



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

MONDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2024 AT 03:00 P.M.
HYBRID VIA ZOOM

Commission Members Present were:

- | | | |
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| Kalani Ka'anā'anā | - | Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) |
| Shanty Asher | - | City & County of Honolulu |
| Māpuana de Silva | - | Community Member At-Large |
| Jamie Lum | - | Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) |
| Rep. Richard Onishi | - | Hawai'i State House of Representatives |
| Snowbird Bento | - | Community |

Staff:

- | | | |
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| John Cole | - | Office of the Attorney General |
| Maka Casson-Fisher | - | Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) |

Guests:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Aaron J. Salā | - | Festival Director, Gravitas Pasifika |
| Stacelynn Eli | - | Department of Hawaiian Home Lands |
| Hailama Farden | - | Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) |

Apologies:

- | | | |
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| Stacy Ferreira | - | Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) |
| Sen. Jarrett Keohokāhole | - | Hawai'i State Senate |
| Makana McClellan | - | Governor's Designee |

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā (Chair) at 3:05pm, who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

WEHENA

Chair Ka'anā'anā called upon Commissioner Onishi to provide the wehena (opening). Commissioner Onishi then invited Stacelynn Eli of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), who quoted King Kamehameha II; "Why shouldn't I know. It is a path often walked upon by my ancestors." Guest speaker Eli then spoke to this 'ōlelo noeau (Hawaiian proverb) to how it relates to the festival's core values. Chair then proceeded to rollcall for attendance.

ATTENDANCE

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public testimony was received prior to this meeting. Chair Ka'anā'anā invited public members attending the ZOOM call to testify on any agenda items. Guest speaker Hailama Farden of OHA on behalf of Commissioner Ferreira requested a definitive schedule be released for event planning. Chair responded that this would be re-examined after FD Salā's reporting. Chair continued on to the next agenda item.

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

An Admin Committee meeting took place on Wednesday, April 10th with updates to the committee after a briefing of the Legislature which Commissioners Onishi and Keohokāhole, as well as Commissioner Lum representing DBEDT attended prior, with no decision making.

Chair iterated that FD Salā and his team have been doing these updates across community stakeholder groups like the legislature to keep externals informed. Seeing no further updates, Chair moved on to the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 25th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were previously distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā requested a motion to adopt the March 25th, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Onishi motioned the approval of minutes and it was seconded by Commissioner de Silva. With no further discussion or amendments, Chair conducted a roll-call vote. Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners Asher, Bento, de Silva, Lum, and Onishi voted in favor of approving the unamended minutes of the March 25th 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Festival Director (FD) Salā's report covered on fundraising engagements, followed by programming, operations, meal logistics, transportation logistics, the current status with USINDOPACOM relations, marketing and promotion updates, town halls, community engagements, and volunteer logistics.

Regarding fundraising engagements, GP is now planning for engagements on April 23rd and 28th. They are currently in discussion with Kamehameha Schools (KS) as to what support they can provide. KS is currently working with GP to support engagement with delegation conversations. They will additionally provide performance groups and practitioners with KS venues to engage with local community. More details on will be provided by the Admin Committee at the end of the month.

GP is engaged with Polynesian Voyaging Society, 'Ohana Wa'a, Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy are in conversation regarding the upcoming Wa'a arrival ceremony. For three days during the festival, they will be providing opportunities for Tanaloa, and discussions centering on the needs of delegates throughout the festival for three days of the event. These entities are in discussions with Bishop Museum on ways they can provide additional support for the Wa'a events.

Regarding programming, jotforms were updated to be inclusive of needs for visual and performing arts, and the Young Pacific Leaders program. The jotforms are lists of information gathered from countries in order to best prepare for what they are bringing to Hawai'i. Updates to the program have additionally been finalized. Pua Sterling of GP has been working with program leads regarding the expectations of program leads, and what they can provide to delegations as they prepare to travel. One pagers will be made available on the festival website, making information about each program publicly available.

