



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

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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
Maenette Ah Nee-Benham	-	Governor's Designee
Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large

Guests:

Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Mamiko Carroll	-	Public Member
Jean-Emmanuel Frantz	-	Public Member
Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Dede Howe	-	Public Member
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Monte McComber	-	Public Member
Malia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Pris Texeira	-	Public Member
Julia Paleiholani	-	Support Staff
Kehaulani Pu'u	-	City Department of Parks & Recreation

Staff:

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:30 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair conducted roll call of Commissioners present: Chair, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Bento, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. de Silva.

Chair invited Ms. Hussey to conduct the *wehena* (opening). Ms. Hussey shared that between October and November, she remembers and honors her parents for their *kūpuna* (elders) wisdom. Especially during this time in society, she emphasized that for our *kūpuna* knowledge, skill and practice were virtues that were always held together in high regard. She acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Peter Hanohano, a respected scholar of Native Hawaiian and indigenous education. In his memory, she is reminded about *kūpuna* who are still with us and continue to speak to and influence each of us. Given the nature of the times, often there is excess white noise due to distractions such as social media that may prevent us from listening to or hearing from our *kūpuna*. She offered encouraging words to Commissioners that each individual must exercise their responsibility as FestPAC Commissioners and try to quietly listen to our *kūpuna* who can guide us as important decisions are made.

Chair thanked Ms. Hussey for sharing her thoughtful and timely comments today. He proceeded with the next agenda item.

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he noted that no public testimony was received prior to the meeting and proceeded with the rest of the agenda items.

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair asked if there were any comments or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to be made and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Ah Nee and seconded by Vice-Chair Salā. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Onishi, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Bento. Motion was unanimously approved.

### **REPORT ON PERMITTED INTERACTIONS, PURSUANT TO ACT 103, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2021**

Chair reported that there was a Permitted Interaction Group meeting held, pursuant to Act 103, and stated that the Administrative Committee (AC) has provided a written report and will be summarizing the meeting discussion as noted on the agenda.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that the AC was invited by the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) to interview the finalist for the position of Festival Director (FD). She reminded Commissioners that the AC minutes were included in today's meeting materials. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham stated

that NaHHA hosted and facilitated the meeting with the finalist. Before moving into Executive Session, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham and Vice-Chair Salā recused themselves from any discussion and recommendations on the matter.

Chair entertained a motion for Commissioners to enter into Executive Session. Ms. Lum made a motion to enter into Executive Session by noting that pursuant to sections 92-5(a)(2) and (4) of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, the Commission may vote to enter an executive meeting to consider the hire or evaluation of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affective privacy will be involved, or to consult with the Commission’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities. Mr. Keohokālole seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to enter into Executive Session: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Onishi, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Bento.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair advised that Commissioners would be moving into Executive Session and that a separate Zoom link was sent to Commissioners by NaHHA. For members of the public, the Zoom link being used for the Commission Meeting will remain live.

The Executive Session began at 2:45p.m. Vice-Chair Salā and Ms. Ah Nee-Benham did not enter the Executive Session.

Commissioners rejoined the Commission meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Chair recommended that the meeting be recessed and reconvene at 4:12 p.m.

The Commission meeting reconvened at 4:13 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING MAIN FESTIVAL VILLAGE VENUE**

Chair turned over the next portion of the agenda to Vice-Chair Salā. Vice-Chair reported that a meeting was held with University of Hawai‘i (UH) President David Lassner. In summary, after discussing possible options, UH offered the Andrew’s Amphitheater and the adjacent Legacy Path to Commissioners to stage the Festival Village. Vice-Chair indicated that because there are some infrastructure issues that need to be discussed and negotiated, she will be meeting with the UH Mānoa Cabinet that represents University officials who operationalize requests such as these.

Chair asked about the location of the Legacy Path and Vice-Chair noted that it is the walkway between Andrews Amphitheater and Krause/Kuykendall Halls that begin from Dole Street and continues until the area near the Campus Center. It is the walkway that is within the pathway from the parking structure.

Mr. Keohokālole asked for feedback from Commissioners regarding the location and whether there would be enough space for FestPAC delegations to use.

Vice-Chair noted that UH officials feel positive about the timing of the event because FestPAC would be held between the end of the Spring Semester and the beginning of Summer Session. Chair asked whether Kuykendall Hall could be used as a staging area for delegations. Ms. Bento commented that she and Ms. de Silva recently participated in an event, pre-Covid, that was held at Andrews Amphitheater and that schools and groups have used Kuykendall Hall as a staging area. She emphasized that the Commission should be cognizant about Covid mitigation procedures and used the example of post 9-11 policies that were made such as travel rules and procedures. She cautioned that Covid rules may continue through 2024 and that the Commission may need the ability to isolate and individualize delegations. If Andrews Amphitheater is the designated location for the Festival Village, these matters need to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Keohokālole further commented that if the Legacy Path is acceptable as a location for delegations, it is the most easily accessible at UH Mānoa. Ancillary events, receptions, etc. could also be held at UH although it is secondary to the Festival Village operations. Chair also commented that the Commission would save on ground transportation expenses since participants would be able to walk to Andrews Amphitheater from the dormitories where they will be housed.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham noted that there is a *mauka* (towards the mountain) access to Andrews Amphitheater and the Legacy Path where deliveries can be made. She also commented that Krause Hall may be an additional area with a great space to consider. All of these questions will be discussed with the UH Mānoa Cabinet.

