

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -

**RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE
TO THE LEADERSHIP
OF THE 13TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS AND CULTURE**

WHEREAS, the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) is a festival hosted every four years in a different country within Oceania and was started in the 1970s when Pacific Island nations sought to protect and celebrate their cultures, leading to the first festival in 1972, hosted in Suva, Fiji; and,

WHEREAS, since its inception, FestPAC has been hosted by different Pacific Island nations on a rotational basis with each host country taking on the responsibility of organizing and hosting the festival, providing a unique opportunity to showcase their own culture and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, host nations have all played a pivotal role in the festival's success, working tirelessly to create a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for delegations, artists, craftspeople, and visitors alike, ensuring that FestPAC remains a foundation of cultural exchange and celebration in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture 2024 (13th FestPAC Hawai'i) , with the theme Ho'oulu Lāhui: Regenerating Oceania, was hosted in Hawai'i by Governor Josh Green, M.D., First Lady Jaime Kanani Green, the Hawai'i Commission on the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, and Gravitas Pasifika, LLC, from June 6-16, 2024, and showcased the rich heritage and artistic diversity of the Native Hawaiian community and other Pacific Islanders and also provided a forum for cultural, artistic, and intellectual exchanges in the Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, over 2,200 delegates from 25 nations attended the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i and joined together in celebrating the vibrant tapestry of Pacific arts and culture, serving as a reminder of the common heritage that binds Pacific Island nations, and highlighting the importance of preserving and celebrating that heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature established the Hawai'i Commission on the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (13th FestPAC Hawai'i Commission), a body composed of nine distinguished members appointed by the Governor, and state lawmakers and officials, with each appointee representing the spirit and diverse culture of Hawai'i, collectively bringing a wealth of experience and dedication to oversee the festival's planning and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i Commission are: Chair, Kalani Ka'anā'anā of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority; Kumu Hula Māpuana de Silva, outgoing chair of

the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture; State Senator Jarrett Keohokālole; State Representative Richard Onishi; Jamie Lum of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT); Makana McClellan, Governor’s Designee; Stacy Ferreira, Office of Hawaiian Affairs CEO; Shanty Asher, City & County of Honolulu Mayor’s Designee; and Community Member Kumu Hula Snowbird Bento; and

WHEREAS, Gravitas Pasifika, LLC, a Honolulu based firm, led by President and CEO Aaron J. Salā, PhD, and Chief Operations Officer C. Makanani Salā, PhD, which is intent on pioneering innovation through traditional storytelling (mo‘olelo) to advance Native Hawaiian, local Hawai‘i, and Pasifika worldviews and talents through exploration and integration of, and experimentation with, creativity in production, collaborated with the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i Commission in planning and organizing the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, the teamwork, leadership, and shared commitment of the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i Commission and Gravitas Pasifika led to the successful planning, coordination, hosting, and execution of the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i events, resulting in notable and meaningful contributions to Hawai‘i’s cultural value and diversity, as well as instilling a sense of dignity and pride in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities by bringing together artists, performers, intellectuals and thinkers, and cultural practitioners from across the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 programs and events, including live performances, cultural workshops, hands-on demonstrations, a film festival, a fashion gala, and more, were part of the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i and were free and open to the public; and

Whereas several significant events, including the Wa‘a (Canoe) Arrival Ceremony, the Opening Ceremony, the Ecumenical Service, and the Closing Ceremony were live streamed across the Pacific and worldwide; and

Whereas, the primary venue for 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i was the Hawai‘i Convention Center with a Festival Village & Marketplace and where a hale for each delegation was built in the Festival Village, and therefore each delegation had the space and time to highlight their culture and arts, which included Hana No‘eau or Heritage Arts, Hō‘ike‘ike or Performing Arts, and Hō‘ike Ki‘i or Visual Arts; and

Whereas, another major venue for the 13th FestPAC Hawai‘i was the University of Hawai‘i SimpliFi Arena at the Stan Sheriff Center, which hosted the over 6-hour long Opening Ceremony on June 6, 2024, where each Pacific Island Nation was welcomed to Hawai‘i and responded with cultural protocols, hō‘ike, and makana for the host nation, and the SimpliFi Arena at the Stan Sheriff Center was also the venue for the Ecumenical Service on June 9, 2024, as well as the Closing Ceremony on June 16, 2024; and

Whereas other significant venues included Kualoa Regional Park, where wa‘a (canoes) and their crews from throughout the Pacific gathered to participate in wayfinding cultural exchanges, workshops, and wa‘a tours; the Bishop Museum, the largest museum in Hawai‘i and the

premier natural and cultural history institution in the Pacific, which hosted the Carvers' Showcase and Tattoo Artists' Showcase; and Capitol Modern, Hawai'i State Art Museum, which hosted and continues to host the exhibits, "Ke Ao Lama: Enlightened World," which includes five interconnected exhibitions highlighting the expanse of inspired Indigenous thought and creativity in the Pacific;

WHEREAS, the dedication, hard work, and collective efforts of the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i Commission, the Festival Provider team from Gravititas Pasifika, various Program Leads, and support staff exemplify the true essence of collaboration and community, fostering an environment where Indigenous Pacific Islanders can gather, interact, engage, share, and learn from each other, enhancing the overall experience of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and its individual clubs played a crucial role in the success of the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i with the help and support of many of its members, including organizing and participating in the 108th King Kamehameha Day Parade and Lei Draping Celebration, a highlight of the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, members of the leadership team for the 13th FestPAC Hawai'i are members of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, including Kalani Ka'anā'anā and Māpuana de Silva of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Jarrett Keohokālōle of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Stacy Ferreira of the Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club, and Aaron J. Salā and C. Makanani Salā of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 65th Annual Convention in Hamohamo, Waikīkī, O'ahu, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Hoku, this 16th day of November 2024, that the AOHCC recognizes and expresses appreciation to the Hawai'i Leadership of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture for their generous contributions to the arts and culture of Moku'āina o Hawai'i and the greater Pacific community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AOHCC further extends its warmest aloha and heartfelt mahalo to the many hands, hearts, and minds instrumental in inspiring and uniting the delegates from the 25 Pacific nations who attended the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture in celebrating the vibrant tapestry of Pacific arts and culture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Māpuana de Silva, State Senator Jarrett Keohokālōle, State Representative Richard Onishi, Jamie Lum of DBEDT, Makana McClellan, Office of Hawaiian Affairs CEO Stacy Ferreira, Shanty Asher, and Kumu Hula Snowbird Bento, Aaron J. Salā, PhD, and C. Makanani Salā, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

INTRODUCED BY: Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club

REFERRED TO:

ACTION: _____