

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)
MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 13TH FESTIVAL OF
PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE (FESTPAC) MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020, AT 8:30 A.M.

HAWAI'I STATE CAPITOL
SENATE CHAMBERS, CHAMBER LEVEL
415 S. BERETAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813

Commission Members Present were:

J. Kalani English, Chair	-	Senate President's Designee
Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Mehanaokalā Hind	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority Designee
Misty Kela'i	-	City & County of Honolulu Designee
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
Randall Tanaka, then	-	Department of Business, Economic Development &
Dennis Ling	-	Tourism (DBEDT) Designee

Guests:

Jacob Aki	-	Senator English's Office
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Alexis Hou	-	Taipei Economic and Culture and Arts (TECO)
James Huang	-	Taipei Economic and Culture and Arts (TECO)
Melanie Ide	-	Bishop Museum
Jessica Kamalu	-	Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS)
June Matsumoto	-	Pacific Islands Institute
Michelle Moore	-	Senate Communications
Jay Rojas	-	PA'I Foundation
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Mayor's Office of the Culture and Arts (MOCA)
Kaiwi Yoon	-	Bishop Museum

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Attorney General's Office
Dennis Ling	-	DBEDT
Jamie Lum	-	DBEDT
Selma Malcolm (Recording)	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Monte McComber	-	Governor's Designee

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair English on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 8:31 a.m., who welcomed everyone present.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the meetings held on December 11, 2019 and December 19, 2019, were approved unamended on a motion by Representative Onishi and seconded by Mr. Ka‘anā‘anā.

Motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. DBEDT Report:

PA‘I Foundation Contract Renegotiation:

Mr. Ling presented the financial report regarding FESTPAC finances as well as an invoice from PA‘I Foundation for administrative expenses for December 2019, for \$15,243.99. He requested approval on whether to reduce or continue paying the invoiced administrative expenses (salaries, rent/overhead, insurance, etc.) to PA‘I Foundation. Mr. Ling also stated that other planned expenses through June or August 2020 will create a deficit of \$28,009.25; DBEDT has spent \$258,000 on down payment for housing; payments related to the Council on Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) meetings; and payments for the website for July to October 2019, after the contract between PA‘I and Strategies 360 expired. Current balance is \$582,880.73. Regarding the trust account, Mr. Ling advised the Commission that DBEDT received a check from the PA‘I Foundation for \$140,000. FESTPAC revenues currently total \$2,270,000; balance is \$694,871.48 which will go towards housing.

During discussion, Mr. Ling indicated that PA‘I Foundation’s contract expires in June 2021. Ms. Bento inquired if the Commission to date, had an opportunity to promote the Festival in different communities’ free events; and that we should be pushing the Festivals in many different avenues using social media; word-of-mouth, etc., to help promote it.

Ms. Kela‘i informed the Commission that the City and County of Honolulu has Neighborhood Boards islandwide and that she and Ms. Takitani-Puahi will meet with the Director of that particular department to request permission to distribute FESTPAC flyers at the neighborhood board meetings. She suggested that Commission members attend the various neighborhood board meetings to promote the Festivals. Ms. Bento suggested that we could also engage community businesses like hotels, etc. Mr. Tanaka then suggested that we need an orchestrated marketing plan – when we will be on ‘Ōlelo, the morning shows, etc. He reminded the Commission that FESTPAC is only 16 weeks away, not including the month of June.

Representative Onishi acknowledged that he is the newest member on this Commission, having been appointed just last year, but his frustration started even before the last Legislative Session, regarding two (2) things:

- 1) The initial plan and budget that was brought to his office lacked specific details to be able to figure out what is the actual cost for the event. He attributes this to our

contractor PA'I Foundation for not laying out specifics in regard to what's going to be done and what is the cost.

- 2) Securing sponsorships and funding. Representative Onishi expressed frustration with the lack of progress in this area. He believes the Contractor has not performed.

Representative Onishi compared the organization of the events for 75th Anniversary Celebration of the end of World War II which is being run completely by volunteers. He said at this point, they have a budget, they have planned out every day, and they know how they are coordinating with the anniversary celebration being held in Washington DC in May 2020 and the events that will be held in Hawai'i in September 2020. He remarked that the comparison is like night and day. He understands the funding needs of the WWII event, but he still does not have a complete understanding of all the funding needs for FESTPAC.

He stated that the question about doing media and sponsorship has been brought up several times and there have been no resolutions nor proposals from the Contractor indicating what the Commission should act upon.

Chair English shared from his perspective and noted that like Representative Onishi, he too has to report back to the Senate on FESTPAC. He also stressed his disappointment in the Contractor. Chair English shared the sentiments of Representative Onishi that the Contractor is not performing. The Commission is paying for work that is not getting done; we do not have any plans, and there is nothing in place. The things that the Commission asked for have not been developed, and the Commission is doing the work now. He also remarked that they went from an oversight Commission to a working Commission and the things that have been accomplished were done by DBEDT and the Commission. Chair English questioned why the Commission/DBEDT are still paying a contractor if they are not performing and stated the Commission needs to review the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Ka'anā'anā and seconded by Ms. Kela'i that the Commission go into an Executive Session to consult the Commission's attorney pursuant to section 92-5(a)(4) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Motion was passed unanimously.

The Executive Session was from 8:55 a.m. to 9:49 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Ka'anā'anā and seconded by Representative Onishi to exit the Executive Session.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Randall Tanaka, DBEDT representative, left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

In the open meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Ling, alternate DBEDT representative, and seconded by Representative Onishi to amend the PA'I Foundation contract to pay for only Ms. Vicky Holt Takamine, the Festival Director at the rate of \$4,167 per month on a reimbursable basis. All remaining funds will be expended at the direction of DBEDT, and the amended contract will include the specific scope of work based upon the talents of Ms. Takamine including but not limited to serving as point of contact for programming as well as with the nations participating, communicating

information for the website and other duties as specified. The effective date is January 16, 2020 (date of the meeting) and DBEDT will pay invoices based upon the previous reimbursement up to January 15, 2020.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Chair English informed the Commission that a representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will be coming to Hawai'i during the week of January 19-26, 2020 and the Commission will address their concerns.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at the Hawai'i State Capitol, Senate Caucus Room, Chamber Level.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator J. Kalani English
Chair

Date