

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation  
Honolulu, Hawaii

May 10, 2024

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** Request approval for temporary anchoring of wa'a in Kualoa waters; waiver of mooring and anchoring fees for wa'a; and approval of thrill craft use for safety purposes outside of designated thrill craft riding areas for the 2024 Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture.

**SUMMARY:**

This submittal requests that the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) approve temporary anchoring of wa'a (canoes); waive mooring and anchoring fees for wa'a; and approve use of thrill craft outside of designated thrill craft riding areas for safety purposes for the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FestPAC) of 2024.

**DISCUSSION:**

As detailed on their website,<sup>1</sup> FestPAC is the world's largest celebration of indigenous Pacific Islanders. First held in 1972 in Suva, Fiji, FestPAC celebrates the unique traditions, artistry, and diverse cultures of the Pacific region, serving as a platform for Pacific Island nations to showcase their rich heritage and artistic talents. FestPAC has preserved traditional arts & culture and also served as a platform for contemporary Pacific Island artists to express their creativity and address contemporary issues. One of FestPAC's most important objectives is to promote cultural exchange and understanding among the participants. FestPAC has been hosted by different Pacific Island nations on a rotational basis, with this year's FestPAC being held in Hawaii.

FestPAC will be held from June 6, 2024 through June 16, 2024, and participating wa'a will begin arriving to Hawaii in early June 2024 (FestPAC 2024 Schedule attached as **Exhibit A**). Wa'a will be moored or stored offsite and would start arriving in Kane'ohe Bay on or around June 3, 2024 in anticipation of official FestPAC activities. FestPAC organizers therefore request accommodations in Kualoa waters for these wa'a beginning June 3, 2024. FestPAC organizers request authorization to install seven (7)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.festpachawaii.org>

temporary offshore moorings in Kualoa waters and waiver of associated mooring and/or anchoring fees for any wa'a participating in FestPAC 2024. The type of temporary moorings will be subject to approval by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) prior to the installation. The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) will also be providing any needed temporary mooring slips for escort vessels at the Ke'ehi and He'eia Kea small boat harbors for the duration of FestPAC 2024.

FestPAC organizers plan to operate thrill craft for water safety and to aid wa'a in attaching to moorings (registration numbers for safety thrill craft are provided in **Exhibit A**). Because these thrill craft would be outside of designated thrill craft riding areas, FestPAC organizers also request that these thrill craft be authorized to operate outside of designated riding areas in support of FestPAC operations and activities. The thrill craft operators will be required to wear attire indicating that they are part of the FestPAC water safety group, which will help identify them during the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DOBOR requests that the Board:

1. Approve the anchoring of wa'a in Kualoa waters for the purposes of FestPAC 2024 for the period of June 3, 2024 through June 16, 2024;
2. Authorize the waiver of any mooring and anchoring fees that may apply to wa'a used for FestPAC, for the period of June 3, 2024 through June 16, 2024; and
3. Authorize the use of thrill craft outside of designated thrill craft riding areas for safety purposes during FestPAC operations and activities for the period of June 3, 2024 through June 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



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MEGHAN L. STATTS, Deputy Administrator  
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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DAWN N.S. CHANG, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments:

- A. FestPAC 2024 Schedule

## FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS 2024

### June 5th Official Canoe Arrival Ceremony

- Kaneohe Bay from Mokapu to Kualoa Beach Park
- Depart Mokapu 6:30am - Arrive Kualoa 8:00am
  - Delegates and Dignitaries disembark canoes on jet skis and double-hulled paddling canoes for welcoming on shore.
- Jets Skis on hand for safety and to aid canoes in getting on to moorings
- Ceremony at Kualoa Beach Park and Luau to follow
- Event completed by 4:00pm

### June 8th Festival Wa'a Day - Open to the Public

- Kualoa Beach Park 9:00am -3:00pm
- Waa tours and rides, information booths, food trucks
- Hawaiian Sailing Canoe Racing Association - ending their race at Kualoa Beach Park about 2:00pm
- Jets Skis on hand for safety

### June 10th Department of Education Teacher Professional Development Training

- Kualoa Beach Park 8:00am - 2:00pm
- Waa Tours, teacher workshops, curriculum design

LARGE VOYAGING CANOES PLAN TO GO TO UH-MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER AS EARLY AS 6/8. DEPENDING ON WEATHER

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII IS ON STANDBY FOR SAFE HARBOR SHOULD THE WEATHER DETERMINE THAT NEED WHILE CANOES ARE IN THE BAY.

CANOES COULD START TO ARRIVE THE LAST WEEK OF MAY. They plan to stay at UH-METC until time to sail to Kaneohe Bay on or about June 3rd.

Kualoa offshore moorings. Total of 7. See attached.

Slips at Heeia Kea for escort boats Total of 4 slips Tentative from June 1-10.

Possible Offshore moorings at Heeia Kea June 1-5 and then June 16-30. Total of 5 max.

