



HO'OU LU LĀHUI
Regenerating Oceania
13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture
Hawai'i 2024

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

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 AT 2:30PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee (Arrived: 2:57pm)
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Monte McComber	-	Governor's Designee
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee

Guests:

Kiele Amundson	-	Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA)
Mamiko Carroll	-	Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture & the Arts
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Eric Chang	-	Public Member
Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kama Hopkins	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Dede Howa	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
June Matsumoto	-	Public Member
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Deputy Attorney General
Marlene Hiraoka	-	DBEDT
Selma Malcolm	-	DBEDT
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT
Scott Tome	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Designee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ka'anā'anā at 2:42 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair Ka'anā'anā called upon Mr. Kama Hopkins to do the *wehena* (opening). Mr. Hopkins was invited by Rep. Onishi who was unable to attend the Commission meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he continued with the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. A motion was made to adopt the minutes unamended by Mr. McComber and seconded by Ms. de Silva.

A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. McComber, Ms. Salā.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

FESTIVAL VENUES UPDATE

Chair Ka'anā'anā referred to the Programming Matrix prepared by Ms. Bento that was sent to all Commissioners. Chair asked whether anyone had comments regarding the meeting packet.

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed concern regarding actual definitions of cultural practices noted in the matrix. He used the example of mixed media knowing that there are languages to be considered. He would like the Commission to be clear on what is being asked of delegations. Chair Ka'anā'anā invited Commissioners to share comments regarding how best to describe programming descriptions for the heads of delegation. He emphasized that the terminology used needs to be understood by all delegations.

Mr. McComber concurred that programming descriptions could be interpreted differently by respective delegations. He used the example of *kani ka pila* (to play music together) as possibly having different meanings.

Ms. de Silva used the example of Jam Sessions that started during the Festival in Palau. She described this activity as a designated area for delegations to gather together where communication and exchanges were made through music. However, through the years, that program has turned into a free-for-all. As such, every Festival since the one held in Palau included a stage, microphone and sound system where countries were assigned times to perform. Ms. de Silva is hesitant to support this type of Jam Session. She further explained that the original intention of the Festival was to *ho'onui* (expand, grow, multiply) traditional arts because countries were afraid of losing their arts. Initially, the Festival was intended to encourage countries to showcase what they wanted to preserve, however, over the years, planners were inclined to give delegations what they wanted so that they would attend.

Ms. de Silva commented that the younger participants who were interested in contemporary music and interacting with others would gather together at these Jam Sessions. The older participants would attend the more traditional sessions. She is concerned about the effect of this program occurring in Hawai‘i. Ms. de Silva is fearful that if a Jam Session area is provided, countries would be inclined to perform genres outside of the scope of traditional music. Ms. de Silva expressed that would not be against kani ka pila programming, but she is unsure if it can be controlled well and not turn into a Jam Session. She emphasized that if programming included clear descriptions, there may be more “cultural” exchanges rather than an open mic session.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā asked if the Commission is ready to move forward with the top six categories – ‘Ōlelo (*Indigenous Languages*), Performing Arts, Living Arts, Media Arts, Health and Wellness, Special Events or should we finalize the descriptions first before we move forward with the 26 individual categories.

Ms. Salā asked about the category of ‘Ōlelo and whether it would be a separate category. She felt that ‘Ōlelo is present in all categories. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā indicated that that level of definition still needed to be completed. He agreed with Ms. Salā that indigenous languages would appear in areas such as pottery, painting, etc. as well. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā expressed that the original intention was to bring emphasis to Hawaiian language revitalization as opposed to only featuring indigenous languages.

Ms. de Silva expressed that she would prefer the process of finalizing descriptions first before moving forward with the 26 categories. Ms. de Silva would like ‘Ōlelo to be in a separate category and that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (*Hawaiian Language*) should be incorporated into all categories. It would be important to give Hawai‘i a platform to share accomplishments of what has been done. If it’s important to us, then we should feature it. Other countries have also been colonized and they are struggling to get young people to use their indigenous languages. Ms. de Silva also expressed that she is not comfortable on voting on programming matters without Ms. Bento in attendance. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā thanked Ms. de Silva for sharing her thoughts and ideas with members.

Ms. Salā expressed support and that ‘Ōlelo should be front and center and highlighted in each category. She also asked whether traditional and contemporary arts should be included in the same category. She used the example of Media Arts is more contemporary, whereas Living Arts is more traditional. Do we want to do the same thing with Performing Arts and separate them?

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā stated that the Commission is not ready to vote today for a number of reasons. He stressed the importance of Commissioners to consider planning from a 30,000 foot level. We need to ask ourselves, do these 26 categories help us to achieve the mission and vision that we have set for the Festival? Is there any practice that is missing that are unique to Hawai‘i? The Festival will be the first and only time, in the near future, to expose delegates to the Hawaiian culture.

Mr. McComber expressed that the vision and mission are fulfilled in terms of categories. Chair Ka'anā'anā stated that the Hawaiian culture would be present everywhere. This conversation is an opportunity to reflect upon these categories since Commissioners would not be voting today.

Ms. de Silva mentioned that *hulu* (Hawaiian featherwork) is unique to the Pacific. Featherwork is not singled out and should have been placed in the Living Arts category. Featherwork is also important related to *kahili* (*feather standards*). Ms. Bento should add *hulu* as a category.

Chair Ka'anā'anā asked if other Commissioners had questions or comments. Ms. de Silva shared that more exposure might be considered for exposure to our Ni'ihau shell lei arts. Chair Ka'anā'anā felt that would be an interesting addition and that Micronesian countries have something similar so it would be informative to observe both practices.

