



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

MONDAY, MAY 20TH, 2024 AT 03:00 P.M.
HYBRID VIA ZOOM

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Shanty Asher	-	City & County of Honolulu
Snowbird Bento	-	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)

Staff:

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

Guests:

Aaron J. Salā	-	Festival Director, Gravitas Pasifika
Jimmie Collins	-	Office of Homeland Security
Keali'i Haverly	-	Polynesian Cultural Center

Apologies:

Māpuana de Silva	-	Community
Makana McClellan	-	Governor's Designee
Rep. Richard Onishi	-	Hawai'i State House of Representatives

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā (Chair) at 3:04pm, who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

WEHENA

Chair Ka'anā'anā provided the wehena (opening), who then abbreviated to "Hana i kahana- to do the work." As the festival event fast approaches, Chair asked of the commission to continue their commitments to seeing through each of their respective kuleana (responsibilities).

ATTENDANCE

Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners Bento, Ferreira, Keohokālōle, and Lum were present. Commissioners de Silva, McClellan, and Onishi were 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 MAY 13th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Due to the fast turnaround for this newly scheduled commission meeting, the minutes for May 13th 2024 could not yet distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā deferred to adopt the May 13th, 2024, and May 20th 2024 meeting minutes during the next FestPAC commission meeting. Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

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

Festival Director (FD) Salā presented updates on programming, followed by operations, with emphasis on security and protocol, marketing and promotions, community engagements, and updates on the festival village build.

Wa'a Arrival Ceremony

5:00am-Delegates and VIPs depart from accommodations

6:00am-Delegates and VIPs on wa'a arrive at Mokapu to travel across Kaneohe bay, into Hakipu'u.

6:30am-Delegates/VIPs begin boarding wa'a

7:00am-Wa'a depart their moorings/docks

-Delegates arrive to Kualoa Regional Park

8:00am-Wa'a arrival – Hakipu'u 'Ohana/ 'Ohana Wa'a Pū

-Wa'a arrival to shore

-Ho'okupu Presentation

10:30am -Procession to the Ahu

11:00am -Ahu Protocol

-Pū/Oli

-Welcome Speech: Hakipu'u Ohana

-Speaker: Nainoa Thompson

-Kākua Ceremony (Performed by the Hakipu'u 'Ohana

-Speaker: FestPAC Representative (Pending: Chair Ka'anā'anā or Senator Keohokālole)

-Key Note: Nainoa Thompson

-'Oli Kuamo'o – Iwi o Ku'u Iwi

-Pu

12:30pm -'Aina Awakea (Lū'au Luncheon)

2:00pm -Guest departures begin

Decisions regarding programming have been made in consultation with Bonnie Kaapeha and Randy Fong coordinating on behalf of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, wa‘a that will travel from Mokapu across Kaneohe Bay to Hakipu‘u. An opportunity has been provided for three VIPs to travel via canoe from Mokapu, assigned to designated wa‘a by Ka‘apeha and Fong. Senator Keohokalole will be representing the commission at Hakipu‘u for the arrival ceremony. Transportation will be provided for five representatives per country to attend the ceremony in Kualoa Regional Park, to assure full representation participation. Countries participating in the wa‘a arrival are the Cook Islands (arriving on the Marumaru Atua), French Polynesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Aotearoa (New Zealand). Transportation and medical service will be provided the 100 voyaging delegates which the commission is responsible to. This will be noted in detail to heads of delegations in a leadership meeting taking place the following date (May 21st 2024).

Opening Ceremony

3:30pm	-Prelude – Royal Hawaiian Band
4:00pm	-Traditional Protocol – Lālākea Foundation Pule
4:10pm	-Welcome of Hawai‘i Guests
4:20pm	-Musical Selection – Royal Hawaiian Band
4:23pm	-Traditional Protocol
4:43pm	-Parade of Nations
7:52pm	-Introduction of Governor – Commission Chair
7:54pm	-Welcome Speech, Governor, First Lady
8:00pm	-Traditional Dance
8:05pm	-Welcome Speech – SPC
8:11pm	-Traditional Dance
8:16pm	-Keynote Speech – Festival Director
8:26pm	-Traditional Dance
8:40pm	-Pau

The opening ceremony will follow a traditional wehena (opening) structure. FD Sala noted that this ceremony is atypical: all delegates will begin at the Stan Sheriff Center, not the Festival Village. In the past, a parade of nations would bring each country into the opening ceremonies venue, but the actual festival village opening will take place all at once. Speeches are being made by the commission chair to introduce the Governor and First Lady, with opening remarks from themselves, the SPC representatives, and the festival director. FD Sala then shared a few clips of the Lālākea foundation’s practice sessions, with 250 ‘ōlapa (dancers) preparing for the opening ceremony.

FD Sala noted that New Caledonia has officially withdrawn from the festival due to civil unrest within the country. This withdrawal has been accepted, but the commission has asserted to New Caledonia that they would still be represented during the festival event, and in the festival village. He expressed intent to stanchion off the hale (house), with assurance that we would afford all the rights and privileges to New Caledonia in spirit, through the village engagement. Likewise, Vanuatu, for the commission has officially withdrawn. This has been noted to the SPC as there is still potential for them re-engaging the festival, should they choose to participate, the commission will support them.

The artistic delegation count currently stands at 1,873. Including self-funded and VIPs, the current count is slightly above 2,100 total delegates traveling to Hawai‘i for the festival. FD gave acknowledgement to June Matsumoto and Karen Lockwood of Pacific Islands Institute (PII) for

their assistance in real time. Final delegate information provided to the commission will provide a final schedule for transportation.

Ecumenical Service

Sunday, 09 June 2024, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Stan Sheriff Center, UH Manoa

Planning Committee: Kahu Ken Makuakāne, Kahu Rennie Mau, Kahu Wendell Davis, Tamā Toeaina Falelua

The ecumenical service is being designed by a representation of the Kawaiahao Church, Liliuokalani Church, the Hawai‘i Association of Evangelical Churches, and Tamā Toeaina Falelua. The liturgy and which countries will provide scriptures, readings, hymns, and prayers for this event have been drafted. The duration of the ecumenical service is between 1:00pm to 2:30pm so that countries may attend “home” churches if they so wish with their community, then return to celebrate together at the Bishop Museum later that evening.

Marketing and Promotion

Star Advertiser Insert (36-pages, 02 June)

Community Engagement

Volunteer Training May 23rd 9:30am – 12:30pm

May 25th 9:00am – 12:00pm

Opening & Closing Ceremonies Rehearsal

-Lālākea Foundation, May 17th – 19th

Consular Corps Meeting (5/16)

In a consular corps meeting held in the week prior, responsibilities per the secretariat to the host to two cars, and two drivers. However the festival team is in need of assistance as this would relate to proper diplomatic notes, assuring that the heads of state and government have been fully activated through the department of state (DOS). This communication would be passed through the DOS to Jimmie Collins, the festival’s head of security and protocol working group. If diplomatic notes are not received, the proper infrastructure in place to support security and protocol for dignitary accreditation will not be supported by the state and government. Eight levels of accreditation will revolve around two levels of delegates, three levels of management and staff, and three levels of media. Gravitas Pasifika and PII have been working together on the registration process via the online portal. When delegates leave the baggage claim, they will go through a picture taking process that will include their bio information, serving what would become a credential. Physical credentials will be worn with lanyards throughout the festival. Regarding marketing and promotions, a Star Advertiser 36-page newspaper insert is to be included in the upcoming June 2nd Sunday edition paper. 20,000 overprints on newspaper quality paper and higher quality paper will be made available too. Streaming will take place through Hawai‘i News Now, and several press releases. A press conference has been prepared in collaboration with Stryker, Weiner, and Yokota (SWAY) with the Governor and First Lady at Washington Place in the following week. Volunteer training is in process, inclusive of cultural and cultural sensitivity training. Ongoing community town hall meetings with our pacific islander and local communities are additionally ongoing, with an additional meeting set for the following week prior to the festival.

FD acknowledged DLNR (Department of Land & Natural Resources) and Ryan Kanakaole (also for their efforts during the severe weather Oahu observed in early May) in assisting with the festival village build. Tree felling and timber harvesting has been completed, with preparations for installment beginning on Friday, May 31st 2024. FD made a special note for awareness that

upon the removal of the albizia trees where they were sourced in Waimanalo, an ancient Native Hawaiian pathway adorned with petroglyphs was discovered. This historic path leads all the way into Nuuanu Valley. “What this has done is provide opportunities to us [...] to rekindle our relationships to our own culture and history through the process of preparing for this festival,” said FD Sala.

Further acknowledgements were shared by FD for Linda Lileikis and the Events International team.

Regarding the focal point of the festival village, a hale was planned to house the Mauloa Wa‘a canoe, which will be displayed during the event. Due to the dimensions of the Mauloa, this has been done away with. The center stage will be an estimated 46 by 52 feet, with performances from 10:00am to 6:00pm. There are several evenings with stage engagements planned past 6:00pm, with robust participation anticipated.

FD Sala then invited Jimmie Collins of the Office of Homeland Security to share updates on security and protocols. Collins then shared full walkthroughs with all participants of the protection team, inclusive of law enforcement, have initiated. Collins and team have additionally begun gathering incident action plans. Two security assessments have been completed, with five more to be finalized. Details of the operation center hosted at the convention center and receiving federal support have been discussed amongst her team, with intention for this to be seen through whether or not they provide dignitary support. The SPC has been in touch with the state department, that has outline the process for requesting the support of for tier one dignitaries. Of these, five so far have been received by the secret service and will be adjudicated between the state department and the secret service. Upon receiving diplomatic notes from these dignitaries, they will adjudicate who they will support, with local secret service in touch with Collins’ team on a daily basis. She then noted per the state department process, dignitaries do not actually have to notify until three days in advance of travel.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair deferred the agenda item as there was no meeting of the administrative committee.

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. Kealii Haverly of the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC) then inquired how he and PCC might be able to support if not financially, with other resources. FD Sala responded that he would reach out to PCC regarding this opportunity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3rd 2024 at 3:00pm. Hearing no further announcements, the Chair asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting, at 3:37PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

Jun 7, 2024

Date