



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, DECEMBER 6, 2021 AT 2:30 PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Chair	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Maenette Ah Nee-Benham	-	Governor's Designee
Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee (Arrived 2:47pm)
Makanani Salā	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee (Arrived 2:48 pm)
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large (Arrived 2:40 pm)

Guests:

Hannah Braswell	-	Public Member
Jackie Burke	-	Public Member
Mamiko Carroll	-	Public Member
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Keali'i Haverly	-	Public Member
Dede Howa	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Public Member
Monte McComber	-	Public Member
Manulani Aluli Meyer	-	Public Member
Diego Sanchez Garcia Peralta	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	Festival Director
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kēhaulani Pu'u	-	City Department of Parks & Recreation
Kimberly Scott	-	Public Member
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Pris Texeira	-	Public Member
Luis Harry Thimason	-	Public Member
Margot Vitarelli	-	Public Member
Caroline Yacoe	-	Public Member

Staff:

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

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee

At 2:35 p.m., Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted roll call of Commissioners present: Chair, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Lum. With Ms. Ahn's advice that the *wehena* may be conducted without quorum, Chair Ka'anā'anā invited Ms. Ah Nee-Benham to introduce Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer to conduct the *wehena* (opening).

Dr. Meyer introduced an initiative that was created at University of Hawai'i West O'ahu (UHWO) called Niu Now. Dr. Meyer also reminded meeting attendees that it is *Makahiki* season – with hopes that the season of peace, gratitude and excellence will guide everyone. She emphasized that today is about *Lono* (Hawaiian god of peace, agriculture and abundance) and referenced “*Nānā I Ke Kumu*” a series of volumes of Hawaiian cultural practices that emphasizes resilience and *pono* (doing what is right), cultural landscaping and cultural agroforestry.

Niu Now is a movement that was founded by herself and Mr. Indrajit Gunasekara who is originally from Sri Lanka, a country that has maintained a relationship with *niu* for over 3,000 years. The movement focuses on coconuts as pivotal food resource and cultural rejuvenation tool to effectively transform Hawai'i. She shared slides that depicted the project and practitioners that she feels represents Hawai'i's history and future. She noted that 180 *niu* (coconut) seedlings were planted at Kūkaniloko, O'ahu. Coconut palms have been used ornamentally in film/arts, and coconuts have also, at times, been considered a liability. Niu Now is a movement that connects the islands of Hawai'i and the Pacific to coconuts that are rooted in community and *aloha 'āina* (caring for the land).

Dr. Meyer mentioned that Ms. Ah Nee-Benham asked her to conduct the *wehena* today because Niu Now was initially prepared to participate in FestPAC 2020, a community movement embedded in UHWO. When the 2020 Festival was cancelled, the group continued conducting webinars and other informational sessions virtually. She commented that coconuts are a food resource and can also be viewed as a cultural rejuvenation tool.

Dr. Meyer acknowledged and thanked Ms. Hussey and OHA for supporting their efforts at Kūkaniloko, O'ahu. A conference is scheduled to be held from May 12-14, 2022. She requested that coconuts be considered for FestPAC programming because it has a pivotal role in areas such as cultural weaving, vinegar, and food production where Sāmoans, Tongans and other Pacific Islanders would be able to relate to.

Chair thanked Dr. Meyer for the *wehena*.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:48 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

At this time, Chair noted that Ms. de Silva, Vice-Chair Salā, and Mr. Onishi joined the meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 22, 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-Benham and seconded by Ms. de Silva. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Onishi, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham.

Motion was unanimously approved.

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

Chair reported that there were no Permitted Interaction Group meetings held between the last Commission meeting and today's meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & UPDATE

No meeting was held by the Administrative Committee.

VENUES COMMITTEE REPORT & UPDATE

No meeting was held by the Venues Committee.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR REPORT & UPDATE

Chair Ka'anā'anā turned over the next portion of the agenda to Festival Director (FD) Salā.

FD Salā reported that he hopes to meet with the UH Mānoa Executive team soon regarding the Festival Village. He also would like to schedule meetings with commissioners individually. The FD reported that he also met with key partners – Mr. Jonathan Johnson of the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts; Ms. Mary Hattori of the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program; representatives of the Bishop Museum and Polynesian Cultural Center. The FD also discussed matters related to operational actions specifically pertaining to fundraising and friend-raising and the need to identify a fiscal agent for the 2024 Festival. He would like to solidify operational actions to build MOUs with partners at OHA, the East-West Center and other organizations. As soon as the Festival Village venue has been confirmed, he will need to operationalize and recruit staff; however, he expressed the need for some guidance in these areas.

