



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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 2:30 PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Chair	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Maenette Ah Nee-Benham	-	Governor's Designee
Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large (Arrived at 2:35 pm)
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee

Guests:

Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Keali'i Haverly	-	Public Member
Dede Howa	-	Public Member
Jonathan Johnson	-	State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Aaron Salā	-	Public Member
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association

Staff:

Margaret Ahn	-	Deputy Attorney General
Marlene Hiraoka	-	DBEDT
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT

Apologies:

Jarrett Keohokālolo	-	Senate President's Designee
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Designee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:32 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair called upon Mr. Aaron Salā to do the *wehena* (opening). Mr. Salā expressed his thanks to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham for the invitation. He understands that the *wehena* should be inspired by Hawaiian understanding, however, he asked if his presentation could represent the Samoan culture for today's presentation. Mr. Salā explained that today's *wehena* is designed around the Samoan *fale* (meeting house for chiefs) that is normally situated in a prominent position in a village. The Tauluga, which will be presented, is a traditional Samoan dance and performed at the culmination of a formal event. This particular dance will feature a woman, usually from a royal class who represents the ideals of the Samoan culture. Her dance movements are graceful and regal. The sharing of the Tauluga is a way to share cultural grounding. Mr. Salā shared a video of the Tauluga for Commissioners.

Chair thanked Mr. Salā for the presentation.

At the request of Ms. Ahn, Chair announced the names of all Commissioners present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair asked if there were any comments or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Lum 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. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORT ON PERMITTED INTERACTIONS, PURSUANT TO ACT 103, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2021

Chair asked if there were any Permitted Interactions held since the last Commission meeting. Hearing none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

CREATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG)

Chair indicated that he would like Commissioners to act on the process to search for a CEO Festival Director via the establishment of an Administrative Committee. This committee is not an investigative Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) under section 92-2.5(b), but a "committee" and will report on any discussions that take place between meetings to the full Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to Act 103.

Chair reported that the proposal to establish this Administrative Committee was sent to the full Commission. He asked whether Commissioners were comfortable with the Administrative Committee's proposed role.

Mr. Onishi indicated that he agrees with the proposal to establish an Administrative Committee. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham also agreed with Mr. Onishi. She further explained that the purpose of the committee would be to operationalize the planning and implementation tasks i.e., “boots on-the-ground” relative to the administrative affairs of the Commission. The first order of business for the proposed Administrative Committee would be to manage the process of hiring the Festival Director.

Chair referenced a Draft Organizational Chart that was distributed to Commissioners. He noted that the committee will be named the Administrative Committee. He also mentioned that for today’s meeting, he is inclined to focus on the next steps required to hire a Festival Director.

Ms. de Silva raised a couple of questions related to the proposal. She commented that the first two pages referred to the position as Festival Director as noted in the FestPAC manual; however, she noticed that in subsequent pages of the proposal, “CEO” was added to the Festival Director’s title as CEO/Festival Director. Ms. de Silva expressed her concerns that adding CEO presents a different connotation based upon her previous experiences in working with the Council on Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC). She requested that the title of this position be Festival Director and that any reference to “CEO” be removed from the title. Ms. de Silva reminded Commissioners that the event is the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, hosted by Hawai‘i and CPAC oversees the Hawai‘i Host Committee, therefore the Commission needs to be mindful relating to wording, descriptions, etc. Chair thanked Ms. de Silva for her comments and noted that the full name of the Festival will be used in future documents.

Chair stated that this discussion is for the agenda item related to establishing the Administrative Committee. In addition to himself, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Mr. Keohokālole and Ms. Bento will serve on this committee.

Ms. Bento made a motion to approve the establishment of the Administrative Committee and Mr. Onishi seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to establish the Administrative Committee: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair repeated that this is not a traditional, investigative PIG under Chapter 92 but rather a Committee.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING FESTIVAL DIRECTOR POSITION

Chair clarified that the Administrative Committee would conduct the recruitment, oversee work involved followed by making a recommendation to the Full Commission.

