Heritage Area to bring the festival back.

Upcoming Events

Brigham City Peach Days

September 11-12
in Brigham City, Utah

Cache Valley Latino Festival

September 12
at Center Street in Logan,
Utah

Malad Valley Welsh Festival

September 18-19
at Heritage Square in Samaria,
Idaho

Have a photo or event
to submit?

SEND IT TO EMMA
GEORGE AT
EMMAG@BRAG.UTAH.GOV

Utah Ukulele Festival Continued

The Utah Ukulele Festival is free for the public and offers activities and entertainment for all ages. This year, KSM Music, a local musical instrument store, provided sound equipment and lessons for beginner and intermediate ukulele players. A local hula group from Nibley called Halau Hula 'O Ka'ahumanu performed in the morning while the hula group Halau Ku Pono I Kamalani from Davis County performed in the evening. Before the headliner performance, there was an open mic competition for 14 and younger and 15 and over with prizes given to each participant.

Despite the record-breaking temperatures, ukulele groups and soloists performed for the crowd. The headliner for the 2026 festival was Kris Fuchigami. Kris is from Kea'au, Hawaii, and has headlined and performed at numerous ukulele festivals worldwide. The crowd was wowed by his incredible speed and technical prowess on the ukulele.

Around 800 people attended the festival, and we look forward to putting it on next year!

If you are interested in helping with next year's festival, please reach out to Emma George at emmag@brag.utah.gov. To learn more about the festival, you can visit www.utahukefest.com

Places to Visit: Thomas Mercantile



Thomas Mercantile is located in Swan Lake, Idaho. The original store hosted the Swan Lake post office as well as a large selection of fabrics and tools for quilting. Today, it carries groceries, books, games, and local products. They also have a cafe!



The 2026 festival headliner Kris Fuchigami.

Reminders

The next Board Meeting will be on September 21, 2026 at 10:00 am.

We are still looking for members of the planning committee for Wagon Land Adventure. Please reach out to Emma if you are interested.