

50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2008

Location: State Capitol, Room #414

Present:

Commission Members:

Mrs. Vivian Aiona, Ms. Muriel Anderson, Mr. George Applegate, Judge James Burns, Trustee Donald Cataluna, Mr. Kippen de Alba Chu, Mrs. Ah Quon McElrath, Mr. Lenny Klompus, Ms. Tammy Kubo, Major General Vern Miyagi, Ms. Duk Hee Murabayashi, Ms. Lani Nakazawa, Mr. Michael Pang, Mr. Edward Pei, Ms. Allicyn Tasaka, Ms. Deidre Tegarden, Ms. Lori Thomas, Mr. Keith Vieira and Mr. Henry Lee representing Mr. Danny Young.

Other Attendees:

Ms. Marsha Wienert, Tourism Liaison, Ms. Corrie Heck, Governor's Office and Mr. Arnie Saiki from statehoodhawaii.com

Excused: Mr. Walter Dods, Mr. Curt Kekuna, Mr. Stafford Kiguchi,

Absent: Mr. Elias Beniga, Ms. Denise Hayashi,

Agenda Items:

I. Call to Order:

1. Meeting called to order by Chair at 10:37am
2. Approval of Minutes **motion to accept by Judge Burns, seconded by Ms. Anderson No Discussion Approved unanimously.**
3. Public Comment: Trustee Cataluña speaking as a person of the public. Apologized for missing the last two meetings. On our first meeting Trustee shared two important items: #1 that above all else, the Commission must be inclusive and #2 was that no activities should be held a Iolani Palace. When he read the minutes of the meetings he missed, he was very disappointed to see that there was talk of a reenactment at Iolani Palace. The Trustee went on to say that it is inappropriate to have a reenactment or any other such event at Iolani Palace. The overthrow of the Queen happened at the Palace and there are 36 sovereignty groups 85,000 Kauinoa members who want to build a strong Hawaiian nation. Trustee Cataluna continued by saying that he had talked to a number of friends and OHA members and they agreed that events commemorating statehood would be in extremely poor taste if done at Iolani Palace and he suggests that all events take place at the Capitol. Because this event is going to be televised, it is of the utmost importance that the Commission is sensitive to the

feelings of those who would not want to see anything at Iolani Palace. Trustee Cataluna remarked that he is only one member of the Commission and if the other members are not in agreement, he feels so strongly about this situation that he would take the case to the Governor.

Arnie Saiki launched 50/50 which is a social network site and as trustee Cataluña has said, is also getting feedback from the public stating that the taxes are so heavy.

4. A vote was taken to reflect the titles of the various Committees (please see attached). Motion to accept by Ms. Kubo. Seconded by Ms. Vogel. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

5. Committee Reports:

Historic and Investigative – Ms. Kubo will have a meeting with Kamehameha schools next week and Mr. Klompus will be meeting with PBS. At the next Commission meeting, the committee will have a timeline.

Major General Miyagi will further research prices of and locations for time capsules. Ms. Kubo is looking for a group of commission members to go into the schools and talk about statehood. Would like assistance with a living legends board

Mr. Tsukiyama –volunteered to be on the history committee

Humanitarian Committee:

No report for this meeting.

Legislative Committee:

The funding bill for the bill is now in the Senate, but the amount is still unknown. Updates at next meeting.

Military Committee:

No report for this meeting.

Major General Miyagi shared that the military side is standing by to support ; Major General also represents Hawaii Army National Guard.

Tourism Committee:

Mr. Vierra shared that his committee is waiting for the events to be set in order to formulate a plan. The committee will be meeting in the following week.

Ms. Nakazawa – asked the Commission’s approval to form another investigative committee made up of neighbor island/county members. The Committee would be comprised of each neighbor island representative and Honolulu representative.

Motion to form another committee by Ms.Nakazawa. Seconded by Mr. Klompus. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Events and Communications committee. The ECC have met numerous times. Please see attached report from ECC.

Mr. Klompus brought up the fact that a reenactment is going to happen somewhere. If the Commission decides to be a part of it, it may be a good idea to make it a 30 minute documentary, as the television stations would be interested in airing such a documentary.

