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**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

**King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom and State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Multipurpose Room

Commission Attendees Per Roll Call: **Kainoa Daines** (Royal Order of Kamehameha), **Ian Custino** (Hale O Nā Ali'i), **Kēhau Pe'a** (Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs), **Kalei Hoffman** (Island of Kaua'i), **Kimo Keaulana** (Kapaehulu Music Club), **Louise Alina** ('Ahahui Ka'ahumanu), **Leinā'ala Lopez** (Island of Moloka'i), **Moani Whittle-Wagner** (Island of Maui), **Puake'ala Mann**, (Daughters & Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, Māmakakaua)

Attendees: Karen Winpenny, Clint Kalaola Kala Foundation, Marlene Wilson

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Reminders, Establish Quorum** -- Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Kainoa Daines. The meeting minutes from May, June, July, September, October, and November were approved. Note, no meetings were held in August or December 2023. No public testimony was provided.
- II. Executive Director's Report** (Amy Hammond) -- Amy reported that she has been completing her regular duties and tasks for DAGS. She has been corresponding with the 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu regarding the status of funding for lei draping and preparations. Amy attended the legislative hearings for WAM and FIN with nothing to report. She has been communicating with HTA regarding a second application submitted from Kohala for the HTA Grant which they automatically disqualified as HTA wishes for all of the grant requests to come in through KKCC. Kilohana by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement who is reviewing the grants has advised that they are will be announcing the awards a month late so we will not have a response until mid January. Kainoa asked that the 2023 HTA event survey report be circulated to Commissioners following the meeting.
- III. Financial Report** (Amy Hammond) -- Amy reported she has secured a grant from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for 2024 to cover the cost of the Lei Draping Ceremony. She noted that the payment has gone out to Kala Foundation for the 2023 statewide activities minus a \$10,000 outstanding balance due. We have been following up on the remaining payment for Kala Foundation from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Grant as it is their responsibility to issue the check. They are having an issue as they may not have encumbered the funds as requested. Everyone involved in the process is aware of the situation and we are awaiting word as how it will be resolved. At present we are \$10,000 in the negative but do expect to receive the \$50,000 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts funds for 2024 in the coming months. At present we are awaiting meetings with 'Iolani Palace regarding logistics and the Mayor's office regarding support for the events. Amy noted at present we do not have details about FestPAC. Kainoa reminded everyone for the sake of clarity that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts which

is an attached agency to DAGS provides us with \$50,000 yearly related to the statewide statues to provide education about art in public places. We use these funds for Kohala and Honolulu and would also use for Hilo should they eventually sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the State to manage the statue belonging to Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association. In 2023 the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts advised that our account had \$60,000 which was \$10,000 more than anticipated. Upon request Amy was told they did not know where it came from but rather to adjust the fund payout accordingly. Also, in December we were informed that there was a missing plaque at the statue, however, upon further investigation it was noted that this plaque had been relocated many years ago and was not missing. It was an unnecessary situation that blew up very quickly when people were frantically calling about the missing plaque and posting on facebook. The situation escalated to the point that the media contacted myself, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and even the office of the Governor for comment. Once I was able to provide photographs from previous years showing the location of the plaque has been vacant for years we were able to resolve the questions and satisfy the media.

