



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

MONDAY, JULY 1ST, 2024 AT 03:00 P.M.
HYBRID VIA ZOOM

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community
Sen. Jarrett Keohokāhole	-	Hawai'i State Senate
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Makana McClellan	-	Governor's Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community
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
Hailama Farden	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Apologies:

Shanty Asher	-	City & County of Honolulu
Snowbird Bento	-	Community
Stacy Ferreira	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

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 HTA Staff member Maka Casson-Fisher to provide the wehena (opening). Casson-Fisher performed a Pule Kala in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i with intent for forgiveness for unintentional hurt or harm on a grand scale.

ATTENDANCE

Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners de Silva, Lum, McClellan and Onishi were present. Commissioners Asher and Ferreira were excused prior. Commissioner Keohokālole joined at 3:29pm. 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. Chair had shared with the team that they had received correspondence on June 12th from the office of the county clerk with a certified copy of Resolution 24-10.7, adopted by the council of the county of Maui, State of Hawaii on June 7th 2024, which celebrated the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture hosted by Hawaii June 6th to the 16th. Chair then ensured a scanned copy of the resolution would be distributed to the commission, as well as to inquire if DBEDT could post the resolution publicly, online. Hearing and seeing no further testimony, 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. Chair then shared a permitted interaction, given that commission members were all at the festival at differing times, not necessarily in-discussion, but attending the festival event. AG Amemiya responded this was appropriate for recordkeeping. Hearing and seeing no further permitted interactions from the commission, Chair continued to the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 3, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were previously distributed and reviewed by commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā requested a motion to adopt the June 3rd 2024 minutes. Commissioner Onishi motioned, seconded by Commissioner de Silva. With no additional discussion, Chair conducted a roll-call vote. Chair Ka'anā'anā, and Commissioners de Silva, Lum, McClellan, and Onishi voted in favor of adopting the unamended minutes of the June 3rd 2024 meeting. Commissioners Asher, Bento, Ferreira, and Keohokāhole were excused. Motion carried.

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

Festival Director (FD) Salā presented updates on programming, including ceremonies, special events, and venues, marketing and promotions, observed challenges, and forward momentum. Sala shared on the Waa Arrival Ceremony, specifically chosen to take place in Hakipuu as it was the birthplace of Hokulea. This was a historical occasion that has never happened in Hawaii, welcoming 25 countries in engagement with pacific voyaging canoes and community. FD recognized Bonnie Kahape'a-Tanner of Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy and her team's work in partnership with the department of Parks and Recreation. FD noted this division observed challenges with plumbing overflowing from the facilities into the kitchen, needing to work through this obstacle at the beginning of the event. The Marumarū Atua, the canoe from the Cook Islands, was moved from Kualoa at the invitation of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and Nainoa Thompson. They sailed around Oahu from the METC in conjunction with Honolulu Community College to the Thompson house. Marumarū Atua had departed very early on from

Tahiti, staying for the duration of the festival, and only just recently departed from Oahu due to unsafe weather conditions.

Regarding the opening ceremony, Hawaii has officially held the longest opening ceremony in FestPAC history to date, with Guam's opening ceremony being just under eight hours. The festival village opened on June 7th, with the first major event being the sister city signing- a historic occasion between the Cook Islands and Honolulu, connected to state departments 7 for 70, on the main festival stage. The Young Pacific Leaders Program (YPL) annual engagement is hosted through the US Embassy and New Zealand took place over the course of the festival, and has tripled their funding as result of this engagement. Dr. Kirk Campbell shared with the state department US Embassy and New Zealand, recognizing how meaningful this event was to the Young Pacific Leaders program. Several different iterations of this program are in effect- regarding entrepreneurship, international diplomacy, women's entrepreneurship, etc. A total of 13 or so programs are supported by YPL. Mara Hosoda hosts this program out of her office in the US Embassy in Auckland and reached out to FD early on to ask if there were any possible synergies to utilize FestPAC as a platform for the YPL program. This represented Hawaii's first engagement with YPL- with gratitude to Hosoda and the New Zealand US Embassy, and Makanani Sala of Gravitas Pasifika who majorly assisted in composing this event.

Regarding the ecumenical service, this was a departure from services in the past as countries were invited to share hymns and scripture. There was a slight logistics challenge with the audio equipment on this date, however the event carried on successfully. With acknowledgements to Kawaiahao Church's senior pastor Ken Makuakāne and ministered music by Buddy Naluai, Papamakua, Wendell Davis, Rennie Mau, Kahu Hailama Farden, and Reverend Falelua Falelua. FD then shared he had numerous feedback comments on the festival's opening ceremony, with a youth group from Micronesia opening the ecumenical service being a favorite for many.

Chair took a moment to state that reporting for the festival would take some time to finalize, as invoices are still being received and being responded to in regards to FD Sala's final report in fulfillment of his contract to DBEDT.

Chair then requested that the admin committee assist in these preparations.

Chair then asked of Commissioners Onishi and Keohokālole to inquire to legislature to see if the commission could sunset earlier than August of 2025, and if in the next session the commission could consider legislation that would allow them to end sooner.

FD Sala continued his report, noting that the last of delegations had departed on June 29th. GP and team continue to follow-up with those voyaging by sea daily. FD then shared that Chair Ka'anā'anā has given the commission a series of deadlines for final reporting. Of the challenges observed- regarding meal distribution, as a result of movement across O'ahu island, food transportation became difficult. As well as individuals that shouldn't have been receiving food taking meals, with less for intended individuals. FD Sala acknowledged Jayme Mokulehua and Jigs Santos from their team for their efforts to resolve many issues.

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.

UPDATE REGARDING VISION INSIGHTS COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

Chair informed the Commission that the draft report of the community and economic impact is anticipated to be received on August 15th.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS


Chair Ka'anā'anā invited public testimony. Hearing and seeing none, Chair proceeded to announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ka'anā'anā and commissioners expressed gratitude to the commission, community partners and the many stakeholders for their long-lasting commitments and contributions to this historical event. Chair reminded commissioners that a meeting would be planned to hug and cry it all out and that there will be time in-person to meet and decompress.

Chair then stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 5th 2024 at 3:00pm. Hearing no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Maka Casson-Fisher

Aug 27, 2024

Date

for Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair