

# SB545

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS.

Report Title: Festival of Pacific Arts; Temporary Commission

Description: Creates a temporary commission on the thirteenth festival of pacific arts to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: IAA/ETT, WAM

Introducer(s): ENGLISH, S. CHANG, DELA CRUZ, ESPERO, GABBARD, GREEN, IHARA, K. KAHELE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, K. RHOADS, RIVIERE, SHIMABUKURO, TOKUDA, WAKAI, Taniguchi





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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Statement of  
**Luis P. Salaveria**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS  
AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Thursday, February 9, 2017  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**SB545**  
**RELATING TO THE FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS**

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chairs English and Taniguchi, and members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** this measure which creates a temporary commission on the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2017-2019. DBEDT welcomes the opportunity for the commission to be placed within the department for administrative purposes.

This landmark event will bring focus to Hawaii, highlighting our own creative economy in cultural sectors, as well as the cultural exchange to advance topics of global interest, including the economic and quality of life contributions that cultural leaders, artisans, performers, and practitioners across the island nations of Oceania bring to this unique celebration.

Attracting delegations from approximately twenty-seven Pacific island nations, delegates share and exchange their cultural wisdom, arts and traditions with participants, visitors and residents alike. Through highlighting Hawaii's arts, culture, design and music sectors as part of the Festival of Pacific Arts helps to advance the state's commitment to creating global markets for our creative entrepreneurs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
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**kahua pa'a** web [hawaii-tourismauthority.org](http://hawaii-tourismauthority.org)

**David Y. Ige**  
Governor

**George D. Szigeti**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of  
**George D. Szigeti**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
on  
**SB545 Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts**  
Senate Committee on International Affairs and the Arts &  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chair English and Members of the committees:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority ("HTA") offers the following **testimony supporting** SB545, which would create a temporary Commission (the "Commission") to plan for the historic Thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts ("Festival") to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020. In addition, HTA respectfully **requests a seat on** the Commission.

The Commission would maximize Hawai'i's amazing opportunity to host the Festival and showcase the indigenous cultures of Oceania. Hawai'i is in a unique position to leverage its experience, infrastructure and capacity to organize a gathering that will bring visitors from around the world. More than 2,000 delegates representing 27 nations and thousands of participants, from visitors to local residents, will participate in the Festival. It will be the largest gathering of Pacific peoples united in respect and appreciation of each other. In addition, many Hawai'i residents have deep ties to the various cultures represented in the Festival. This unique connection presents an opportunity to strengthen community bonds and deepen our knowledge and understanding.

HTA respectfully requests a designated seat on the Commission. As currently conceived in SB545, the Commission would be placed within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism ("DBEDT") and composed of appointees by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and by the director of DBEDT, the chief executive officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the executive director of the PA'I Foundation and other members. Allowing HTA to have a designated seat on the Commission would ensure that HTA is directly involved in designing the visitor experience and coordinating with the teams responsible for planning the Festival in the most efficient manner. With the volume of visitors expected, HTA's experience and role in the visitor industry, and the organization's mission of supporting programs that enhance and showcase Hawaii's people, place and culture, having a designated seat on the Commission is a natural fit for HTA.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support and request for a position.

FROM:

Paul Kuehn  
Dean of Academic Services  
Leeward Community College  
96-045 Ala 'Ike  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
(808) 455-0268  
pkuehn@hawaii.edu

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 545

To Whom it May Concern -

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 545

As someone who is involved in the performing arts on a college campus as well as being on the board of directors for PlayBuilders of Hawaii Theater Company, I have a deep love and appreciation for the performing arts.

One of the divisions I oversee is the Leeward Theatre. Over the past few years I have witnessed an extreme outpouring of support from our community whenever they have indigenous inspired programming or artists visiting from around Oceania. There is a hunger in our community for this type of programming, and the Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture would create opportunities and resources for the artists and cultural practitioners here that can not be rivaled. FestPac 2020 is an event that would allow artists from all around Oceania to share their artistry with other Hawaii based artists as well as our community at large.

