

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 AT 8:30 AM

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

Commission Members Present were:

J. Kalani English, Chair	-	Senate President's Designee
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Mehana Hind	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Monte McComber	-	Governor's Designee
Dennis Ling	-	Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)

Guests:

Jacob Aki	-	Senator English's Office
James Huang	-	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Mayor's Office of the Culture and Arts (MOCA)
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Independent Curator
June Matsumoto	-	Pacific Islands Institute (PII)
T. Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NHHA)
Amber Bixel	-	Bishop Museum
Blaine Kia	-	Outrigger Resorts
Eric Chang	-	East-West Center
Alexis Hou	-	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
Honey Maltin-Wisot	-	Strategies 360
Jackie Burke	-	Kahookele Art
Verna Takashima	-	Artist
Michi Moore	-	Senate Communications Office

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Attorney General's Office
Jamie Lum	-	DBEDT
Marlene Hiraoka	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento - Kamehameha Schools
Misty Kela'i - City & County of Honolulu Designee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair English on Friday, March 6, 2020, at 8:38 a.m., who welcomed everyone present.

APPROVAL OF February 27, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the meeting held on February 27, were approved unamended on a motion by Mr. McComber and seconded by Representative Onishi.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair English suggested that Commissioners discuss new business agenda items first.

- A. Postponement of FESTPAC in Hawai'i

Chair English covered the communication steps that occurred once The Pacific Community (SPC) announced that the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FESTPAC) would be postponed for one year. The Chair reported that he sent messages through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) about this development. He acknowledged Mr. Ka'anā'anā's communication efforts to inform funding and other partners via social media and other methods about the postponement of FESTPAC.

The Chair further reported that he and Representative Onishi informed the House and Senate Leadership about the postponement. He distributed copies of draft legislation that would extend the Commission for another year.

Discussion continued regarding adding language into the draft bill that would include an exemption to the Sunshine Law. The reason for the exemption is that because the Commission is a working commission, once decisions are made by Commissioners, the implementation of those decisions may require individual Commissioners having discussions about the execution of those decisions. Mr. McComber expressed some reservations regarding adding an exemption into the draft legislation regarding Sunshine Laws. Following more discussion, the Chair reassured Commissioners that Sunshine Laws will be followed in conducting Commission business. The only difference is that Commissioners will have the ability to discuss implementation areas of consideration with each other rather than having to form a permitted interaction group for every area.

Mr. Ka'anā'anā added that including the exemption into the draft legislation would allow more flexibility in Commissioners getting their work done. He further commented that guidelines could be developed such as meeting a certain dollar threshold that will allow for the exemptions to be authorized. After a lengthy discussion on the intent of the exemption to the Sunshine Law, the Chair suggested that a preamble be added to the beginning of the legislation that would explain the evolution of the Commission and why this exemption would help to make the planning and execution process more efficient especially as the Festival date gets closer.

B. New Proposed Festival Dates

Chair English expressed the need to consider new Festival dates for 2021. Discussion was held regarding the best feasible time frame given considerations related to University of Hawai'i (UH) housing; Special Olympics dates; airline schedules; Pan Pacific Festival; Kamehameha Day Parade; etc. The Chair also asked the public for their input.

Discussion continued regarding best new proposed dates for consideration. The Chair and Commissioners felt that consideration be made to allow for maximum opportunities for Hawai'i residents to attend the Festival. Ms. de Silva commented that it would be important to give Hawai'i residents more time to participate. More discussion was held including public access to the Festival; value to visiting delegations (scheduling Festival around other major events in Hawai'i); budgetary considerations; accommodation availability; etc. Representative Onishi stated that it would be good to consider the best situation for the majority of participants; dates of opening and closing ceremonies; and cost considerations.

After much deliberation a motion was made by Representative Onishi to schedule FESTPAC from June 18 to 27, 2021. Ms. de Silva seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair English expressed the need to communicate these new developments with the Pacific Community (SPC). Mr. McComber indicated that he is in regular contact with Ms. Kuiniselani Tago-Elisara and will inform her about the new proposed Festival dates. At the appropriate time, Hawai'i will inform all delegations about the new dates. The Chair requested that negotiations be continued with UH regarding housing considerations.

Mr. McComber expressed concerns regarding any costs or obligations that may have already been incurred for hotel rooms or ground transportation. He asked Pacific Islands Institute (PII) about additional costs and/or pending contractual agreements, and Ms. Matsumoto stated that there were none. Mr. McComber also asked whether there might be a need to expand the number of Commissioners and include members from the private

sector in the Commission. Discussion was held and it was decided not to amend the composition of the current Commission members.

Chair English also commented that because there is a wider planning time for the 2021 Festival, he suggested that it would be an opportune time to review the theme of the Festival and make any corrections as needed. Also, he stated that because of the extension of the planning time frame, there will be new administrations within the organizations currently involved. He requested that each Commissioner determine their position regarding work schedules, other commitments, etc. in determining whether they will continue as a Commissioner.

C. Internal Audit; Funding; UH Negotiations

Mr. McComber suggested that an internal audit be undertaken for funds received from 2017 to present which will closeout the initial spending on the Festival. Mr. Ling expressed that it would be possible, however, funding will have to be set aside if the Commission decides to conduct an audit.

Mr. Ka'anā'anā asked for clarification regarding Mr. McComber's intent of pursuing an audit. He further stated that if it is financial, the scope will be limited. Mr. McComber expressed that although an audit will be conducted when the project is completed, he would like an internal audit to be completed for the past three years.

Chair English indicated that he and Representative Onishi will be continuing to reach out to organizations that may be able to assist with funding. Solidifying the Festival dates for 2021 is important information for prospective funders, SPC, travelers, and governments. From the Hawai'i side, there may be an opportunity to seek more funding from Legislative leadership. Mr. Ling commented that currently, the PII contract will need to be extended as well as Strategies 360. These are additional budgetary considerations.

Representative Onishi requested that UH, PII and DBEDT meet to confirm terms of the housing contract and to determine whether UH is flexible in moving the housing block dates to 2021. Given the opportunity to develop a new contract, Representative Onishi requested that a new payment schedule be confirmed, too. Once UH, PII and DBEDT meet, Representative Onishi indicated that he and the Chair will be able to further discuss matters with UH Administration officials if there are areas of concern. He stressed that the point needs to be made to the UH that the SPC directed the Festival postponement and that it was a decision made outside of the Commission's control.

REPORTS

A. DBEDT Report:

Mr. Ling stated that there were no additional reports beyond what was already discussed.

B. Artistic Director's Report:

Ms. Bento's report will be deferred until the next meeting.

C. Administration Director's Report:

Mr. McComber distributed a written summary of his report.

Mr. McComber also reviewed existing expense considerations as follows: (1) closing of PA'I contract; (2) extending PII and Strategies 360 contracts; (3) per Mr. Ka'anā'anā, procurement of destination management services and public relations/communications would be done by HTA.

Mr. McComber reported that regarding sponsorship support of \$100,000 from Smith's Boat Tours, it may be retained in the Trust Account at DBEDT. Regarding sponsorship support of \$40,000 from the Royal Hawaiian Center, they are requesting that the funds be returned and RHC will re-issue at a later date.

D. Festival Coordination Directors Report:

Chair English proposed that the Commission meetings be held every other week. The next scheduled meetings are as follows:

March 17, 2020 (Tuesday)
April 2, 2020 (Thursday)
April 23, 2020 (Thursday)
*May 12, 2020 (Tuesday)
*May 28, 2020 (Thursday)

*From May 12, 2020 meeting, location may be moved to HTA Board Room at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

E. Marketing and Sponsorships Director's Report:

Mr. Ka'anā'anā reported that the letterhead has been revised. The Sponsorship Deck v5 is the most updated version. The Overview document was updated as v3. These documents were forwarded to DBEDT who will distribute the updated documents to Commissioners.

The FESTPAC website has been updated with the new logo.

Mr. Ka'anā'anā thanked Strategies 360 for their written report summary which was distributed to Commissioners.

F. Support Services Director Report:

Ms. Kela'i's report will be deferred until the next meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Chair English invited anyone from the public to testify.

A. Recycle Hawai'i

Ms. Kristine Kubat (President) from Recycle Hawai'i is interested in the topics of climate change and waste reduction. The organization has been working in Hawai'i for 30 years. They are interested in FESTPAC and offered their services and cooperation. The Chair explained that each Commissioner has been designated an area of responsibility. Ms. Takitani-Puahi indicated that she would reach out to Recycle Hawai'i at the appropriate time and thanked them for their interest.

B. Jackie Burke

Ms. Burke mentioned that the Gallery on the Pali is open for exhibits. Commissioners indicated that they are unable to organize exhibits and activities outside of the official program.

C. Bishop Museum

Ms. Bixel expressed continued support of FESTPAC. The Museum will revise their event dates to align with the 2021 Festival dates and move forward accordingly.

D. Blaine Kia

Mr. Kia stated that he is representing Outrigger Resorts and that they have expressed their support of the Festival. Chair English commented that more discussions are needed regarding this matter.

E. East-West Center

Mr. Chang stated that the East-West Center is committed to continue the exhibition for Guam this year. They will continue to support Pacific-related events with exhibitions and planned to align these activities with FESTPAC. They will explore how the East-West Center can continue to support and assist with FESTPAC next year.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair English thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

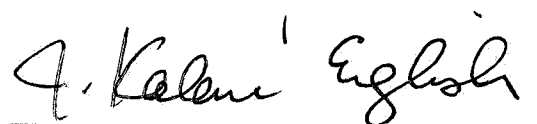
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at the Hawai'i State Capitol, Senate Caucus Room, Chamber Level.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator J. Kalani English
Chair



Date