

TAKE
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DESIGN

STYLISH
PRODUCTS BY
HAWAII'S HOTTEST
DESIGNERS.

BY KATHRYN DRURY WAGNER AND JENNY QUILL.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX VIARNES

One of Honolulu's up-and-coming young designers, **Allison Nagato** has already had her clothing appear in *British Vogue*. She trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, where she won the Anthony Muto Critic's Award for her modern interpretation of a 1920s-era kimono. She's working on a full line for her Reincarnation line for spring 2007; in the meantime, we've shown her custom "Tsuru," (\$108). Visit allisonizu.com or call 734-5812.

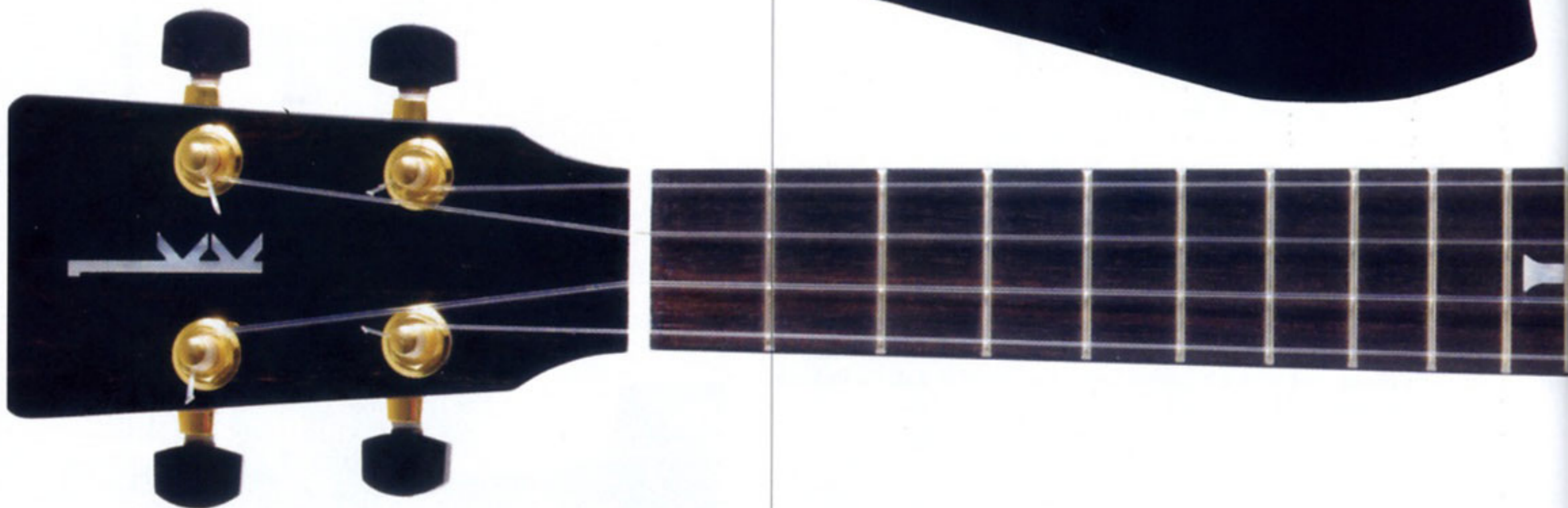


PHOTO: POLYASCKO²

"We design for the urban gentleman, and when I say that, I don't mean hip hop, I mean city and metro area," says Gerald Polyascko, who with his twin brother, John, owns and designs the fashion line **Polyascko²**. The line features intriguing textiles, and while it references tropical living, isn't dependent upon it. "Hawaii is a neutral zone," says Gerald. "The mindset is totally open. We use all-natural fabrics—at these price points, the clients tend to want natural fabrics." Expect price tags ranging from \$30 to \$1,000. Visit www.polyascko2.com to shop online and for store locations.

Paradisus, which means paradise in Latin, is a 2-year-old jewelry company run by a mother-daughter team. Akemi Kano is a Honolulu-based researcher, while her mother, Linda Ueda, an interior designer, is based in San Francisco. Their silver cuff bracelets, pins, earrings and pendants feature natural themes, such as banana, monstera and ginkgo leaves, bamboo and woven lauhala. The results are stunning—substantial, versatile and organic. "We want to maintain a tropical, Asian look," says Ueda. "Something that builds tradition." Prices range from \$50 to \$250; For a list of retailers, visit www.myparadisus.com.



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KAMAKA 'UKULELES are considered the gold standard among those who play the instrument. On the day we visited the factory, an enormous bouquet celebrating the company's 90th birthday was on display, courtesy of Jake Shimabukuro. "Our bottom line is sound," says Chris Kamaka, the production manager and grandson of founder Samuel Kamaka. His brother, Casey, works on the design side. "Craftsmanship and materials make a good instrument," says Chris. "We're kind of old school." Shown, the new Jake Shimabukuro model (price on request), which features abalone details. Like all Kamakas, it's made of koa wood. Expect to pay at least \$495 for a Kamaka; the waiting list is about four to six weeks. **Kamaka Hawaii, 550 South St., 531-3165.**

