



**MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: November 19, 2014
TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Ms. Joan Delos Santos, filling in for Kamana'o Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 8:50 am.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs); Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning); Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum); Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources); Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division); Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ABSENT: Kamana'o Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)

ADVISORS: Renee Louis, PhD.; Naomi Losch

Guest: Debra Mendes (Office of Planning); Dan Purcell (member of the public)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2014 and October 17, 2014

Approval was deferred because September and October meeting minutes had not yet been completed.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Briefing for new Bishop Museum Board Member on HBGN History and Current Activities

Ms. Delos Santos began the briefing by asking members and guests to introduce themselves. Mr. Purcell, a member of the public noted that he attends board and commission meetings full time, and that he will be holding boards accountable for the requirement of having meeting minutes posted within 30 days of a public meeting.

Ms. Delos Santos asked Ms. Louis to provide a briefing on the board history and of the diacritical project.

Ms. Louis stated that the original board, formed in the 1970's, did not want to add diacritical marks to Hawaiian place names because they felt that it would place too great a burden on government agencies. Now, since more research is being done, diacritical marks are necessary to understand the true meaning of words, place names, etc. In the 1990's, the National Park Service approached the US Board on Geographic Names asking for a ruling on diacritical marks for names of national parks in Hawai'i. As a result, the Hawai'i board met to make a determination. Dr. Everett Wingert of the University of Hawai'i (UH) Geography department attended as an advisor. Izzy Abbott from UH also attended. The Hawai'i Board determined that with the increased knowledge of the Hawaiian language, it would be appropriate to review all of the place names in Hawai'i for addition of diacritical marks. The first part of the project was to review all of the names that appeared on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps. A subcommittee of the board was created to determine guidelines to follow in making determinations. The Board used the Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i guidelines. For many of the names, the board determined that additional research would be required in order to make a determination of correct usage of diacritical marks.

Currently, there are many more resources to help in determining correct spelling, including online resources. In 2014, the Hawai'i board decided to document the additional resources that were being consulted, as well as naming policies/conventions that were generally being followed.

Ms. Delos Santos also began getting public calls asking for the official status or spelling of Hawai'i place names, so she initiated a project to better organize, simplify and publicize the spreadsheets that the board was using in its meetings to track name changes and status, so that the public could easily obtain information about any of the place names in Hawai'i. The reorganized and revised spreadsheets, in PDF format, are now available online on the HBGN website (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn/>).

At one point in the 2000's, the Board undertook a project to create a website that would provide the history and stories associated with places in Hawai'i. The site included sound files containing Hawaiian place name pronunciation, so that the public could learn how to pronounce Hawaiian place names. The project began with the island of Kaho'olawe. Sound files were created for every place name in the state for which the board had rendered a decision. Project data, including sound files, was turned over to OHA in 2013, to be included in the OHA Kipuka database.

Ms. Delos Santos explained that the board also occasionally receives requests from the public requesting that the name of a place be changed. In those cases, the requestor must submit an application form with supporting documentation for the board to consider and then render a decision.

Ms Louis stated that names decisions can be controversial, because they are put into a national registry of place names. Federal agencies are required to use the name spellings in

that registry in all documents, on all signage, etc. State agencies are also required to use the names as determined by the HBGN.

There was some discussion about the difference between a variant name and an alternate name, and whether the State permits more than one official name for a feature. The federal government allows only one official name for any named geographic feature, any additional names are considered variants.

Ms. Delos Santos explained that spelling changes, including the addition of diacritical marks are forwarded to the US board for inclusion in the US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

However, due to funding restrictions at the USGS, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is only able to process, or correct, the names of certain types of features, while others (cultural and man-made features) will not be corrected. (See <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html> for more information).

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Inquiry Regarding Procedures to Request a Name Change for Mountain View

Ms. Delos Santos announced that she had been contacted in October by a community group on the Big Island, with a request to change the name of the town of Mountain View to its original Hawaiian name of O'la'a. Ms. Delos Santos described for the requestor the procedures to follow when requesting a name change and pointed them to the HBGN website for forms and instructions.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Further Discussion of Draft HBGN Style Guide and Past and Future Decision Making Criteria

Ms. Delos Santos distributed hard copies of her comments and proposed changes, including expanding the introduction to include a description of the start of the diacritical project, as well as suggested changes to the information provided on the HBGN website. Since Mr. Mills was absent, she suggested waiting until the next meeting for discussion and a vote on these changes.

Ms. Silva asked whether it is possible for the Board to adopt alternate names rather than variant names as a way to handle very controversial name decisions, giving the spelling of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa (or Maunakea and Maunaloa) as an example. She pointed out that in the case of these particular names, there is a political disagreement in addition to a linguistic one. Ms. Louis said that she believes that it would be a policy decision for the Hawai'i board. This is a policy issue that is also being considered by the US Board, and no decision has been reached. It becomes particularly valuable to have the option of alternate names when discussing native names, giving the example of the English vs. native name of Mt. McKinley / Denali in Alaska.

Ms. Delos Santos agreed that allowing alternate names could be a good solution for the Hawai'i board in considering controversial spellings or commonly used English names vs. historical Hawaiian place names (e.g., Mountain View). This would be a good topic to take to the State Attorney General's office.

Ms. Delos Santos will do some research on options.

Ms. Delos Santos will send out Style Guide documents again prior to January meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names (Continued review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks)

Ms. Delos Santos began by briefly describing the new layout of the working spreadsheet. She pointed out that board would be working on those names having status = 2: Not Reviewed.

Mr. Marzan asked whether, for names of buildings, etc., the Board was simply making a recommendation, since the Board would not have the authority to actually change the name. Ms. Louis confirmed that was the case.

Mr. Marzan asked how addition of diacritical marks would affect searches for place names. Ms. Louis thought that it would depend on the capabilities of the search engine, but commented that she had not had any problems when searching with diacritical marks.

Mr. Marzan suggested that perhaps the board should try to be proactive in making sure that search engines could find the names when searching with diacritical marks.

The board reviewed 26 place names, beginning with Feature ID 1919913, 'Ohe'ō Campground and ending with Feature ID 359482, 'Īao Waikapū Ditch. Place name spelling decisions are noted below:

1919913	'Ohe'ō Campground	Locale	'Ohe'ō Campground	PNH	11/19/14	Kipahulu
1905628	Awalua Beach	Beach	Awalua Beach	PNH	11/19/14	Olowalu
1956380	Haiku Community Center	Building	Ha'ikū Community Center	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Haiku
358865	Haiku Elementary School	School	Ha'ikū Elementary School	PNH	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Haiku
1905662	Haiku Post Office	Post Office	Ha'ikū Post Office	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Haiku

358932	Haleakalā Satellite Tracking Station	Locale	Haleakalā Satellite Tracking Station	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Kilohana
365078	Halekii Heiau	Locale	Haleki‘i Heiau	PNH	11/19/14	Wailuku
2414029	Haliimaile Census Designated Place	Census	Hāli‘imaile Census Designated Place	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Paia
359002	Hamakua	Canal	Hāmākua	PNH	11/19/14	Puu O Kali
1852980	Hamakualoa	Civil	Hāmākua Loa	PNH	11/19/14	Haiku
1905668	Hāmoa Beach	Beach	Hāmoa Beach	PNH	11/19/14	Hana
1905669	Hāna Beach Park	Park	Hāna Beach Park	PNH	11/19/14	Hana
2414030	Hana Census Designated Place	Census	Hāna Census Designated Place	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1905670	Hāna Community Center	Building	Hāna Community Center	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1905671	Hāna Cultural Center	Building	Hāna Cultural Center	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1935642	Hāna Division (inactive)	Census	Hāna Division (inactive)	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1905674	Hāna Shopping Center	Locale	Hāna Shopping Center	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1905675	Hāna Wharf	Locale	Hāna Wharf	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Hana
1905677	Hanawana Bay	Bay	Hanawana Bay	PNH	11/19/14	Haiku
1956420	Hawai‘i Nature Center	Locale	Hawai‘i Nature Center	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Wailuku
359120	Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station	Locale	Hawai‘i Agricultural Experiment Station	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Kilohana
359317	Honokowai Ditch	Canal	Honokōwai Ditch	PNH	11/19/14	Lahaina
365438	Hyatt Regency Maui Hotel Heliport	Airport	Hyatt Regency Maui Hotel Heliport	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Lahaina
1919764	Iao Congregational Church	Church	‘Īao Congregational Church	HBGN	HBGN: associative, 11/19/14	Wailuku

1919765	Iao Intermediate School	School	‘Īao Intermediate School	PNH	11/19/14	Wailuku
1919766	Iao Valley State Park	Park	‘Īao Valley State Park	PNH	11/19/14	Wailuku
359482	Iao Waikapu Ditch	Canal	‘Īao Waikapū Ditch	HBGN	PNH: each word listed separately, Waikapū has a ditch listed, 11/19/14	Wailuku

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

The Board decided to wait until members knew their January schedules before setting the date of the next meeting, which will be in January. Members were asked to contact Ms. Delos Santos when their schedules (e.g., teaching/class schedules) were known.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Delos Santos