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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELawe LAULĀ
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King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Commission Attendees Per Roll Call: **Beverly Lee** (Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs), **Leilani Kahoano**, (Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association), **Ikaika Bantolina** (Royal Order of Kamehameha), **Louise Alina** ('Ahahui Ka'ahumanu), **Ian Custino** (Hale O Nā Ali'i), **Kimo Alama Keaulana** (Kapahulu Music Club), **Pamela Alconcel** (Island of Lāna'i), **Jame Schaedel** (Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association), **Leinā'ala Lopez** (Island of Moloka'i), **Kalei Hoffman** (Island of Kaua'i)

Visitors: **Cassie Ordonia** (HPR)

Commissioners not present: **Puake'ala Mann** (Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors - Māmakakaua), **Vacant** (Papakōlea Community Association), **Keke Kaniho** (pending) (Island of Hawai'i), **Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner** (Island of Maui), **Kehaulani Keana'aina** (Daughters of Hawai'i)

Call to Order, Roll Call and Reminders, Establish Quorum -- Chair Beverly Lee called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and established quorum. The September Meeting Minutes were approved. A unanimous vote was conducted to confirm that oral public testimony will be limited to 3 minutes per each person in accordance with new Sunshine Law.

- I. Public Testimony*** -- Nothing to report.
- II. Executive Director's Report*** (Amy Hammond) -- Amy reported that she has been completing her regular duties and tasks including completing the annual inventory report, following up on all of the mandatory ethics training, updated the retention schedule and chart and provided to Wendy Kondo with Boards and Commissions, reviewed new Sunshine Laws and scheduled voting on the 3-minute time limit for oral testimony, attended a meeting at the statue with Beverly Lee and the head Judiciary grounds keepers to discuss the status of the landscaping on the mound, updated our goals for 2026, secured the Oath of Office for Jame Schadel which had never been received. Created an organizational chart and functional statement for the legislature and completed our supplemental budget request.
- III. Financial Report*** (Amy Hammond) -- Confirmed that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts will be providing a grant for our lei draping ceremony (Art in Public Places) in the amount of \$50,000 which will cover the marketing for all other statue lei draping as well. We are awaiting this information in writing along with the date we should expect to receive the funds.

IV. KKCC Business/Committee Reports

- a. **Executive Committee Report** (Beverly Lee) -- Beverly noted that she has been meeting with Amy and Shelley Ann Mariani from DAGS Maintenance to discuss the maintenance on the mound and surrounding naupaka. There are gaps in the naupaka where normally the guests and VIPs are seated. Also, on the concrete area surrounding the mound there are chunks of cement that have fallen off and have been thrown into the bushes. Beverly is looking into whose responsibility each of these areas belong. She reached out to the contact who is non-responsive, and her other contact has retired. Currently the grass on the mound looks bad and she is working to make sure that the grassy area is nice for our Lei Draping in June. Amy has taken photos to document and will be sharing these with Beverly. Amy noted that she had spoken with Derek Erwin, the Statue Conservator noted that he will be requesting repairs on the base of the mound but has not provided any time frame for these repairs. This was requested last year for the 2026 fiscal budget. Amy has also been trying to secure the date for cleaning as well to ensure the statue is not encased in scaffold during any planned events. Ian inquired if we could create a plan that would be more sustainable for the area, but Beverly noted that we do not have anything in writing as to how to move forward. It was noted that the drainage grates are also damaged. Amy clarified that DAGS is responsible for a portion and Judiciary for a different section. to review transition plans and set some deadlines for 2026 plans. Noting that we are on a waiting list for the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall as the Convention Center is not available next year as a float building location. We do not have a great deal of floats, but we are encouraging participants. Beverly is also meeting with DAGS for improvements on the mound and will report more on that next meeting. She noted that she would like to get suggestions for our theme for the parade next year. Kimo Keaulana suggested the theme from a line in an oli by Mary Kawena Pukui. "E kū, e ho'ololi." (To stand and make change). Beverly requests that every Commissioner thinks of a theme and come back to the October meeting with a theme. She noted that she would like to cancel the November and December meeting.
- b. **Legislative** (Manu Powers) -- Nothing to report.
- c. **Statuary** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Kimo thanked everyone for their work in trying to get the statue repairs.
- d. **Retention** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Beverly noted that she and Amy are working on the retention schedule and we are confirming the dates that are recorded.
- e. **State Archives** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Nothing to report.
- f. **Friends of KKCC** (Moani Whittle-Wagner) -- Nothing to report.
- g. **Outreach and Education** -- Ikaika noted as he announced last meeting confirming that he has volunteered to Chair the Committee and commented that our former chair Desiree Cruz has suggested the formation of this committee to share educational information to galleries and schools about the history of King Kamehameha. He supports having more involvement with public and private schools to increase participation in the parade for example and also creating innovative curriculum about King Kamehameha and the history of Kamehameha Day. He suggested a contest on designing and decorating parade floats for the students of architecture and engineering and could incorporate funding from Friends of King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. He is hopeful that he can move this forward within the next 10 years to increase the awareness and understanding of King Kamehameha Celebrations.

