



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

**MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023 AT 3:00 PM**

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 3:02 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted roll-call. Commissioners Benham, Bento, Hussey, Lum, and Pu'u shared that they were present and alone, Commissioner Onishi was present and with his baby granddaughter. Commissioners de Silva and Keohokālole were excused.

The Chair called upon Commissioner Pu'u to provide the *wehena* (opening).

Commissioner Pu'u offered a favorite mele that she learned from her kumu when she was in the teacher program. Her kumu (Larry Kimura and Kalena Silva) who wrote this mele were important in the contribution of Hawaiian Language revitalization. Chair Ka'anā'anā thanked Commissioner Pu'u for her *wehena*.

Chair recognized that there were no public attendees at the in-person venue or at the Hawai'i Tourism Authority office.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No testimony was received in advance of the day's meeting. The chair invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he continued with agenda items.

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

The Chair reported that the admin meeting did meet but their meeting would be covered under agenda item seven. Hearing no additional meetings, he continued with the next agenda item.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Commissioner Onishi made a motion to approve the minutes unamended and it was seconded by Commissioner Benham. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes: Chair Ka'anā'anā, Commissioner Benham, Commissioner Bento, Commissioner Hussey, Commissioner Onishi, Commissioner Pu'u and Commissioner Lum. Commissioners de Silva and Keohokālole are excused. With the members present the minutes of April 25, 2023, were adopted unamended.

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

Chair Ka'anā'anā asked that we take the agenda items out of order as we are awaiting a representative with the Pacific Community to join the meeting later for their updates and giving Festival Director Salā the floor for his Festival Director report.

Festival Director Salā was invited with a small delegation to Washington, D.C. last week and had numerous meetings to help support the FestPAC meeting logistics and coordination. Festival Director Salā gave thanks Erika Moritsugu, Krystal Ka'ai, and Georgette Furukawa for their generosity and the invitation to join the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander (WHIAANHPI) Forum which happened on May 3. He was invited to sit on a panel for creative excellence and gave a 7-minute presentation talk about Hawai'i's hosting of FestPAC as the other VIPs received 2 minutes to share. Festival Director Salā met with Jenny Morrell and also met with Dale Haan and members of Senator Schatz's team. They focused on four topics: immigration, security, biosecurity and fumigation, and fundraising.

On the topic of immigration, the proper visa for FestPAC will be a B1/B2 Visa (Business/Tourism visa). The challenge with this visa expects an interview at an embassy which means individuals would have to expect biometrics and individual interviews at an embassy. Individuals would have to make their way to Auckland, Sydney, Port Moresby, or Suva.

At this point, it is a 131-day wait in Auckland and Sydney for a visa but no wait at Port Moresby and Suva. Festival Director Salā is going to circle back with SPC to see the best way to share this information with the rest of the Pacific community who is interested in joining us in Hawai'i for FestPAC.

Immigration poses a large challenge for FestPAC, but Festival Director is working on ways to ease the process for all.

In discussion with security, the secret service usually provides security for heads of state. Ultimately, the secret service will partner with the state department and with the office of foreign missions which is headquartered in San Francisco to discuss the logistics for security. Festival Director Salā will keep us updated.

Festival Director Salā has been working diligently with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife team on biosecurity and fumigation issues. Currently, all materials need to go to Long Beach for fumigation before coming to O'ahu. Festival Director Salā is working with Jenny Morrell to see if they can do a temporary pop-up as the only real way to fumigate materials as some materials have to come from other countries. He continues to work hand in hand with Christine, Benton, and Jenny on this issue.

For fundraising, we have missed the earmark for the next fiscal year. Mahalo to Senator Schatz that fundraising will come about as a lot of time and effort engaging the federal government to discuss these issues.

Talking about the strategic programs pillar for the 13<sup>th</sup> FestPAC, which concludes his report.

Chair Ka'anā'anā chimed in sharing that Jimmie Collins, Hawaii Office of Homeland Security uses the details of these plans as Ms. Collins assigns security level for this kind of event which has various levers that get activated once the event is identified. Chair Kalani and his team will send over contact information for the San Francisco security office.

