



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, MAY 16, 2022, AT 3:00 PM**

**EAST-WEST CENTER**

Commission Members Present were :

- Kalani Ka'anā'anā - Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
- Maenette Ah Nee-Benham - Governor's Designee
- Māpuana de Silva - Community Member At-Large (Arrived at 3:12pm)
- Sylvia Hussey - Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
- Jarett Keohokālole - Senate President's Designee
- Jamie Lum - Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
- Richard Onishi - House Speaker's Designee

Guests :

- Maka Casson-Fisher - Hawai'i Tourism Authority
- Eric Chang - East-West Center
- Sandra Flores - Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA)
- Monica Guzman - Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA)
- Nawahine Lanzilotti - East-West Center
- Monte McComber - Royal Hawaiian Center
- Kureha Pambid - University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu
- Annie Reynolds - East-West Center
- Aaron Salā - Festival Director
- Mālia Sanders - Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
- Angie Taitagne - Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA)
- Ricardo Trimillos - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Suzanne Vares-Lum - East-West Center
- James Viernes - East-West Center

Staff :

- Elise Amemiya - Office of the Attorney General
- Marlene Hiraoka - DBEDT
- Timothy Tiu - DBEDT
- Scott Tome - DBEDT

Apologies :

- |                |   |                                      |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Snowbird Bento | - | Community Member At-Large            |
| Kehaulani Pu'u | - | City and County of Honolulu Designee |

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:06 p.m., Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā welcomed all present. Chair then conducted roll call of Commissioners: Chair, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. de Silva, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi. Ms. Pu'u and Ms. Bento were excused.

The *wehena* (opening) was conducted by Festival Director (FD) Aaron Salā. The FD related his *oli* (chant) to Mānoa and the environment which he believes calls for growth, knowledge and also seeking guidance from *kupuna* (elders). The FD further shared that it represents standing upon a strong foundation.

Chair thanked Mr. Salā for the *wehena*. Since there were many new meeting attendees and guests, Chair requested for all present to do self-introductions.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he proceeded with the rest of the agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

The April 11, 2022, 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. Hussey, seconded by Mr. Onishi. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi.

Motion to adopt the April 11, 2022, minutes, unamended, was approved.

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

Chair Ka'anā'anā reported that two meetings were held. The Administrative Committee (AC) met on May 2, 2022 and the Venues/Program Committee (VC) met on May 9, 2022. Details of the meeting discussions will be covered later in the agenda.

**PRESENTATION BY THE EAST-WEST CENTER REGARDING MISSION AND PROGRAMS**

Ms. Vares-Lum, President, East-West Center (EWC) provided background information about EWC which was established by the United States Congress in 1960. The EWC's mission is identified as a place to build understanding, dialogue and relationships among heads of states, ministers, and government leaders from the U.S. Asia and the Pacific. The EWC receives 80% of its funding from Congress. They are grateful for the partnership with the University of Hawai'i because all students who attend the East-West Center also attends the University of Hawai'i campuses. The EWC also has an office in Washington, D.C.

The vision for the next ten years includes collaboration with partners to build a network of leaders who can solve the challenges of the Indo-Pacific region in five priority areas:

1. Engaging and equipping the next generation of leaders.
2. Convening meetings at the Imin Center that was built was I. M. Pei who also built the Louvre in Paris, France. Partnering with FestPAC in 2024 is perfect in that it highlights the EWC as a convening space.
3. Focusing and acknowledging the Pacific as the *piko* (center) as all eyes are on the Pacific. The timing of FestPAC, and what it represents, is in perfect alignment with EWC.
4. Supporting research on the environment and climate change.
5. Supporting open and transparent governments.

Dr. James Viernes who traveled from Guam, is the Regional Engagement and Development Officer for the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP). The program advances the mission as Ms. Vares-Lum outlined, however, also is involved in two other areas. The program was envisioned by then Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara and Hawai'i Governor George Ariyoshi as a place for countries to advance the collective development of agenda for the region. The PIDP serves as a founding member of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP). PIDP works with government leaders and the CROP network and agencies. PIDP is also the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) that includes 20 member governments, including the territories and State of Hawai'i. CROP and PICL determine regional priorities for PIDP.