Chair thanked members for preparing the job description of the Festival Director. He agreed that CEO would be removed from the title and that Festival Director would be the official title to be used. Ms. de Silva sought clarification regarding the one-year term of the Festival Director. Chair explained that because there are currently no funds to support this position from the Festival Budget, that the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) will be securing their funds to

support the payment of this position for only 12 months. The Festival Director will be required to fundraise in order to cover subsequent salary costs after the 12-month period has been exhausted.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to adopt the job description of the Festival Director and Ms. de Silva seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the job description of the Festival Director: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair reported that the salary range was determined to be \$150,000 to \$180,000 annually and that this was based on the needs of the Festival, the scope of work of the role, and responsibilities of this position. He requested that the salary range be adopted with the understanding that it will be negotiated with the candidate. For the first 12 months, the Festival Director position will be considered a contract position and the candidate will be responsible for taxes, medical insurance, etc. There will be no additional benefits offered to the candidate.

Ms. Bento made a motion to adopt the salary range for the Festival Director and Ms. Ah Nee-Benham seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to adopt the salary range for Festival Director’s position: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair noted that the FestPAC budget needed to be amended to accommodate the salary range approved for the position of Festival Director. He suggested that for the purposes of the budget, the higher end of the salary range be used.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to approve the amendments to the Festival Budget in the line item for the Festival Director and Ms. Bento seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to amend the line item for the Festival Director’s position to \$180,000: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair reported that the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association would hire the Festival Director for 12 months subject to the approval of the full Commission.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to approve the delegation to the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association to hire the Festival Director for 12 months subject to the approval of the full Commission. Ms. Bento seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association to hire the Festival Director subject to approval by the full Commission: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ON FESTIVAL VENUES

Chair explained that with respect to the venue recommendations, he requests that today's votes be considered as firm decisions with no further changes.

Chair reported that two options were recommended for the selection of the Wa'a Ceremony (arrival) venue: (1) Ala Moana-Magic Island; and (2) Ke'ehi Lagoon and asked Commissioners for their comments. Ms. Bento indicated that for the sake of proximity, Ala Moana-Magic Island would be her first choice. Ms. de Silva asked whether Commissioners would be able to vote for their first preference as well as a second option. Mr. Onishi agreed with Ms. de Silva's suggestion. He further commented that once the venue selection is made, the Commission will need to go through a process of applying for permits and authorization to use the venue for FestPAC. It would be best to concentrate on a venue first with the understanding that if the Commission's request is disapproved, they would be able to consider the second option as an alternative. Ms. de Silva commented that the alternate venue be considered with the approval of the full Commission.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to select Ala Moana-Magic Island as the primary location for the Wa'a Ceremony and Ke'ehi Lagoon selected as an alternate venue. Ms. de Silva seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving Ala Moana-Magic Island for the Wa'a Ceremony with Ke'ehi Lagoon as an alternate location: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair moved to a discussion for the 'Awa Ceremony with the Great Lawn at the Bishop Museum and Kūkaniloko as options. Mr. Onishi stated that Bishop Museum would be his preference because there are ADA accessibility issues, additional transportation costs, etc. with Kūkaniloko. He considered Bishop Museum to be a perfect location with the availability of the Atherton Hālau should weather conditions pose challenges. Mr. Onishi reported that this was the committee's primary consideration in selecting the Bishop Museum. Chair also commented that at Kūkaniloko, there is no parking, facilities, etc. that would make it a challenging location for the 'Awa Ceremony. Ms. de Silva also commented that Kūkaniloko is more suitable for a smaller group. Ms. Bento stated her support for the Bishop Museum and that Kūkaniloko was initially selected for VIPs and *Ali'i 'ohana* (royal families) from respective delegations and not for the entire group. She agreed that the Great Lawn at the Bishop Museum would be a suitable venue for the 'Awa Ceremony.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham made a motion to select the Bishop Museum as the primary venue and Kūkaniloko as the alternate venue for the 'Awa Ceremony. Ms. Lum seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the Bishop Museum as the primary venue for the 'Awa Ceremony and Kūkaniloko as the alternate venue: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair noted that the 'Iolani Palace was the venue discussed previously for the Opening Ceremony, however, he would like to suggest that the Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) be considered as an alternate venue or wherever the Festival Village is located. Ms. Bento agreed that it would be appropriate to consider the HCC as an alternate site for the Opening and Closing ceremonies.

