



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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022, AT 2:45 PM

EWC IMIN CENTER – JEFFERSON HALL
SARIMANOK ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
1777 EAST-WEST ROAD
HONOLULU, HI 96848

THIS WAS A HYBRID MEETING AND WAS ALSO HELD
VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM:
VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

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| Kalani Ka'anā'anā | - Hawai'i Tourism Authority Designee |
| Snowbird Bento | - Community Member At-Large Designee |
| Māpuana de Silva | - Community Member At-Large Designee |
| Sylvia Hussey | - Office of Hawaiian Affairs Designee |
| Jarrett Keohokālole | - Senate President's Designee |
| Jamie Lum | - Department of Business, Economic Development and
Tourism (DBEDT) Designee |
| Richard Onishi | - House Speaker's Designee |
| Kehaulani Pu'u | - City and County of Honolulu Designee |

Guests:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Maka Casson-Fisher | - Hawai'i Tourism Authority |
| Hea-Emelie Katrawi | - Government of New Caledonia |
| Monte McComber | - Commission Liaison to CPAC |
| Ngahiraka Mason | - Public Member |
| Tyler Mejia | - Hawai'i Tourism Authority |
| Annie Reynolds | - Public Member |
| Aaron Salā | - Festival Director |
| Makanani Salā | - Public Member |
| Ka'iulani Spencer | - Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association |
| Miles Young | - The Pacific Community (SPC) |
| Dr. Frances Koya-Vaka'uta | - The Pacific Community (SPC) |
| Sue Waive | - Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (Intern) |

Staff:

John Cole	- Office of the Attorney General
Timothy Tiu	- DBEDT
Scott Tome	- DBEDT
Selma Malcol	- DBEDT
Marlene Hiraoka	- DBEDT

Apologies:

Maenette Ah Nee-Benham	- Governor's Designee
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CALL TO ORDER

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Ms. de Silva presented the *wehena* (opening) and welcomed members with an *oli* (chant) and *hula* (dance). Chair Ka'anā'anā also welcomed all present and online. He expressed his enthusiasm and appreciation to all for meeting in person. He added that it has been a long journey, since 2016, that included many planning discussions and now, Hawai'i has the honor of hosting FestPAC in 2024. Chair also acknowledged Commissioners who were unable to join the meeting in person, but who were participating via Zoom.

The next portion of the meeting included a cultural presentation. Ms. de Silva continued with the *wehena* by providing an *oli* which depicted welcoming, waiting for arrival, offering gifts, etc. and greeting everyone with those intentions. She provided background of the second *mele* (song) which was about King David Kalākaua who was the first leader of any nation in the world to circumnavigate the globe. He did it intentionally because he wanted Hawai'i to be recognized as a nation among nations of the world. The closing *mele*, was described as a prophecy chant which represented holding fast to things that still existed that initially came from *kūpuna* (elders). She continued by expressing that it was important to not let go but to hold fast onto our beliefs because the preservation of culture, identity and language are all the intent of FestPAC.

Mr. Miles Young of The Pacific Community (SPC) acknowledged and thanked Ms. Silva for the presentation. He expressed feeling privileged to be invited to meet with the Commission today and to be welcomed in that way, rich in tradition and history. He also expressed appreciation to Festival Director (FD) Salā for greeting their delegation with much hospitality. On behalf of the SPC, he acknowledged and thanked everyone and offered a presentation of cultural items.

Dr. Frances Koya-Vaka'uta of the SPC shared that it was an honor and privilege to formally gather in Hawai'i. She continued by sharing that in Polynesia, with a history of ancestors, represents over 20 nations and reminds us of where and who we are as Pacific Islanders of the 21st century. This includes the challenges we face in aspiring to be the ancestors that future generations need us to be. She expressed that FestPAC is the platform for that - to connect, reconnect, remember and resist many forces. She presented a biography of living things, a beautiful narrative that connects history – the one truth – one people – our legacy – our story.

Ms, Hea-Emelie Katrawi from the Government of New Caledonia also made a presentation to the Chair. FD Salā assisted in translating from French. She mentioned that they are interested in

hosting FestPAC in 2028. Ms. Katrawi shared that she was proud to be attending the Commission meeting representing New Caledonia along with her colleagues and thanked the Commission for graciously hosting her.

Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā officially called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. He welcomed all present and then conducted roll call of Commissioners: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Bento, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Pu'u. Ms. de Silva would be re joining the meeting again at a later time.

Chair began by explaining that agenda item #7, Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Regarding the Festival Director's Report, will be moved before agenda item #6, Presentation by The Pacific Community (SPC).

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS FROM THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC) AND NEW CALEDONIA

Chair introduced Mr. Miles Young, Director of Human Rights and Social Development, SPC; Dr. Frances Koya-Vaka'uta, Culture Lead, SPC; and Ms. Hea-Emelie Katrawi, Conseillere to Michael Forrest, Minister of Culture, Government of New Caledonia. He thanked guests for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2022, YEAR MEETING MINUTES

The October 17, 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. Lum and seconded by Mr. Onishi. A roll call vote was requested and the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2022: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. Bento, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Pu'u, approved the October 17, 2022, minutes unamended.

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

Chair reported that the Administrative Committee had a meeting, and the minutes will be discussed later during the meeting in their agenda item.

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

Chair called upon FD Salā to present his report.

The FD reported that his trips to Samoa for FestPAC related business and to the Cook Islands for the SPTO (The Pacific Tourism Organization) Summit were successful. He engaged in bilateral meetings as well as individual meetings related to how countries could support our efforts.

He was excited about how well received he was regarding the 13th FestPAC presentations and the success of the bilateral meetings. He has not had an opportunity to present his meeting report to the Administrative and Venues Committee, so he refrained from providing additional information at that time.

He acknowledged and thanked Mr. Young and Dr. Koya-Vaka‘uta representing CROP (Regional Organization of the Pacific) that serves as the custodial agent of FestPAC. He looks forward to learning more from them about the Pacific Regional Culture Strategy.

The FD also acknowledged Ms. Hea-Emelie Katrawi representing the Minister of Culture of New Caledonia. He was pleased that she was able to travel to Hawai‘i this week. It has been a busy week of site visits and meeting with key personnel. Site visits included the prospective Festival Village, Bishop Museum, Hawai‘i Convention Center, Hawai‘i State Art Museum, Kawaiaha‘o Church and continues through the weekend.

PRESENTATION BY THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC) REGARDING THE HISTORY OF THE SPC, FestPAC AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL CULTURE STRATEGY (PRCS) 2022-2032

Mr. Young shared a presentation which is included in the meeting materials and thanked the Commission again for the warm welcome. He and Ms. Koya-Vaka‘uta provided an overview about the SPC community and its relationship to FestPAC.

The Pacific Community (SPC) is an inter-governmental organization that includes 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and five metropolitan countries including the United States, France, United Kingdom, Australia and Aotearoa (New Zealand). The SPC’s role is to support members with technical assistance in relation to their development agenda such as climate change, education, land resources, agriculture, fisheries, science, human rights division.

The SPC cultural programs fall under the Human Rights & Social Development (HRSD) program. Key program areas are human rights, gender equality, social inclusion; the need to understand how cultures are part of and beyond being an enabler. It is a people-centered approach to science, research and technology. They see cultural considerations as integral to their overall work.

Mr. Young acknowledged the work of the Commission, Ms. de Silva and Mr. Monte McComber who have been instrumental with FestPAC. He also acknowledged the FD for his work, too. At 3:41pm Ms. de Silva returned back into the meeting.

Dr. Koya-Vaka‘uta mentioned that since the early conversations regarding the partnership with the State of Hawai‘i in hosting FestPAC, the SPC has undergone some changes. At the time, the focus on culture was recognized as a regional development priority along with the festival. They now see an expansion and relevance of the institutional region and recognizes the need to respond to the needs of member countries. SPC also acknowledge the importance of sustainable development including climate change, trade, and commercial interests.

Currently, culture is guided by the development interests of member countries by identifying ways to strengthen cultures. The SPC works with the Council for Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) and is comprised of a range of regional organizations that serve very specific development needs in the region.

The culture for development agenda cuts across the following areas: policy and regional convenings, culture and creative industries which includes FestPAC, Pacific approaches and methodologies, technical assistance, regional and international engagement.

The Pacific Regional Culture Strategy, 2022-2032, provides the umbrella of all programs and provides a regional framework. The primary focus, after 2020, was to look at an inclusive approach in the culture sector. The development of the strategy began in 2017. Through Covid, the conversations continued in the development of the strategy in its current form. During the early working group meetings, the region wanted to see a policy document that “looks and tastes and feels like them.”

Dr. Koya-Vaka’uta commented that Pacific people see the world differently. She presented a visual framework and noted that the Pacific approach encompasses who they are. The Melanesian long distance sailing vessel (double hull) express in the logo, represented who they represent. The Council agreed that the Hawaiian Star Compass was symbolic of charting their destination and priorities. Lastly, the SPC developed the relevant framework which was guided by the Marshallese navigational stick chart which is different from reading the stars.