Chair thanked Ms. Vares-Lum for her presentation and for allowing the Commission to meet at the EWC. On behalf of the Commission, Chair stated that he looks forward to the partnership with the EWC as we can see how important this is, not only for Hawai'i but as we connect with communities across the Pacific. The Festival is about cultures and heritage and is not political in nature.

### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair turned over to this portion of the meeting to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Chair of the Administrative Committee. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that a copy of the committee's minutes was included with meeting materials and that the Festival Director (FD) will provide more information about during today's meeting.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported on the organizational meetings that the FD attended. She reported that the FD provided an overview of The Pacific Community (SPC) and Council for Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) meetings and also shared the presentation that he used during those meetings.

Chair mentioned that Hawai'i is chair of FestPAC, CPAC and the Ministers Meeting. Information about these entities was included in Commissioners' meeting packet.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that although the AC discussed budget and fund development strategies, there is currently no revised budget to present to the Commission because of a number

of variables. As soon as the venue, housing and programmatic matters are finalized, a revised budget will be developed and presented to the Commission. Action items that will be required include biosecurity, travel and State Department matters, University of Hawai‘i, MOAs, etc. The website is on track and will be launched this summer.

Chair refreshed everyone’s memory regarding the report that was commissioned by the SPC. There were recommendations included in the report related to the Festival, a Hybrid Festival, and streaming components which were all excellent points for CPAC and member countries to be aware of. There may be specific pieces articulated in the report that could be implemented in 2024. Ms. de Silva mentioned that she is familiar with the individual who prepared the report which was very well done.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham commented that as FestPAC moves forward, there is interest in approaching the Festival from a holistic perspective.

The Regional Cultural Strategy (RCS) was endorsed during the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Culture. It is important to think Hawai‘i’s people and understand broader regional goals that could be aligned from the perspective of a regional cultural strategy.

Mr. Keohokālōle raised a question regarding the visa issue and suggested that the FD engage Federal Government officials early because of the anticipated challenges ahead.

#### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING VENUES AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Lum, Chair of the Venues and Programming Committee (VC). Ms. Lum reported that the VC met on May 9, 2022 and the FD informed the committee that he continues to have ongoing discussions with the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM). The UHM has requested for a comprehensive list of what the Commission requires for the Festival Village (FV) and related venues.

Ms. Lum mentioned that once Commissioners complete the tour of the UHM campus today, there will be a better sense of visualizing how the FV could be laid out. Once these details are confirmed, the VC will then proceed upon discussing programming requirements.

Ms. Lum mentioned that Ms. Bento joined the VC meeting from Tahiti and reported that she has been hearing from people in the region that there is concern about biosecurity and visa challenges for the region. Mr. Onishi volunteered to schedule a meeting with our Congressional delegation while they are in Hawai‘i this summer.

Mr. Onishi updated members that Hawai‘i’s Congressional delegation will not be in Hawai‘i until June. He suggested that the proposed meeting in D.C. should include Hawai‘i office staff in the process so that there will be more direct communication and better response time with the Hawai‘i staff as we move forward with Festival planning. It would be important to keep the Congressional Hawai‘i staff informed so that they will be able to assist us with matters such as coordinating with other federal administrative agencies related to various issues that will affect FestPAC attendance and programming. Chair mentioned that there will be more discussion in the

later part of the agenda regarding a possible Washington D.C. meeting that will require Commissioners' approval.

### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

The FD prepared a deck which he presented to Commissioners as part of his report.

The FD first acknowledged Ms. Suzy Vares-Lum as the first Native Hawaiian *mana wahine* (female leader) to lead the EWC and thanked her for opening the EWC to FestPAC. He also acknowledged Dr. Mary Hattori, Director of the PIDP and Dr. James Viernes, Regional Engagement Officer of the PIDP as key individuals who will be assisting us with biosecurity and visa matters and Mr. Eric Chang, the EWC's Arts Program Coordinator for his assistance and coordination for today's in-person meeting. He also acknowledged Ms. Annie Reynolds curator of the EWC Gallery. The FD acknowledged Ms. de Silva for opening the preview of the Guam Exhibit. The FD also acknowledged the Guam Council of the Arts for their attendance at today's meeting and also acknowledged Ms. Monica Guzman who was instrumental in planning and developing the Festival that was held in Guam.

