



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

DATE: February 20, 2014
TIME: 10:00 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

Mr. Kamañao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamañao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ADVISOR: Renee Louis, PhD.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2013 and January 16, 2014

A motion to approve the November 21, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Joan Delos Santos and seconded by Ms. Betty Kam. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

A motion to approve the January 16, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Delos Santos and seconded by Ms. Kam. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Mills announced that Agenda Item 3 would be deferred until Mr. Bobby Camara joins the Board by telephone at about 11:00 am.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Status of HBGN Names Database Organization and Publication Initiative

Ms. Delos Santos reported that she and Ms. Louis were not able to make significant progress on the initiative to organize the HBGN names database and prepare it for posting online. Both were busy with other pressing matters.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion of Decision-Making Criteria for Combining Names from Two Words to One Word (e.g., Mauna Kea to Maunakea, Kipuka Kekake to Kipukakekake, etc.)

Ms. Delos Santos reminded the Board that it decided at its last meeting to revisit the issue of combining place name components and to see if it could better define the approach it wants to take when making these decisions. She sent a message to Ms. Jennifer Runyon at the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) and asked her not to process any submitted names until the Board decides how it wants to address this issue.

Mr. Mills said that he could not find any guidance documents or policies previously used by the HBGN other than the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines. He was involved in one round of discussions by the HBGN on this and similar issues in the 1990s but could not find any records of these discussions. Ms. Kam asked if all the names combined by the Board could be extracted from the HBGN place name database for examination. Ms. Louis proceeded to demonstrate database sorts by groups of qualifiers such as pu‘u and kīpuka.

Mr. Mills asked if the Board wanted to address only those names it believes should be separated or to develop a policy that can then be applied to past and future decisions. Ms. Kam reiterated that the Board’s general practice had been to combine all names with two components even when they were separated in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Mr. Kalani Akana expressed the importance of looking at the words being combined instead of automatically combining them. More research is needed into the background of the names.

Ms. Noenoe Silva noted that one sticking point is that people are accustomed to seeing certain names written separately and others combined. Even in *Place Name of Hawaii*, half the names are written separately and half are not. She suggested the Board decide if it wants to make a rule and stick to it, even when most people will not follow the rule, or say that decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Ms. Louis provided background on the Board’s past practices. It was striving to create a standard and to be more consistent. Once it decided to combine names with pu‘u and wai, the practice was then applied to other words, such as kīpuka, by subsequent boards. Each Board is different and, based on her experience, this Board is the most research oriented. Mr. Mills pointed out that past Boards did not have 85% of tools that are available to this Board, including the assistance of Ms. Louis, computers, internet access to resources, and Google images. Before, research had to be done at Hamilton Library.

Mr. Mills asked Ms. Louis if she would prepare a list of all the combined names. Ms. Louis said that certain types of combined names, such as those with pu‘u or wai, could be targeted first as could kīpuka and lae. Mr. Mills suggested that the Board keep the standard practice but make exceptions where appropriate, particularly when people are accustomed to seeing it one way. It was difficult in the 1990s when they were looking at the written resources and saw that practices were inconsistent. Ms. Louis also pointed to cases in *Place Names of Hawaii* in which “Pu‘u” is not included as part of the place name although the entry identifies the place as a hill. Other times “Pu‘u” is included in the name. Ms.

Kam asked if notes on the spreadsheets specify when the Board decided to combine a place name although it was not combined in the source used to justify the decision (e.g., *Place Names of Hawaii*). Ms. Louis replied that sometimes the notes do specify this and other time they do not. Ms. Silva pointed to one note that says a particular place name was not combined to reflect modern usage. This indicates that the Board has already been making exceptions. Mr. Mills suggested that examining examples of combined names would help the Board clarify its policy. Ms. Louis pointed out that because there were no written criteria or standards, past Boards generally looked at how previous decisions were made and continued those practices.

Mr. Akana noted that the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines for combining words did not just apply to place names but also to words such as makuahine or makuawahine. Ms. Silva highlighted the exact recommendation in the guidelines which says “Proper names [nouns] shall be written as one word unless a single word modifier modifies the whole names rather than one of its parts.” If the modifier is “uka” or “loa” and it modifies the whole name, then the name is not combined. The example used in the guidelines, Ko‘olau Poko and Ko‘olau Loa, are never used as suggest. She agrees the guidelines are good for standards on how to spell words but they are not as easily applied to place names.

