



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, MAY 22, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.

HAWAI'I CONVENTION CENTER
PARKING FLOOR, BOARDROOM A
1801 KALĀKAUA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HI 96815

THIS WAS A HYBRID MEETING AND WAS ALSO
HELD VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM:
VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā at 3:14 pm, who welcomed everyone present via ZOOM.

Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted roll-call attendance. Chair Ka'anā'anā was present at the in-person location. Commissioner Bento with mo'opuna (grandchild) and Commissioner Onishi with his grandchild shared that they were present via zoom. Commissioner Pu'u was alone at her location and present via zoom. Commissioners de Silva, Lum and Hussey were present at the in-person location. Commissioner Keohokālole was excused.

The Chair informed the Commission of recent changes. He thanked Commissioner Ah Nee Benham for her service on the FestPAC Commission since May 2021 through May 10, 2023, and that she will be stepping down and that Commissioner McClellan will be joining the Commission on behalf of the Governor's Office as the Governor's representative.

The Chair called upon Commissioner de Silva to provide the wehena (opening).

Commissioner de Silva shared a story and oli (chant) about Hi'iaka's travels through Kailua, O'ahu. Kailua is the one place where when Hi'iaka was in the presence of mo'o that she was not challenged. Kailua was also the place that she fell in love with a mortal. Kailua was known as a benevolent community. She continued to share the message of the mo'olelo (story) that we need to be careful, we need to akahele (proceed with caution), we need to be maka'ala (alert), we need to take our time and be aware of everything around us. Because sometimes what we see isn't really what's happening. Sometimes what we see isn't really what it presents itself to be. And we

all know that from participating in big events, events that take a whole community, village, and lāhui (nation) to support and bring it forward. Commissioner de Silva asks everyone to take their time, to really look at all things, and to listen to each other. There is a lot to be learned by just listening. Commissioner de Silva concluded her sharing with the final thought that the other hidden message in this story is to remember to love the people who love you and proceeded to present Chair Ka'anā'anā with a lei 'īlima. Chair Ka'anā'anā thanked Commissioner de Silva for the wehena and lei.

Chair Ka'anā'anā recognized the arrival of Commissioner Keohokālole at 3:19 p.m. and noted the attendance of Commissioner McClellan – although off camera.

Also in attendance at the in-person location were Deputy Attorney General Elise Amemiya, Aaron Salā and Jose Inigo Santos of Gravititas Pasifika, as well as HTA support staff: Micah 'Ākau, Irina De La Torre, Tyler Mejia, and Maka Casson-Fisher. Online attendees (in no particular order): Monte McComber, Patricia Carolyne Cornett, Lynn Martin Graton, Mikki-Tae Tapara, Letila Mitchell, Kauwila, Tāwera Tahui, Shari, Frances Vaka'uta, Allan Zablocki, Margo, Miles Young, and Paula Carr

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

Hearing no additional meetings, he continued with the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2023, CORRECTED MEETING MINUTES

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed his thanks to Commissioner Hussey for catching something in the already approved minutes of April 25th, 2023, meeting. Note on page two of four, the third paragraph indicates her as voting. The updated minutes reflect the changes for approval. Today, the commission is considering revising the minutes of the commission from the April 25, 2023 meeting. Chair entertains a motion to adopt the amended minutes. It was moved by Commissioner Onishi and Seconded by Commissioner Lum. Hearing no discussion on the motion to approve the amended minutes of April 25, 2023, Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted a roll-call vote. Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners Bento, de Silva, Hussey, Keohokālole, Lum, McClellan, Onishi, and Pu'u voted to approve the amendment of the April 25th, 2023 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were previously distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā requested a motion to adopt the May 8, 2023, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hussey motioned and it was seconded by Commissioner Onishi. In discussion, Commissioner Hussey pointed out that on the first page, it talks about the April 25th meeting as unamended. Chair Ka'anā'anā directed staff to reflect an asterik and perhaps to insert a footnote that these minutes were corrected at today's meeting so that there is a record of that change happening. Thank you. Seeing no further discussion, Chair conducted a roll-call vote. Chair Ka'anā'anā and Commissioners Bento, de Silva, Hussey, Keohokālole, Lum, McClellan, Onishi, and Pu'u voted

to approve the minutes of the May 8th meeting. With the members present the minutes of May 8th, 2023, were adopted unamended.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING A REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC) ON STRATEGIC PROGRAMS FOR THE 13TH FESTPAC

Chair Ka'anā'anā acknowledged the attendance of Ms. Mitchell, Dr. Vakauta and Dr. Young from the SPC. Ms. Mitchell was asked by the Commission to provide a short presentation regarding the Strategic Programming for FestPAC. Ms. Mitchell shares that in her role as cultural advisor with SPC, with extensive background in FestPAC, is to provide the Festival Director with guidance and support and advice on how to build the Festival Program. They work very closely with consultation from the Council of Pacific Arts and with consultation from the FestPAC working group. All of the country members and the delegations are feeding into this work. It helps to strengthen the Festival Director's programming capabilities and helps to uplift the Festival.

