

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: **21030014**

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Kamaka Ukulele**

Sector: **25 Civic Center Station Sector**

Location: **550 SOUTH ST**

Owner: **B P BISHOP TR ESTATE**

Station Block: **Civic Center Station Block**

Date-Original: **1958**

Source: **Tax Office**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Ukulele manufacturing**

Architectural Description:

This two-story building is constructed of concrete hollow tiles and has a low slope gable roof with no overhang. At the entry is a metal-frame storefront door with a single large side light. The entry is protected by a wide concrete canopy supported by metal pipes. At the side of the entry the canopy narrows and extends across the front of the building. There are large panels of fixed louver vents in the side wall.

Integrity:

Appears unaltered.

Significance:

Criterion "A" - the site of Kamaka Ukulele factory. These high-quality musical instruments have an important association with the history of music in Hawaii. Kamaka ukuleles have been handmade in this building since 1959. Kamaka, begun in 1916, is the only early Hawaiian ukulele manufacturer still in business and hand crafts up to 4,000 instruments per year. Kamaka ukuleles are used by prominent Hawaii musicians such as Herb Ohta and Jake Shimabukuro. These prized instruments are important in the history of ukulele music, an important aspect of Hawaiian culture.