Ms. Louis expressed concerns about having strict standards such as those used by the BGN. They may not provide enough latitude for the uniqueness of names and places in particular areas. Ms. Silva noted that standards are meant to be descriptive but we tend to apply them as being prescriptive. The writers of dictionaries do not approach their work as prescriptive. The Board should decide which it wants to be or maybe it can be both.

Mr. Mills proposed that the Board review the existing list of names that have been combined, and maybe some that are not combined, at the next meeting. This review would be the basis for recommending how the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines might be amended when applying the guidelines to place names. The Board could prepare written guidelines on what standard practices it wants to follow when combining place names as it proceeds forward. He believes that the Board should still want consistency but not at the expense of being able to make case by case decisions. It would be a disservice if the Board ignores consistency. It is not as easy as combining or not combining each name being considered.

Ms. Silva believes that kīpuka will be a particularly interesting case because names with kīpuka are all separated in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Mr. Mills said that separating names with kīpuka and combining those with pu‘u could be included in the Board’s guidelines. Mr. Akana thought the guidelines could include looking at whether, for example, pu‘u modifies a proper name or a word. Perhaps if it modifies a proper name it would remain separate and would be combined if it modifies a word. Ms. Loui suggested that the review might be done by regions to see if any patterns in usage are evident.

Motion: To create a list of those place names which have been combined by the Board, to review the list in terms of consistency and case by case exceptions, and to propose amendments to the guidelines (Kam/Silva).

Vote: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Delos Santos asked if the next meeting should be devoted entirely to this issue as it is awkward to continue reviewing place names until this issue is settled. Mr. Mills asked if the Board wanted to establish a working group to propose guidelines for adoption by the Board or if this should be discussed by the full Board at a regularly meeting. Ms. Kam asked that discussions be at a Board meeting so that all Board members can learn from those with Hawaiian language expertise. Mr. Mills agreed that the next meeting could be devoted to the issue.

Ms. Louis asked if the Board wanted the lists of combined names to be sorted by island or feature type (e.g. pu'u, kīpuka, lae, etc.). Mr. Mills requested that the lists be sorted by island first and then by feature types within an island. He thought that this would make it easier to develop guidelines and to identify any patterns in usage.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion of House Bill 2586, Which Seeks to Create a Commission within DLNR to Propose Names or Name Changes for State Buildings, Parks and Facilities.

Ms. Delos Santos explained that House Bill 2586 would create a commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to propose names for state buildings, parks, and facilities. It is not clear why the bill was introduced or what issue it meant to address. When the bill was referred to the Office of Planning, she explained to the Director that the bill's subject matter did not fall within the jurisdiction of the HBGN. The Board is not tasked with naming buildings or parks. The bill was heard on February 12, 2014 by the House Water and Land Committee but decision-making was deferred to February 28, 2014 and subsequently canceled. Yesterday she received a call from staff with the office of Representative Cindy Evans who asked how HBGN makes decisions on State Parks names. She explained that proposing names is not a function of the HBGN. She then looked at the statute which established the HBGN [Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 4E] and found that the Board does designate names for geographic features but not buildings. The person from Representative Evans' office understood her explanation.

For the first hearing, the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts supported the bill and DLNR provided comments. The Office of Planning did not provide testimony because it wanted to wait to see if the bill advanced. Its position was going to be that responsibility for naming parks and facilities should rest with the agency managing those properties. She was concerned that this function might be shifted to the HBGN. The Board does not need additional work and, if the two responsibilities were combined, the Board could end up reviewing its own decision. The Director of Office of Planning thought this could be an opportunity to move HBGN to DLNR. Ms. Holly McEldowney noted that her response to this suggestion was that of most overwhelmed DLNR employees. The HBGN's functions are not a good fit with the missions of any one Division in DLNR nor do these Divisions have the capacity to take on additional work.

Ms. Louis's reaction to the bill was that a member of the HBGN should be on the committee proposed in bill so that he or she could advise the committee on the use of diacritical marks and other conventions. New names would then be consistent with decisions being made by the HBGN. Ms. McElDowney pointed out that the bill does not include an appropriation, so any program implementing the legislation would need to do so with existing funds. This is a problem because providing administrative support for any board or commission takes considerable staff time.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Continued Discussion of Selected Hawai'i Island Place Names (deferred from 1/16/2014 meeting)

[Mr. Bobby Camara addressed the Board at its November 12, 2013 meeting because he was seeking clarification on the status of the Board's place name decisions and, in particular, on whether Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa should be written as one word or two. He edits publications in which place names need to be consistent with U.S. BGN determinations. At the meeting, he also pointed out a number of place names posted on the HBGN website which are shown as being Board recommendations. He believes some of these need correction or reconsideration. After hearing his explanations, the Board believed that his concerns had merit and deferred decision making to its January 2014 meeting. This discussion was deferred again to the February meeting. Mr. Camara called at 11:00 am to continue this discussion.]

Mr. Mills welcomed Mr. Camara to the meeting and introduced the Board members present. Mr. Camara briefly reviewed those names he thought were spelling errors:

- Kipukakekake should be Kīpukakēkake. This is donkey kīpuka.
- Pu'uwa'awa'a is listed as being on the wrong quadrangle. It is on the Kīholo and not the Kahuku Ranch quadrangle as listed.
- Kīpukapepeiau should have an "o" instead of a "u" at the end (i.e., Kīpukapepeiao).
- Keahole Southwest Substation should have a kahakō over the "a" (i.e., Keāhole).
- Kūki'o Bay is labeled as Uluweuweu on maps from the late 1800s so this is probably its original name. The name of bay is different from that of the adjacent land which he has seen fairly frequently along the coast.
- Kīpuka Mizotas seems odd because Mizotas is not a Hawaiian name. He believes the name should be Mizota's Kīpuka.
- Halema'uma'u was brought up because Pua Kanahale believes the name should not have diacritical marks. This gives people the option of pronouncing as they wish base on the meaning they believe it conveys.

Mr. Mills asked the Board if it wanted Mr. Camara to submit his suggested changes in writing. Ms. Kam and Ms. Silva both pointed out that some names identified are easy to address and no written request is needed. Halema'uma'u needs more deliberation. The Board should ask Mr. Camara for background information on the name Uluweuweu and its location. Mr. Mills asked Mr. Camara if he could provide the Board with background information, in writing, on to the names Uluweuweu and Halema'uma'u. After reviewing the submittal, the Board can consider render a decision based on this documentation.

For Kīpuka Mizotas, Ms. Louis recalled that it was originally Mizota's Kipuka in the database and the HBGN decision did not combine the name. She remembers the Board discussing this name and believes that members with language expertise gave more weight to applying Hawaiian grammar and usage in these kinds of cases.

Mr. Mills told Mr. Camara that the Board is currently discussing when place name components should be combined and when they should be remain separate. The Board will keep Kamakai'a Uka and Kamakai'a Waena separate for now because they represent geographic qualifiers. It needs more time to discuss Kīpuka Mizotas and will discuss Uluweuweu and Halema'uma'u after it receives the requested background information. Mr. Camara agreed to find and submit the survey map with the name Uluweuweu. For Halema'uma'u, he is going to ask Ms. Keola Awong, a cultural anthropologist at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, to ask Ms. Pua Kanahale about Halema'uma'u. It is more appropriate for her to approach Ms. Kanahale because it is park related. Mr. Mills asked that the information be sent care of Ms. Delos Santos by email and post.

Motion: To adopt Mr. Camara's recommended changes for Kīpukakēkake, Pu'uwa'awa'a, Kīpukapepeiao, and Keāhole Southwest Substation (Ms. Silva/Ms. Kam)

Vote: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Camara sought clarification on when a place name becomes officially recognized by the BGN and asked if it was when that name appears in the GNIS. Ms. Louis replied that this is her understanding. He also asked if the Board had already discussed Agenda Item #5 which addresses developing criteria for combining place name components. Mr. Mills responded that the Board will devote the entire March meeting to this topic.

Ms. Kam asked if the Board should seek community input when discussing controversial names as was discussed at the previous meetings. Ms. Delos Santos explained that the U.S. BGN recommends some kind of outreach in controversial cases. Ms. Kam asked if a single submittal is sufficient outreach, particularly when opinions appear to differ. If they differ, should the Board just resort to *Place Names of Hawaii*? Mr. Mills pointed out that the controversy over Halema'uma'u goes beyond citing references. One source of the controversy was Mr. William T. Brigham's note that it should be Halemaumau because it means everlasting home. The community is torn over the correct pronunciation and meaning of this name. Both sides are absolutely certain in their opinion. It is either the "everlasting house" or the "'ama'u fern house". He noted that Ms. McEldowney pointed out at a previous meeting that these are craters in an active volcano and they do not last forever. Mr. Mills also recounted that Pele is a malihine who came from Tahiti, moved through all the islands, and will move again. Some who worship Pele say this place should be called Lua Pele. Hale in the Hawaiian concept is a house with four walls so there is no such thing as an everlasting house with four walls.

