



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, NOVEMBER 8, 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:

Jackie Burke	-	Public Member
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Mehanaokalā Hind	-	Public Member
Dede Howe	-	Public Member
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	Public Member
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Public Member
Pris Texeira	-	Public Member
Kēhaulani Pu'u	-	City Department of Parks & Recreation
Margot Vitarelli	-	Public Member

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Deputy Attorney General
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT
Scott Tome	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:33 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 Mr. Keohokālole to share his thoughts for today's *wehena* (opening). Mr. Keohokālole shared that he encouraged Commissioners to reflect upon Hawai'i's history and Hawai'i's role as the host of FestPAC as an opportunity to engage in a number of exciting and important possibilities such as showcasing Hawai'i's arts and cultural practices to the Pacific community; hosting delegations; and strengthening and reconnecting with fellow Pacific peoples. Reflecting upon these possibilities serves as an important reminder for the Commission about how King Kalākaua's role in history for example, he estored many Hawaiian cultural arts practices, as the international head of state, he hosted delegations from other countries, and he strengthened ties with fellow Pacific communities. Mr. Keohokālole reflected that in many ways, our efforts are a continuation of what Kalākaua initiated and worked on as King. Mr. Keohokālole then introduced Ms. Mehanaokala Hind to share additional thoughts for today's *wehena*.

Ms. Hind thanked Mr. Keohokālole for providing inspiring comments about Kalākaua that we could all learn from. His establishment of Ho'ouluāhui (an organization of benevolent work) and his ability to be very innovative and unafraid of new technologies and ideas were remarkable. Kalākaua always looked for ways to put forth the best of Hawai'i and that we also can draw inspiration from his ability to nurture diplomatic relationships as an opportunity to bring the *lāhui* (people/nation) together through FestPAC. The Festival is an opportunity to engage in diplomatic relationships in the Pacific and bringing forward cultural and ancestral strengths that will positively impact Hawai'i.

Chair thanked former Commissioner Hind for sharing her thoughts and assisting with the *wehena* today.

Chair turned over this portion of the agenda to Ms. Salā for her to make an introduction. Ms. Salā introduced Ms. Kēhaulani Pu'u, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. She will be Ms. Salā's partner with matters pertaining to the City and County of Honolulu such as securing venues, permits, etc. Chair expressed his thanks to Ms. Pu'u for her *kōkua* (help) and that the Commission is grateful for her assistance. Ms. de Silva also expressed her appreciation and mentioned that she looks forward to working with Ms. Pu'u.

Chair offered Ms. Pu'u the opportunity to share her thoughts. Ms. Pu'u expressed that she is looking forward to working with Commissioners to host a great FestPAC.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he noted that public testimony was not received prior to the meeting and proceeded with the rest of the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 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 it was made by Ms. Ah Nee-Benham 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, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, 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 were no Permitted Interaction Group meetings held between the last Commission meeting and today's meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE – DISCUSSION ON ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT OF NaHHA's FINALIST FOR FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Chair informed Commissioners that in preparation for today's meeting, he met with Ms. Sanders and indicated that we were ready share publicly that Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) has selected Mr. Aaron Salā as the finalist for the position of Festival Director. Ms. de Silva entertained a motion that the Commission support NaHHA's selection in the hiring of Mr. Aaron Salā for the position of FestPAC's Festival Director. It was seconded by Mr. Keohokālole.

Chair invited Commissioners to discuss the motion. He reiterated, for clarity again, that the hiring is being done by NaHHA and the motion made is for the Commission to support NaHHA's selection of Mr. Salā as the Festival Director.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to support NaHHA's selection of Mr. Salā: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Vice-Chair Salā (recused), Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham (recused), Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Bento.

Chair stated that Vice-Chair Salā and Ms. Ah Nee-Benham recused themselves from today's vote.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to again offer comments. Mr. Aaron Salā provided remarks that he is looking forward to working with Ms. Sanders and all Commissioners collectively and individually. He commented on Mr. Keohokālole's *wehena* today in that he recalled a *mele* (song) called Maunakea written by Mr. Kīhei de Silva about Queen Emma that described her travels throughout the island chain. Kalākaua envisioned building the nation by going out into the world and entering into treaties with other countries; whereas, Emma went to the *piko* (the source/center) to understand what was going on in different areas of the islands. Through FestPAC, we will be reaching out to the Pacific and bringing incredible cultures to Hawai'i.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair informed Commissioners that Ms. Sanders will be distributing a proposed 2022 Commission meeting schedule. He requested that Commissioners inform Ms. Sanders of any scheduling conflicts with the proposed dates.

Ms. de Silva reported to the Commission that she participated in a Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) working group meeting today. She commented that whenever CPAC meets, she reports to members with an update of Hawai'i's plans. She reported to CPAC that the first choices for venues have been made and that the Commission is expected to name a Festival Director soon. She also reported that Hawai'i will have a robust plan for 2022 and that she will inform CPAC of our progress.

Ms de Silva reported that questions were raised regarding the possibility of hosting a virtual event. She indicated that following the 2022 Virtual Youth Conference, she will have more information about whether a virtual Festival would be feasible. A second question raised related to how Hawai'i will handle COVID-19 and health protocols. She assured CPAC members that there will be strict protocols in place and that as the world health situation improves, some of the rules in Hawai'i may be lifted.

Mr. Keohokālole thanked Ms. de Silva for her report. He asked about how the working group members received the updates. Ms. de Silva commented that her report was received well. She expressed that the Commission has a plan, and they were pleased to know that our plans are progressing well.

Ms. Lum asked Ms. de Silva about when the next CPAC meeting would be held. Ms. de Silva replied that it will be held in the first quarter of 2022.

Chair commented that Ms. de Silva is the current Chair of CPAC because Hawai'i is hosting the next FestPAC.

Ms. de Silva commented that next Thursday is Kalākaua's birthday, so she thanked Mr. Keohokālole for his timely *wehena*.

NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 22, 2021

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is confirmed for Monday, November 22, 2021 at 2:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

11/16/2021

Date