



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

MONDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2024 AT 03:00 P.M.
HYBRID VIA ZOOM

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Snowbird Bento	-	Community
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community
Stacy Ferreira	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Sen. Jarrett Keohokāhole	-	Hawai'i State Senate
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Makana McClellan	-	Governor's Designee
Rep. Richard Onishi	-	Hawai'i State House of Representatives

Staff:

Elise Amemiya	-	Office of the Attorney General
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)

Guests:

Aaron J. Salā	-	Festival Director, Gravitas Pasifika
Makanani Salā	-	Gravitas Pasifika
Haku Bolacito	-	Community Affairs Specialist, Office of the Governor of Hawai'i
Andrew Lockwood	-	President, Pacific Islands Institute (PII)
June Matsumoto	-	Vice President Sales, Pacific Islands Institute (PII)

Apologies:

Shanty Asher	-	City & County of Honolulu
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā (Chair) at 3:03pm, who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

WEHENA

Chair Ka'anā'anā called upon Commissioner McClellan to give the wehena (opening), who then invited guest speaker Haku Bolacito to present a pule (Hawai'ian prayer) to the commission. Bolacito then recited "He pule Ho'omaika'i i ka wa'a; asking for guidance and protection to navigate the journey ahead of us;" that being FestPAC.

ATTENDANCE

Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners Bento, de Silva, Ferreira, Lum, McClellan, and Onishi were present. Commissioner Keohokāhole arrived late. Commissioner Asher was excused prior. Staff Member Casson-Fisher, Festival Director Aaron Salā, and Deputy AG Elise Amemiya, were also present via Zoom.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited public members attending the ZOOM call to testify on any agenda items. Hearing and seeing none, Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

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

Chair noted neither an Admin or Venue Committee meeting took place between commission meetings. Hearing and seeing no further permitted interactions from the commission, Chair continued to the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were previously distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā requested a motion to adopt the April 15th, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Bento then requested corrections to be made to the minutes, to which Chair took a roll call vote to adopt the minutes as amended. Commissioners Bento, Ferreira, Lum, McClellan, and Onishi voted in favor of adopting the minutes as amended for the April 15th 2024 meeting.

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

Festival Director (FD) Salā presented updates on programming, followed by operations marketing, and community engagement promotions.

FestPAC will be featured at the fiftieth anniversary exhibition at Capitol Modern with art installations commenced. A "Our Sea of Islands" exhibit is also in process at Capitol Modern. FD then shared thanks to Karen Ewald, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and Arts for the work her and her team have been doing with Gravitas Pasifika (GP). Their intent is for these exhibitions to be completed by the end of May with a soft opening event, then a grand opening in early June, with dates pending.

Te Puhī Ariki, daughter of Te Arikinui Tūheitia Pākī (current Māori monarch), and the King's staff from Aotearoa (New Zealand) visited in the week prior to this meeting to do site visits on behalf of their delegation arriving in June, as well as to discuss the traditional leaders engagement and young Pacific leaders engagement. FD then recognized Makaanani Salā of the GP team and Commissioner McClellan for making an opportunity for the First Lady to meet with Te Puhī Ariki and Ngira Simmonds of Te Kīngitanga of Aotearoa. He then recognized Chair for his availability to meet with dignitaries from Aotearoa. Preparations have taken place for the upcoming Traditional Leaders Summit and its contents, programming for the Young Pacific Leaders engagement, as well as site visits to ascertain the work for their ground events in Hawai'i in June.

An anticipated 225 dancers are in preparation for the FestPAC opening ceremonies with representation from all of islands, including Lana'i and Moloka'i.

A final deadline has been set for the heritage arts intake form and delegation list for April 13th. FD then noted the SPC asked of GP that very morning to extend to the end of the week, to which he was able to secure said date. He then stated they cannot guarantee that they will be able to accommodate any requests thereafter.

The website program overview is live as of this meeting date. As of the week prior, information on the high level program overview has been made live. The program schedule itself will go live on May 1st upon receiving all intake forms. The program schedule will include times, dates, and specific locations. Chair then noted to commissioners that participants would have to register to events in order to have access to further information regarding events.

As this festival is meant to showcase the work of delegates' cultural practitioners, members of the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture, along with those countries' guests. The goal is for each delegation to be highlighted and privileged in each room and event, with participants receiving VIP or reserved seating at each event.

Using the online portal, when users visit the program tab on the festival website, there is a highlights package of what each program will be comprised. FD then provided a tutorial of how to register to participate in the festival events using the online site. On the programs page, more programming information has been provided to the public that was previously released to the heads of delegation for review. For instance, Ho'ike'ike Performing Arts is made up of heritage, dance, live music, theater, oratorical arts, choral performance, film, and new media. By May 1st, there will be an additional feature that takes users to the profiles of the program leads, with descriptions of each program, their locations, and schedule. The opportunity to engage with specific programs at the convention center will be at no cost, however event registration is required, accounting for the total number of visitors across venues.

