



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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 02:00 P.M.

QUARTERLY IN-PERSON/HYBRID VIA ZOOM
Hawai'i Convention Center, Executive Boardroom A

Commission Members Present were:

Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Chair	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Designee
Shanty Asher	-	City & County of Honolulu
Snowbird Bento	-	Community
Māpuana de Silva	-	Community Member At-Large
Stacey Ferreira	-	Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
Jamie Lum	-	Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Makana McClellan	-	Governor's Designee

Guests:

Aaron Salā	-	Festival Director
Makanani Salā	-	Gravitas Pasifika
Pua Sterling	-	Program Director
Miles Young	-	Director of the Human Rights and Social Development Division at the Pacific Community (SPC)
Letila Mitchell	-	Culture Advisor, Pacific Community (SPC)
June Matsumoto	-	PII, Accommodation & Transportation

Staff:

Elise Amemiya	-	Office of the Attorney General
Maka Casson-Fisher	-	Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Apologies:

Sen. Jarrett Keohokāhole	-	Hawai'i State Senate
Rep. Richard Onishi	-	Hawai'i State House of Representatives

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kalani Ka'anā'anā (Chair) at 03:05 p.m., who welcomed everyone present in the room and virtually present via ZOOM.

WEHENA

Chair Ka'anā'anā provided the wehena (opening). He shared a personal experience of when he attended the 11th FestPAC in Honiara, Solomon Islands. There were many instances of reflection that he was able to have as part of that delegation to participate, but one that stands out for him was the 3hr boat ride. It reminded him of the privileges that we have in Hawai'i, in terms of access to things and ability to connect with our friends and family to share with one another. This specific example left a lasting impact on him about how important culture and connection is. In that spirit, Chair opened the meeting, and moved on to the next agenda item for roll call.

ATTENDANCE

Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted the roll-call attendance. Chair Ka'anā'anā, Commissioner Asher, Commissioner Lum, and Commissioner Ferreira were present in-person and Commissioner Bento, Commission McClellan, and Soana Tupuafanoga on behalf of Commissioner Onishi were present via Zoom.

Commissioner Keohokālole and Commissioner de Silva were excused.

Deputy Attorney General Elise Amemiya, Festival Director (FD) Aaron Salā, his guests Makanani Salā, Pua Sterling, Miles Young, Letila Mitchell, and HTA support staff: Maka Casson-Fisher were present in-person.

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

Chair shared that the Venue/Programming Committee did meet on January 17th, the report has been distributed. Hearing no additional meetings, the Chair continued with the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were previously distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Chair Ka'anā'anā requested a motion to adopt the January 8, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Bento motioned, and it was Seconded by Commissioner Lum. With no additional discussion, Chair Ka'anā'anā conducted a roll-call vote. Chair Ka'anā'anā, and Commissioners Asher, Bento, Lum, and McClellan voted in favor of approving the unamended minutes of the January 8th, 2024 meeting. Commissioners de Silva, Keohokālole and Onishi were excused.
Motion carried.

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

Festival Director Salā provided an update regarding the following items:

- 1) Budget and Financial Status
- 2) Program and Content

- 3) Logistics and Operations
- 4) Marketing and Promotion
- 5) Community engagement

Festival Director (FD) also brought guest speakers, Makanani Salā (MS) and Pua Sterling (PS) of Gravitas Pasifika as well as Miles Young and Letila Mitchell of the SPC.

Festival Director (FD) provided some high level updates to the Commission:

- FestPAC has received \$500,000.00 in funding through the HTA's Signature Festival and Event Program being administered through Kilohana
- The Smith family, of Kaua'i, also provided the second check of \$250,000 to the festival. Very thankful for that full give of \$500,000.00
- The Hawai'i Community Foundation has given \$100,000.00 and that is to be partnered with several of their funders to talk about engagements and opportunities for other philanthropists to contribute
- The Festival Director and his team are preparing to give testimony to the Resource Management Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) meeting. The ask of OHA is \$1.5 million. FD acknowledged CEO/Commissioner Ferreira, present, for her assistance in facilitating the presentation to the OHA.
- Program Lead Orientation took place on 1/16/2024
- Performance schedules in finalization
- Dr. Tammy Tabe will be joining the team as Festival Provider, who will work on our behalf to design what these strategic programs become. She is an Oceanic fellow at the East-West Center and knows the region quite well. She is familiar with all of the SPC, personally and intimately, and so the team is very pleased and thankful that Dr. Tabe has joined to serve as this liaison.
- The SPC has asserted to the Pacific region that there is a deadline of January 31st to turn in their intent to participate forms and to note to us, what their final numbers will be.
- Several countries also have reached out to us to ask if they're diasporic populations who live in Hawai'i can participate as part of their delegations. And so our response to them has been that the Commission has noted a capacity cap of 100. And so you're welcome to credential up to 100 members.
- In terms of logistics and operations, the intend to participate forms note 2,202 delegates attending from 26 of 28 countries. FD expects 28 of 28 countries to participate which is very exciting.
- MS shared that we are in the full throes of operations at this moment. We have biweekly set up with all of the major contractors.
- FD continued to share that Chair Ka'anā'anā and he recently signed a letter which is an ask that was really put together in concert with INDOPACOM personnel. It reflects a very large in-kind request, inclusive of logistics personnel to help support the work of June Matsumoto (JM) and her team.
- JM shared that as far as accommodations are concerned, we are in the process of finalizing the contract with the University of Hawai'i and DBEDT.

