



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

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, AT 3:00 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 (Arrived at 3:21 p.m.)
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee
Kēhaulani Pu'u	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee

Guests:

Lynn Martin Graton	-	Public Member
Ngahiraka Mason	-	Public Member
Monte McComber	-	Public Member
Aaron Salā	-	Festival Director
Mālia Sanders	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Kanoe Takitani-Puahi	-	Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
Pris Texeira	-	Public Member

Apologies:

Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
Richard Onishi	-	House Speaker's Designee

Staff:

Gregg Kinkley	-	Office of the Attorney General
Selma Malcolm	-	DBEDT
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT
Scott Tome	-	DBEDT

### **CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:03 p.m., Chair Kalani Ka‘anā‘anā welcomed all present via Zoom and Facebook Live and noted that no member of the public was present at the public meeting location. Chair then conducted roll call of Commissioners: Chair, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. de Silva, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Pu‘u. Chair noted that Commissioners Hussey, Lum, and Onishi were excused, and that Ms. Bento would later be joining the meeting.

Chair turned over the *wehena* (opening) for today’s meeting to Festival Director (FD) Aaron Salā who performed an *oli* (chant).

### **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 FEBRUARY 14, 2022, 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, seconded by Ms. de Silva. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. de Silva, Ms. Pu‘u.

Motion to adopt the February 14, 2022, minutes, unamended, was unanimously approved.

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

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā reported that the Administrative Committee (AC) met on February 28, 2022, at 3:00 pm. The contents of that meeting will be discussed in the next agenda item. No other permitted interactions were held since the last Commission meeting.

### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā reaffirmed and clarified that the fund development or fundraising function has been merged with the AC. Changes to the membership of the committee were made and the four commissioners participating on this committee will be Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, and Chair Ka‘anā‘anā. The AC will be led by Commissioner Ah Nee-Benham.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā turned over this portion of the AC’s report to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham expressed that much of the content of her report will be presented in the Festival Director (FD) report. To summarize, the FD brought the AC up to date regarding the FestPAC website. He also plans on working with University of Hawai‘i students to develop a more interactive website. The FD also updated the AC regarding the role of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) in providing a professional conference organizer training which would benefit FestPAC staff and help with the overall planning and implementation of the Festival. There also will be opportunities for friend-raising and fundraising activities in July 2022. The FD will provide more information in his report since there are points for discussion as

well as decisions that need to be made by the Commission. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham also mentioned that the AC report was enclosed with today's meeting materials.

Chair asked for any questions and hearing none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING VENUES AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair Ka'anā'anā clarified that the Venues Committee (VC) will be adopting the function of programming to its scope. He confirmed that Commissioners Lum, Pu'u, Onishi and Bento will be serving on VC. The VC will be led by Commissioner Lum and he expressed appreciation to Ms. Lum for leading this committee.

### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

FD Salā began his report by expanding upon the overview provided earlier by Ms. Ah Nee-Benham. He reported that a new website is being developed and that NaHHA will be setting up a new landing page that will be active soon. The FD is planning for the relaunch of the FestPAC 2024 website in June 2022. For now, the site will remain dormant. It should take approximately two months to redesign and relaunch the FestPAC website. He also will be developing a social media strategy that will include TikTok and LinkedIn as a more robust fundraising strategy is executed.

The FD reported that he met with Mr. Dave Moss, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Hanalei Ka'anapu of Haka Entertainment and Mr. Alan Yamamoto, producer and former radio executive to discuss the Waikīkī Shell event planned for July 1-2, 2022. The FD spoke of this event during the last Commission meeting and discussed this idea with the AC. Comments received were to consider a Friday and Saturday event with Friday being a VIP by-invitation-only event and Saturday being open to the public. There will be no financial burden imposed on the Commission. The goal is to inform the public about FestPAC and begin a more active fundraising strategy.

