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BY ANDY BICHLBAUM ON NOV 13 2011 - 9:18AM TAGGED:

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APEC World Leaders Dinner Gets Occupied

Within secure zone, musician sings on behalf of the many

[Video and photos below \(#video\)](#)

[Lyrics \(#lyrics\)](#)

Honolulu - A change in the programmed entertainment at last night's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gala left a few world leaders slack-jawed, though most seemed not to notice that anything was amiss.

During the gala dinner, renowned Hawaiian guitarist [Makana \(http://makanamusic.com/\)](http://makanamusic.com/), who performed at the White House in 2009, opened his suit jacket to reveal a home-made "Occupy with Aloha" T-shirt. Then, instead of playing the expected instrumental background music, he spent almost 45 minutes repeatedly singing his [protest ballad released earlier that day \(http://bit.ly/we-are-the-many\)](http://bit.ly/we-are-the-many). The ballad, called "We Are the Many," includes lines such as "The lobbyists at Washington do gnaw.... And until they are purged, we won't withdraw," and ends with the refrain: "We'll occupy the streets, we'll occupy the courts, we'll occupy the offices of you, till you do the bidding of the many, not the few."

Those who could hear Makana's message included Presidents Barack Obama of the United States of America, Hu Jintao of China, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, and over a dozen other heads of state.

"At first, I was worried about playing 'We Are The Many,'" said Makana. "But I found it odd that I was afraid to sing a song I'd written, especially since I'd written it with these people in mind."

The gala was the most secure event of the summit. It was held inside the Hale Koa hotel, a 72-acre facility owned and controlled by the US Defense Department; the site was fortified with an additional three miles of fencing constructed solely for the APEC summit.

Makana was surprised that no one objected to him playing the overtly critical song. "I just kept doing different versions," he said. "I must've repeated 'the bidding of the many, not the few' at least 50 times, like a mantra. It was surreal and sobering."

Makana's new song is inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement, which has taken root in cities worldwide. Last Saturday, eight protesters were [arrested \(http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/police-make-arrests-among-occupy-honolulu-protesters-on-first-night-of-planned-demonstration/2011/11/06/gIQA7T6orM_story.html\)](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/police-make-arrests-among-occupy-honolulu-protesters-on-first-night-of-planned-demonstration/2011/11/06/gIQA7T6orM_story.html) when they refused to leave the Occupy Honolulu encampment at Thomas Square Park. Occupy Honolulu has joined other groups, including [Moana Nui \(http://moananui2011.org/\)](http://moananui2011.org/), to protest the APEC meeting, and while Makana performed, [hundreds of people protested outside \(http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/apcec2011/apcecstories/20111113_Protesters_have_their_say_with_noisy_peaceful_march.html?id=133765228\)](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/apcec2011/apcecstories/20111113_Protesters_have_their_say_with_noisy_peaceful_march.html?id=133765228).

After facing [large-scale protests \(http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2011/11/06/13583-a-look-back-at-past-anti-apcec-protests/\)](http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2011/11/06/13583-a-look-back-at-past-anti-apcec-protests/) in South Korea, Australia, Peru, and Japan, APEC moved this year's event to Hawaii, the most isolated piece of land on earth. In preparation for the meeting, homeless families were [moved \(http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Homeless-being-asked-to-move-out-of-Waikiki/a3AZA-hSqkeoXIS-rs50kg.csp\)](http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Homeless-being-asked-to-move-out-of-Waikiki/a3AZA-hSqkeoXIS-rs50kg.csp) out of sight and millions of taxpayer dollars were spent on security—including [over \\$700,000](#)

<http://www.civilbeat.com/posts/2011/09/26/12961-honolulu-police-load-up-on-taser-ammo-pepper-spray-bean-bags-for-apec/>) on non-lethal weapons for crowd control. In a bitter twist, the multi-million dollar security plans backfired when a local Hawaiian man was [shot and killed](http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/555247/Funeral-set-for-man-shot-in-Waikiki.html?nav=5031) (<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/555247/Funeral-set-for-man-shot-in-Waikiki.html?nav=5031>) by a 27-year-old DC-based federal agent providing security for dignitaries.

Makana's action was assisted by [the Yes Lab](http://www.yeslab.org/) (<http://www.yeslab.org/>) and [Occupy the Boardroom](http://www.occupytheboardroom.org/) (<http://www.occupytheboardroom.org/>). In recent weeks, Occupy protesters have been showing up at corporate events, headquarters and even on the doorsteps of those in power. "Makana really raised the bar by delivering the Occupy message inside what is probably the most secure place on the planet right now," said Mike Bonanno of the Yes Lab.

"My uncle taught me to feel out the audience and play what my heart tells me to," said Makana. "That's what I did tonight."

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Video:



Photos (click some for high-res):

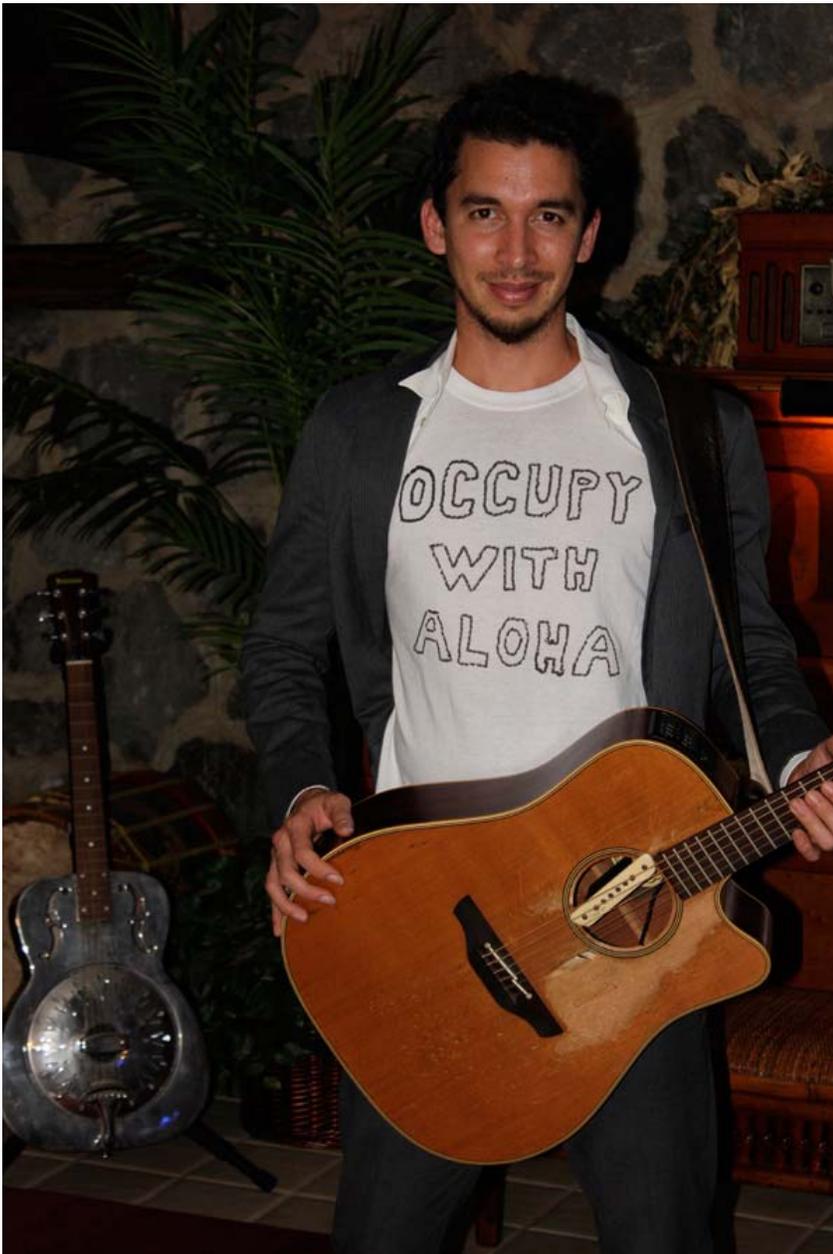


http://files.yeslab.org/images/makana-apec/Makana_performing.jpg





http://files.yeslab.org/images/makana-apec/Makana_occupywithaloha.jpg



http://files.yeslab.org/images/makana-apec/Makana_occupywithaloha.jpg



http://files.yeslab.org/images/makana-apec/Makana_drive.jpg

Lyrics to "[We Are the Many](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq3BYw4xixE&feature=channel_video_title) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq3BYw4xixE&feature=channel_video_title)":

Ye come here, gather 'round the stage
The time has come for us to voice our rage
Against the ones who've trapped us in a cage
To steal from us the value of our wage

From underneath the vestiture of law
The lobbyists at Washington do gnaw
At liberty, the bureaucrats guffaw
And until they are purged, we won't withdraw

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do
The bidding of the many, not the few

Our nation was built upon the right
Of every person to improve their plight
But laws of this Republic they rewrite
And now a few own everything in sight

They own it free of liability
They own, but they are not like you and me
Their influence dictates legality
And until they are stopped we are not free

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do
The bidding of the many, not the few

You enforce your monopolies with guns
While sacrificing our daughters and sons
But certain things belong to everyone
Your thievery has left the people none

So take heed of our notice to redress
We have little to lose, we must confess
Your empty words do leave us unimpressed
A growing number join us in protest

We occupy the streets
We occupy the courts
We occupy the offices of you
Till you do
The bidding of the many, not the few

You can't divide us into sides
And from our gaze, you cannot hide
Denial serves to amplify
And our allegiance you can't buy

Our government is not for sale
The banks do not deserve a bail
We will not reward those who fail
We will not move till we prevail

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do
The bidding of the many, not the few

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do
The bidding of the many, not the few

We are the many
You are the few

No comments

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