With no additional questions for the festival director, Chair Ka'anā'anā asked for elaboration on agenda item #5, He asked as there are many different topics like Pacific Philosophy Conference during FestPAC, what are our responsibilities to these ancillary meetings.

Miles and the team, Ms. Mitchell presented as a heads up. Festival Director Salā elaborated that the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific and Culture will have additional meetings as they use the festival as a way to meet, the CPAC is pulling in these anomalies meetings to join under an umbrella for FestPAC.

Ms. Mitchell will be presenting on the various other meetings and informing us on what we as the host nation to ready ourselves for at FestPAC.

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

Commissioner Benham shared the minutes of the administrative committee update with all the commissioners to review what they discussed. In the administrative committee update, they discussed the Gravitas contract and will defer to Commissioner Lum or FD Sala to work on the contract.

With time limitations, they tabled Honorary Chair discussions due to time constraints and will circle back to discuss the next meeting, these updates wrapped up the administrative update.

Chair Ka'anā'anā asked to place a deadline to execute the contract, which Chair advised the date for execution to be by May 15, 2023.

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

Chair Ka'anā'anā deferred this agenda item as the committee did not meet.

Chair Ka'anā'anā called a recess at 3:32 p.m. to convene at 3:45 p.m.

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā shared Ms. Mitchell was on her way to the airport, so he made the call to defer agenda item #5 to the next meeting. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā shared there are no additional announcements.

**NEXT MEETING**

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā confirmed that the next meeting will be held on May 22, 2023, at 3 PM hybrid (in-person and on Zoom).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kalani Ka‘anā‘anā  
Chair

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Date



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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 AT 3:00 PM**

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

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

Staff:

Elise Amemiya	-	Deputy Attorney General
Micah 'Ākau	-	HTA
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	HTA
Irina De La Torre	-	HTA

Apologies:

Jarrett Keohokālole	-	Senate President's Designee
Sylvia Hussey	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs Designee (OHA)
Kehaulani Pu'u	-	City and County of Honolulu Designee

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 3:02 p.m., who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

The Chair called upon Commissioner Lum to provide the *wehena* (opening).

Commissioner Lum began by sharing a message she heard at a recent celebration of life that she attended for Fred Cachola. The message was "Do more for more" a phrase Fred often told his staff. His daughter further described that he was "a trailblazing educator and cultural advocate servant leader." He was an educator in Waianae until 1971 when he started working at Kamehameha Schools as a new Director for the Extension Education program. This brand-new program set Kamehameha Schools on a new path to educating students and others with more keiki in the communities. Most of the programs they started are still around today such as the Explorations program and various at-risk youth programs in the DOE. They eventually branched out to adult education and provided scholarships. Commissioner Lum continued to share that the

idea to “do more for more” can be carried out in their work here as commissioners and as we plan for this festival. She concluded the *wehena* with the closing thought about our collective kuleana to “do more for more” on behalf of our Pacific islander brothers and sisters.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā thanked Commissioner Lum for her *wehena* and the remainder of our kuleana to the community and the work that we do. He also mentioned how it was a beautiful tribute to Fred and his ‘ohana who supported him all these years.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā conducted roll-call. Commissioners Benham, Bento, de Silva, Lum, and Onishi responded that they were present and alone at their respective locations. Commissioners Keohokālole, Hussey, and Pu‘u were excused. Chair recognized that there were no public attendees at the in-person venue or at the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority office.

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

No testimony was received in advance of the day’s meeting. The chair invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, he continued with agenda items.

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

The Chair reported that none of the committees met and asked if there were any other permitted interactions. Hearing none, he continued with agenda items.

### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 31, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Commissioner Lum made a motion to approve the minutes unamended and it was seconded by Commissioner Onishi. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was requested with the following Commissioners approving the motion to approve the minutes: Chair Ka‘anā‘anā, Commissioner Benham, Commissioner Bento, Commissioner de Silva, Commissioner Onishi, and Commissioner Lum. Commissioners Hussey, Keohokālole and Pu‘u were excused. With the members present the minutes of March 31, 2023 were adopted unamended.

