



Walton High School Band

Mike Back, Director

Jeff Pollock, Associate Director

Waikiki Holiday Parade
Jake Peppers, President
7733 River Road
Townsend, TN 37882

Dear Jake:

As we near the end of our school year, I wanted to write and let you know how much we enjoyed our trip to Hawaii in November. It truly was a once in a lifetime opportunity that our students will remember for a long time. In fact, our trip to Hawaii was one of the top trips I have taken in my twenty-two years as a band director. Our students, parents, and administrators were absolutely thrilled with the entire trip.

Visiting Pearl Harbor was definitely a highlight. Laying a wreath at the USS Arizona Memorial to honor our fallen heroes was a very moving experience for our entire group. The performance at the USS Missouri was also inspirational and enjoyable.

The Waikiki Holiday Parade was great. It was very organized and the volunteers were very helpful. The parade audience was very encouraging and hospitable. Our students loved the night atmosphere as we marched right next to Waikiki Beach!

Gateway Music Festivals and Tours did a superb job as our travel company for the trip. Their representatives, as well as the local guides, were very professional and really helped make our trip a success.

Since our return, I have talked to many band directors about our trip. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone interested in a fabulous, educational experience for their students. Jake, thank you again for your inspiration and leadership as President of the Waikiki Holiday Parade. Your vision for creating a quality experience for students is tremendous and very much appreciated. I'm very thankful that you invited us to attend and I hope we will have an opportunity to do it again!

Sincerely,

Mike Back
Director of Bands
Walton High School