I also strongly recommended that the committee add funds to the bill to set up the Festival Headquarters and administrative staff to support the Commission, planning, organizing and marketing of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020.

I would like to quote from the paper: "The Role of the Arts and Culture in Planning Practice" by Kimberley Hodgson and Kelly Ann Beavers (<https://www.planning.org/research/arts/briefingpapers/overview.htm>) to ensure that their observations enter the public record. I think their findings speak directly to the important role that FestPac 2020 will play in the years to come, as well as noting the way that access to the performing arts contribute to the overall health and economic vitality of a community:

#### **"COMMUNITY HERITAGE AND CULTURE**

A sign of a healthy community is its simultaneous ability to preserve and invent its culture — that is, to conserve its history and heritage and at the same time develop new expressions for current times. Arts and cultural activity and the leadership of artists, historians, folklorists, anthropologists, planners, and other community leaders play important roles in preserving the history and heritage of a place, as well as easing tensions and encouraging respect for the changing cultural landscape. Despite the importance of history and heritage, preservation is rarely seen as a potential basis for innovation and advancement. As a result, too often sufficient resources are not dedicated to preserving significant meaningful spaces and objects, documenting stories from elders, and recording a community's contemporary cultural practices.

#### **COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND SENSE OF PLACE**

Artistic, cultural, and creative strategies help to reveal and enhance the identity — the unique meaning, value, and character — that underlies the physical and social form of a community. As part of an overall strategy to explore community context, embrace and nurture community diversity and uniqueness, and

build upon and celebrate community character, planners can utilize artistic and cultural inventories, community visioning processes, design guidelines, arts and culture programming, master plans, and public financial investments in urban design and placemaking. All of these elements require the consideration of all community interests in key decision-making processes; the integration of arts and cultural resources in a contextual civic framework; and the recognition and balancing of the inherent, conflicting nature of past, present, and future social values.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement is a process of relationship building that encourages both learning and action, as well as the expression of opinions about a placebased issue or program. A higher level of community engagement in planning offers vibrancy and innovation by strengthening the level of public commitment and making more perspectives available to decision makers. Both planners and community leaders already promote community engagement through a variety of traditional tools, including public opinion surveys, visioning workshops, asset-based planning, town halls, meetings, and public hearings. However, creative tools are now also being used more and more to promote community engagement with planning activities and goals. The use of creative tools — such as visual-art techniques, storytelling, festivals, exhibits, dance, spoken word, PhotoVoice, music, performances, web-based applications and community gatherings — emphasizes receptiveness to input, genuine acknowledgment of feedback, easy participation, and the development of relationships.

### **ECONOMIC VITALITY**

People are increasingly recognizing the connection between the activity of the arts and culture sector and the economic vitality in a neighborhood or community. High concentrations of creative enterprises and workers in a geographic area may provide a competitive edge by elevating a community's quality of life, improving its ability to attract economic activity, and creating a climate for innovation to flower. Communities in which arts and culture activities of all types flourish are important for the recruitment and retention of a skilled and educated workforce in a city or region. The presence of arts and culture in a specific neighborhood or community location can increase attention and foot traffic, bringing in visitors and attracting more development. Furthermore, formal and informal training in the arts can abet the development of skills valued in the global economy — such as strong oral and written communication skills, precise and high-quality work performance, ease in working in teams and ensembles, comfort in new and innovative situations, and the ability to work well with people from diverse cultures.”

I hope you all take the time to read the rest of their report - as well as some of the studies they site in their reference section.

If you require any further testimony or support feel free to contact me.

All the best

Paul Kuehn  
Dean of Academic Services  
Leeward Community College

Written Testimony From:

Kemuel DeMoville  
Theatre Manager  
The Leeward Theatre at Leeward Community College  
96-045 Ala 'Ike  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
(808) 455-0381  
KEMUEL@hawaii.edu

**RE: Support for SB 545**

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 545.