#### **IV. KKCC Business/Committee Reports**

- a. **Executive Committee Report** (Kainoa Daines) -- Kainoa noted that tomorrow the parade committee is meeting with Aaron Salas, Executive Director from Festival of the Pacific (FestPAC) and some of the leadership from the Pan Pacific Festival. Kainoa sits on the board of the Pan Pacific Festival representing King Kamehameha Celebration as they have been holding their event on the same weekend as the O‘ahu parade for many years. Kainoa has been able to fill them in on the planned FestPAC activities which they were unaware but he hope to create some synergy among our organizations. We will try to secure some additional information regarding the status of FestPAC. Kainoa noted that FestPAC is held every four years in a different Polynesian nation. The event had postponed originally due to COVID and has been rescheduled to this year. There will be several heads of states and other dignitaries planning to attend in Hawai‘i. FestPAC is planning to have several of those dignitaries attend the Lei Draping Ceremony. The vote for the formation of an Investigative Committee for FestPAC will be added to the next meeting agenda. Kainoa has also reached out to the Royal Societies to attend so we will need to consider protocols at the Lei Draping Ceremony. Also, we are looking a green room with chairs, air conditioning and refreshments inside of Ali‘iolani Hale. Puake‘ala noted that we should also remember June 11 in which some will visit the statue. She commented she was contacted by the wife of the King of Aotearoa regarding our plans which once finalized she will respond. She has also heard that dignitaries from Tahiti may possibly attend as well.
- b. **Legislative** (Manu Powers) -- Kainoa reported that Councilwoman Cindy Evans contacted himself and Amy regarding funding for Kohala, she suggested that we contact the Native Hawaiian Caucus to fund our activities. She was primarily trying to understand the process but does not intend to introduce legislation to assist with our funding.
- c. **Statuary** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Kimo expressed malalo to Amy for following up on the plaque situation. He also pointed out that it appears we have a disconnect between the Commission and those that manage the Kohala Statue. He suggested perhaps we need to have a separate meeting with Kohala regarding their HTA grant application and Lei Draping Ceremony to create better synergy. Kimo suggested they be invited to attend the meetings which Kainoa assured they are invited to participate monthly. Kainoa will also follow up with an email to connect Sharon Hayden who works with the group in Kohala with us.
- d. **Retention** (Kēhau Pe‘a and Kēhaulani Keana‘aina) -- Kēhau reported that we have our 15 seats as Commissioners and two are vacant including Lāna‘i and Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association. Updates for terms include the June 2024 expiration of Leina‘āla, Desiree and Kēhau. Kainoa’s term will expire in June 2025. Should anyone choose to

participate for another term you can just reapply as the term runs with the organization not necessarily the person. Please be sure to reapply if your first term is ending. You can do 2 - 4 year terms, 8 year terms maximum. If your second term is ending please prepare to find a replacement for your seat.

- e. **State Archives** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Nothing to report.
- f. **Friends of KKCC** -- Nothing to report.
- g. **Outreach and Education** (Desiree Moana Cruz) -- Nothing to report.

#### V. **Events**

- a. **Kaua'i Ho'olaule'a** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Kalei Hoffman advised that they had their first meeting and determined the events on Kaua'i will take place on Saturday, June 15 at 9 a.m. Lia Kama-Drake will be co-chairing the events. The Pā'ū leader is Betty Nakamoto, a past queen and has hosted many previous pā'ū events. Dennis Fujimoto will handle public representatives, Kimo Perry to assist with the financial reports and Kalei's 'ohana to support overall. Kimo advised the he and Beverly Lee would be happy to assist if they need additional support with the pā'ū activities. Kalei was grateful to Kēhau and Beverly who provided the rules and regulations for the pā'ū units.
- b. **O'ahu, Parade, Ho'olaule'a, Pā'ū** (Clint Kalaola, O'ahu Parade Co-Chair and Ho'olaule'a Chair) -- Clint noted that we are on track and just awaiting details regarding FestPAC. We need to determine if there are additional floats and where our float building site will be located.
- c. **Statue Lei Draping** (Louise Alina) -- Louise reported that they had their first meeting of the year and are looking forward to the Lei Draping Ceremony.
- d. **Moloka'i Parade/Ho'olaule'a** (Leina'āla Lopez) -- Leina'āla advised that their events are scheduled for the Gala on June 7 with the Parade and Ho'olaule'a on June 8. They have yet to meet as a committee.
- e. **Maui Parade/Ho'olaule'a** (Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Moanike'ala paused and reflected noting that none of us was aware how important Front Street was until now. She commented that they are 95% confirmed that the starting point of the parade will be at Maui Community College then to the War Memorial, although, it may be under construction. Also, they are meeting with Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center and may have the awards presentation in that location. She noted a police officer has been assigned to the event so they can now proceed with planning. They are considering for future years, until they can return to Lāhaina, possibly doing the parade in different areas around Maui. This year they may not have full units due to finances. They have selected the queen, Rachel 'Uwēko'olani-DeCoite. Dismount may be at War Memorial. The events will be held on Saturday, June 15.
- f. **Lāna'i** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- g. **Island of Hawai'i -- Hilo Lei Draping and Kohala Lei Draping/Parade/Ho'olaule'a** (Desiree Moana Cruz) -- Kainoa noted that the Lei Draping Ceremony will be on June 10 in Hilo and June 11 in Kohala as usual.
- h. **Kona Parade and Ho'olaule'a** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Nothing to report.

