



HO'OU LU LĀHUI
Regenerating Oceania
13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture
Hawai'i 2024

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 13TH FESTIVAL OF
PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE (FestPAC) MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 AT 2:30 PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Chair	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee (Arrived at 2:35 p.m.)
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Designee

Guests:

Kiele Amundson	-	Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts
Jackie Lynne Burke	-	Public Member
Hailama Farden	-	Public Member
Jean-Emmanuel Frantz	-	Public Member
Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Dede Howa	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Terence Liu	-	Public Member
Lynn J Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Monte McComber	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	University of Hawai'i/Royal Hawaiian Center
Malia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Margo Vitarelli	-	Public Member

Staff:

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

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:32 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair Ka'anā'anā called upon Ms. Makanani Salā who introduced a member of her staff, Ms. Janelle Saole, to do the *wehena* (opening).

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. He also mentioned that testimony was received in writing and distributed to members. Chair also reported that late written testimony was received from Ricardo D. Trimillos, Professor Emeritus in Ethnomusicology and Asian Studies at UH Manoa regarding the upcoming International Symposium on Pacific Music and Dance. This testimony will be sent to Commissioners.

Chair also invited Commissioners to ask questions or share any comments. Rep. Onishi expressed that he recalled a past policy or concept that the Commission would be open to allowing adjoining symposiums to be held concurrently with FestPAC. He asked if this is still considered to be a general policy. Chair Ka'anā'anā mentioned that several conferences and symposiums may be held during FestPAC. These events could add to what will be a beautiful week, however, organizations will need to plan their own programs and will be asked to avoid scheduling conflicts with major FestPAC events.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. A motion was made to adopt the minutes unamended by Ms. Lum and seconded by Ms. de Silva.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Bento, Rep. Onishi, Ms. Lum, Ms. Wong-Kalu, Ms. Salā.

Motion was unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

Chair Ka'anā'anā reported that Senate Bill 696 SD1 HD1 that extends the life of the Commission until August 31, 2025 was passed from the House Committee on Finance with amendments. A defective effective date was added to the measure. It will then proceed to third reading and a full House vote before it is sent back to the Senate and scheduled for Conference.

PRESENTATION OF REVISED PROGRAM MATRIX AND DISCUSSION

Chair Ka'anā'anā turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Salā who reported on the revised program matrix on behalf of Ms. Snowbird Bento. Ms. Salā read the report which will be sent to Commissioners and attached to the minutes.

To summarize, the newly proposed buckets/categories that were developed would provide general program concepts for delegations as follows:

1. Performing Arts (*Hō'ike'ike*) which includes music, dance drama, poetry, storytelling.
2. Visual Arts (*Hō'ike Ki'i*) which includes creative activities such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, photography, graphic design and film.
3. Applied Arts (*Hana No'eau*) which includes demonstrations of wood, stone or bone carving. Jewelry, featherwork and shell making would be included in this category. In addition, fashion shows would be a part of this category.
4. Culinary Arts (*Mea'ai*) showcasing the process from planting to harvesting to meal preparations (ceremonial and non-ceremonial).
5. Symposium (*'Aha Moananuiākea*) ongoing conferencing that would be held during FestPAC and which would include scholarly presentations, etc.
6. Complementary Activities (*Nā Hana Pāku'i*) events that would be hosted by partners.
7. Special Events (*Nā Hana Kūhelu*)– *Wa'a* arrival and the ecumenical service will be added to the scheduled matrix.

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed his thanks to Ms. Salā. He also mentioned that Mr. Gionson developed a mock-up to compare both plans – the previously approved buckets of categories and the newly proposed buckets. Chair requested comments and questions from Commissioners.

Ms. Salā indicated that Mr. Aaron Salā and Mr. Monte McComber also would be able to provide answers since they did a lot of the heavy lifting in developing the revised matrix.