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

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā shared that Festival Director Salā would share some quick updates but would have to leave for another meeting shortly after. Festival Director Salā thanked everyone who helped with the CPAC meeting in March and a “hearty” mahalo to Benton Pang, Christine Martin, and their team from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others involved in the work around biosecurity and fumigation. They have been incredible in assisting since the CPAC meeting and making great progress on planning for their kuleana for FestPAC. Festival Director also thanked the SPC team who has been fully engaged and working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife team. Sala mentioned his meeting today is with Jenny Morrell who sits in the USA membership seat for the SPC. Morale is the Pacific Regional Unit Chief for the office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs. She is also with the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the USA Department of State. Ms. Morrell was in Hawaii for meetings not related to FestPAC but requested to have it added to her itinerary and will be having several

meetings with Festival Director Sala to discuss where we are at with planning and how her office can support it.

In March, Festival Director Sala met with Erika Moritsugu from the White House and her number two Georgette Furakawa, both have also been engaged in seeing our success in producing and executing the festival. Festival Director Sala mentioned he was invited to Washington DC the first week in May to present for seven minutes at the AA and HPI summit on May 3, 2023. He will also be curating a Melanesian and Micronesian performance and mentioned he would be reaching out to Commissioner deSilva in the coming days to discuss plans. This event will have upwards of a thousand attendees including VVIPs and very high-level leaders. Festival Director Sala concluded by sharing that the next CPAC meeting will be held at the end of June followed quickly by the Ministers of Culture Meeting on June 28 in New Caledonia. This will be our final opportunity to report to CPAC and the Culture Ministers about Festival programming, biosecurity, immigration and etc. Festival Director Sala is working with all parties to create an incredibly detailed presentation for these meetings. After that, CPAC will plan for their own delegations to come to the festival how they plan for the festival delegations.

**UPDATE ON RFP FOR FESTIVAL PROVIDER. THE COMMISSION ANTICIPATES GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO HRS §92-5(A)(4) TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSION'S ATTORNEY ON QUESTIONS AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE COMMISSION'S POWERS, DUTIES, PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES, AND LIABILITIES.**

Commissioner Lum shared that the RFP evaluations committee met and made its recommendation to the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Director. The recommendation was approved, and an awardee was selected. The award was posted awarding Gravitas Pasifika. They are currently in the contracting phase and will be working together on a contract to be executed. Chair Ka'anā'anā asked Commissioner Lum "if they cleared the protest period?" Commissioner Lum confirmed that the protest period has been cleared with no protests submitted. Chair Ka'anā'anā clarified that Gravitas Pasifika is Aaron Sala and congratulated him.

**UPDATE DISCUSSION ON HONORARY CHAIR POSITION FOR FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE**

Chair Ka'anā'anā noted that there were no edits submitted from the Commissioners on the Honorary Chair Description. He suggested if there are no edits or revision to that we adopt and approve the draft as circulated at the next meeting.

Commissioner Onishi shared that he reviewed the circulated draft and had no concerns or issues. Commissioner Benham agreed with Commissioner Onishi, but she had a question regarding the process and if that should be discussed now or in the Admin Committee. Chair Ka'anā'anā suggested that it be discussed in the Admin Committee and then brought to the full Commission. Chair noted that Commissioner Bento, Benham, deSilva and Onishi all approved the Honorary Chair description draft as circulated.

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

Commissioner Benham shared that they didn't meet and that they will start meeting now that there is a Festival Provider.

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

Chair Ka'anā'anā deferred this agenda item as the committee did not meet.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited the public to again offer comments. A member of the public, Trung Lam, is with a local group called Thrive HI which is a Community Building Center for the remote and tech workforce here in Hawai'i. Lam went on to mention that he and his team have been developing an idea to potentially have an expo highlighting Indigenous Heritage and Culture in Video Games and Interactive media. Lam mentioned that he thought this would be a great opportunity to collaborate during the festival and wanted to know if that was a possibility. Chair Ka'anā'anā responded that he could follow up offline and discuss potential collaboration ideas. Chair Ka'anā'anā asked once again if there was any other public wanting to provide testimony, hearing none, he continued with the next agenda item.