The FD reported that Mr. Stephan Bradley of University of Hawai'i West Oahu (UHWO) is working with the FD on the new FestPAC website. FD mentioned that they are on schedule to move away from the old landing page to the new website starting in June. All information including intent to participate forms, etc. will be included on the website that the general public also will have access to. No mailouts will be done. The website is intended to be the homepage for everyone including delegations and the general public. As we get closer to the Festival, delegation credentials will be included on an App, too, and reminded Commissioners that it is a fluid process.

The FD informed Commissioners that Ms. Kureha Pambid has been assisting in the design schematics of the FV. She is attending today's meeting and will participate in the walk-through of Andrews Amphitheater and other areas. As Ms. Lum mentioned, there will be a full comprehensive package that will be developed for UHM that will help with the negotiation process.

Regarding a revised budget, the FD had every intention to present a revised budget to the AC, however, the challenge is related to variables that are out of his control. He mentioned that there is a budget that is included in Commissioners' packets that was approved in September 2021, however, it needs to be revised.

The FD briefed Commissioners about the SPC and its role in the Pacific. The SPC was founded in 1947 by six governments including Australia, France, New Zealand, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. Western Samoa was the first independent country to join the SPC and more joined as individual countries from the Pacific. The SPC is very much integrated to the work of UNESCO, world intellectual property organizations, CROP agencies, etc. with many priorities. There is additional information about the SPC that is included in the meeting packet and also includes the SPC's 2022-2031 Strategic Plan. The Festival helps to drive diplomatic relations within the region.

The CPAC was established in 1975 by the SPC. CPAC's role is to provide decision-making and governance of FestPAC and provide advice to the host country. CPAC is mindful of the importance of cultural practices and creativity and works toward the continuity of FestPAC. The SPC is the overarching entity that provides governance to FestPAC along with CPAC which is organizationally attached to the SPC. The CPAC has established a FestPAC Working Group which the FD and Mr. McComber are a part of. The FestPAC Working Group contracted with Ti'Pau to develop the Regional Cultural Strategy (RCS), a ten-year strategy which is the driver of economic development. He encouraged Commissioners to pay attention to Section 8 which includes case studies and Section 9 that describes the move to an international model framework. In the report, there is a desire to establish a unified funding mechanism and possibly move to a hybrid program. The idea would be to focus the Festival as an in-person event with the option for streaming performing arts that could be added to programming at Andrews Amphitheater, via Facebook and other social media platforms, and also creating hybrid conference engagements at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

Chair stated that it is important to understand the circumstances of the requests as it was impacted by the pandemic. The idea of engaging a hybrid format was the result of plans that were discussed for the 2020 Festival. However, 2024 will be an in-person event that we need to communicate to the SPC and it will incorporate more technology into programming.

The FD shared the information he presented during the SPC and CPAC meetings which included programming and other information that the Commission previously agreed to such as opening ceremonies at 'Iolani Palace and ancillary venues such as the Hawai'i Convention Center, the Polynesian Cultural Center, Bishop Museum, Kawaihau Church, Royal Hawaiian Center, UHWO, Hawai'i State Art Museum, etc. He provided a comprehensive update and ended with return to biosecurity, travel to U.S, etc. with hopes to alleviate concerns. SPC requested that when the intent to participate forms are live, that information on biosecurity and travel be included. The FD shared that his presentation was included in the packet as well as Mr. McComber's presentation regarding the Youth Ambassador Program that Hawai'i will be hosting during 2024 Festival. Mr. McComber expressed that the program is fully funded and ready to proceed.

Chair expressed that there is a possibility that the CPAC meeting may be hosted in Hawai'i during Quarter 3 or 4. A question that came up was who would be paying for this meeting and more discussion needs to be made regarding this matter with Dr. Frances Vaka'uta. In addition, there was discussion to have all heads of states travel to Hawai'i to conduct a site inspection. The purpose would be for the heads of states to see the main Festival venue, housing, ancillary venues, etc.

The FD reiterated that he has not been able to prepare a revised budget yet because there are too many variables of what needs to get done such as the cost of biosecurity, etc. He also thanked Ms. Ah Nee-Benham and Mr. Keohokālole for their assistance.