V. Events -- General update on ALL island-wide events

- a. **Kaua'i Parade and Ho'olaule'a** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Nothing to report.
- b. **O'ahu, Parade, Ho'olaule'a, Pā'ū** (Clint Kalaola, O'ahu Parade Chair and Ho'olaule'a Chair) -- Beverly reported that she has met with the State Banner Page and Pā'ū Marshal

and Princesses. Beverly will be having new costumes created that will be exactly the same as the previous versions with bridal satin and velvet kepolu's and Kimo Keaulana and his team will be the pā'ū wrappers.

- c. ***O'ahu Statue Lei Draping***/Practice Dates; May 19, May 26 and June 3, 2026 (Louise Alina) -- Nothing to report.
- d. ***Moloka'i Gala/Ho'olaule'a*** (Leinā'ala Lopez) -- Nothing to report.
- e. ***Maui Parade/Ho'olaule'a*** (Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Nothing to report.
- f. ***Lāna'i*** (Pam Alconel) -- Pam noted that she spoke with the Culture and Heritage Center and they plan to do an exhibit on the ranching history on Lāna'i and includes information about Pā'ā which would be planned for June 11.
- g. ***Island of Hawai'i -- Hilo Lei Draping and Kohala Lei Draping/Parade/Ho'olaule'a*** (Keke Kaniho) -- Nothing to report.
- 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*** (Ikaika Bantolina) -- Ikaika reported that the Royal Order participated in Aloha Festival and created a float this year.
- b. ***'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu*** (Louise Alina) -- Nothing to report.
- c. ***Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i*** (Ian Custino) -- Nothing to report.
- d. ***Daughters & Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, Māmakakaua*** (Puake'ala Mann) -- Nothing to report.
- e. ***Daughters of Hawai'i*** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Nothing to report.
- f. ***Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs*** (Beverly Lee) -- Beverly noted are gearing up for the Civic Convention in Kona.
- g. ***Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association*** (Jame Schaedel) -- Jame noted they held their annual general membership meeting with approximately 250 participants attending. There was a great presentation on the pending litigation from Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) noting that the potential lawsuit has not yet been filed and encouraged to continue with aloha until the time the suit is filed as they anticipate a filing. He noted that there is additional information on the Kamehameha Schools website. Ikaika also noted that they are prepping the students that if and when the suit comes to fruition.
- h. ***Kapahulu Music Club*** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Kimo is planning to go to Ka'ū this weekend and this year has been the year to celebrate Mary Kawena Pukui. The last event of the year honoring her will be on December 19 at Bishop Museum. Kimo also noted that he had got a great deal of criticism from the Aloha Festival Pā'ū Riders that he was compelled to write to the Aloha Festival Board. One of the things that we should be proud of in the King Kamehameha Celebrations Floral Parade is that we adhere to our traditions and our Pā'ū Riders actually wear pā'ū. Kimo noted that did not happen in the Aloha Festival Parade nor did they wear the island colors. Some wore Palaka as well noting that per the history of the fabric Palaka it was intended for laborers and not the distinction of the Hawaiian woman's elegance. All of this made many Hawaiians upset. We should be very mindful of carrying on the traditions and legacy. Kimo commended Ikaika for his plans with the Education and Outreach Committee. Ian also noted that there is much discussion about how AI will be impacting Hawaiian traditions in culture and art in the future. Ikaika noted we can create and innovate within the traditions that have been established but within the framework of what has been established.
- i. ***Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association*** (Leilani Kahaono) -- Nothing to report.
- j. ***Papakōlea Community Association*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- k. ***Island of Hawai'i*** (Keke Kaniho, pending) -- Nothing to report.
- l. ***Island of Maui*** (Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Nothing to report.

- m. ***Island of Kaua'i*** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Kalei inquired about a theme for 2026, Beverly requested that everyone suggest a theme at submit as soon as possible. Kimo has been the only one to provide a theme so far, Kalei noted that Kaua'i planned to use the O'ahu theme.
- n. ***Island of Moloka'i*** (Leina'ala Bishaw) -- Nothing to report.
- o. ***Island of Lāna'i*** (Pam Alconel) -- Nothing to report.

VII. Public Testimony -- Nothing to report.

VIII. Miscellaneous

IX. Upcoming Meeting -- The next meeting is currently scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, 2026. It was noted that we will not hold meetings in November and December of 2025 we will resume with a meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

X. Adjourn -- Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.