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

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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

Attendees: **Clint Kalaola** (Kala Foundation)

Call to Order, Roll Call and Reminders, Establish Quorum -- Chair Beverly Lee called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and established quorum. The October Meeting Minutes were approved.

I. Public Testimony -- Nothing to report.

Executive Director's Report (Amy Hammond) -- Amy reported that she has been completing her regular duties and tasks including taking 10 Plain Language Training Modules, Attending Aloha eBUYS Marketplace training, Attend ASO 2026 Fiscal Orientation, Participate in the 2026 Great Hawai'i Shake Out, Complete Report on Goals, Objectives and Policies, Completed Hawai'i State Employee Housing Survey, Completed Ethics Training. Attended a meeting at the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to investigate the boundry of the mound and review responsibilities for the statue with Beverly Lee and DAGS. Responded to inquiries and prepped for legislative hearings. Attended Legislative Hearings for the Senate and House to respond to questions by the WAM and FIN Committees. Responded to water leak in the annex and oversee repairs meanwhile trying to sheppard a renovation in response. Updated the website information with all links, dates and times.

II. Financial Report (Amy Hammond) -- Met with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to initiate the transfer of funds for their grant with their new accountant. We were granted the \$50,000 but Amy lobbied for additional funds and is awaiting response. Beverly requested that Amy track the funding closely. Kimo inquired if there is a spreadsheet to track the funding and Amy advised that all the event managers on each island are responsible for the tracking and spending. Further it in the past the funding came through a single fiscal sponsor and was distributed proportionately per island, but it was difficult to operate this way as reports were associated with each island, and it was difficult to gather the reports from the volunteers on each

island in a timely manner jeopardizing the funding. Therefore, we went back approximately two years ago to each island managing their own financing.

III. 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 where the grass is dry. We are learning that there are divided areas of responsibility between DAGS and Judiciary. At some point there was a water leak and the sprinkler to that area was shut off. Now Keali'i with DAGS is hand watering as we try to resolve the situation. He has also bought 5 naupaka plants and asked if we could also provide some plants as he is limited due to budgetary constraints. Also, there was a specific lawn mower used to cut the grass on the mound, but it broke, and they did not have the budget to repair. They have put out a proposal for some of the repairs which we are awaiting receipt. State Foundation is only responsible for the statue not the surrounding area so that will come into play as well. Amy shared that she also spoke with James Kurioka with DAGS and he advised that they have put it out to bid on replacing the entire surrounding area, she questioned why they would do this without a plan but apparently, they request a similar replacement as a starting point. Once that bid is in then we can discuss any revisions such as signage, fencing or other modifications which can then be taken to the legislature to request funding. In addition, she requested that DAGS please place a high priority to monitor for the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Jimmy advised that they have already treated some of the trees at 'Iolani Palace even though none have been detected yet.
- b. **Legislative** (Manu Powers) -- Nothing to report.
- c. **Statuary** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Kimo thanked Beverly and Amy for their work in trying to get the statue repairs.
- d. **Retention** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Beverly is working to try and get the dates confirmed as there seems to be some inconsistencies.
- e. **State Archives** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Kimo noted that Ronald Layton Williams has been very generous in sharing items from the archives and Kimo has been forwarding those to Amy to share with the commissioners.
- f. **Friends of KKCC** (Moani Whittle-Wagner) -- Moani noted that she has been working with Daryl regarding establishing the non-profit and will report back. Kimo suggested that we might check with CNHA for some additional informational support.
- g. **Outreach and Education** -- Ikaika noted that as a pā'ū rider in the Parade of Roses this past year he got some additional insight into how the float building works. He suggests having a competition between schools on the float building but plans to put a pause on this until after this years King Kamehameha Celebrations. As he is investigating how to get the funding and preparations. Kimo noted that historically many civic groups and halau put together the floats. He commented that the halau have contractors, and many volunteers. Ikaika noted that we need to rejuvenate the excitement about participating in the parade. He suggested that the schools could learn about creating, designing and engineering the floats without the use of the big rig trucks. The military previously donated vehicles to pull the floats. Beverly noted in previous years the pā'ū units used to make floats but it became to costly.