Chair asked whether the Clarence T.C. Ching Field, on the *makai* (towards the ocean) side of campus, could be used for FestPAC programming. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham added that the *makai* side of campus also houses the music facilities. It was mentioned that the Ching Field was not on the list of possible venues at UH Mānoa; however, the Richardson School of Law and music department facilities might be accessible to FestPAC. In response to Chair's question regarding the downside of UH Mānoa as the Festival Village venue, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that UH stated that they cannot take a financial loss as a result of staging the FestPAC event on campus. As such, the Commission will need to consider assisting with infrastructure requirements such as restroom availability and other considerations in order to assure UH that they will not experience a financial loss as a result of authorizing the Festival Village to be held on campus.

Mr. Onishi posed a question regarding the authorization by UH to allow for product sales to be conducted during FestPAC. Ms. Salā acknowledged that these discussions will need to be held with the UH Mānoa Cabinet. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham commented that that is one of the reasons why the Legacy Path is being recommended by UH because there are some areas on campus that are considered Ceded Lands where these types of activities might be considered prohibitive.

Chair also asked about the possibility of using the great lawn behind Hawai'i Hall and whether that area could be used, too. Ms. Salā stated that it would not be possible to use that location. A question regarding the use of Campus Center was asked and she indicated that more discussions

would need to be held with members of the UH Mānoa Cabinet although she believes that because Campus Center is also used by other non-UH organizations, there may be a possibility to use those facilities.

Ms. Bento commented that because the Commission has reserved funds at the Convention Center, she would like to understand that we are being fiduciarily responsible about those funds. Chair indicated that it would not be possible to move that funding because it has already been encumbered for the use of the facility. Funding at the Convention Center would be appropriate for hosting VIP receptions, paying for audio-visual expenses, food and beverage costs, etc.

Ms. de Silva offered additional comments and stated that her objective would be for the Festival Village to be located at an outdoor venue. If UH is the only venue where this objective can be met, the Commission will make it work although she considers it a rather small space. She further stated that if UH Mānoa is the Festival Village venue, she noted that there should be no other activities held there. Participants could travel to the Convention Center for culinary demonstrations; displays; symposia; and other events so that funding for both UH Mānoa and the Convention Center is balanced.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham agreed with Ms. de Silva. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham indicated that there were discussions held about utilizing other venues throughout the State. Ms. Bento appreciated the comments and stated that she would like the O‘ahu community-at-large to have access to FestPAC and that she just wanted to ensure that the Commission was following its fiduciary responsibility.

Ms. de Silva stated that it would be important to decentralize the Festival by offering a variety of places to visit. Chair further commented that delegations’ experiences will be further enriched if they are given opportunities to visit many sites. He emphasized that encouraging interactions are imperative and that the process of implementation achieves those objectives.

Mr. Keohokālole commented that creating a central hub that is accessible such as UH Mānoa will help with the planning of other activities. Delegates would be able to walk to the Festival Village and parking would be accessible unlike at other locations in Honolulu. He further stated that it would make it easier to be more creative while expanding offerings and other experiences for delegates.

Chair posed a question about what would distinguish the “Hawai‘i” experience from other FestPAC events held previously. For example, he wondered if there should be *pule* (prayer) each morning with all participants. Since delegates will be housed at UH Mānoa, meeting at Andrews Amphitheater each morning for *pule* would be a special experience. The Amphitheater provides us with an opportunity to implement this into programming. Ms. de Silva offered her support and believes that would be a nice offering that could also include *hālau* (schools).

At this point of the meeting, Ms. de Silva made a motion to consider UH Mānoa as the first choice for the Festival Village with the understanding that more due diligence and discussions be held. Chair suggested adding a back-up as a second choice and suggested Ala Moana/Magic Island as the second choice. Ms. Lum seconded the motion. Ms. Hussey commented that she is

in support of these options knowing that planning discussions will continue especially related to safety, mobility and programming considerations. Ms. Lum commented that it appears that more discussion with UH is required but agreed that it is a good first step.

Vice-Chair commented that the City Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation, Ms. Kehaulani Pu'u was present at the beginning of today's meeting, however, she left due to other commitments. She will be attending future meetings with the Venues Committee to assist in the process. The Vice-Chair acknowledged that it would be difficult to secure Ala Moana/Magic Island for the length of time required for the Festival Village. Chair commented that Ala Moana/Magic Island is in close proximity to the Convention Center and that he would be willing to attend the respective Neighborhood Board meeting for this purpose.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham suggested the motion to be reworded by stating that continued deliberations with UH System and UH Mānoa continue regarding hosting the Festival Village on the UH Mānoa campus.

Ms. de Silva revised her motion to have Ala Moana/Magic Island as the secondary Festival Village location and UH Mānoa as the primary location; however, Chair stated that is only if UH Mānoa does not work out that Ala Moana/Magic Island be considered as the secondary location.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion that UH Mānoa would be the primary Festival Village location and Ala Moana/Magic Island as the secondary location: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Onishi, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Bento.

Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to again offer comments. Hearing no further comments from the public, Chair continued with announcements and the next meeting date.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

#### **NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2021 – 2:30 pm**

Chair reminded Commissioners that the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will go into Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kalani Ka'anā'anā  
Chair

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11/8/2021  
Date