I am not a Native Hawaiian, nor am I an expert in Native Hawaiian or Polynesia performing arts and/or cultural practices. I'm currently serving as the Theatre Manager for The Leeward Theatre - a 600 seat facility that is a part of the University of Hawaii system. I've worked as the manager and artistic director of the theatre for over three years now. Since June 2013 the Theatre has reevaluated programs and operations with an eye toward emphasizing Local programming. The Theatre has even dedicated a portion of its production budget to commission new works by Local and Local Hawaiian artists. We want to allow our students and community members to contribute to the artistic process and help us to shape programming and content.

The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (to be held in Hawai'i June 11-27, 2020) offers opportunities for building community through live performance. What is special about community building performance is that it is immediately reflective of time and place. It addresses the needs of the community; the fears, the traditions, and the joy. Now, this does not mean that you sacrifice production quality, rather it is an awareness of how the community is reflected in the productions that go up onstage.

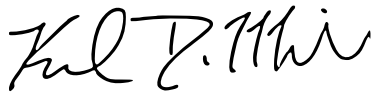
FestPac 2020 also has the potential to serve as an active jobs incubator for the creative sector in Hawai'i. According to the State of Hawai'i's Creative Industries Division (CID) "The creative sector is a leading sector for job creation. In 2015, the sector had 49,597 jobs and accounted for 5.9 % of the state's total civilian jobs. Not only does this sector create jobs directly, but it also spawns innovations that drive job creation in other sectors" (*Hawai'i's Creative Industries Update Report 2016* [http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data\\_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI\\_Creative\\_Ind\\_June\\_2016.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_June_2016.pdf)).

The performing arts – including indigenous performing arts and cultural expression - are a collective endeavor requiring individual achievement. A single production or event may, for example, bring together the skills of writers, singers, dancers, teachers, designers, and experts in cultural practices. The performing arts may be the most comprehensive of all the arts, and the most challenging and exciting. In the very least they provide a space where the performer and the audience are co-creators in the meaning and reception for the work.

As a custodian of public funds you shouldn't try to tell an audience what culture is, but you do need to provide a space where culture can be created and explored - engaged with and empowered. The performing arts have a duty to provide a voice and a shape to the communities they represent. FestPac has the power and the drive to build community through performance, with lasting positive effects on the performing arts sector here in the state.

While the Bill doesn't include funding, I would support the committee adding funds to the bill. I recommend adding funds to set up the Festival Headquarters and administrative staff to support the Commission, planning, organizing and marketing of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020.

Feel free to contact me for any additional testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kemuel DeMouille". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kemuel DeMouille





Thursday, February 9, 2017 - 2:45 pm  
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on International Affairs and The Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair & Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair & Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Members of the Committees

**Re: Support of SB 545 Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts**

Aloha Kakou,

PA'I Foundation submits this testimony in **support of SB 545** which will create a Temporary Commission (Commission) for the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (Festival). I am Vicky Holt Takamine, the Executive Director of PA'I Foundation and Kumu Hula of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima. PA'I Foundation, its Board of Directors and staff, are in full support of Senate Bill 545. PA'I Foundation fully supports the appointment of the Executive Director of PA'I as the chairperson of the commission and accepts the kuleana (responsibility) of serving as the fiscal sponsor for the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture. In addition PA'I staff is committed to provide interim administrative support to the commission until the commission can arrange for dedicated administrative support to carry out its duties.

I would like to suggest a few amendments to the makeup of the commission.

- 1 I would like to request a dedicated seat on the commission for the Director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and Arts. For two weeks in June, 2020, FestPac-Hawai'i 2020 events and activities will be held in all counties throughout Hawai'i. However, the opening and closing ceremonies, Festival Village, numerous events and activities will be held throughout the City & County of Honolulu. We will need a representative from the City to assist with coordinating City services.
- 2 I would like to request a dedicated seat on the Commission for the Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. In addition to the 3,000 delegates representing 27 Pacific Island nations throughout Oceania, we expect thousands of tourists and residents to attend the Festival events and activities. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority will provide valuable assistance with coordinating the visitor experience and marketing of the Festival.



