



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

DATE: February 11, 2016
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
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. Kama'ano Mills called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Leo Asuncion (Office of Planning), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamana'o Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ABSENT: Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum),

STAFF: Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning)

ADVISORS: Renee Louis

GUESTS: None

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes

Ms. McEldowney informed board members that the meeting minutes from 5/27/15 and later had not yet been completed. Ms. Delos Santos noted that the drafts were online and those were the minutes to be reviewed. The board deferred approval of the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Election of New Chair

Mr. Mills explained that for medical reasons, he would be stepping down as chair, but would continue as the DHHL representative on the board. He noted that Mr. Marques Marzan of the Bishop Museum had indicated via email that he would serve as chair if

nominated. Mr. Mills asked whether there were any other nominations for chair. Hearing none, he moved that Marques Marzan be elected chair of the HBGN. Mr. Akana seconded the motion. Ms. McEldowney commented that Mr. Marzan did a good job of running the last HBGN meeting in Mr. Mills' absence. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. Mr. Asuncion commented that the statute specifies that the term of the chair is 4 years or until a successor is selected.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Follow-up on place name # 1924881, Pu'u Keka'a.

Ms. Delos Santos said that Ms. Sheleigh Solis followed up with John Clark as to the correct spelling of this place name. She passed out the print-out of an email that Ms. Solis had received from Mr. Clark on January 14, 2016 (attached). The email stated that the name had originally been Puu o Kekaa, then Puu Kekaa, and finally Black Rock.

Mr. Mills asked for a recap of the discussion of this name from the last meeting. Ms. McEldowney recalled that there was a question of whether "Pu'u" had been part of the name. She stated that Ms. Losch, who had spent time in the area when she was younger, always knew it as Black Rock, and did not associate "Pu'u" with the place.

Mr. Akana asked whether there was also a spelling issue, i.e., if the name was Pu'u O Keka'a, whether it would be written as one word, and Mr. Mills confirmed that it would be one word: Pu'uokeka'a. Ms. Louis reviewed the rules that the Board had come up with in the Style Guide to determine when a name should be combined. (Not combined if the initial word is a descriptor rather than part of the actual name). The Board referred to the USBGN map showing the place name.

The Board determined that the oldest version of the name should be used (i.e., going back to Pu'u O Keka'a, as it was originally named), but that the name should be combined, according to the HBGN Style Guide.

Mr. Mills moved to change the spelling of feature number 1924881 to Pu'uokeka'a. Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Board Discussion.

6a: HBGN request to send a letter to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation regarding changing the spelling of the state's name from Hawaii to Hawai'i.

Mr. Akana asked what name is being changed, and Ms. Delos Santos stated that the name being discussed is the legal name of the state. Mr. Asuncion noted that the letter could be written in such a way as to ask the delegation to inform the HBGN as to the correct process to change the name. Would it be an Act of Congress, an Act of the Hawaii State legislature, or some other procedure.

He noted that the HRS has a certain style guide, and noted that the ‘okina was not used in original style guides. But we do not have the benefit of reviewing the original statehood documents to determine whether the ‘okina was used in those documents. He noted that recently, the legislature has passed legislation to “encourage” the use of the Hawaiian language and the corresponding diacritical markings – but they have not mandated their use. The Congress may say that it is the purview of the state legislature, in which case a bill would be introduced to change the spelling. Even if the spelling of the name of the state is changed, various style guides may need to also be changed to accommodate the new spelling, in which case, one would need to work with the Legislative Reference Bureau and other similar agencies/organizations.

Mr. Akana noted that those in the Hawaiian Civic Clubs tried to change the name previously, and to have the ‘okina included on the state name on the Duke Kahanamoku stamp, but they were told that they were unable to do so. He asked what document one would refer to determine the spelling – would it be the Admissions Act? Ms. Delos Santos stated that the Organic Act specifically named the Territory of Hawaii (no ‘okina), and the Admissions Act specified that “Territory of Hawaii” would be changed to “State of Hawaii.”

Ms. Silva noted that it was likely that the reason that the ‘okina was not used in the name of the state was that diacritical markings were not in use very much at that time. The common use of diacritical markings did not begin until the 20th century.

Ms. Silva noted that the Board documents do not use the ‘okina for the state name. Ms. Delos Santos said that the reason for that is that since the legal name of the State does not have the ‘okina, she feels that she is not permitted to use it when referring to the State of Hawaii. Ms. Silva asked whether the Board name could have the ‘okina, and Ms. Delos Santos said that she wasn’t sure, since it was an entity of the state.

Mr. Asuncion again stated that we should ask the delegation whether the change of spelling of the legal name of the state does require that they introduce a bill in Congress, because the name was legalized in the Admissions Act.

Ms. Louis noted that the State of Hawaii place name does have an entry in the Geographic Names Information System, with some background information that we may be able to share with the delegation to get them started.

Ms. Delos Santos stated that Jenny Runyon of the USBGN did some research into the process to change the name, which was inconclusive – she could not determine whether it was a federal or state issue. She noted the case of Rhode Island, which tried to change the spelling of the name of their state from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" to "Rhode Island," and the process that they used was a legislatively referred constitutional amendment ballot question, which was defeated.

Mr. Asuncion said that the Office of Planning would draft the letter for review by the Board at the next meeting. He said that he would be in Washington D.C. later in February and would bring it up to congressional staff, so that they would be prepared to receive a letter.

Mr. Akana pointed out that the ‘okina is NOT a diacritical mark, but is a consonant in the Hawaiian language. We may want to include that in the letter – we are actually missing a letter in the name of the state. The name of the State is missing a letter. Mr. Asuncion said that we should include as much information as possible when we send the letter, in the form of attachments, etc.

Mr. Akana moved to send a letter to the Hawaii congressional delegation asking about the process to change the spelling of Hawaii to Hawai‘i. Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6b: Possible addition of new place name, Loihi, to the USBGN Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database.

Ms. McEldowney noted that in the November 21, 2013 meeting, Mr. Bobby Camara raised this issue. According to the minutes, Mr. Camara said that a Mr. Emory mapped the undersea volcanoes and described them in a letter to Mary Pukui, and she provided names, but that they were descriptive names (e.g., ‘Āpu‘upu‘u which means bumpy and Lō‘ihi which means long). He noted that Kumu Kanahele and members of her family thought that Kama‘ehu might be more appropriate for Lō‘ihi.

Mr. Akana said that he believes that the name Loihi was given because it would take a long time for the land to form, in which case it is not an appropriate name. Ms. Louis said that there is a certain type of chant that spoke about the progression of things, and in that chant, the seamount was given a name of Kama‘ehu. Mr. Akana said that he’d like to see the chant. Ms. Louis said that she would get the chant from Kekuhi.

Ms. Silva said that her concern was that if Loihi is an incorrect name, that perhaps the Board should take the name decision to the public. There was some discussion as to how the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was named, and the fact that it was probably a different process because it was an administrative area that was being named as opposed to a geographic feature.

Mr. Akana noted that Loihi is not in GNIS.

Ms. Silva discovered an article in a 2003 issue of Hawaiian Air magazine that said that the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation (EKF) petitioned to have the name of the seamount changed from Loihi to Kama‘ehu. It does not say what organization they were trying to work with. It also said that EKF created new chants and coined the name Kama‘ehu.

There is a question as to whether the HBGN has authority over the name of the seamount. If it is within 3 miles then it is in State waters. It is 50 miles from the Big Island. However, the State of Hawaii has authority over submerged lands, so it may be within the State’s purview.

Ms. Silva asked Ms. Louis whether she could inquire with EKF to find out who they petitioned regarding the name and what the result was.

Kalani moved to have the board to continue to research this matter, Mr. Morales seconded the motion was carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Continued Review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks.

Board members began by discussing a name reviewed at the last meeting, One of the names reviewed at that meeting and requiring more research was Feature ID 1924881, “Pu‘u Keka‘a.” Advisor Ms. Sheleigh Solis of DLNR, State Historic Preservation Division, reached out to Mr. John Clark for his input on the correct name / spelling. Based upon his input and further Board

discussion, and in keeping with the Board Style Guide, the Board corrected the name to be Pu‘uokeka‘a.