Chair invited Commissioners for comments or questions.

Ms. Benham asked the FD to elaborate further on his idea of a fiscal agent. FD Salā mentioned that he and the Chair met a few weeks ago to discuss these matters. He understands that there is a trust fund at DBEDT, however, it would be more beneficial to funders if their contributions were made to a 501(c)(3). He suggested creating a new non-profit for this purpose. He noted that his contract is with NaHHA through funding support from the HTA. He believes that creating a new non-profit organization would enable funds and agreements to remain separate for Festival organization purposes. He also suggested NaHHA becoming the fiscal agent, however, he would like to have further discussions with appropriate individuals and return with his recommendations to the Commission. However, he would appreciate the Commission providing guidance.

Ms. Ahn commented that she would be interested in seeing a written document that would describe how funds would be accounted for. Chair commented that funders would not be able to take tax breaks if funds are contributed to a State agency trust fund. He suggested consideration to establish a non-profit entity that would have a sunset date in line with the Commission's life.

Ms. Ahn commented that there would be a procurement issue if a State agency contracted with the fiscal agent. DBEDT does not have the authority to establish a 501(c)(3). Chair stated that the HTA does not have the authority to create a non-profit organization. Ms. Ahn indicated that she would discuss this matter further with the Chair and HTA's Deputy AG.

Mr. Onishi asked Ms. Ahn whether the Commission would have the capacity to authorize the establishment of a 501(c)(3). Ms. Ahn stated that because the Commission is part of the State, that scenario would not be possible. She reiterated again that there needs to be documentation regarding how funds will be accounted for.

Ms. Lum commented that regarding DBEDT's trust account, if donors are looking for tax write-offs, that would not be possible if funds are directed to DBEDT. When funds are added to State coffers, even if it is a trust account, procurement rules would apply. She suggested that the FD contact Mr. Randy Tanaka who chaired the World Conservation Congress regarding how that event managed private contributions. Vice-Chair Salā gave an example that Honolulu City Lights is run by a non-profit organization.

The FD indicated that he met with Mr. Tanaka and learned that the University of Hawai'i (UH) Foundation and the Research Corporation of the UH were used in the case of the World Conservation Congress. He asked whether a non-profit could be formed via a Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

Chair commented that today's discussion was intended to begin conversations regarding these operational considerations. He asked the FD to continue conducting due diligence and report back to the Commission during the January Commission meeting.

Mr. Onishi commented that the Commission consider establishing a working relationship with Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) as a fiscal agent. Chair stated that the HTA

is required to follow all procurement rules. He also mentioned that the HTA's contract with NaHHA ends in June 2022. Without additional funding, it limits NaHHA's ability to assist the Commission far into the future.

Mr. Onishi pointed out that the FD brought up a second issue related to staffing. He suggested that the FD develop a proposed budget for staffing, the fund developer's position and other positions required for project execution purposes. The Commission should review functionality of the operation/budget and make budgetary adjustments as needed.

The FD stated that he will put together a budget and work with Commissioners. He indicated that he would use the Festival Handbook as a guide. Once the Festival Village has been confirmed, he will develop a budget. Chair advised that the FD's draft would go through the Administrative Committee (AC) first before being presented to the Commission.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham commented that the FD will conduct due diligence to identify entities for fundraising, setting up an office, and identifying the extent of administrative support staff needed. Chair stated that developing a budget is fine, however, at this time, there are no funds available.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to again offer comments. Hearing none, he moved into announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair indicated that in 2022, Commission meetings will begin at 3:00 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m. He asked Ms. Sanders to distribute the 2022 calendar of meetings and noted that adjustments to dates can be made as needed. Related to Act 220, Session Laws of Hawai'i, there are some Sunshine Law changes for Commission meetings. Staff will need to identify a physical location for members of the public to observe virtual meetings.

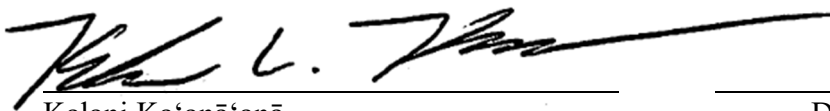
NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 20, 2021

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is confirmed for Monday, December 20, 2021, at 2:30 pm. Chair commented that given the holiday season, there may be a need to cancel the December 20, 2021 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

12/10/2021

Date