Chair Ka'anā'anā thanked Ms. Mitchell for her presentation and continued to share more background information regarding what he asked the SPC to do today – in providing that overview, to give clarity about what has been done before. In an effort to translate what was shared by Ms. Mitchell so that it makes sense to the commission. Nā Hana Pāku'i are the ancillary/auxiliary events and other things that weren't directly part of our specific program calendar/agenda. And so with this presentation today, the Chair hopes that it brings those two worlds together. And now have a common vocabulary for discussing them. Ultimately, we as the commission, and as the host would decide what we do or don't do. But this was meant to help provide good information and make a good decision. The Chair paused and entertained any questions.

Festival Director Salā extended his thanks to Cultural Advisor Mitchell, Cultural Lead Dr. Francis along with Miles for their presence.

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

Mr. Salā provided an update regarding the Festival Provider contract. The organization is in due diligence and will follow up post haste. He appreciates efforts from the Commission to assure that there is compensation for the work being done. But at this point, as everyone knows, he is not going anywhere. Mr. Salā does not foresee any particular challenges, but will get internal due diligence ironed out and will be ready to go.

Mr Salā reports that there are two issues, that were brought up recently that were noticed again as Hawai'i continues its efforts to build out partnerships at the federal level. Issues regarding immigration – Hawai'i does not have a mechanism to facilitate the process by which delegates and other personnel are to in order to acquire a B1/B2 - that is a business or tourism visa respectively. Both visas are issued for a period of six months with a potential extension to one year. The B1/B2 visa carriers are restricted from being compensated or receiving payment of any kind and from serving in the capacity of media press or journalists. There will be many sorts of compensation throughout the Festival and the media will be here.

The process to obtain such a visa is quite involved as most Pacific Islanders endeavoring to enter the United States will know, it is inclusive of Form DS 160, an application fee of \$160 US Dollars an interview at a US Embassy for those applicants between ages 14 and 79, a fingerprint and biometrics of sorts and interview. The necessary documents are also quite involved and are inclusive even of submitting social media profiles. Mr. Salā's current understanding, however, is that Australia, New Zealand, France, French Polynesia, and Chile ie. Rapanui are waived from acquiring such visas. That comment is by no means an official statement and only reflects his understanding of this situation to this day.

The issue of fumigation presents quite a more detailed challenge. Hawai'i does not have USDA-approved fumigation facilities to meet requirements for those commodities requiring fumigation. Nor is it easy to get facilities set up in Hawai'i to meet USDA requirements and EPA and Hawai'i Department of Health Clean Air Standards. Methyl bromide, the chemical that is used to fumigate is very difficult to procure, and it's highly restricted in Hawai'i, because of what it does to the atmosphere. Funding, procurement, and contracting would each be significant undertakings.

The option for this remains to ship those known items that require fumigation to California or potentially Guam. However, this only addresses part of the issue. Hawai'i has no fumigation facilities that can be used when a pest of concern is found in any of the other commodities that did not require fumigation. The only options for these are destruction or return at the cost of the shipper.

Mr. Salā is planning to work with Commissioner McClellan to request that Governor Green call a meeting of the proper authorities inclusive of the federal and state regulatory agencies, USDA, FestPAC Commission representatives and congressional delegation in order to make decisions that need to be made really at the governmental level so that we understand fully the ramifications of this work.

Hawai'i will be providing critical information at the CPAC, and culture ministers meeting scheduled for the end of June in Numea, New Caledonia, inclusive of the previous information but also a FestPAC programming. Mr. Salā thanked the SPC for being here today because the vast majority of the time has been spent on the issues posed by immigration and biosecurity and therefore the time spent to develop, establish and kindle relationships with federal partners. Mr. Salā will return to the direct efforts toward FestPAC programming from this point such that Hawai'i can provide a robust update on programming as is possible in Numea, one year prior to our hosting of the 13th FestPAC.

