

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)
MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 13TH FESTIVAL OF
PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE (FestPAC) MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 AT 1:00 PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

J. Kalani English, Chair	-	Senate President's Designee
Mehana Hind	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Designee
Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Monte McComber	-	Governor's Designee (arrived at 1:10pm)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee (arrived at 1:25pm)
Misty Kela'i	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large (arrived at 1:13pm)

Guests:

Jacob Aki	-	Senator English's Office
Jackie Burke	-	Kahookole Art
Mamika Carroll	-	Hawai'i State Art Museum
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	City and County of Honolulu
T. Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Lynn Martin Graton	-	--
Amber Jacroux Bixel	-	Bishop Museum
Honey Maltin-Wisot	-	Strategies 360
June Matsumoto	-	Pacific Island Institute (PII)
Aina Paikai	-	--
Ngahiraka Mason	-	--
Jean-Emmanuel Frantz	-	--

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Attorney General
Marlene Hiraoka	-	DBEDT
Selma Malcolm	-	DBEDT
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
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CALL TO ORDER

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chair English on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 1:07 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via Zoom and Facebook.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair English invited members of the public to testify at the beginning of the meeting. He expressed the public will be invited to offer comments at the end of the meeting, too.

Hearing none, he continued with agenda items.

APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on July 27, 2020, were approved, unamended on a motion by Mr. Ka'anā'anā and seconded by Ms. Kela'i.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion: Chair English, Mr. Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Kela'i, Ms. Hind, and Ms. Lum. None opposed.

REPORTS

A. DBEDT Report:

Ms. Lum thanked Mr. Ka'anā'anā for offering to host the September 8, 2020 Commission retreat at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Ms. Lum raised the question whether Commissioners supported having an in-person event or whether it could be conducted remotely, via Zoom. Mr. Ka'anā'anā stated that he would be happy to organize a hybrid event to accommodate participants who prefer to participate via Zoom.

Chair English asked each of the Commissioners how they felt about participating in-person or virtually. While they all agreed that meeting in person fosters the sharing of energy and *mana* and is more conducive to having lively discussion, Ms. Hind, Ms. Lum and Ms. de Silva said they would participate virtually, while Chair English, Mr. McComber, Ms. Kela'i and Mr. Ka'anā'anā said they were comfortable with participating in-person.

Chair English asked that Ms. Lum and Mr. Ka‘anā‘anā assess the situation as the date of the retreat approaches. If it is not possible to participate in-person, he is committed to meeting via Zoom. The Chair indicated that the discussion will focus on the Festival theme.

Mr. Ka‘anā‘anā indicated that if too few people attend in person, it may not be feasible, cost-wise, to continue with those plans. He confirmed that adjustments will be made as it gets closer to the date of the retreat.

Mr. Aki said that the meeting could also be hosted at the State Capitol in the Senate Caucus Room. The room is equipped with a television screen for virtual participation.

B. Commissioners Report:

Chair English asked if anyone had suggestions regarding themes for the Festival. He reported that he participated in a Zoom meeting regarding cosmogony in the Pacific. Creation stories from Tonga, the Marquesas, etc. were shared and were inspirational. The belief that we are one big family in the Pacific can be supported by genealogical research. He was inspired, and it made him think about all the great things Hawai‘i has to share.

Chair English commented that the Commission will need to think about future funding for the Festival. Both Chair English and Rep. Onishi agreed that it will be difficult to secure funding through the Legislature. There needs to be creativity in funding sources as well as creating partnerships. As an example, Chair English is considering reaching out to Apple to be a Festival partner to help with technology-related aspects.

Ms. de Silva shared an idea presented by her non-profit organization, Hika‘alani. The ideas generated for the *hale* in the Festival Village could be coordinated by Hika‘alani so that the Commission would not need to worry about paying for construction and other costs to build the *hale*. Hika‘alani is planning to apply for an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant for this purpose. The idea is to identify communities on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i Island, Maui and Kaua‘i that would be willing to learn how to build a *hale*. Members of the respective communities will be tasked to gather materials to build the *hale*. Each community would learn about constructing, decorating including protocols, writing new *mele*, deconstructing their respective *hale* and rebuilding it in their island communities after the Festival. Ms. de Silva stated that if their organization’s proposal is accepted next year, the grant would be for a three-year period that will be timed well with Festival planning. She also hopes to work with Young Brothers related to shipping. Ms. de Silva hopes to receive the grant award confirmation by Fall 2021.

Chair English expressed his thanks to Ms. de Silva for thinking along these creative lines. He believes these are the types of ideas that will be required as Festival plans continue. He also mentioned that folks who live in the state of Hawaii and who are from the respective countries would be great resources/partners because they already have an understanding what it takes to build a *hale*.

Mr. Ka'anā'anā said he is looking at a framework and exploring costs for a virtual platform to use for the Festival.

Ms. de Silva reported that the Council for Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC), which she chairs, is developing a 10-year regional cultural strategy. The plan will include evaluating the Festivals and how it has been organized and coordinated previously. The plan will also examine the new idea of a hybrid/virtual Festival. One of the big concerns is the amount of bandwidth available in some of the countries. Chair English stated that most countries now have high speed bandwidth, but the local community does not have the knowledge/experience to set it up. He further suggested that the Council should engage with the Ministers responsible for technology in each of the countries. Ms. de Silva believes there will need to be a technology educational component that should also include a dedicated technical person in each country to resolve these matters. Ms. de Silva stated that these issues will be raised with the Council, and they will provide guidance to the host country. She is working with Mr. Ka'anā'anā on a presentation for the next CPAC meeting at the end of the month.

Mr. Ka'anā'anā reported that he received access to be the administrator for the other Facebook account that was created for the Festival in the past, and he plans to close that account.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chair English invited members of the public to offer comments. He asked them if they wished to state their name and organization they are representing.

Hearing none, discussion continued to the next meeting date.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020. Chair English deferred to Ms. Lum and Mr. Ka'anā'anā regarding logistical needs and requirements and how to proceed with scheduling. Ms. de Silva suggested that more time be allotted for the next meeting in order to flesh out as many ideas as possible.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair English expressed thanks to everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator J. Kalani English
Chair

10/19/20

Date