

Hawaii Calls

US : 1937 : dir. Edward F Kline : R.K.O : 73 min
prod: Sol Lesser : scr: Wanda Tuchok : dir.ph.:
Bobby Breen; Pua Lani
Ned Sparks; Irvin S Cobb; Warren Hull; Gloria Holden; Philip Ahn

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Bobby Breen and Ned Sparks do their "Honolulu Baby" thang...

Source: indeterminate website

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Young boy[s] Breen and Lani stowaway to Hawaii. They are caught, escape with the help of comedian Sparks and seek refuge with Lani's family, who live in Hawaii. A likeable but sentimental film built around ukelele-playing little child star Bobby Breen. From the book "Stowaways in Paradise" by Don Blanding. ** ”

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

“Boy stowaways catch a steamer from San Francisco to Hawaii. Slight vehicle for a singing star. Scr: Wanda Tuchock, from the novel "Stowaways in Paradise" by Don Blanding. ”

“Okay musically, but light on romance”
- **Variety**¹

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Breen:

““Bobby's precocious [*sic*] singing talent, carefully nurtured, led to a 1931 debut in the Silver Slipper Night Club in Toronto. Soon after-wards, with the club's band, he sang on the radio. Then came a stream of vaudeville and restaurant engagements. After he had performed in Illinois and New York, he went to study at the Professional Children's School in Hollywood. There he was seen by Eddie Cantor, who in 1936 gave him (like Terry Kilburn) a regular spot on his radio show.

Bobby, a dab hand with languages, could also sing in French, Italian and Spanish, and won wide popularity. RKO signed him up, and he starred and sang till the golden voice left him – a cheerful trooper without any particular charm or individuality.

¹ (who evidently required a "courting couples" fix in every movie)

His last acting assignment in the cinema was in "**JOHNNY DOUGHBOY**" (42), along with other kid actors of the past like Spanky McFarland and Robert Coogan. But he continued as a singer in nightclubs and stage musicals, and in occasional films such as "**LONDON ENTERTAINS**" (51) and "**CURSE OF THE VODOO**" (65).”



Stowaway huh? Book him, Danno !

No further information currently available. Films featuring ukulele-toting boy stowaways are best quickly forgotten, or that appears to be the consensus view. Canadian [Bobby Breen](#)'s first break came on Eddie Cantor's radio show in 1936, although he'd been performing since 1931. He made his film debut in "**LET'S SING AGAIN**" (36), and with RKO for the next few years made a series of trite saccharine singing titles, the fate which befell boy singers elsewhere such as the Dutch Heintje and the Spanish Joselito. Here 11, Breen was also seen in "**RAINBOW ON THE RIVER**" (36), "**MAKE A WISH**" (37), "**ESCAPE TO PARADISE**" (39) and "**FISHERMAN'S WHARF**" (39). Nothing else is known of Pua Lani.

See subject index under **MUSIC / YOUNG MUSICIANS** and **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**.