On the topic of meal provisions, logistics will be further discussed within the Admin Committee for proper presentation to the commission. The three main areas of planning meal provisions are for delegates housed at the UH Mānoa dormitories, for delegates staying at partner hotels, and for delegates with Bishop Museum and Kualoa.

For delegates staying at UH Mānoa, breakfast will be provided from June 3rd through the 17th on-site. Lunches and dinners from June 3rd to 5th will be per diem as delegates may not be staying at UH all day. During FestPAC proper lunches and dinners will be taken at the convention center. Everything will be take-away for delegates to take lunch and dinner as necessary, with assurance meals are sent back to housing accommodations. Meals for delegates staying at Bishop Museum, carvers and tatau artists, and at Kualoa will be provided on-site. A dinner event with Bishop Museum will take place on Sunday, June 9th on-site. Details of budgeting and facilitation will be discussed by the admin committee.

In terms of the festival village design, FD presented a visual of the markup of the first hale made in Waimanalo in collaboration with the Albizia Project. They have been working with DLNR to fell trees and build 28 individual hale in portions to be pieced together at the convention center. Construction and lumber transportation for the hale will be in late May to early June, with thatch ordered as of the meeting date. Events International is now in collaboration with GP to prepare content for the immersive experiences, with the buildout of the festival village set for May 31st.

Chair Ka'anā'anā added that the village would be the center of FestPAC, and noted that GP and team have had to be strategic of the details of construction as there is a two-day turnaround to build the village in its entirety. Chair then spoke on the topic of fireproofing and safety as the convention center and fire marshal have been briefing with GP and team on requirements.

FD then shared a new budget will be brought to the next admin committee meeting regarding the festival village. The committee's intent is not to use any more public funds that have already been approved by the commission for the village build.

The Hālau Wa'a originally planned for the festival village will be replaced by a Mauloa, a double hulled canoe, as an extension of the Wa'a arrival ceremony on June 5th. Delegations have been assigned to three sections for Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia. The intent behind their assigned hale is to create integrated collaborative opportunities for delegates. The positions of each hale may change prior to the start of the festival.

The main stage will be a multimedia immersive experience in itself, with projections as well as a printed star compass on the ground. This interactive area is meant to give representation to our neighbor islands within the festival village, with footage from across the Pae'āina, the Hawaiian islands. The main lights in the exhibition halls will be turned off, lighting each hale individually.

Regarding transportation logistics, Andrew Lockwood of Pacific Islands Institute (PII) and his team have commenced working on details of shuttling delegates. April 15th, is the latest deadline for countries to provide their delegate information as to when they will arrive and depart from Honolulu. FD then made a critical reminder that commissioners are responsible airport round trips, transfers, and shuttles. Transport for delegates will comprise of shuttle buses rather than assigning individuals to buses, to and from the main festival venues. If there are specific delegations that are participating in activities elsewhere, shuttles will be assigned to that effect.

Regarding biosecurity about the reception of containers at Honolulu Harbor that go through customs and border protection, and state department of agricultural inspections. GP and team are also working with the state department of transportation for an appointed location to store these containers, then bring them to the convention center. FD noted that this is outside of PII's scope, while staying on the topic of transportation.

In discussion with INDOPACOM, GP has been waiting for an executive memo from the department of state to the department of defense to fully activate engagements with INDOPACOM. They will have the most robust program out at Kualoa with the Wa'a, and have requested items to fully execute this event. Anticipated are 40 voyagers sailing to Honolulu from the Pacific, supplemented by 400 Ohana Wa'a members. The commission will be responsible for a portion of this in terms of catering and other logistics. 'Ohana Wa'a and Kānehūnāmoku have requested to lead this program. The goal is for the Department of State to activate the Department of Defense, which will then activate INDOPACOM on this inquiry, with final details in progress as the executive memo has been relayed to the DOD.

With accommodation request form due as of this meeting date, thirteen countries have submitted their requests so far. The partner hotel list is now on the FestPAC website. VIP delegates will be staying at the Prince Waikiki. UH-hosted accommodations are approved for June 3rd through the 17th supplemented by east and west center studio rooms for each delegation. FD Salā then recognized Andrew Lockwood and his team at PII for the work they've been doing on these logistics.