Chair Ka'anā'anā agreed to add *hulu* and *pūpū* (shell lei art) under the category of Living Arts.

Ms. de Silva mentioned that Uncle Babe's (Richard "Babe" Bell) work with the *ho'okani pū* (conch shell blowing) might be warranted as a separate category. She explained that Uncle Babe has developed certain techniques and sounds that are dependant upon the occasion or event. In Hawai'i, there is a variety of *puhi 'ohe* (wind instruments) to consider not just the pū, but also the *oeoe* (whistle).

Mr. McComber agreed and gave the example of the Aloha Festivals at Pearlridge Mall's *Keiki Pū Kani Contest* between schools. Ms. de Silva also said the *pū 'ohe* (wind instruments) may be considered, too. She emphasized that she is considering forms of art that are strong within the Hawaiian culture that Hawai'i would like to share with other cultures. In the Pacific, blowing instruments exists, however, it is not considered in the same way of Uncle Babe's technique and expression. Ms. de Silva suggested that it could be shared within a symposium and that it may not be necessary to create an entirely new category. Chair Ka'anā'anā suggested that we list the 'Ohe Arts under the Music category to include shell blowing, whistling and other wind and air blowing techniques. However, he stated that *hulu* and *pūpū* should be added as new categories.

Ms. Salā raised another question related to war arts or martial arts and used the example of the Maori as having these war/fighting arts. She wondered if these arts should be included in the category of health and wellness. She mentioned that *lua* (hand to hand defensive arts) is now practiced for health and exercise.

Mr. McComber raised an example of how cultures have found balance between health and wellness, for example between *lua* and *ho'oponopono* (meetings for mental cleansing and forgiveness).

Ms. Salā thought we might consider a category of inter-cultural encounter or exchange as a symposium for the arts that are maybe considered a practice but one that is not widely spread throughout the Pacific.

Ms. de Silva commented that the focus should be on positive elements such as health and wellness as the positive elements of it rather than referring these practices from a war/defensive

position. Sen. Keohokālole indicated that there might be strong feelings associated with the level of engagement and what categories the masters of these practices feel they best belong in. He agreed that it would be a good idea to include these categories.

Chair Ka'anā'anā stated that this is a framework/starting point from which subcommittees will be formed and discussions held with actual practitioners. Ms. de Silva asked about whether the descriptions of program offerings have been completed. Chair Ka'anā'anā indicated that Ms. Bento developed a draft in a Word document and asked Mr. Gionson to share the document related to program offerings. Chair Ka'anā'anā confirmed that this area needs to be further developed and comments from today's meeting would be added to the document.

Chair Ka'anā'anā mentioned that a PDF will be sent to Commissioners in draft form so that members will be familiar with the descriptions.

With respect to the venues template, Mr. Gionson has sent a draft to the Chair and will be distributing the document for Commissioners to review. The venues discussion will be pushed back from the next meeting. Mr. Gionson shared the draft template which is very comprehensive and detailed. Mr. Gionson mentioned that he developed the template based upon one that was used for presidential visits. He also stated that the template will be specific to the respective "rooms" being used and not the entire facility. Mr. Gionson reviewed the contents of the template which included many categories such as capacity; venue assets; security jurisdictions; nearest hospital; etc. and proximity to other major facilities. Understanding assets (seating, lighting, sound, etc.) and restrictions (time, cultural, etc.) are vital. Also, understanding areas to avoid; film and other permit requirements; union/non-union procedures; ground and other restrictions are important.

Sen. Keohokālole asked a question related to accessibility options and/or constraints associated with the venue's layout. For example, understanding whether media will have accessibility and streaming options, connectivity capabilities, etc. that would be essential for communication.

Ms. Lum also suggested adding accessibility to the public/participants with physical disabilities. It would be important to include this information although most venues would probably have accommodations related to accessibility.

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed his thanks to Mr. Gionson. Chair advised that the document will be sent to Commissioners by staff and that members should respond directly to staff for any comments that would be discussed at the next meeting.

LEGISLATION

Chair Ka'anā'anā reported that Senate Bill 696 crossed over to the House of Representatives. Mr. McComber testified as an individual and the Office of Information Practices (OIP) shared thoughts that were included in the bill. Chair has been in touch with staff of Representative Gates, however, the bill has yet to be referred to his committee.

Ms. Ahn clarified that OIP proposed an additional amendment at the request of the Chair, which did not make it into the bill and should be raised at the next committee hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to offer comments. Hearing none, he continued with the Agenda.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Ka'anā'anā confirmed that the next meeting will be held on March 22, 2021 from 2:30 p.m.

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited Mr. McComber to make an announcement. Mr. McComber advised commissioners that he submitted his letter of resignation to Governor Ige and the Commission Chair effective April 1, 2021. Mr. McComber emphasized that his departure would leave an opening for other organizations to be represented and considered for the Commission and he would still have the ability to participate in the work of the Festival in his professional capacity and as a community member. The Chair thanked Mr. McComber, on behalf of the Commission, for his work that included reporting on CPAC meetings, finance and other matters. The Chair looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Ms. de Silva shared that although Mr. McComber would not be a Commissioner, he will be called upon to assist and continue with the entire process of Festival planning. She expressed her *mahalo* and enjoyed working with him.

Ms. Lum thanked Mr. McComber for assisting with the tracking of all financial information and enjoyed working with him as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

Date