The FD also commented on the contract related to housing. He is hoping to meet with UHM and add current information to the contract. He will provide Ms. Lum with updates. Chair also stated that funds are already at UHM.

As Chair noted, plans are to convene a CPAC Extraordinary meeting in Hawai‘i. No official decision has been made. The FD also stated that in late 2022, the SPC will be traveling to Hawai‘i for a site visit.

Chair and Mr. Onishi have mentioned about a possible delegation to travel to Washington D.C. In terms of a budget for this potential travel, individuals and entities that have expressed interest in providing funding to the Festival, the FD asked about who the Fiscal Agent would be. Chair stated that Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) is the fiscal agent that the Commission approved until June 30, 2023.

Ms. Sanders and the FD spoke with Dr. Benton Keali‘i Pang in preparation for the CPAC meeting regarding biosecurity documents, however, this information needs to be updated for the Commission meeting in July. He will work with Chair to include Dr. Pang with heads of respective departments to update the Commission on biosecurity.

The FD’s request to the Commission is to be allowed to communicate directly with the SPC and CPAC as the FD. This authority will allow him to work in tandem and synergy with these organizations so that he can respond to their concerns in a timely manner. If this request is approved, he would like to go to Fiji during summer 2022, pending approval from the Commission. The FD has received funding approval from Mr. Eric Chang of the EWC Arts Program with thanks to funding received from Ms. Barbara Smith who is a *kumu* (teacher), mentor and ethnomusicologist. He wanted to be sure that members knew that her legacy lives on. Thank you to Mr. Chang, pending the Commission’s approval.

Mr. Keohokālole asked a question pertaining to the revised budget and asked when all variables will be known and asked if there were specific matters that members could assist him with. FD stated he was not prepared for biosecurity questions, etc. and once the Commission comes to final agreement as to what the Festival Village will consist of whether tents, or other structure, etc. that will help. Ms. Hussey has asked the FD to realign the budget rather than listing budget operationally she suggested that categories be listed according to venue and programming. The FD’s goal is to have a revised budget by the next meeting, and he will work with Ms. Ah Nee-Benham to accomplish this task.

Ms. Hussey asked about biosecurity and whether it was a service, protocol, etc. Questions that need to be considered are what is allowable to enter and what will be able to leave including processes and procedures. We will need to understand from the Department of Interior and the State of Hawai‘i what processes are required.

Chair said he is most concerned about the time element of biosecurity as opposed to the cost of this process. There are CITES permits that may be needed related to endangered species, etc. In the past, we have asked delegations to avoid bringing those type of artifacts to Hawai‘i. We want to avoid anything being confiscated.

Ms. de Silva explained that when she worked with Dr. Pang during the 2020 Festival, he stated that there are no costs involved for the Commission, however, it is the time element that can be challenging. He recommended, at the time, that delegations bring substitute items instead of

valuable original items. The countries will bare costs for CITES permits. It takes more than a year for the CITES permits to be approved. Chair mentioned that we need to be extra mindful about this process and that he does not want the experience of what happened at a previous Festival when there were introductions of invasive species, in the host country, as a result of the Festival.

Ms. de Silva said countries do not know what artists are bringing in until the last minute. We need to make sure heads of delegations understand that we follow U.S. law and not State law.

Ms. Hussey asked a question about the Fiji trip and why it needed to be in-person. FD commented that the trip was to build goodwill and relationships with the SPC.

Chair directed members to the currently approved budget in the meeting packet. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) has tried to meet that need. However, funding has been reduced over time and it could happen again. He discouraged an overreliance on the HTA to provide funding and would hate for funding support of NaHHA and FD to run out. Those are budget items that the Commission needs to take care of on its own. Chair suggested that the FD build out committees already because they are the ones who will help scale the event so that more accurate budgets can be developed. For larger categories and major expenses, fundraising is required. He suggests that the FD use the numbers noted on the second page of the existing budget and asked the Commission to give the FD approval of a \$20.4 million budget which is still be relevant today so that fundraising against that budget can begin as soon as possible.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham noted that the AC was considering a \$10-15 million budget. She agreed that something needs to be worked on. Chair asked the FD what he is envisioning regarding the fund development piece. Who would that be? Would it be contracted out to someone? FD reported that he has started conversations with a fund developer regarding tiers of funding. Chair also said regarding line items, some cost items will not be realized until 2023. He feels that we should be at the point of onboarding staff, identifying committees, volunteers, etc. which are all very important. We need a fundraiser to get our packet together whether it's an official airline partner, hotel partner, etc.