- On the transportation side, we have 15 buses right now, being held by Roberts Hawai'i and we are holding off on requesting any other transportation until we hear back from Indo-pacom on our request to them.
- FD continued with Marketing and Promotion updates - we have engaged 4 Miles LLC. Dawn Kaniaupio to do interviews of previous attendees and participants of past FestPACs. That engagement will be happening on February 18th.
- The volunteer portal will come online in February, and then we begin training volunteers in preparation for June.
- Volunteers will start to come online, training will happen and the commencement of volunteer activities will be in May and through the Festival.

Commissioner de Silva arrived at 2:12p

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed that there are some tasks before the Commissioners that will be agendaized for the next meeting. Chair noted the responsibilities as the Commission, as it pertains to legislative reporting, an assessment for impact of economic and community impact of the Festival and audits. Chair reminds Commissioners that the time to serve on the Commission ends in August 2025. Chair also notes that today is 128, those are the number of days until June 6th.

The full presentation and discussion can be viewed on the recording.

Hearing no further questions or comments on this agenda item, Chair Ka'anā'anā moved to agenda item #7. Chair invited Miles Young and Latila Mitchell to present anything related to their technical visit to the Commission. Director Miles Young and Cultural Advisor Letila Mitchell shared that there's a lot of excitement and expectations are high. It's been 8 years since we've had FestPAC. Director Young thanked the Commission for the hospitality over the last week and coming days of their Technical Visit. Letila Mitchell reiterated that they're here to support and offer any advice that may be needed.

Chair Ka'anā'anā shared appreciation on behalf of the Commission, Governor Green and the State of Hawai'i for their being here. The Commission knows it's been a long journey, and has its ups and downs and work to do, and all the things. The partnership is really appreciated and looking forward to hosting everyone in 128 days.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair moved to the next agenda item.

Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Regarding Administrative Committee Update

Chair deferred because the Admin Committee did not meet since the last meeting. Chair moved on to agenda item number 9 and called upon Commissioner Bento.

Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Regarding Venues and Programming Committee Update

Commissioner Bento, Chair of the Venue and Programming Committee shared some highlights around the following areas:

- Committee was able to meet and set up a standing meeting, moving forward on Wednesdays from 11 to 12p to try and accommodate all of all 4 of our schedules
- Meeting with UH Athletics to finalize site specs for opening and closing ceremonies inclusive of building out of a stage and VIP logistics
- Community engagement site might be Windward Mall as that might be the better fit.
- A master schedule of templates is being worked on so that they can overlay all of the delegation programming so that they can avoid being hooked in multiple locations on the same day, and delegations in particular, can help support each other in their various areas of expertise and content.
- The Programs Leads meeting, held at on Thursday, January 18th at Ka Waiwai - congratulations to the Gravitas team for just getting everyone into the same room, because we all know how fun that can be.

Chair Ka'anā'anā noted that the Commission had approved the primary and secondary backup sites for each of the venues for the major programs, one of the ones that has been in discussion and hasn't been hammered out, as there are some logistical challenges with Ching Field - given its newness and some other things. Chair recommended to the Commission that they allow Gravitas as Festival Provider to move forward with the backup venue for opening and closing.

Chair opened that up for some discussion. As it was already voted on it, there's no actual motion that needs to happen today. But if anybody has any really big heartburn about going to the backup venue, it should be discussed here today and try to make sure that we can clear the issue. Simply, the Commission would like to give peace of mind to Gravitas Pasifika and the team to move forward with the backup site, which was Stan Sheriff for opening and closing ceremonies.

Festival Director expressed to the Commission that Stan Sheriff was going to be the contingency plan, in the case of weather. And so what we are asking the Commission for is just approval for us to move forward, with the second second option for us.

Commissioner Bento voiced her support.

Commissioner de Silva voiced her concern for safety.

Chair Ka'anā'anā also expressed his concerns, given some of the dynamism around potential attendees makes securing an outdoor venue very difficult. We just need to be mindful that if a high ranking official from the U.S. does decide to attend that the security picture around that changes completely and securing an outdoor venue just becomes exponentially great. Having a venue like an arena is something that they're very accustomed to securing and making sure that

that can happen easily. So I think in all the things that have been shared weather, things, safety things it all kind of makes sense.

Commissioner Ferreira asked if we should be anticipating from any of the countries that they would use this venue as an opportunity to get their messaging out.

Commissioner de Silva responded that in her experience in the last 5 festivals, that this is not the venue for that activity, and everybody understands that. She hopes that they're coming with the same intentions. This is for the Pacific to get together and show their best selves, and to meet, interact, learn and share. Let's not even go there. But we have to, you know, be aware, and I think that when we have high level VIPs, that that's also going to keep all the countries in check and good personal space.

Festival Director thanked the Commission for their input and the direction to move to Stan Sherrif for continued planning.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair moved on to Agenda item 10.

Public Testimony on Agenda Items

Hearing no testimony, the Chair moved on to announcements

Announcements

Next meeting will be held virtually on Monday February 12th at 3pm via zoom

Hearing no further announcements, the Chair asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 2:59PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

Date