**Re: Support of SB 545 Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts**

Page 2

I was a delegate to the 1985 Festival in Tahiti, the 2008 Festival in Palau and the 2016 Festival in Guam. I was also involved with preparing and presenting the bid to host the Festival at both the 2008 Festival in Palau and the 2016 Festival in Guam.

I have extensive experience working with local, national and international committees. I was the Conference Director for the 2010 Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Indigenous Peoples Conference (HOSW) in Honolulu, which hosted more than 2,000 delegates from Indigenous communities worldwide. In my capacity, I served on the organizing committee for the HOSW, working with representatives from First Nations Canada, Native America, Australia, New Zealand and Hawai'i.

Currently, I represent PA'I in a partnership with First Peoples Fund, Alternate Roots and the National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures to plan and organize the Intercultural Leadership Institute, a three year initiative to develop leaders among artists nationwide who are at the intersection of arts and social justice issues.

I have taught hula for more than 40 years, lectured at the University of Hawai'i for more than 30 years and served as a judge at Merrie Monarch for more than 10 years. As the Executive Director of PA'I Foundation, I have successfully applied for funding from federal, state, city and private foundations.

I am personally committed to ensuring the success of the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture, and know that, with your help, Hawai'i and her people will prove the ultimate hosts of this respected international event.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 545.

Vicky Holt Takamine  
Executive Director, PA'I Foundation  
PO Box 17483  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[vtakamine@gmail.com](mailto:vtakamine@gmail.com)



February 8, 2017

Hawai'i State Legislature, Regular Session of 2017  
Senate Committee on International Affairs and the Arts (IAA)  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology (ETT)  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol  
Date & Time of Hearing: Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Wakai, and the Senate Members of the IAA and ETT:

On behalf of the PA'I Board of Directors, I am authorized as its Board President to strongly **SUPPORT SB545** with a recommendation to amend the title of the bill to read as "Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture" (FESTPAC).

PA'I is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization established in 2001 as the non-profit arm of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima, a traditional hālau hula founded in 1977 by our Kumu Hula and PA'I Executive Director, Ms. Victoria Holt Takamine. Our mission is to preserve and perpetuate Native Hawaiian arts and culture for future generations. Although the organization is centered around and supported by hālau members, the purpose of PA'I is to address the needs of Native Hawaiians and those who make Hawai'i their home. Our goals have been accomplished primarily through the successful partnerships with other key local, national, indigenous, and international organizations and agencies to create and implement events, programs, and outreach activities to strengthen cultural understanding, connection, and identity within our island home. For the past 40 years, Ms. Takamine has been organizing and planning major event and festivals that are on par with FESTPAC. For example, In 2010, Ms. Takamine with the support of PA'I was the Conference Director for the Healing our Spirit Worldwide Gathering of Indigenous People in Honolulu wherein over 2,000 people from First Nations Canada, Native Americans from the North American continent, Maori from Aotearoa, and the Aboriginal people of Australia. Additionally, PA'I has been successfully organizing and implementing a variety of programs in support of the Maoli Arts Movement (MAMo) for over 11 years. We also continue to provide collaborative community outreach through our native rights and social justice educational forums, artist residencies, cultural workshops, leadership development programs, and our most recent advancement towards the planned construction of the Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Lofts project, an 84-unit mixed-use arts and affordable housing development project in urban Kewalo.

