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Official Opening of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture



On June 6, 2024, The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture kicked off with a spectacular Wehena opening ceremony held at the Stan Sheriff Center, Honolulu, Hawaii in 2024. The event brought together representatives from 23 different Pacific Island nations to showcase their unique cultural heritage through music, dance, art, and more. The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Laapui Talauega E. V. Ale accompanied by Good Lady Marian Ale, Honorable

representatives Fiu J. Saelua, Manavaalofa T. Manase, Tiaoalii Fauagiga Sai, Shaun Onosai Va'a, and Titiolii Kitara Vaiau were present at the opening ceremony.

The American Samoa delegation mesmerized the audience with their heritage performances through singing and dancing. The dancers moved gracefully to the beat of the drums, telling stories of their ancestors and celebrating their rich history. The choir group also captivated the audience with their harmonious voices, filling the air with beautiful melodies that echoed throughout the venue.

As a token of appreciation for their participation in the festivities, the American Samoa delegation presented gifts to Hawaii, the host country of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture. These gifts, symbolizing their gratitude and respect, were accepted on Hawaii's behalf by Honorable Governor Josh Green. The first traditional gift was a 6x6 free-hand Barkcloth or Siapo mamanu, skillfully made by the Tapa makers of the American Samoa delegation. The second gift was a Samoan Taupou headset or the Tuiga fafau. The Tuiga was hand painted by Atalina Huff Coffin, the granddaughter of the late renounced Siapo maker Mrs. Mary J. Pritchard.

Governor Green expressed his gratitude for the cultural exchange and the opportunity to learn more about the traditions and customs of the Pacific Island nations.

The Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture aims to promote cultural understanding and appreciation among nations in the Pacific region. The event provides a platform for artists and performers to showcase their talents and share their unique cultural heritage with a global audience. Through music, dance, art, and other forms of expression, participants are able to connect with one another and celebrate the diversity and richness of Pacific Island cultures. The festival will continue to bring together artists, performers, and cultural enthusiasts from across the Pacific region to share their stories, traditions, and talents with the world. The event promises to be a vibrant and unforgettable celebration of Pacific arts and culture.

For more information about the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, please visit <https://www.festpachawaii.org/>

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