Commissioner Benham noted that she was not able to ask this question during the Venues Committee portion and wanted to ask Commissioner Lum "now that we are going through the process of getting a Festival Provider, will we be able to move ahead and actually sign MOA's and all the other types on contracts as soon as that's in place, so we can get our venues and hotels set and all that other stuff set?" Commissioner Lum confirmed that it was correct.

Chair Ka'anā'anā asked if there were any other members of the public wanting to offer testimony. Hearing none he moved on to the next agenda item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Ka'anā'anā shared there were no announcements.

**NEXT MEETING**

Chair Ka'anā'anā confirmed that the next meeting will be held on May 8, 2023 at 3 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

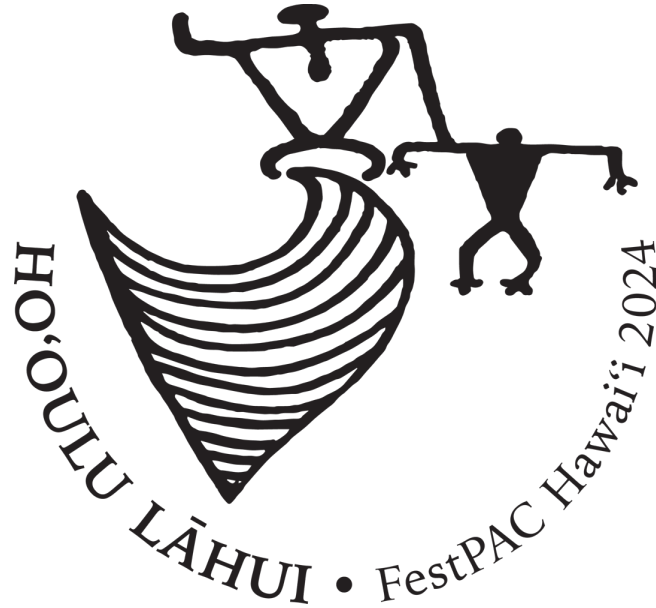
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Kalani Ka'anā'anā  
Chair

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Date





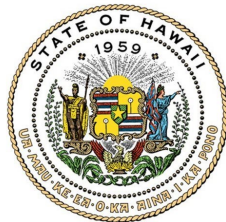
# Festival Director Report

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Aaron J. Salā

# Festival Provider Contract

- Due diligence



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# Immigration

- B-1/B-2 Visa
- Visa Process



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

# Biosecurity



Current challenges



Potential mitigation



Meeting of regulatory agency leads,  
FestPAC Commission Reps, and  
Congressional Delegation Reps





# FestPAC Programming

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# Statement from U.S. Secretary of State Blinken

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From the U.S.-Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Dialogue in Papua New Guinea:

**“13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture 2024:** The United States is pleased to support the Governor of Hawai‘i and the Pacific Community (SPC) in hosting the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) June 6-16, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. We look forward to providing a warm welcome filled with the Aloha Spirit to FestPAC delegations of royal families and Ministers to Indigenous practitioners and student performers next year.”

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-pacific-islands-forum-leaders-dialogue-in-papua-new-guinea/>



**Mahalo**

**13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture**

# **Festival Program – Strategic programming**



# FestPAC Program

Artistic Program (Host nation led in partnership with SPC and CPAC)

Strategic Program (SPC and CPAC led in partnership with Host Nation)

'Aha Moananuiakea –  
Symposiums, Conferences and  
Meetings

Na Hana Paku'i

Leaders

## Symposium

- Culture, Oceans and Climate Change
- Culture and the environment
- Culture and Education
- Culture, health and food security
- Culture and social inclusion
- Culture and Trade
- Culture and Regenerative Tourism

## Conferences and Meetings

- Ministers of Culture Meeting
- CPAC
- Indigenous Philosophy Conference
- PIMA and Museum Directors
- Oceans, Climate and Voyaging Forum
- Stakeholder led meetings

## Leaders/ Protocol

- Heads of Nations/ Traditional Leaders
- Ministers
- CPAC
- SPC
- Stakeholders/ Partners: UNESCO, EU, ACP, etc

## Na Hana Paku'i

- FestPAC Arts Expo and Market
- Oceanic Music Exchange
- Pacific Cultural Industries
- Artist workshops and gatherings
- Youth Ambassador Program