Ms. Wong-Kalu shared her comments related to the *Nā Hana Pāku'i* category, specifically, the Celebration of *Māhū* (LGBTIQA+). She believes that this topic should be discussed in an open forum. She pointed out that this topic should be a part of a larger discussion. For Pacific Islanders, some of the issues related to this topic have a duality or two spirits. People will use terminologies in different ways. She would like this topic to be brought forward so that there is an understanding that people can embrace.

Ms. Wong-Kalu further explained that when looking at Pacific languages and pronouns, Polynesians have an understanding of “he,” “she” and “it.” There is no gender or sex attached to the pronoun. This topic could be given an open session to engage in further discussion. She expressed that she would like to hear comments from other Commissioners. She is in support of this topic.

Chair Ka'anā'anā thanked Ms. Wong-Kalu for sharing her thoughts. He indicated that he was not comfortable with *māhū* as being a part of the *Pāku'i* bucket. He also commented that he noticed that *'ohana* (family) was not included in any of the new buckets.

Rep. Onishi mentioned that he recalled a previous discussion related to health and wellness that included *'ohana*. He believes that these discussions would be appropriate under the symposium category and allow for an understanding of concepts to evolve. Chair Ka'anā'anā agreed and expressed that *'ohana* needed to be a part of the core program.

Ms. Wong-Kalu commented that given what Rep. Onishi expressed, the topic of *māhū* could be approached as a social structure. There are many different ways to expand upon this topic

including leadership. For example – how does our social structure provide leadership within a family, church, *hālau*, etc. that includes the elements of *kāne* and *wahine* and those who straddle in a middle space. There is room for everyone.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā asked if it would be okay to add ‘*ohana* to the symposium section. Ms. Salā expressed that in previous conversations they were looking at buckets in a general way. She asked if there is anything that is blatantly missing with the understanding that topics will be moved around, too.

Ms. de Silva commented that she liked the narrative and its intention and acknowledged how the Festival started and incorporated categories that have been in existence at Festivals over the years. She appreciated how the narrative connected the original FestPAC categories. Ms. de Silva acknowledged that because there is a lot to consider she would prefer that decision-making be deferred and not be made at this meeting.

Ms. de Silva asked that Commissioners be sent the original report developed by Ms. Bento and her committee. Every Commissioner should review the report, offer their own notes, return to the Commission and engage in a discussion with committee members who created the report. The first five categories were what was originally identified in the past. The committee included their research in the newly developed matrix. Perhaps the title *Nā Hana Pāku‘i* needs to be changed? The jam session and fashion show were added after the original pillars were established. Ms. de Silva shared that she is concerned about the number of topics/activities that are being considered because additional activities will require a bigger budget. She suggested that the program committee make its recommendations to the Commission. She repeated that she would like Commissioners to receive the original report prepared by Ms. Bento, have the opportunity to comment on it and followed-up with a discussion with the individuals who developed it.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā requested that Ms. Salā and Mr. Gionson send the program matrix and comparison document to Ms. Sanders for distribution to Commissioners.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā echoed Ms. de Silva’s comments that having more activities would require more money. Ms. de Silva cautioned that there are so many topics to consider, however, that the original intention of the Festival should be considered and that the Commission needed to be selective. She commented that she has attended many Festivals that included ancillary events but lacked acknowledgement or activity. She reminded members that the same amount of energy is required to develop small and large events. Consideration must be made regarding core staffing needs at these events, too. She suggested that the Commission stick to the main topics so that others would not be diluted in the process.

Ms. Wong-Kalu recalled that when she first heard about the *māhū* category/topic, she questioned why. She believes there is merit to having visibility, however, she does not believe that it needs to be visible in the “western” way. She further indicated that if the Commission decided that *māhū* should be visible and prominent, she would not be the driving force behind it because it would go against her personal and professional career.

Ms. de Silva agreed with Ms. Wong-Kalu's comments. She explained that when Aunty Vicki (*PA 'I*) was the FestPAC contractor, she included the Queens Pageant in programming. At the time, most decisions were made along with her ideas. When *PA 'I* withdrew and the Commission took over as a working Commission, the program followed what *PA 'I* originally developed. There were no in-depth discussions held regarding each activity/event. She would like to support what the community wants – across many ethnic groups from the Pacific Islands. Ms. Wong-Kalu believes that there needs to be a “think tank” to address these issues with more discussion.

Chair Ka'anā'anā suggested that Ms. Wong-Kalu form a subcommittee and bring ideas and recommendations to the Commission. She expressed that she would value a cross-section of opinions including hearing from Sen. Keohokālole, Rep. Onishi and Ms. Lum. She is very cognizant and conscious about people's need to understand that when speaking of *māhū*, it is not necessarily in the same as the western perspective. She believes that people can learn and understand that looking through a western lens is not the only way.

Rep Onishi added that, during previous discussions, this topic was presented within the context of '*ohana*. It was from a *kāne* and *wahine* perspective and included *keiki* and *māhū*. In that context, how each culture should be represented within the family was discussed. It was not specific to the *māhū* topic. He recalled that the Queens Pageant was going to be eliminated during the 2020 Festival because it was not relevant to the Commissioners as a whole.

Rep. Onishi commented further on the discussion of programming. He recalled that when the Commission took over programming, there was a discussion of what would be included and what would be eliminated. For example, within the category of surfing, there was only one potential participant, so it was going to be eliminated. For the regatta and *wa 'a*, it was also going to be removed because only two or three countries were sending a *wa 'a* to Hawai'i. Commissioners will need to focus on concepts. Countries will determine how they will participate. Rep. Onishi also expressed that we are the host so we can decide on the programming and each country will determine their level of participation.

Chair Ka'anā'anā indicated that once feedback from the countries is received, the Commission would be able to identify what programming is popular and others that might not be viable. As Ms. de Silva mentioned, if there are too many options, the program becomes diluted. Chair suggested that Commissioners use the next two weeks to think about these considerations. He thanked Ms. Wong-Kalu for sharing her thoughts. He commented that '*ōlelo Hawai 'i* should be a part of all programming. In the same way, practitioners who are *māhū* should be represented and encouraged in the same way.

DISCUSSION OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR SUB-COMMITTEES

Chair Ka'anā'anā indicated that the subcommittee matrix was initially going to be discussed, however, it will be deferred and moved to the next meeting agenda. He would like the organizational chart to be developed that included community members who could be added to subcommittees. He asked Commissioners to think about their *kuleana* and identify core individuals that could be included.

Chair Ka'anā'anā would like to send the venue information, intent to participate forms, etc. to the heads of delegation and emphasized that there is a need to begin opening up channels of communication with the delegations.

DISCUSSION OF FESTIVAL MANUAL

Chair Ka'anā'anā requested that Commissioners read the Festival Manual and Guam's after-action report to help in understanding the *Kuleana* Matrix and development of subcommittees.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to offer comments.

Mr. Aaron Salā offered his comments regarding the narrative and programming report that was presented earlier in the meeting. The goal of the report was to streamline activities for FestPAC. The goal of the *Pāku 'i* bucket was to include activities that were outside of FestPAC where partners would be responsible for events.

Ms. Wong-Kalu understood Mr. Salā's comments. She also expressed understanding of how the Commission operates. She suggested that it would behoove the Commission to have clear communication established related to supplemental activities because of liability matters. She mentioned that Pacific Island visitors will see all activities as part of FestPAC even if they are not. She cautioned that the Commission would not want to be naïve in its approach and may want to consider keeping all activities under the FestPAC umbrella, to some extent, to avoid challenges or obstacles.

Ms. Wong-Kalu requested an email update and Ms. Sanders confirmed that she will follow-up on this matter with Mr. Tome.

Ms. de Silva expressed her thanks and appreciation to Sen. Keohokālolo and Rep. Onishi for attending FestPAC meetings, for their compassionate stance and for representing the Legislature.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Ka'anā'anā confirmed that the next meeting will be held on April 19, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

April 7, 2021
Date