Ms. Hussey said that as you build the revised budget, think about variable costs and fixed costs. We might need to live within our means and will need to make choices. Building those considerations into the revised budget helps it to be dynamic. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham suggested taking these matters offline in a discussion with NaHHA regarding the organization's role as a fiscal agent.

Chair suggested that the Commission discuss the FD's first request regarding the authorization to correspond directly with the SPC. Mr. Onishi made a motion to authorize the FD's request and Ms. Hussey seconded the motion.

Chair commented that he doesn't mind the FD communicating directly with the SPC, however, he must keep the Commission informed regarding those discussions. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to authorize the FD to



communicate directly with the SPC: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi.

Motion to authorize the FD to correspond directly with the SPC was adopted.

**PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE  
AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Chair provided some background information that it was his suggestion that a delegation be sent to Washington, D.C. to begin facilitating broader discussions and establish relationships at the Federal level. Chair believes that the Commission and the Festival need to be more visible with agencies. If the Commission agrees and approves sending a delegation to Washington D.C., this could also entail approaching agencies and organizations, headquartered in Washington D.C., that might be sources of funding, too.

With respect to dates of travel, Chair was initially thinking about the middle of June, however, if Commissioners are not well prepared, this trip can be scheduled at a later time. He suggested that four or five members be included in the delegation including Ms. de Silva, Chair and one or two other members. He is cognizant of meeting Sunshine Law requirements.

Mr. Onishi agreed that it makes sense for Commissioners to travel to Washington D.C. and establish contacts with Federal agencies as well as fundraising efforts with national organizations. He believes that timing of the trip is critical because Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation should be there. It would be best if they are able to accompany Commissioners to respective meetings.

Chair discussed estimated costs that would include travel, collateral materials, etc. He asked whether \$30,000 for the delegation would be appropriate.

Ms. Hussey commented that regarding the delegation, optics are important, too. She mentioned that there are connections that could be made with the White House's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) initiative. The trip should be meaningful and cover a broad range of opportunities. Mr. Keohokālole noted that there should be targeted fundraising goals.

Chair also noted that in addition to fundraising, CITES permits, visas, etc. are matters that would be covered during the trip.

Mr. Onishi mentioned that the Congressional Delegation will be in Hawai'i in June. He suggested that a meeting in Hawai'i be held first with a follow-up meeting in D.C. in July. Chair stated that he will develop a formal itinerary, list of action items, travelers, etc. and report back to the Commission at the June meeting. Mr. Onishi commented that, in general, in concept, the proposal is agreeable, and he suggests giving the authority and responsibility to the Administrative Committee to make a final determination regarding specifics of the trip.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to authorize the trip to Washington D.C. with a spending ceiling of \$30,000 for four members to travel and that the final approval will be made by the AC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keohokālole.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi.

Motion to authorize a Washington D.C trip was adopted.

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA WALK THROUGH OF POTENTIAL FESTIVAL VILLAGE SITE AND FOLLOWING LOCATIONS**

- A. McCarthy Mall
- B. Legacy Path
- C. Andrew's Amphitheatre
- D. Bachman Lawn

Commissioners participated in a walkthrough of locations at UHM that began at Andrew's Amphitheatre and continued through McCarthy Mall and other locations. The walk-through provided Commissioners with a sense of the space and area of each location.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair invited the public to again offer comments. Hearing none, he moved into announcements.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made at this meeting.

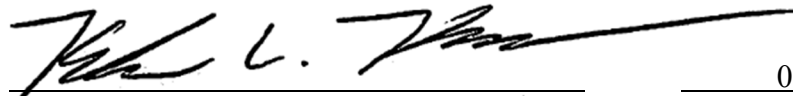
**NEXT MEETING – JUNE 27, 2022**

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is confirmed for June 27, 2022, at 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā  
Chair

06/08/2022

Date