Ms. Lum made a motion to select Iolani Palace as the primary location for the Opening Ceremony with the HCC as an alternate location. Mr. Onishi seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving 'Iolani Palace for the Opening Ceremony and the HCC as an alternate location: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Chair reported on the three options that were considered for the Festival Village, however, asked the Venues Committee whether the options were ranked in order of preference on the agenda. Mr. Onishi said that the Venues Committee discussed the three options at length. The primary reason the HCC was listed as the first option is because there are available funds from the Commission already being held at the HCC; and that it would likely be difficult to receive approval to use Ala Moana-Magic Island or Kapi'olani Park for the duration of the Festival. The approval process would go through Neighborhood Boards for both locations and, for Kapi'olani Park, approval is required by the Kapi'olani Park Preservation Society. Because the request would be to use the park for over one month for set-up and tear down of the Festival Village, it would also require approval by the City Council. The Venues Committee considered the challenges in obtaining approval from these respective boards and City Council given the public sentiments regarding these two venues.

Discussion continued with Ms. Bento stating that culturally, there will be some delegations that would need to perform on '*āina* (land, earth) beneath their feet. With that consideration, would it be possible to create a main stage in the Exhibition Hall of the HCC? In other words, bringing '*āina* into the hall? Chair asked how many delegations would require this accommodation because he is trying to understand the scope of these requests. Ms. de Silva commented that because previous Festivals were held outdoors, she could not provide an exact number of delegations that would have the requirement of dancing on '*āina*. Ms. de Silva commented that she understands budgetary considerations, however, her preference would be to have the Festival Village located at an outdoor location even if it meant creating a scaled down version of the Festival Village. She posed a suggestion of whether the Festival Village could be created on the Mall at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Mr. Onishi replied that the suggestion of the Mall at UHM should be explored. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham commented that she has seen the Mall at UHM used for other events. She further stated that the quarry area, East-West Center as well as other campus venues might be an added benefit. She suggested that the committee have a conversation about this request by formally approaching the University of Hawai'i (UH). Ms. Bento added that one challenge would be that there are no dressing facilities, however, since delegates will be housed at UH, they could also walk to the Festival Village on the Mall at UHM

already fully dressed in costume. She also commented that the Andrews Amphitheater is another beautiful venue that could be used on UHM campus.

Chair stated that based upon today's discussion, he would like the Venues Committee to review the options again for the Festival Village. He agreed that having the Festival Village indoors did not feel right although the HCC would be a great venue for other activities. He asked the Venues Committee to further discuss the options suggested today. Mr. Onishi noted that the Roof Top at the HCC is open and accessible. He said that creating a main stage with dirt and sod might be a possibility, however, he questioned the amount of funding that would be required to make those accommodations. He suggested HCC as a location for consideration in the decision of venue for the Festival Village as this would be the most convenient for all participants.

Chair mentioned that if it would be more appropriate to have all Commissioners present for the discussion of Festival Village, he would like to consider adding the discussion and action on the selection of the Festival Village venue to the September 27, 2021 meeting.

Chair noted that Kapi'olani Park was selected as the primary venue for the Closing Ceremony and offered the HCC as an alternate location.

Mr. Onishi made a motion to select Kapi'olani Park as the primary location for the Closing Ceremony with the Hawai'i Convention Center as an alternate location. Ms. Bento seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving Kapi'olani Park for the Closing Ceremony and the Hawai'i Convention Center as an alternate location: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Bento, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to again offer comments.

Mr. Salā commented that, during previous Festivals, there were ecumenical services included in programming. He asked whether that was a requirement. Chair stated that the venues currently being discussed are for the main high-level events. Other venues will be discussed separately at a later time.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Chair continued with announcements and the next meeting date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced that Mr. Salā would be willing to assist the Commission, during the interim, until a Festival Director is on board. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Salā.

Ms. de Silva expressed her thanks to Commissioners for putting the extra time outside of Commission meetings for two committees to prepare for the discussion of the items presented today. She thanked the Chair for trying to find an outdoor space for the Festival Village.

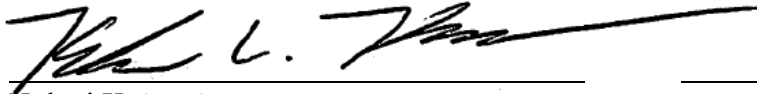
NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Chair stated that if anyone has additional agenda items to include for this meeting, please send the information to Ms. Sanders and Mr. Tome. Also, he requested that Commissioners plan voting for the Festival Village venue at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

09/24/2021

Date