The events to commemorate statehood would commence in March of 2009. As May 1st in International Labor Day, the Commission may also want to consider doing something special on that day, as the ILWU was very instrumental in statehood.

Ms. Nakazawa a couple of ideas that have been tossed about and reviewed by the neighbor island folks is this - consider perhaps authorize each neighbor island people to gather each main group (media, ethnic groups, etc) to use their help to find people within our counties to be a part of that pr thing. Another thing is to ask the commission would authorize us to organization groups on our own islands that already are sponsored by the Counties so that we can piggy back on them and ask them to consider incorporating a 50th anniversary theme in their events.

Mr. Applegate agreed with Ms. Nakazawa and suggested we utilize the knowledge and experience of the elders in our communities. He went on to share that when the Governor spoke with us, one of the things mentioned was that the Statehood celebration is supposed to help us all appreciate the freedoms we have because we are Americans and are Hawaiians.

Ms. McElrath shared that she has been in contact with the ILWU on each of the islands and that each neighbor island representative should get in touch with their ILWU.

Trustee Cataluna began to speak about the logo. He shared that the logo is not a good likeness of Kamehameha; that he seems to be making a profane gesture and that he is not adequately robed and passed out some new artistic renderings.

Vice Chair said all comments were great and that we ought to tie those into the historic committee.

Mr. Klompus thanked everyone for input and continued to talk about the Friday night big kick-off dinner. Invite appropriate people, such as trustee just mentioned.

Chair interjected that this dinner is based on history and that the key-note speaker back then was the South Korean ambassador. We could invite the South Korean Ambassador to be a keynote speaker for our dinner.

Major General Miyagi thought that looking at 1959 events program may be helpful.

ECC Committee would like for each Commission member to go back and think about who from the community would be good spokespeople to participate in the radio ads (we need 50 people). Each person would do a small radio vignette on "what statehood means to them". This would commence immediately.

The Chair suggested doing the reenactment prior to march 18th. The reenactment was voted on and approved upon by the Board of Iolani Palace because it is a historic event.

Trustee Cataluna again expressed that the reenactment at the Palace was the wrong thing to do.

Ms. McElrath said you cannot ignore history, having a celebration/reenactment in front of Iolani Palace may certainly cause tension and it would be tragic if something bad happened.

Chair clarified that there are no "celebrations" planned at the Palace.

Discussion ensued as to what is appropriate at Iolani Palace. That people are divided when it comes to statehood and we must be sensitive and should not perform celebrations or events that would be an outright insult to any group. At the end of the day, this is Hawaii and we are citizens of America and citizens of Hawaii.

Vice Chair said that we need to get a handle on the events so that we can all move forward.

Vice Chair moved to Move to approve the ECC's basic plan and allow them to move forward to lock down the next steps, with the understanding that nothing will be set into play without a vote from the Commission. Ms. Tasaka seconded the motion. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date Thursday April 10th

Thursdays are not good days for a handful of members, so in May we will look for new days.

Announcements:

Parking passes are available in Mr. Klompus' office.

No fundraising update because the Finance Chair was absent.

Mr. Tsukiyama asked if we were doing a historic booklet or something?

- Mr. Klompus stated that it is great idea, but the cost is expensive so were going to do on the website and can download. Know we are going to get a lot of photos, so the thought was to put them up on the website and then people can download and make their own photo album.

Discussion ensued about outsourcing a project like this. That the group that picks up the project could then make money by selling the books.

Mr. Pang said his committee would look into it and get back to the group.

Mr. Pei asked if the Commission is moving quickly enough, as we are just a year out.

Mr. Klompus stated that he has concerns, but knows that the investigative committees are working hard and if we can get each committee to start working hard and get those recommendations back to the commission, we can get caught up soon.

Ms. Tegarden suggested that the ECC come up with a “:15 second elevator pitch” to share with each of the Commission members so that all members are on the same page with what the commission is doing, as we move forward.

It is understood that all major comments as it relates to the Commission will come from the Chair for the time being.

Next Meeting: April 10th at 10:30am at State Capitol Room 414.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32