In this spirit, we look forward to support the endeavors of a Commission that would be established by the passage of SB545 to help plan for the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC. By means of its own adopted resolution, the PA'I Board of Directors formally supports and wherein appropriate, authorizes our Executive Director to the following:

1. supports the establishment of a temporary state commission on the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020;
2. supports and authorizes its Executive Director to serve as Chairperson of the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC commission;
3. supports its Executive Director as Chairperson of the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC to assume specific responsibilities to assure activities planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC are timely and appropriate;
4. supports and authorizes its Executive Director as Chairperson to solicit funding from private and public sources for the 13<sup>th</sup> FESTPAC, wherein PA'I will be a fiscal sponsor; and
5. supports and authorizes the temporary assignment of PA'I administrative support for the Commission until such time that dedicated administrative staff can be permanently appointed to serve the direct needs of the Commission.

We welcome the opportunity to work with our State leaders to plan this auspicious event. Mahalo a piha.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: 

Mark Kawika McKeague, AICP

President, PA'I  
T: 808.265.7901  
Email: [kmckeague87@gmail.com](mailto:kmckeague87@gmail.com)

Testimony IN SUPPORT of S.B. No. 545, Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts

Submitted by: Monte M. McComber II, Cultural Director  
Royal Hawaiian Center  
2201 Kalākaua Avenue, Suite A500  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96851-5201  
(808) 931-3240  
m.mccomber@festivalcos.com

Date Submitted: February 6, 2017

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017  
2:45 PM  
Conference Room 229

Measure Title: Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts  
Report Title: Festival of Pacific Arts, Temporary Commission

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

As a former Hawai'i delegation member of the 1992 6<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, attendee to the 2016 12<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPac) in Guam, and as an agent representing Royal Hawaiian Center (2201 Kalākaua Avenue) who intends to make its Royal Grove stage a venue for delegation performances free and open to the public (standard parking rates apply), **I write in support of S.B. 545** which seeks to create a temporary commission to serve as the event organizer for the 2020 14<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPac-Hawai'i 2020) (Culture was added to the title for 2020) in Hawai'i.

Reasons for supporting S.B. 545:

- Brings positive attention to the state.
- Provides incentive to encourages visitors who would otherwise not travel to Hawai'i to visit during the festival.
- Boost to overall visitor numbers and spending during the festival.
- Generates income for Hawai'i businesses and the state.
- Provides incentive for local, national, and international organizations to hold conferences in conjunction with the festival.

- Provides a rare opportunity for locals to see and interact with delegations from the Pacific region that they would otherwise never likely interact with.
- Provides a rare opportunity for the fine arts to be featured, appreciated, and supported.

I propose that S.B. 545 be **amended to include dedicated funding from the state** to set up the festival headquarters and provide for administrative staff to support the commission in its planning, organizing and marketing efforts of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020, in addition to outside funding from private organizations, fundraising, etc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monte M. McComber II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Monte M. McComber II



615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 1504  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814  
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[www.piccom.org](http://www.piccom.org)

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE THROUGH THE LANGUAGE OF FILM

Pacific Islanders in Communications is writing in support of Act S.B. NO. 545, to create a temporary commission for the thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPac) to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020. We recommend adding funds to set up the Festival Headquarters and administrative staff to support the Commission, planning, organizing and marketing of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020.

The FestPac Arts has been held approximately every four years since its founding in 1972. It is referred to as the “olympics” of Pacific arts. Visitors from around the world come to the festival to appreciate what the artists, performers, cultural practitioners and host country have to offer in art, ideas and products.

Pacific Islanders in Communications has been involved with FestPac since Palau in 2008. That led to the making of our documentary “Dances of Life.” Pacific Islanders in Communications has sponsored FestPac’s film division in both Solomon Islands in 2012 and Guam in 2016.

During FestPac Guam 2016, Pacific Islanders in Communications sponsorship enabled a meeting of Pacific Island filmmakers and film festival organizers. This meeting included the organizers of FestPac 2020 from Hawai'i. It was agreed that the 13th edition of this unique festival would create a stronger and more focused film component. This would be a means of encouraging the development of the local film industry in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific Islands.