Time is certainly of the essence in order to meet expectations for the next CPAC and culture ministers meeting. Mr. Salā thanked the commission for their support to that end.

And finally, perhaps most excitingly, as was made known in the media, President Biden was unable to make a scheduled trip to Papua New Guinea (PNG), during which the President would have been the first sitting American president to visit the Pacific. President Biden would have been meeting with PNG Prime Minister and other Pacific Island forum leaders in order to deepen cooperation on challenges critical to the Pacific region, inclusive of climate change, the protection of maritime resources, and advancing resilient and inclusive economic growth. As the

President was ultimately unable to travel to PNG, US Secretary of State Blinken attended in his stead. In a press release dated today, 22 May 2023, that denotes the details of his meetings. Secretary Blinken had this to say, “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.”

Mr. Salā continued to share that we hope that what this does is catapult Hawai‘i’s engagement with the federal partners to assure a facilitated process, as this working group moves toward execution on this festival. Mr. Salā looks forward to continued discussions with those federal partners on the execution of a supremely successful FestPAC 13. Mr. Salā thanked the Commission.

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Pu‘u left the meeting.

Commissioner Keohokālole mentioned the importance of adding a member to the Administrative Committee, perhaps from the governor’s administration, since the kuleana (responsibility), of that committee will likely entail so many of these challenging federal logistical processes. He also noted with the departure of the former Admin Committee Chair Ms. Benham that the committee was not full and therefore followed with a nomination of Commissioner McClellan to the Admin Committee. Commissioner McClellan accepted the nomination. Commissioner de Silva moved to add Commissioner McClellan to the Administrative Committee. Commissioner Keohokālole seconded. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā conducted a roll call vote. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā and Commissioners Bento, de Silva, Hussey, Keohokālole, Lum, McClellan, and Onishi voted in favor. Commissioner Pu‘u was excused. With the members present the motion passed unanimously.

A question offline was sent to the Chair regarding the necessity to approve the Strategic Programming presentation from the SPC. The Chair’s recommendation is that the commission does not adopt it. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā explained that procedurally, unable to take action on something that is not agendized. The Chair made himself available to discuss offline with Director Young and then figure out what the appropriate motion or agenda item will be for the next meeting held on June 5th if not sooner.

Director Young responded with his thanks to the commission for the opportunity to quickly respond and the time to present on the Strategic Programming. He took note of what the Chair had to offer and is happy to dialogue after this meeting. Mr. Young proceeded to confirm that the Strategic Programming traditionally has been part of FestPAC and therefore would like it to be formally included in the programming. He understands the commission’s processes and the reason it may not be taken up for vote today.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā recommends that this item be referred to the Programming Committee for discussion and possible recommendation to the full commission.

Chair paused to entertain any questions, comments, or testimony from members of the public.

Hearing none he moved onto the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT RELATED TO THE 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 did not have any updates other than what Mr. Salā already reported. She continued with her thanks to Commissioner Hussey for jumping right in to take over as chair of the Admin Committee and helping look through the contract and give some recommendations.

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

The Chair deferred as there was no business for this agenda item.

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

No report from the Programing Committee. The Chair deferred as there was no business for this agenda item. Noting that given today's discussion and the information presented by the SPC that a meeting may be called by the Programming Committee as soon as practicable to review the presentation from Ms. Mitchell.

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 took a Point of Personal Privilege to share "I am encouraged by Secretary Blinken's statement today. And I'd like to say that it should make it abundantly clear to anybody who had concerns about Hawai'i's position in hosting this Festival, that the United States as well as the state of Hawai'i are committed to the success of this Festival in partnership, not only with our community and our practitioners, but also federal partners, state partners, county partners, and all of you that attend these meetings."

Chair Ka'anā'anā gave a special thank you to Lynn and others who have attended every commission meeting for almost a decade. If the Chair had a certificate or an award, Lynn might be one of the first to receive it, because she has been in every meeting along this entire journey. The Chair thanked everyone for their continued support in this work.

NEXT MEETING – JUNE 5, 2023

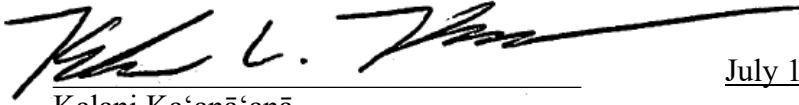
Chair Ka'anā'anā confirmed that the next meeting will be held on June 5th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

via zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



July 15, 2023

Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair