



**MINUTES  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
HAWAII BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: April 18, 2013  
TIME: 1:00 pm  
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Arthur Buto, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board) and Hawaii GIS Program Manager, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Arthur Buto (Office of Planning), Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ABSENT:** Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)

**ADVISOR:** Renee Louis, PhD.

**OTHERS:** Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Nick Belluzzo (State Historic Preservation Division), Melia Lane-Kamahele (Pacific Islands Office, National Park Service)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Transition for Office of Planning Designee; Selection of HBGN Chair**

Mr. Buto announced, as he had in a preceding email to the Board, that he will be leaving the Office of Planning (OP) for a position with Department of Education Charter Schools program. He expressed his appreciation for the Board and for all that he has learned during the Board's deliberations. He found it fascinating and now sees Hawaiian maps and place names very differently. He also appreciates how seriously Board members take their responsibilities. Joan Delos Santos will replace him as the OP designee on the Board and will oversee OP's administrative support for the Board until the position is permanently filled. He will start in his new position May 1, 2013. All records of actions taken during his tenure will be left at OP.

As Mr. Buto also served as Board Chair, a new Chair needs to be selected. The Chair is responsible for making sure all documents required for Board deliberations are complied, for facilitating the meetings, and for setting the agenda. OP will continue to provide administrative support, including use of the meeting room. The Chair is the official contact for the Board if there are any inquiries and serves as the official correspondent with the USGS. After a discussion of possibilities, Board members agreed to ask Kamaano Mills if he would consider serving as Board Chair even though he was absent. He will be asked by email if he is willing to serve as Chair.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Create Working Group to Evaluate Options for Growth and Maintenance of Hawaii Place Names Website**

Mr. Buto reviewed the status of the Hawaii Place Names Website and previous discussions the Board has had on the difficulty of maintaining and expanding the website and its database. The Hawaii Place Names Website was created by Ms. Louis and Mr. Dennis Kim of OP and had been hosted on the OP website. It is no longer accessible because OP does not have the capacity to sustain and grow it. The database for Kahoolawe was completed but only a smattering of place names from other island were done. If you click on each name in the database, you hear Ms. Naomi Losch pronounce the name or you can also access background information on the place. The overall plan included providing links to video clips of people discussing the history or significance of these places. Mr. Buto believes it is a valuable resource that should be expanded to the other islands. Since OP does not have the staff or resources to do this, he encouraged the Board to create a working group to explore possibilities. Conceivably this could include obtaining grants or using interns. The other issue is finding an entity to host the site. The website used is not as important as the database which has the information and operates behind the website wrap. The intension is to use the same dataset, regardless of website wrapping, and to add more entries to the dataset.

Ms. Louis offered to provide assistance to the working group. Mr. Buto clarified that working group members do not need to be on the Board. Anyone interested in the topic or with expertise should be welcome. Mr. Kim from OP will be assigned to the working group because he was instrumental in developing the site and knows the technical background on how it works. Ms. Louis has the subject matter background to advocate for what the site intends to accomplish. Although the site does not need to be hosted in the state, it seems appropriate for it to be here.

Ms. Silva noted that the head of Hawaiian Language at UH Mānoa, Ms. Olivera, is a geographer and she might serve on the working group if she has time. Her next book is going to be on Maui place names so she is actively doing research on place names. Ms. Silva also believes that UH has the capacity to host the website if the working group could find the right people to help.

Mr. Buto raised the privacy issues that need to be weighed when considering whether to use a public or a private website. With a private host, access to particular information can be restricted. On state-sponsored sites, it could be impossible or difficult to restrict access given the public records law. Public access to this valuable information is important, but some

tribes or families want to make some information available only to members of the tribe or family.

Mr. Akana announced that Thursday, April 25, 2013, OHA will be launching its GIS platform database named Kipuka. It will be held in Cupola Theater at the Honolulu Design Center. He offered to send email invitations to the Board. Ms. Louis said she had talked to Kamoā Quitevis of OHA about hosting the Hawaii Place Names Website. He was interested but at that time he was focused on making sure that the Kipuka database could be accessed internally and had yet to address providing access to external users. At first they had to refine their ideas on what they wanted the website to accomplish and then focus on access issues such as hardware needs and software protocols. Mr. Akana noted that OHA already partners with others on websites such as the Pakakilo website. It is possible that OHA could partner on the place names website.