Possible slips at Keehi for escort boats Total of 4 slips June 8-16

Possible dock side for large canoes at Heeia Kea June 1-5

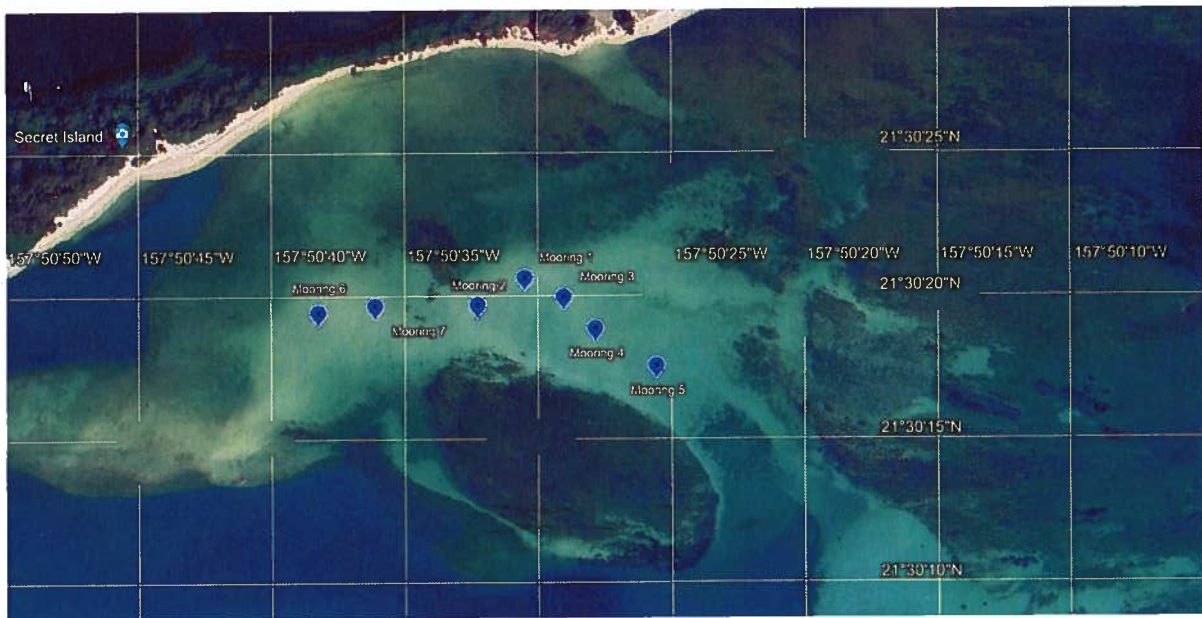
Randy Cates will be installing seven temporary "manta" style moorings for the large voyaging canoes. See map above for proposed locations. Timeline for installation is the week of May 20-24th, 2024. Removal will be June 17-21, 2024, or sooner if possible.

## Exhibit A

Proposed Mooring Locations - In the coming weeks we will be meeting with Randy Cates to do a site assessment.

Mooring 1	21°30'20"N 157°50'30"W
Mooring 2	21°30'19"N 157°50'32"W
Mooring 3	21°30'19"N 157°50'29"W
Mooring 4	21°30'18"N 157°50'27"W
Mooring 5	21°30'17"N 157°50'25"W
Mooring 6	21°30'18"N 157°50'38"W
Mooring 7	21°30'19"N 157°50'36"W

Point of Contact- Bonnie Kahape'a-Tanner 8082864176, [kahapea@kanehunamoku.org](mailto:kahapea@kanehunamoku.org)





[Google Earth Link to planning document](#)

## Water Safety Plan for June 5th, 2024

Depending on the level of VIP's involved, Coast Guard and Homeland Security will be involved.

Similar to Hokule'a's homecoming in 2017, Outer ring of security will be US Coast Guard to hold the perimeter. Next ring will be DOCARE and the inner ring is the Jet Ski Team whose main kuleana is to ensure the safety of the canoes. Each large voyaging canoe will have a dedicated jet ski. Jet Ski's will support the large canoes to get them safely to the mooring assignments. Once canoes are secure to the moorings, Jet Skis will aid in moving personnel from the vessels to the shoreline for formal welcoming.

## JUNE 5th, 2024 Official Canoe Arrival Ceremony

0600

- Canoe Crews make ready on their vessels. Voyaging canoes will be staged at MCBH Marina. 1 may possibly be at Heeia Kea Small Boat Harbor. Escort boats may be staged at Heeia Kea and the Kaneohe Yacht Club. Our hope is to have all vessels staged at MCBH- Marina.
- Smaller double hull sailing canoes will possibly stage at Heeia Kea to load delegates.
- Jet Ski Patrol under Archie Kalepa will be launching from MCHB Waterfront Operations. Operators will be wearing high visibility rash guards to clearly identify the team.
- Festival Delegates and VIP's will board canoes at MCBH.

0730

- Large voyaging canoes with escorts will depart MCBH and travel the inside of the Bay through the Main Ship Channel to Kualoa Regional Park. There will be a specific order, TBD by the Festival.

0830

- Canoes start to tie up to assigned moorings.
- Once all large voyaging canoes have been secured. Disembarkment will begin by order established by the FestPac. Smaller double hulled sailing canoes and Jet Skis will support the transfer of delegates and VIP's from the canoes to the shoreline.
- Arrivals will be ongoing for 28 nations.

1030

- All transfers complete and all personnel on shore. Minimum of 2 crew members will stay on the large canoes for anchor watch.
- Smaller canoes will either land on the beach or anchor on the sand near shore.

1100

- Ceremony continues on shore at the voyaging ahu.

1300

- Luau

1500

- Pau- Delegates and VIP's depart the park via land.
- Canoe crews settle in and set up anchor watches.

#### JET SKI HA NUMBERS

HA 4031K

HA 4055K

HA 8482K

HA 4030K

HA 8568K

HA 8522K

HA 8434K