There are five key priority areas in the Pacific Regional Culture Strategy: Cultural Policy, Cultural Heritage, Cultural Wellbeing, Cultural Innovation and Cultural Statistics. The first and last priorities have been highlighted as critical. They are looking at ways to strengthen at the national and regional levels.

FestPAC (1972 – 2022): SPC acts as custodian to both the festival and the Regional Culture Strategy. Custodial is an important word that captures and recognizes the responsibility of service. It is important to provide information that can be used for evidence-based decisions. They would like everyone to be informed and responsible for their own successes.

The first FestPAC was held in 1972 in Fiji. The idea was floated by the Fiji Arts Council to The South Pacific Commission (now known as the SPC). During the early days, SPC was known for running regional workshops. The conversation was around decolonization. The festival was the site for resilience, safeguarding, revitalization and celebration. Many see it as just a festival and the spirit is lost when we use the word “festival.” There have been 12 Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture that have taken place to date. It has been hosted on a rotational basis.

Traditionally, it has been a two week-long festival with a wide range of scope of events, including contemporary presentations, too. The decision of programming rests with the host country. SPC respects and values the opportunity for the host country to take ownership of the festival. The size of the festival is secondary and is programmed and funded by the host country. SPC provides technical support in relation to governance and delivery.

An evaluation report from 2010 was developed. There is a need to look at three perspectives for the future: the perspective of the host country, of visitors and the perspective of participating countries. These perspectives together allow us to come together as community/family.

SPC commissioned a FestPAC review report that was completed in 2021. The report reaffirmed the Council's beliefs and validated some of the initial thoughts on how the festival could be strengthened. There are six categories of recommendations: (1) Visibility and Value of FestPAC – it is the largest gathering of indigenous people and a need to identify new ways to articulate the value of the festival; (2) Strengthening of Governance/Guiding Documents; (3) Sustainable Funding – there are fewer pools of funding that is dedicated to culture; (4) Equitable opportunity to host FestPAC – giving smaller countries the opportunity to co-host; (5) Festival Desk/Dedicated Unit at SPC and (6) FestPAC Legacy Program.

SPC provides support to the host country through a collaborative approach. In no way do they want to be seen as policing the host country but rather working together toward a shared goal. SPC's support occurs from pre-festival planning and continues during the festival. SPC serves as an intermediary between CPAC and the host country.

At the moment, there are four key pressing issues with regard to the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture:

- The need to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes the relationship between SPC and the host country to firm up the relationship between the Hawai'i Commission and the SPC.
- The invitations to be sent to countries from the host country. Because countries operate on different funding cycles, they need to request for funding before beginning to put a plan together.
- The need to communicate biosecurity issues early.
- The need to share information regarding Visas– smaller countries need to travel to other locations to obtain visas. Many members will need to transit between countries that could take time. There are logistical and financial considerations to think about during this process.

Chair asked Commissioners if there were any questions.

Ms. Hussey thanked the SPC for presenting a comprehensive summary of the history and importance of the festival.

Mr. Keohokālōle also thanked the SPC representatives for the presentation. He relayed his gratitude for the presentation and for their participation today. He is honored to be part of this Commission and honored as a Hawaiian especially because of challenges from the past three years. He expressed his gratitude for their presentation and engagement.

Chair also added his thanks as well. He assured them that they have our commitment especially regarding the pressing items such as sending invitations to countries. He thanked them for the

reminder on remembering the “why” of the festival. He encouraged members to focus on the importance of the festival which will be a bright star of opportunity for the future.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Ka’anā’anā reported on the permitted interaction of the Administrative Committee (AC). He reported that the AC met on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting participants included Chair Ka’anā’anā, Mr. Keohokālole, FD Salā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham and Ms. Sanders of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA). They discussed matters related to the fiscal agent/sponsor, the FD’s contract, fund development activities, staffing, etc. and will cover it in more detail at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FD acknowledged the East-West Center for allowing the Commission to use the conference room today.

Ms. de Silva shared a *mahalo* (gratitude) to guests for attending today’s meeting and further shared that their presence recognizes that Hawai’i is a partner and brings to the forefront how important the festival is.

NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2022

The next FestPAC Commission meeting will be held, via Zoom, on December 5, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka’anā’anā adjourned meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka’anā’anā
Chair

December 2, 2022
Date