Chair Ka'anā'anā reiterated to commissioners that the bookends of this commitment would be from June 3rd to 17th.

Regarding marketing and promotion, GP is working with Stryker Weiner & Yokota. Pua Sterling of GP is overseeing the PR and communication pieces of this. An HNN interview took place on April 1st, followed by an Arts at the Capitol engagement on April 12th. 4Miles has begun producing a series of short promotional videos interviewing program leads and members of the commission for FestPAC. 4Miles will be in communication with commissioners to speak on their work outside of the festival, and how this work has brought them to the commission. They will also be interviewing cultural practitioners throughout the community that will participate. GP is now working with KHON, KITV, and HNN to build media partnerships prior to the event.

Hawai'i will be responsible for the live streaming of five events- the Wa'a Arrival ceremony, opening ceremony, ecumenical service, closing ceremony, and performances on the festival village stage. The governor's office, through Commissioner McClellan, will be working on GP's behalf with 'Ōlelo Community Media. GP has asked for other bids on this task to further assist.

Chair Ka'anā'anā noted to commissioners that in meetings with the SPC, prior commitments have been made to film the Wa'a arrival, opening, ecumenical, and closing ceremonies. With an additional daily "highlight reel" for media entities to additionally utilize. Chair noted that the commission should be protective of this IP content on behalf of delegations and the state of Hawai'i.

FD Salā continued. Regular standing meetings with the Governor's office- primarily the first lady and her staff, as well as standings with the Consuls General and the Governor's cabinet regarding FestPAC. Additional updates were provided to state legislature leaders on April 10th. An additional CPAC meeting took place on the 10th, followed by a culture and foreign affairs ministers meeting on the 11th. A high-level overview of the festival was provided, as this was the first time GP spoke directly with ministers of foreign affairs.

Chair Ka'anā'anā added that this was crucial to festival development, as the commission has set deadlines that countries have disregarded. Without specific information from delegations, it will be difficult for the team to plan ahead. Another issue Chair addressed was the concern of visas to come to Hawai'i. An issue identified from Chair's recent travel to Fiji was that the state departments communicate with foreign affairs, but the foreign affairs office does not always pass along relevant information to the cultural ministers. Being able to present these areas of concern within the same new to by will help facilitate better coordination and communication within member countries of CPAC, as this is not bilateral between Hawai'i and the cultural ministers. Engaging all channels, including the US State Department to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Commissioner de Silva continued on this area as this delayed response has the commission at a slight standstill. She then continued that this is a very critical festival event as this will be the first time every country will be represented, as well as the first time high level dignitaries and traditional leaders will be gathering in this capacity.

Commissioner de Silva then reminded the commission that she had never received a program in advance of her prior arrivals to FestPAC host countries. At past visits, they were often assigned accommodations, then upon arrival learning that plans have changed. She then reminded the commission that the capacity of this event will challenge leadership to "pivot and turn."

FD Salā continued on this agenda item. Regarding community engagements, GP has been actively onboarding volunteers for several months, with volunteer registration made available on the festival website. FD then acknowledged Malia Sanders of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association taking on coordination of volunteers, with training set in May.

FD shared as Hawai'i is home to Pacific islanders living in diaspora, many are eager to support of this cultural festival. There is desire to participate in this event so that the community may engage with and support delegates, and to ambassador Hawaii's culture and people. GP is now engaged in community town halls to rally what this may look like.

FD then shared Lālakea Foundation has begun their staff preparations for the opening and closing ceremonies and invited Commissioner Bento to speak on this matter. She then shared training had begun in Hilo, with a small group of people. Right now there is representation from all major islands. Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island. A few other halau have been invited so that there may be a robust showing of different hula genealogies Hawaii represents. The main artistic directors are Nālani Kanaka'ole and Huihui Mossman of Hālau O Kekuhi, and Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahela who will be programming the opening ceremony. Each island group will be responsible for presenting their own hula. In the themes of Ho'olohui, regenerating Oceania, these performances will be in tribute of Lahaina, giving back to the people of Maui.