The FD reported that the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra already has July 1-2, 2022 reserved and that they were initially thinking about partnering with Mr. Ka'anapu to present Moonlight Mele. Partnering with these producers will the FD and Festival Commission the opportunity to share more about FestPAC to the greater public. It was mentioned that the event could also be used as an opportunity to invite hoteliers and bankers to learn more about the importance of FestPAC to Hawai'i and the Pacific with hopes of securing funds for the Festival. The FD envisions socializing the Festival and begin implementing a fundraising strategy through events such as this.

The FD reported that once he is able to finalize the Festival Village and auxiliary venues, he will develop and present a budget to the Commission at the next meeting. He indicated that once the budget is approved, he will begin fundraising efforts.

The FD reported about a photo exhibit of the Pacific Gathering Guam, FestPAC 2016, that will be hosted by the East-West Center (EWC). He continues to have ongoing conversations with Mr.

Eric Chang and other EWC staff that will further help in hosting FestPAC in 2024. He also continues to meet with Mr. Jonathan Johnson of the State Foundation on Culture and Arts and Ms. Mary Hattori of the EWC. These discussions will contribute toward helping with future staffing for the Festival office. The FD also acknowledged Mr. Kūhiō Lewis and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) for their willingness to assist with FestPAC 2024 which he appreciates.

Moving forward with the Festival Village and auxiliary venues, the FD and Commissioner Lum have been in discussion, and he will be requesting that regular standing VC meetings be scheduled.

Lastly, in preparation for the next Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) meeting in April, the FD and Ms. de Silva met on March 8, 2022 and have been in discussion regarding overall layout of the Festival Village. The FD is waiting to receive dimensions of McCarthy Mall and Legacy Path and expects to receive this information from University of Hawai'i (UH) President David Lassner's office soon. In the next Commission meeting, the FD will present a schematic drawing of the Festival Village and auxiliary venues for Commissioners to review. The FD will also have an updated budget and marketing strategy (including social media) for Commissioners' review and approval.

Chair informed members that Ms. Bento had joined the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Mr. Keohokālole raised a question regarding the space of McCarthy Mall and whether the amphitheater could also be used. The FD and Ms. de Silva addressed this question and noted that space is premium at both areas of the UH Mānoa Campus. McCarthy Mall would be best for the Festival Village and the Legacy Path will be used for auxiliary venues including a *lomi* (Hawaiian massage) tent, feather lei making and other arts. Andrews Amphitheater could be used as the main performance venue although other venues may need to be considered since not all performances could be performed there. Ms. de Silva expressed that her biggest concern is having enough performance space for all countries attending. Chair said that he will allow committees to conduct due diligence first then present recommendations to the Commission.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham said that regarding the friend-raising and fundraising event, the AC was supportive of the idea. They requested that the FD gather more information and present his findings to the Commission. Chair acknowledged and thanked the July event partners for their support. The FD expressed a huge *mahalo* (thanks) to Mr. Dave Moss for considering a partnership for the July 1-2, 2022 weekend that the Symphony had already reserved.

#### **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE 35TH COUNCIL OF PACIFIC ARTS AND CULTURE (CPAC) MEETING IN APRIL 2022**

Chair Ka'anā'anā reported that the 35<sup>th</sup> Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) will be meeting soon. Chair has been in discussions with the FD and Mr. Monte McComber who has been the liaison with CPAC in planning and preparing for Hawai'i's presentation about FestPAC 2024 that will be included on the agenda. Ms. de Silva is Chair of CPAC and Mr. Salā will represent the Commission at the Ministers' meeting. Mr. McComber will be representing the Commission at CPAC. Ms. de Silva is Chair of both groups. Chair indicated that it will be the

6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ministers and the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of CPAC that will be held virtually. It will be a great opportunity to check-in with both groups and provide an update regarding our plans for FestPAC 2024 and progress to date.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made at this meeting.

**NEXT MEETING – APRIL 11, 2022**

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is confirmed for Monday, April 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kalani Ka'anā'anā  
Chair

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04/10/2022

Date