#### VI. **Commissioner reports/updates non-island specific representatives**

- a. **Royal Order of Kamehameha** (Kainoa Daines) -- Nothing to report.
- b. **'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu** (Louise Alina) -- Nothing to report
- c. **Hale O Nā Ali'i** (Ian Custino) -- Nothing to report.
- d. **Daughters & Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, Māmakakaua** (Puake'ala Mann) -- Puake'ala said she had been approached and asked if women are allowed on the mound during the Lei Draping Ceremony? Kainoa replied that for our ceremony women are allowed. Other organizations may have other protocol. Kainoa recalled that many years ago Papakolea's protocol was that women were not allowed. He also recalled that in 2009 the Commission

voted that no lei was to be placed on the neck of the statue. Ian noted that in 2023 the Lei Draping Committee discussed and it was agreed that women were indeed allowed on the mound. He also noted that the hālau are normally on the mound each year performing. This discussion is something that can be included when we review the protocol. Puake‘ala noted that in 2023 the young men asked if Faith Kalamau could join them to assist in directing the process and she was told no that women were not allowed. As a State Commission we can review the protocols such removal of footwear for example which is not required, shoes are allowed. These types of things are normally decided by each organization using the mound. Ian noted that during the 2023 recap there were many folks involved providing direction on the mound. In the future we need to have someone specifically in charge to provide direction. These are the types of things we can review this year and put out an updated protocol for KKCC. A recommendation from 2023 was suggested that someone on the mound be assigned to advise protocol if things are not correct when presenters approach. It was commented that there were too many people telling people what to do last year on the mound. Kimo noted that he ran himself ragged last year keeping Paula and Kimo on track. Kimo noted that historically women were allowed on the mound. Kana‘iaupuni Gomes will be the chanter, Elija McShane will not be participating. Kainoa noted that we need to set a meeting offline very soon to get the protocol updated so we can communicate this to everyone.

- e. ***Daughters of Hawai‘i*** (Kēhaulani Keana‘aina) -- Nothing to report.
- f. ***Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs*** (Kēhau Pe‘a) -- Nothing to report.
- g. ***Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association*** -- Nothing to report.
- h. ***Kapahulu Music Club*** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Nothing to report.
- i. ***Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association*** (Leilani Kahaono) -- Marlene Wilson noted that they recently received their schedule for the membership meetings for 2024 Jan, March, May is the only time they are meeting with the membership. If we need volunteers they would need to know in March if we need a volunteer base. Clint and Louise to determine volunteer needs and share Amy to share with Marlene.
- j. ***Papakōlea Community Association*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- k. ***Island of Hawai‘i*** (Desiree Moana Cruz) -- Nothing to report.
- l. ***Island of Maui*** (Moanike‘ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Nothing to report.
- m. ***Island of Kaua‘i*** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Kalei noted that on January 27 there are holding a fundraiser with rice pudding and kalua pig. Kainoa suggested she share any fundraising information by forwarding it to us and we can add it on the social media or it can be sent out to the various organizations.
- n. ***Island of Moloka‘i*** (Leina‘ala Bishaw) -- Nothing to report.
- o. ***Island of Lāna‘i*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.

**VII. Public Testimony** -- Nothing to report.

**VIII. Upcoming Meeting** -- The next meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Please note if you are not able to attend you can send a representative but they are not allowed to vote on your behalf.

**IX. Adjourn** -- Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.