Chair then asked of the public for questions, to which Mikki-Tae Tapara of Aotearoa (New Zealand) made inquiry regarding the capacity of the festival space, as it was smaller than the dimensions previously communicated in March. He then shared he had concern for the items already shipped from Aotearoa. Makanani Salā of GP and Events International responded to this inquiry. When the exhibition space was designed, it was with the intent that all delegations would have an equal performance space. She then thanked Aotearoa for being timely with their form submissions, inclusive of sizes. Events International is informed they will be allocating space for additional items. KS had asked to fill another offsite location with art, with discussion to follow.

FD then invited guest speaker Paul Mawhar of Events International to give response. Mawhar then reiterated that they are waiting to receive more information from delegations in order to maintain equal opportunities for all nations to have a space provided for their art. He continued, Events International will do their best to accommodate every request from each nation. Offsite venues being considered are the Capitol Modern, or the Bishop Museum to accommodate larger installations.

FD Salā then noted that all countries are meant to submit their delegation forms, inclusive of their dignitaries as well. As invitations are intended to be sent at the end of April, GP intends to see this task through promptly. They are now in collaboration with the First Lady's office with the Admin Committee to ensure that invites are received by proper personnel. With OHA as the primary funder, they will need to speak with Chair Lindsay (OHA) and Kapouhana to discuss this engagement. While the integrated work of OHA with the traditional leaders summit is sensitive, it is an opportunity for Chair Lindsay to open a Talanoa session, relevant to the office of foreign affairs to participate in. FD then restated dignitary invitations will be sent by the end

of April.

Guest speaker Chris of the Federated States of Micronesia then made inquiry regarding food demonstrations, expectations of each country for the ten day period, and how many VIPs are expected from each country. FD Salā then responded that this information is available inside of the delegation portal on the FestPAC website, as well as to seek counsel with the head of delegation. FD Salā then asked of Commissioner Asher to follow up on this inquiry. Hearing and seeing no further testimony, chair then proceeded to the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Lum shared an Admin Committee did take place on Monday, April 8th regarding details mentioned in FD's report, as well as broadcast and media opportunities. A question regarding whether they will allow further dates prior to June 3rd through the 17th, to which the committee confirmed these dates will not change. The topic of delegation size arose, as New Caledonia is intending to exceed the 100-person delegate limit, with the admin committee requesting special dispensation as they will host the 2028 FestPAC. Any additional guests would be self-funded.

Commissioner Onishi stated he would like to know the purpose of the larger delegation, and if they would include individuals observing festival operations for training purposes. If it were just to increase participation, that would be a separate area of discussion.

Commissioner de Silva then added, New Caledonia (NC) had hosted in 2000 and already has experience, apart from digital platforms evolving. Commissioner stated if their government is supporting the festival in 2028, then they would be funding those individuals for travel, to do research. The reason for the delegation visitor limit pertains to how many people can be accommodated at different host venues and events. New Caledonia is known to have a large contingent of performing artists, and there would be a concern as to performance space occupancy. She then concluded more information would be needed from all NC participants prior to preparing their accommodations to address this concern.

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 moved on to announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Lum shared on the topic of financial disclosure statements, and reminded the commission to complete theirs sooner than the end of May. Chair Ka'anā'anā then proposed an ethics presentation to the commission to be scheduled for the next agenda. Commissioner Onishi responded, this is within his official capacity as a legislator, and they do their disclosures on a


different timetable no matter the event. He then asked of AG Amemiya for further details on this topic, to which she responded she would look into the matter and follow-up.

Chair then stated legislators are on a calendar cycle, with their financial disclosures set in January. For regular state employees, May 31st is the deadline, with commission members included in this same timeframe. Chair then reiterated the topic of New Caledonia's extended guest capacity be discussed, along with other items pending committee discussions.

Chair announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 29th 2024 at 3:00pm via Zoom, with wehena (opening) by Commissioner McClellan.

Hearing no further announcements, the Chair asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting, at 4:12PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

May 7, 2024

Date