The Board next discussed another name reviewed at the last meeting. Feature ID 2414182, which, when the Board showed in their records from a 2013 GNIS download to be “Pu‘unene Hawaiian Home Land” but is shown in GNIS as “Pūlehunui Hawaiian Home Land.” At the January meeting, the Board indicated that they did not know how the name had been changed, since the HBGN never submitted such a name change. Ms. Delos Santos reached out to the USBGN, and was told that the name change had been submitted by the U.S. Census Bureau, in consultation with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). Mr. Mills stated that he met with Mr. Kaleo Manuel of the DHHL Planning Office submitted the name change to the Census Bureau after consultation with the community in that area. “Pūlehunui Hawaiian Home Land” is the correct name.

The Board reviewed 15 additional names. Of those, 2 names were determined to require more research, 12 names were corrected, and one name was already correct in the GNIS. One of the names requiring more research is feature number 1779782, “State of Hawaii.” The Board determined that the correct spelling is “State of Hawai‘i” however this correction will be given a designation of “More Research Needed” pending resolution of legal issues related to the state name, as discussed in Agenda item 6a, above.

With respect to the spelling of the name of the state, Ms. Louis pointed out that some states have a state level of place names that are not in the GNIS. Two examples are North Carolina and Kentucky. In those states, a feature may have one name in the GNIS, but a different name is used by the state, i.e., a name that is listed as a variant in the GNIS may be the primary name used by the state. One could argue that as far as this Board is concerned, the correct spelling of the state includes the ‘okina, even if the US Board does not accept the change.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at 1:00 p.m., at the Office of Planning Conference Room. Mr. Kamana‘o Mills adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Names reviewed and decisions:

Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change; 7 = Other

Status	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes
3	1924881	Pu'u Keka'a	Summit	Pu'uokeka'a	HBGN	HPN (Clark): Pu'u Keka'a, PNH: Keka'a, HBGN research (online newspaper): Pu'u o keka'a, 1/13/16 HBGN decision: combined older version from previous meeting substantiated by email from John Clark dated Jan 14, 2016, 2/11/16
5	2414182	Pūlehunui Hawaiian Home Land	Civil			Error? HBGN download showed name as Pu'unene Hawaiian Home Land, but GNIS shows Pūlehunui Hawaiian Home Land, when/how/why was this changed, HBGN: however, Pu'unēnē is the corrected variant, 1/13/16; HBGN further research shows this is not an error, US Census in consultation with DHHL submitted a name changed to Pūlehunui, 2/11/16
4	363701	Puu Hele Cinder Pit	Basin	Pu'uhele Cinder Pit	PNH	HBGN: associative 2/11/16
3	363744	Puu Ka Ae	Summit			HBGN: research in Sites of Maui pg103 shows this as Pu'ukoae [Puukaae on later maps], 2/11/16
4	363862	Puu Koa	Summit	Pu'ukoa	HBGN	PNH: Pu'ukoa, Hawai'i, HBGN: Survey Office Map of Maui 1885 has Puu Koa, Board decision to combine, 2/11/16
4	363967	Puu Makina	Summit	Pu'umakina	PNH	HBGN: combined, 2/11/16
4	363649	Puu o Umi	Summit	Pu'uo'umi	PNH	HBGN: combined and lowercase, 2/11/16
4	1924882	Puu Olai Beach	Beach	Pu'uōla'i Beach	PNH	2/11/16
4	364158	Puukolii	Populated Place	Pu'ukoli'i	PNH	2/11/16
4	1987390	Puunene Airport (historical)	Airport	Pu'unēnē Airport (historical)	PNH	HBGN: associative, 2/11/16

4	1935671	Puunene Division (inactive)	Census	Pu'unēnē Division (inactive)	PNH	2/11/16
4	364178	Puunene Filtration Plant	Locale	Pu'unēnē Filtration Plant	PNH	HBGN: associative, 2/11/16
4	364179	Puunene Hospital (historical)	Hospital	Pu'unēnē Hospital (historical)	PNH	2/11/16
4	364180	Puunoa	Populated Place	Pu'unoa	PNH	2/11/16
5	1905680	Republic of Hawaii (historical)	Civil			HBGN: decides not to change due to historical usage, 2/11/16
4	364277	South Side Waikapu Ditch	Canal	South Side Waikapū Ditch	PNH	HBGN: associative, 2/11/16
3	1779782	State of Hawaii	Civil		HBGN	HBGN: Correct spelling: State of Hawai'i - associated with the island of Hawai'i, the board has decided to take up the legal issue as part of the responsibility to correct misspelling, 2/11/16