IV. Events -- General update on All island-wide events

- a. **Kaua'i Parade and Ho'olaule'a** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Kalei noted that they will have their first meeting on January 29.
- b. **O'ahu, Parade, Ho'olaule'a, Pā'ū** (Clint Kalaola, O'ahu Parade Chair and Ho'olaule'a Chair) -- Clint noted that all of the application links for the Parade, Lei Draping and

Ho'olaule'a on the website and some folks have already signed up. Clint is working on the Parade permitting. Clint also advised that he has an event the Art of Hawaiian Pā'ū which will be held at Maunalua Gardens on February 28 from 11 am – 4 pm and the cost is \$20. He is holding the event as a fundraiser specifically to support the King Kamehameha Celebrations on O'ahu. The event will include workshops, cultural activities, food vendors, etc. as he is concerned that the cost of riding pā'ū which can be as high as \$15,000 could eventually detur participation. He created this as a fundraising opportunity for the pā'ū units and education. Beverly noted that this is the same day as the Kamehameha Schools Ho'olaule'a so Clint advised that he may have to change the date.

- c. ***O'ahu Statue Lei Draping***/Practice Dates; Wednesday, June 3rd and Monday, June 8, 2026, from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm each day. (Louise Alina) -- Nothing to report.
- d. ***Moloka'i Gala/Ho'olaule'a*** (Leinā'ala Lopez) -- Leinā'ala noted that Hiro's Bar and Grill shut down this year so she is not sure if there will be a gala this year, once she meets with Tylor she will advise.
- e. ***Maui Parade/Ho'olaule'a*** (Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Moani reported the parade will be on June 20 and they pā'ū meetings are the third Thursdays of each month. She has all eight pā'ū units full. They are working on getting more floats for this year. They are focusing some plantings up country of the flowers used for pā'ū. This year they have a returning family unit and will have a private mount unit as well since all of the eight units will be full.
- f. ***Lāna'i*** (Pam Alconel) -- Pam noted that they are still formulating the plan and they are meeting on January 31 with the activities planned for June 11.
- g. ***Island of Hawai'i -- Hilo Lei Draping and Kohala Lei Draping/Parade/Ho'olaule'a*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- h. ***Kona Parade and Ho'olaule'a*** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Nothing to report.

V. ***Commissioner reports/updates non-island specific representatives***

- a. ***Royal Order of Kamehameha*** (Ikaika Bantolina) -- Ikaika shared that his halau will be having a fundraiser on January 24. The Ka Pa Hula Hawai'i fundraising links to our fundraiser event on the 24th and our fundraiser campaign for our journey to Merrie Monarch 2026. For additional information to go to: <https://givebutter.com/c/welo-o-ka-ua> and <https://givebutter.com/c/kapahulawahawaii2025-2026>
- b. ***'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu*** (Louise Alina) -- Louise noted that they have already had their first meeting of the new year.
- c. ***Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i*** (Ian Custino) -- Nothing to report.
- d. ***Daughters & Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, Māmakakaua*** (Puake'ala Mann) -- Puake'ala reported they held the first meeting of the year.
- e. ***Daughters of Hawai'i*** (Kēhaulani Keana'aina) -- Nothing to report.
- f. ***Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs*** (Beverly Lee) -- Beverly noted are having a retreat this weekend.
- g. ***Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association*** (Jame Schaedel) -- Nothing to report.
- h. ***Kapahulu Music Club*** (Kimo Alama Keaulana) -- Nothing to report.
- i. ***Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association*** (Leilani Kahaono) -- Nothing to report.
- j. ***Papakōlea Community Association*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- k. ***Island of Hawai'i*** (Vacant) -- Nothing to report.
- l. ***Island of Maui*** (Moanike'ala Whittle-Wagner) -- Nothing to report.
- m. ***Island of Kaua'i*** (Kalei Hoffman) -- Kalei reported that this is her last year but they already have a committee to support the events. She noted it is disappointing that there is more crowd coming out on Kaua'i to support the Pride Parade that comes out for the King Kamehameha Day Celebrations. She is hoping to get more engagement from kanaka.

- n. ***Island of Moloka'i*** (Leina'ala Bishaw) -- Nothing to report.
- o. ***Island of Lāna'i*** (Pam Alconel) -- Pam advised on April 25 from 10 am to 2 pm they have a Kupulau Festival where they educate the community about native Hawaiian plants and have free plant give away to the families.

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

VII. *Miscellaneous* -- Nothing to report.

VIII. *Upcoming Meeting* -- The next meeting is currently scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

IX. *Adjourn* -- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.