Pacific Islanders in Communications will assist in soliciting funding from private and public sources. We support the executive director of the PA'I Foundation, Vicky Holt Takamine, to serve as the chairperson of the commission. Ms. Holt Takamine has met with Pacific Islanders in Communications regarding a partnership for the film division of the festival.

Pacific Islanders in Communications was established in Honolulu in 1991 as a national nonprofit media arts corporation. The mission of Pacific Islanders in Communications is to support, advance, and develop Pacific Island media content and talent that results in a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary challenges.

Visit [piccom.org](http://piccom.org) for additional information.

KALIHI PALAMA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB  
email: [mkhan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mkhan@hawaiiantel.net)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB 545, Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair  
and members of the Committee on International Affairs and the Arts

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
and members of the Committee on Economic Development Tourism and Technology

Aloha,

The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club submits testimony in strong support of SB 545, Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts that would create a temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts to plan for this historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

Hosting this event is competitive and highly sought after by various countries as a means to showcase and advocate for the sustainability of traditional cultural arts and practices while at the same time benefitting from an economic boost to a country's economy. In 2014, Hawai'i Senate Concurrent Resolution 57 HD1 supported Hawaii's bid to the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture for Hawaii to host the 2020 Festival of Pacific Arts. We won the bid.

Planning and organizing this event will require the support of the government of the State of Hawaii, private and community sectors, with linkages across sectors (tourism, health, education, public works, environment, agriculture and so forth) so as to assure an effective hosting process. The temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of the Pacific Arts will bring together key government officials who have the authority to commit government resources in support of the Festival and to engage private and public sectors, including the numerous cultural organizations in Hawaii.

Strongly urge the passage of SB 545 and appropriations to support the Festival.

Respectfully

LEIMOMI KHAN  
President







TESTIMONY

**RE: SB545**  
**ON BEHALF OF: Individual**  
**POSITION: IN FAVOR**

8 February 2017

Aloha kākou!

My name is Robert Uluwehi Cazimero and I am submitting testimony **IN FAVOR of SB545** relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts, which creates a temporary commission on the thirteenth **Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC)** to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

The Festival of Pacific Arts, being hosted by Hawai'i in 2020, brings 27 Pacific Island nations together every four years to celebrate the unique and vibrant traditions of the Pacific. As island communities necessarily find ways to bridge divides between western progress and preservation of indigenous cultural traditions and values, I believe as an artist and creative that we must tell, and listen to, our different stories in an effort to increase understandings and find commonality, and hopefully solutions to common challenges.

In the ideal setting of celebrating Pacific Island cultures and arts, FESTPAC provides a wonderful, and non-threatening, environment for free exchange.

I support the PA'I Foundation's leadership role through it's executive director, and FESTPAC director, Victoria Holt Takamine. I also support, and expect, the Hawai'i State legislature to provide such appropriations as befit this international event, and in support of the indigenous Native Hawaiian community.

I urge you to seriously consider, and finally support, SB545 as well as appropriations necessary to make FESTPAC a successful example of the formidable talents of Hawai'i as Hawai'i hosts the Pacific, and welcomes the world.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Uluwehi Cazimero'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Uluwehi Cazimero  
Kumu Hula- Hālau Nā Kamalei O Līlīehua  
2008 USA Ford Fellow of Music

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017  
TIME: 2:45pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT SB 545

Aloha e Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai and members of the respective committees.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT.

The Festival of Pacific Arts is a magnificent display of Pacific culture. The festival is where culture, modern-day knowhow and island nations come together to celebrate the beauty of everything Pacific.

I look forward to 2020 and celebrating this event and the State's ability to showcase our home.

Mahalo.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** IAA Testimony  
**Cc:** lcampaniano@wik.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB545 on Feb 9, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB545**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for IAA/ETT on Feb 9, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Written Testimony From:

Kemuel DeMoville  
91-1207 Kaileolea Drive  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
KEMUEL2@yahoo.com  
(808) 499-4153

**RE: Support for SB 545**

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 545.