FD Salā then spoke on operations, with acknowledgement to Ryan Kanakaole at the Department of Land and Natural Resources and his team. Tree felling and timber harvesting for all the festival village hale (houses) has been completed. They are now in the process of preparing all of the hale pieces for transport and installment, beginning May 31st. FD then acknowledged the City and County of Honolulu, who will be working with GP to haul lumber from Waimanalo to the convention enter in due course.

The Department of Transportation has made a request to DLNR for a container storage site at Pier 23 and Honolulu Harbor. FD acknowledged all entities assisting on the biosecurity front-highlighting Dre Kalili and Darcy Oishi for their work handling containers as they arrive.

Regarding collaborations with the University of Hawai'i, GP is working with UH to allow the Marine Education Training Center to be utilized for the purpose of biosecurity checks on WA'A as they arrive. Voyagers from French Polynesia, specifically the Cook Islands, will be sailing to METC for biosecurity checks and treatment if necessary. FD and team are now in the final stages of details of the METC for FestPAC. The housing contract with UH for delegate

accommodations has been completed. The Stan Sheriff contract and METC contract will be made into a single effective agreement with DBEDT. FD then shared that Commissioner Lum as well as Makanani Salā of GP have been in conversation with UH regarding these requests. The Pacific Islands Institute (PII) and GP's accommodations team has been actively assigning delegations to their respective housing.

There have been additional delegation requests for local materials to impact their individual success over the course of the festival. These country requests are being fielded directly by FestPAC's program leads, with any lengthy requests being brought back to the Festival Provider team. Overall conversations between countries and program leads has been positive.

Regarding marketing and promotion, Star Advertiser will be releasing a 36 page insert to be disseminated in the June 2nd Sunday edition publishing. This will include an overrun of the festival events and programming. This will be the only available hard copy as one of the goals of the Council for Pacific Arts and Cultures is to be "as green as possible," however FD and team have found an overarching hard copy program to be valuable. They are partnering with Star Advertiser that are now in conversation with GP and partners, subcontractors, venues, and sponsors. As of this meeting date, an event streaming proposal was received by GP from major tv stations and OLELO. The Chair has committed the commission team to the live-streaming major events; the WA'A arrival ceremony, opening and closing ceremonies, ecumenical service, the main festival stage, and lastly daily highlight reel packages. Details are in-process and a decision will be made to the Administrative Committee by week's end.

Chair then iterated to the commission that they have committed to the task of handling the festival broadcast content. Content shared with countries will be made available in a limited way, with the commission retaining the copyright. This would allow for countries and members that cannot attend to have access to engage and interact with larger events.

FD Salā continued. Press releases on venues were sent out on April 25th, with a press release on expos set for this meeting date. The expo is inclusive of local Pacific countries, as well as local profit and nonprofit organizations participating in the festival. The placement of the expo will be in the main corridor and hallways of the third floor. An anticipated total of 60 to 65 booths are expected for the festival event. FD then made a reminder that the festival village and expo will be closed on the 9th for the ecumenical service, and to honor the Sabbath.

FD Salā then acknowledged the mayor's office of Culture in the Arts from the city and county of Honolulu with TheBus placards being featured on public bus routes starting on May 1st.

Regarding community engagement, FD acknowledged Melissa Sanders of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA), working in collaboration with the SPC, gathering volunteers for FestPAC. The festival volunteers will be composed of locals, Pacific Islanders in diaspora, assisting over the course of the event. Trainings are set to be held in May. FD then gave thanks to Commissioners Onishi and Keohokāhole for providing a "Save-the-Date" update to legislators on May 1st, with a specific program schedule detailing all major events sent out via email shortly thereafter.

GP and team have been working with the governor's office constituent services to reach out to community town halls regarding FestPAC. GP has held prior town halls primarily for the Micronesian community. They have been meeting with Consular Corps monthly, with their next meeting set for May 13th. A presentation will be held at the We Are SAMOA festival at the Polynesian Cultural Center to continue promoting the event and volunteer opportunities to the public. Volunteer training is intended to be held by GP's team, covering pacific cultural etiquette as well as Native Hawaiian and local cultural etiquette prior to hosting delegates.

Chair Ka'anā'anā then shared to the commission that if there were any stakeholder groups they considered to reach out to regarding FestPAC participation, that they would be welcome to present themselves as commissioners to present on the matter. He referenced recent visitor industry summit events with the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and Travel and Tourism Assistance (TTRA) where he presented about the festival. Chair reiterated if the commission has any community based organizations or stakeholder groups in mind, to inform him if they should present to said groups.

FD Salā had made prior mention of the agreement with Kamehameha Schools (KS) that he expects to review with the administrative committee within the week. FD then gave acknowledgment to Randy Fong of Ho'okahua and his team for their efforts to coordinate the upcoming symposia event and wa'a arrival ceremony.

Chair Ka'anā'anā then asked if a signed agreement with the Stan Sheriff Center has been completed, to which FD Salā deferred to Makaanani Salā of GP and Commissioner Lum to respond on the matter. Lum then shared a meeting had taken place in the week prior regarding the facilities' usage, parking, ticketing, et cetera. She then stated the request to additionally utilize METC would need to be brought together into one agreement with UH, however, this agreement is in progress, and near completion.

Makaanani Salā then added that the committee has been speaking with UH at every opportunity, recognizing Jayme Mokulehua of GP for her collaborative work. In the last meeting, ticketing was a major point of discussion, with details being finalized for the agreement which could then be added to the athletics contract.

Chair then expressed to the commission that he was unsure if UH has confirmed the Stan Sherriff Center for opening, closing, and ecumenical venue for use. Commissioner Lum affirmed that this would be a direct request to DBEDT, and that she has been in contact with UH President Lassner's office with emphasis from their standpoint of how important this is.

Commissioner Keohokāhole then inquired if he would need to reach out to the president, to which Chair reiterated a meeting had already taken place to obtain the venue for these three events. Being inclusive of ticketing, parking, security in a single agreement may have been causing the delay. Chair then responded to Keohokāhole that he would not need to. With no further questions, Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee did not meet between commission meetings, however in the April 15 2024 FestPAC commission meeting, the topic of New Caledonia (NC) delegation size exceeding the 100 person capacity. Chair Ka'anā'anā invited Commissioner Lum to speak on this matter. She then shared the committee was unable to discuss this topic in a prior meeting on April 8th. She then requested to discuss this matter with the commission.

Chair then inquired to FD Salā if New Caledonia were to self-fund for additional delegation members past the 100 person capacity, if the commission currently has the space within its current lodging accommodations. FD then responded that Pacific Islands Institute (PII) has been working to secure additional lodging. June Matsumoto and Andrew Lockwood of PII responded that they have 42 additional beds as part of the original hold requests. At present, the additional self-funded delegate members would need to be accommodated in a hotel.

Commissioner Keohokāhole then shared that he a significant amount of conversation during CPAC meetings pertained to the desire of delegation groups exceeding capacity. Expressing concern for fairness, Keohokāhole stated he was inclined to concur with Chair's recommendation to allow the capacity to be passed for NC, with additional members being self-funded. Commissioner de Silva added that she agreed if NC were to bring additional delegates, they would need to self fund to be protective of future FestPAC host country capacities, in addition to the dynamic of Maui residents facing living necessity and housing challenges.

Chair then moved to deny NC's request for Hawai'i to fund an additional 42 members past the 100 person limit, and to still allow a 142 person capacity based on the space PII and team have within their blocked off rooms. Chair motioned. Commissioner Lum seconded. Chair made a roll call vote. Commissioners Bento, de Silva, Ferreira, Keohokāhole, Lum, McClellan, and Onishi voted in agreement. Motion passed.

Commissioner de Silva asked is anyone on the GP team or in the administrative committee would be able to confirm if there would be a deadline for payment. Chair responded by asking of GP to prepare an answer for the next meeting, or email communication to report on in the next public commission session.

Mikki-Tae Tapara of Aoteaora then made an inquiry to FD Salā regarding the accredited artists and practitioners of the official country delegations to be prioritized in the fiscal programming, and how would public be able to access this information. He also asked for those that wish to be involved as a speaker in any of the symposiums or conferencing if a public arts program would be able to participate in the event. FD Salā responded that the public has access to the festival as attendees, with delegates being participants. They would need to be registered in the online portal as a public member to access and attend these events. For cultural practitioners that aren't a part of official delegations, they would attend as guests, and not participants. Tapara thanked FD Salā for his response. Chair then asked of the public for further questions. Hearing and seeing none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

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

Chair deferred the agenda item as there was no meeting of the venues and programming committee.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā invited public testimony. Hearing and seeing none, Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13th 2024 at 3:00pm via Zoom, with wehena (opening) by Commissioner Lum.

Arrangements have been made based on the last commission meeting for Bonita Chang of the ethics commission to provide a virtual presentation for 20 minutes on state ethics at the next commission meeting, with a focus on receiving gifts. Chair then made a reminder to the commission to file their gift disclosures by May 31st.

Hearing no further announcements, the Chair asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting, at 3:52PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka‘anā‘anā
Chair

Date