



MINUTES OF THE COMMISSON ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FESTIVAL OF  
PACIFIC ARTS & CUTLURE (FestPAC) MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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
Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large

Guests:

Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Mamiko Carroll	-	Public Member
Ilihia Gionson	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Dede Howe	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Monte McComber	-	Royal Hawaiian Center
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	University of Hawai'i/Royal Hawaiian Center
Malia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Margo Vitarelli	-	Public Member

Staff:

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:30 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair called upon Mr. Gionson and Ms. de Silva to do the *wehena* (opening). Mr. Gionson shared remarks regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day and expressed that the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) is fortunate and appreciative of working with a diverse group of *ōiwi* (Native peoples) to advance the work of communities. Indigenous Peoples' Day was created as a replacement for Columbus Day during the late 1980s early 1990s. Today is the first year that Indigenous Peoples' Day has been recognized by the President of the United States. The State of Hawai'i replaced Columbus Day with Discoverers' Day in 1971 to recognize all discoverers including those of the Pacific. NaHHA is honored to work with the FestPAC Commission to host FestPAC together with nations of the Pacific. The organization is also honored to work with the hundreds of businesses listed on the business directory located at kuhikuhi.com. He expressed *mahalo* (gratitude) to Ms. Hussey for OHA's support of the program and also acknowledged the Native Hawaiian chambers of commerce on all islands. Mr. Gionson also thanked colleagues among the hospitality and tourism industries of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA).

Mr. Gionson expressed that the core of any culture is its *mo'olelo* (oral stories and traditions). *Mo'olelo* comes from previous generations who provided ancestral wisdom and guidance for the future. Mr. Gionson introduced Ms. de Silva as someone who has dedicated her life to the Hawaiian culture as a *Kumu Hula* (Master Hula practitioner) to present the remainder of the *wehena*.

Ms. de Silva expressed that indigenous living encompasses all the values that she learned from her family, her *Kumu* (teachers), schools she attended and through *mele* (songs) and *hula* (traditional dance) that were passed on to her. She shared that Princess Kaiulani's birthday is on October 16 and in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, she presented a *hula* that she learned from Ms. Pat Namaka Bacon called *Ka'iulani - I Mauna Lahilahi Ko Wehi* that was written in the 1880s. The *mele* also attributes *pua māmane* (flowers of the Māmane tree) to Kaiulani, a delicate blossom like the Princess, that grows on mountain tops and is blessed by the *wai* (waters) of the *niu* (coconut). Ms. de Silva presented a beautiful *hula* and *oli* (chant) to all meeting participants.

Chair commented about the importance of indigenous wisdom and knowledge in the context of what the Commission's role is by creating a space for culture to be shared. It is not often shared in this context; however, it is important to create a space for culture to be shared that especially aligns with the FestPAC Commission's mission and goals.

Chair conducted a roll call of Commissioners and also introduced Ms. Sylvia Hussey, President and CEO of OHA, who has joined the Commission.

### **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 THE SEPTEMBER 27, 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 to be made and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Ah Nee 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. Salā, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Mr. Onishi, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Bento. Ms. Hussey abstained.

Motion was approved with one abstention.

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

Chair reported that there was a Permitted Interaction , pursuant to Act 103, and stated that the Administrative Committee (AC) has met between commission meetings and has provided a written report and also will provide a summary as noted on the agenda.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham for an update from the AC. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham noted that on today's meeting agenda, there was an asterisk noted next to the agenda item pertaining to the AC Update. This notation was included in case Commissioners were required to convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters such as personnel considerations; however, the Commission will not be going into Executive Session at today's meeting. During the next Commission meeting, Commissioners will be convening in Executive Session.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported on the AC's search for a Festival Director. She reported that seven applications were received and that three will not be moving on to the next phase of the selection process. She confirmed that these individuals were notified by NaHHA via email. She also confirmed that the four applicants who will move on to the next phase of recruitment have been notified and interviews will be scheduled soon.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham asked that Commissioners hold the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for interviews. She thanked the Chair, Mr. Keohokālole and Ms. Bento for participating in the October 9<sup>th</sup> AC meeting to review applications received for the position of Festival Director.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE MAIN FESTIVAL VILLAGE VENUE**

Chair turned over the next portion of the agenda to Vice-Chair Salā. Vice-Chair expressed that the Venues Committee (VC) has not met since the last Commission meeting. She also reported that they will be meeting with University of Hawai'i (UH) President David Lassner before the next scheduled Commission meeting. Ms. Salā expressed that there seems to be a willingness by UH to work with the FestPAC Commission's requests. She will have more to report during the next FestPAC Commission meeting on October 25th.

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. de Silva suggested that the next Commission meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> be scheduled for two hours since there will be additional business for Commissioners to discuss. It was so noted and agreed that a two-hour time frame will be allotted for the October 25<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

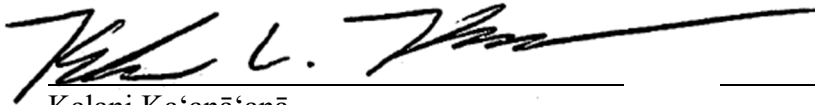
**NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 25, 2021**

Chair requested for any feedback and conflicts regarding the two-hour time frame for the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hearing none, he confirmed that the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held from 2:30-approximately 4:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā  
Chair

10/19/2021

Date