I am not a Native Hawaiian, nor am I an expert in Native Hawaiian or Polynesia performing arts and/or cultural practices. I am however a firm believer in the power the performing arts has to empower the community.

The Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPac) builds community through live performance and shared cultural expression from artists and practitioners throughout Oceania. Hawai'i has been given an opportunity to host FestPac in 2020 and the importance of being both good hosts to the other Pacific Island nations, as well as showcasing the dynamic and engaging performing arts we have here in Hawai'i can not be overstated. FestPac 2020 serves as a maker space for Hawaiian residents and artists. FestPac not only offer the opportunity to see cultural performances from all over Oceania, but they also provide a space for the community to craft pieces that are directly relevant to their experiences.

Creativity is life affirming – no matter the quality or value of what was created. It is a step toward life; toward adding something to the world that did not exist before. FestPac exists as a place where creativity is practiced and shared – where community members, and trained artists can engage with and empower one another.

While the Bill doesn't include funding, I would support the committee adding funds to the bill. I recommend adding funds to set up the Festival Headquarters and administrative staff to support the Commission, planning, organizing and marketing of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020.

Feel free to contact me for any additional testimony.

Kemuel DeMoville



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** IAA Testimony  
**Cc:** execdir@hawaiiiconstructionalliance.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB545 on Feb 9, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB545**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for IAA/ETT on Feb 9, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FROM: Kara Miller  
3029 Lowery Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Support for SB 545, Temporary Commission to plan and organize the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture to be held in Hawai'i June 11-27, 2020.

I support SB 545 which will create a Temporary Commission to plan and organize the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture to be held in Hawai'i June 11-27, 2020.

Fest Pac is an event that has occurred every four years since 1972 with the purpose of gathering various island nations to showcase their unique indigenous cultures in several ways through dancing, carving, storytelling, and other arts. It is a great honor for Hawai'i to be selected to host this festival. FestPac is meant to encourage the learning of each island's respective culture and the cultural exchange is invaluable. FestPac cultivates an appreciation of many dance and arts practices as well as presents the rich history of the Pacific Islands.

The undertaking of hosting this festival is a huge endeavor and extremely costly. The short and long term investment and rewards are worth it. I highly recommend adding funds to set up and support the Festival Headquarters and administrative staff to support the Commission, planning, organizing and marketing of FestPac-Hawai'i 2020.

Thank you for your support of FestPac.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kara Miller', written in a cursive style.

Kara Miller

# BURTON WHITE

## TESTIMONY

**RE: SB545**  
**ON BEHALF OF: Individual**  
**POSITION: IN FAVOR**

8 February 2017

Aloha!

My name is Burton White and I am submitting testimony **IN FAVOR of SB545** relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts, which creates a temporary commission on the thirteenth **Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC)** to plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

The Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FESTPAC) is a traveling festival hosted every four years by a different Pacific Island country. FESTPAC was initiated by The Pacific Community (SPC), and held in Fiji in 1972, to stop the erosion of the traditional practices by sharing and exchanging culture at each festival.

The 27 participating island nations include American Samoa, Aotearoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti Nui, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna.

It is difficult to over estimate the power of FESTPAC in relation to the common challenges of indigenous peoples of the Pacific as they deal with the negative aspects of colonization and the encroachment of western society in their native lands, which often result in the disproportionate impoverishment of indigenous communities. The celebration of Pacific Island cultures, through art and traditions, provides a fertile, non-threatening environment for discussion of common challenges and their possible solutions.

I support the PA'I Foundation's leadership role through it's executive director, and FESTPAC director, Victoria Holt Takamine. I also support, and expect, the Hawai'i State legislature to provide such appropriations as befit this international event, and in support of the indigenous Native Hawaiian community.

I hope that the State of Hawai'i; through its governor, legislature, and its tourism agencies; step up and represent Hawai'i to the international community as the paradise we all know and promote.

Respectfully submitted,