Ms. Kam asked how the community could be brought into this discussion. Ms. Silva raised the example of the name Molokai or Moloka'i which is pronounced differently by those on

the island. Mr. Akana noted that there are records of kupuna, such as Ms. Harriet Ne, saying Moloka‘i. Ms. Louis pointed out that the HBGN does not officially make decisions on island names because the names were set by an act of Congress when the Hawai‘i became a state.

Mr. Mills said that Haleakala is another example as some people believe it means “pink house” while others have other interpretations. He noted that there are plenty of these controversies and in many cases people are being very literal about the meanings. Mr. Akana added that it is important to know who these individuals are when opinions are expressed. He noted that is hard now because so many kupuna are gone and people are relying on third hand information or things they have read. It is hard to find those that can provide credible information. Sometimes asking the community can open up a can of worms because community members may not have credible information. Ms. Kam pointed out that this is the challenge of placing priority on what the community says. Ms. Silva suggested that there are some very knowledgeable individuals around such as Mr. Larry Kimura who interviewed many older Hawaiians in the 1980s. Maybe some of these records would be good sources. Mr. Charles Langlas also interviewed many older individuals in Kalapana. Ms. Louis reiterated that Ms. Kanahale is opposed to the use of diacritical marks in general so her opinion may not be specific to Halema‘uma‘u. Her approach is to look at the poetic nature of Hawaiian words and to explore all their possible meanings in a given context. This, however, is not the work of this Board.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names
(Continued review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks)

The Board reviewed a total of nine place names on the Maui place name list. As with previous meetings, this list includes names that are in the GNIS but were not entered into the HBGN’s working spreadsheets created when the HBGN began its review of all the Hawai‘i USGS Quads. The first three names (Keawala‘i, Keawala‘i Church, and Keawanaku) were considered prior to Mr. Camara’s call at 11:00 am and the last six were discussed after the call. The board’s decisions are as follows:

No Change:

- Keawala‘i: Name is spelled this way in *Place Names of Hawaii*.
- Keawala‘i Church: Name is spelled this way in *Place Names of Hawaii* and is correct as an associative name.
- Keawanaku: Name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The Board decided not to change its spelling because it appears in two sources and neither has it with diacritical marks. It appears without diacritical marks in John Clark’s *Beaches of Maui* and in *Sites of Maui*. Clark was the source for the GNIS entry. In *Sites of Maui*, it is written as Keawanaku and Keawa naku.
- Keikapalani: Name is spelled without diacritical marks in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Spelling Changes:

- Keekeehia: Name appears as Ke‘eke‘ehia in *Place Names of Hawaii* and *Sites of Maui*. The Board agreed the spelling of this name should be changed.
- Kekaalaau: Name appears as Keka‘alā‘au in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The Board agreed the spelling of this name should be changed.

HBGN Decision:

- Koieie Fishtrap: Name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but does appear in *Atlas of Hawai‘i* as Ko‘ie‘ie and on the 1988 edition of the Byer map as Kō‘ie‘ie. In the *Hawaiian Dictionary* (Pukui and Elbert, 1977), the word is spelled Kō‘ie‘ie. The Board agreed the spelling of this name should be changed to Kō‘ie‘ie based primarily on how the word is spelled in the dictionary.

More Research Needed:

- Kelena Ditch: Name was not found in *Place Names of Hawaii* or in other sources used by the Board. The GNIS records for the name indicate that it is a “historical” name which means it no longer exists. It was entered in the GNIS in 1954 with the source being a USGS water supply paper. The ditch tapped the north side of ‘Īao Stream for sugar cane irrigation. The Board agreed more research was needed.
- Kulanaokalai Beach: Name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but is in *Sites of Maui* and on the 1988 edition of the Byer map as Kulanaokala‘i. The Board agreed that more research was needed because the word kulana can be kūlana or kulana depending on the meaning. Either meaning could apply in this situation.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

Ms. Kam moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Akana seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2014 at 10:00 am which is the third Thursday of the month. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney