



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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 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
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
Keali'i Haverly	-	Public Member
Dede Howa	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Kahu Kordell Kekoa	-	Kahu, Kamehameha Schools (ret.)
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	Festival Director
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kēhaulani Pu'u	-	City Department of Parks & Recreation
Margot Vitarelli	-	Public Member

Staff:

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

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento	-	Community Member At-Large
Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 2:31 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Chair Ka'anā'anā's opening remarks were addressed to Commissioners where he expressed his thanks to members for their service to the Commission as well as for the sacrifices that they have made in that capacity. Warmest *mahalo* (gratitude) to all.

Chair conducted roll call of Commissioners present: Chair, Vice-Chair Salā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Ms. de Silva, Mr. Onishi.

Chair invited Ms. Lum to introduce Kahu Kordell Kekoa for today's *wehena* (opening).

Ms. Lum shared that in the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, we should give thanks every day. She continued by expressing that we can reflect upon obvious blessings or challenges that may be placed in our lives, but that we can be thankful in all circumstances. With those thoughts in mind, she invited Kahu Kordell Kekoa to bring us our *wehena* today.

Kahu Kordell expressed that given the events of this week, he would like to begin with the spirit of *mahalo*. *Mahalo* to the people who have given us and perpetuated our Hawaiian culture, who have lived it more than just talked about it. Kahu shared that he saw his parents as living examples of the connection to *aloha* (a foundational value of the Hawaiian culture). His mother (Caucasian) and father (Hawaiian) instilled values in him which he still carries today. He is so proud to have been nurtured in a family of strong Hawaiian values. His mother believed that Kamehameha Schools taught what it meant to be Hawaiian, and this was where Kahu went to school. During his mom's later years, she continued to share *aloha* which is a word that expresses the values that she and his father proudly lived and shared with their children.

Kahu Kordell expressed that as the planning and implementation of FestPAC continues, he believes it will be an opportunity to work with Oceania and elevating peoples', culture and faith. Kahu asked members to think about individuals who have exemplified what it is to be Hawaiian and asked how we could regenerate the *lāhui* (nation) with *aloha*, *mahalo*, *'ohana* (family) and *Ke Akua* (a reference to God; Christian terminology). He continued with a *pule* (prayer) to express good wishes for a prosperous *hālāwai* (meeting) and wonderful Thanksgiving.

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed his *mahalo* to Kahu Kordell on behalf of the Commission.

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 8, 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 it 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 8, 2021: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Vice-Chair Salā, Mr. Onishi, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Lum, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Mr. Keohokālole.

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. The Venues Committee did not meet since the last Commission meeting.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR REPORT & UPDATE

Chair Ka'anā'anā introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Festival Director (FD), Mr. Aaron Salā who thanked the Commission and reported that as more planning details evolve, he hopes to prepare a written report for members. He continued by reporting that since he started in his role as FD, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) venue discussions are moving forward. UHM will be discussing the FestPAC request during an executive meeting scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2021. Mr. Salā also asked that in thinking about the main Festival Village, he wondered whether Commissioners had suggestions of other possible satellite venues.

Chair Ka'anā'anā recommended that the Venues Committee meet to discuss the option of satellite venues. Mr. Salā will be following-up with the Venues Committee about this matter.

Mr. Salā continued his report by sharing that he is reviewing collaterals that were developed previously related to fundraising tiers. He has met with potential funding sources as well as possible fundraising event hosts. Once the details of the 2024 FestPAC are confirmed, he will proceed with fundraising strategies and activities. Mr. Salā commented that he also would like to reach out to each Commissioner to understand their vision and thoughts regarding FestPAC. He would like to have a sense of what individual Commissioners are hoping to collectively achieve related to the entire festival.

Chair commented that he will forward to the FD, a financial summary which Ms. Lum had provided previously to the Commission. He added that Stanford Carr was the only donor who allowed the Commission to keep the donation. Chair also will send an advisory opinion provided by the Ethics Commission related to Commissioners' role in fundraising activities. Ms. de Silva requested that the advisory opinion be sent to Commissioners, too. Chair indicated that he would ask staff to resend the advisory opinion again.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham mentioned that the Administrative Committee will be discussing the hiring of a Fund Developer at a future meeting. Mr. Onishi posed a question regarding how the Fund Developer's position will be related to the FD's efforts and whether the FD will have a say in selecting the Fund Developer, too. He would like the Administrative Committee to address this matter to ensure that the FD feels comfortable working with the Fund Developer. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham confirmed that the FD will be part of the conversation in defining the Fund Developer's

position and will have an integral role in this process going forward. The FD commented that his position also requires fundraising.

Chair thanked Mr. Salā for the update and looks forward to receiving written reports in the future.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

Mr. Haverly, representing the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC), shared his aloha with Commissioners and offered the PCC’s assistance with visiting delegations during FestPAC. He encouraged the Commission to keep the PCC in mind and let him know if the Commission needs assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made during this meeting.

NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2021

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is confirmed for Monday, December 6, 2021 at 2:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā adjourned meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka‘anā‘anā
Chair

11/23/2021

Date