Mr. Buto explained that the working group would only be responsible for bringing the Board some general options. Ms. Kam offered to see what resources or expertise the Bishop Museum might have to offer. Mr. Nick Belluzzo, the State Historic Preservation Division's GIS specialist, offered to provide technical advice.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names**

The Board reviewed a total of four place names on the Maui place name list. This list includes names that are in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) but were not entered into the HBGN's working spreadsheets created when the HBGN reviewed all the Hawai'i USGS Quads. All four were found to need additional research as follows:

- Lo'iloa Keōpuka: Ms. McEldowney suggested that the Board check to see if these names represent two land divisions that are depicted as one name because both became government lands after the Mahele and subsequently no boundary was surveyed between them. This happened frequently in other areas. Sometimes the two names are just written side by side or are hyphenated. The Mahele book might indicate if these were separate lands relinquished by the ali'i and therefore became government lands. Ms. Louis noted that they are entered as a single name in the GNIS. She suggested that future Boards might want to address this issue systematically and determine which combined names were originally separate names and which were not. The Board can then decide which process to follow to rectify the findings if needed. She also clarified that, in terms of the process, this would probably include recommending a name addition. In the case of Lo'iloa Keōpuka, for example, Lo'iloa Keōpuka could be changed to Lo'iloa and the name Keōpuka could be a name addition. Because all names are point locations, names of land divisions can be added or changed without specifying land division boundaries. Streams are located by two points with one being at the mouth of the stream and that other at the head. She also noted these kinds of issues were not addressed before because the Board was focused on correcting names (i.e., adding diacritical marks) to meet USGS's timelines for updating the Quad maps. Other kinds of decisions were postponed for this reason. In the future, the Board could focus on recommending name additions or other corrections. The Board decided to defer a decision on Lo'iloa Keōpuka in the hope

that further research would produce a more definitive answer. Clarification might come from looking at documents for Land Grants 2916, 3060, and 3394 which might specify which land divisions each is in.

- Maunanu: This name was applied to a cinder cone located in Kanaio and is labeled as such in Sterns and McDonald's book on Hawaiian geology. It is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* or in other sources and the name's meaning or pronunciation is not immediately apparent. The Board decided more research was needed.
- Aalaloloa Pali: Ms. Silva reported that this name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but appears in *Sites of Maui* five times as 'A'alaloloa. It never appears, however, as 'A'alaloloa Pali. Bier's map has it as Pali 'A'alalolaua which may be a misspelling. *Sites of Maui* was compiled from multiple sources so it may be more reliable and is at least internally consistent. Ms. Louis suggested that Pali 'A'alalolaua could be entered as a variant. The board wanted more research before making a final decision.
- Ako Point: There is an 'Ako's Gulch in *Place Names of Hawaii* but not an Ako Point. Ako Point is in John Clark's *Hawaii Place Names* and his *Beaches of Maui*. Clark says it was named after a man named Ako. *Beaches of Maui* is the source of the GNIS entry. Clark also applies the name Ako to a channel. There was an elderly man who lived at Kū'au Point so fisherman began calling the point and a narrow channel through the rocks after him. It was decided that more research was warranted.

#### AGENDA ITEM 4: Old and New Business

Ms. Melia Lane-Kamahale asked if the recent renaming of Kilauea Point Lighthouse on Kaua'i to the Daniel K. Inouye Kilauea Point Lighthouse was brought to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN). Mr. Buto explained that he had to address a similar issue regarding the potential naming of the Saddle Road on Hawai'i Island after the Senator. If the name is being applied to a man-made feature, it does not require any action by the BGN. Ms. Louis clarified that assigning a new name to a natural feature requires either an official name change or addition. If a natural feature is to be named for a person, that name cannot be applied officially until a specified period of time has passed since his or her death. With the Saddle Road, there was also an issue of jurisdiction because the road will become a state or county highway.

Mr. Buto raised two issues he believes the Board should consider in the future. First, he suggested that the HBGN make its decisions readily accessible on the website or by other means so that agencies can comply with their legal requirement to use place names recognized by HBGN. Currently agency staff is doing research on their own if they do any research at all. OP faced this problem recently when it was preparing maps and working with consultants to prepare maps. Second, he reminded the Board that it is required to prepare an annual report listing all decisions it makes during that year. Ms. Silva offered to prepare a compilation of all HBGN place name decisions based on the working spreadsheets prepared and updated by Ms. Louis. Ms. Louis noted that the official HBGN list of decisions has to include not just the decision, but also an explanation of the decision made and the sources used to reach that conclusion. Her working spreadsheet might need some additional

information to meet this requirement. It should not be difficult to do but it could be time consuming “busy” work.

Ms. Silva raised concerns about the Board’s decision on the name Ki’iki’i at its March 21, 2013 meeting. She revisited one of the sources used in the Board discussions and realized that it was ultimately based on the 1950s USGS Quads. Also the tax map has it as Kiki. She suggested that the Board reconsider its decision. Ms. McEldowney pointed out that since it was an official Board decision and was on the Board agenda for that meeting, any change to that decision would have to be noticed on the meeting agenda and be voted on by Board at that meeting. Mr. Buto said that it would not be difficult to revisit the decision because he had not submitted the decision to the BGN staff yet.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Adjourn**

The Board set May 16, 2013 as the date for the next meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3.00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney