



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

DATE: April 24, 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. Kamanao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 10:05 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), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division) and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ADVISORS: Renee Louis, PhD., Naomi Losch (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—retired)

OTHERS: Nick Belluzzo (State Historic Preservation Division)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2014

A motion to approve the February 20, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Betty Kam and seconded by Mr. Kalani Akana. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2014

Mr. Mills announced that the March 20, 2014 minutes are still in draft form and will be available for review and approval at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Presentation and Discussion of Draft HBGN Style Guide and Past and Future Decision-Making Criteria

Mr. Mills began by reminding Board members that he distributed by email a draft style guide he prepared for Board use when making decisions on the spelling of geographic features. He explained that the guide was compiled from notes taken at the Board's previous meeting and his review of the spreadsheets prepared by Ms. Renee Louis. In particular, he appreciated

notes provided by Ms. Melia Lane-Kamahele and Ms. Holly McEldowney. The spreadsheets Ms. Louis prepared group place names with similar component modifiers (i.e., Pu‘u, Kīpuka, etc.). This allowed him to assess the Board’s past practices. He also incorporated elements of the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines and the Hawaiian language guide. The result was a two-page guide entitled “Guidelines for Hawaiian Geographic Names”. He invited members to be blunt in their comments and to consider nothing sacred in the document. He will look at comments made today and incorporate those when he can. If the Board is comfortable with the resulting document, it can be considered for adoption at a future meeting.

Mr. Mills provided a quick synopsis of the guidelines. He noted that he was not sure if these considerations should be ranked in an order that reflects a decision making process, such as Step 1, Step 2, etc. The guidelines are outline as follows:

- 1) Check Resources: The first step is to utilize all appropriate references. These include *Place Names of Hawaii* by Pukui, Elbert, and Mookini; *Hawai‘i Place Names: Shores, Beaches, and Surf Sites* by John Clark; the “Sites Series” which includes *Sites of Oahu*, by Sterling and Summers, and *Sites of Maui*, by Sterling, nupepa.org; and the *Hawaiian Dictionary*. The last consideration is one suggested by Ms. Louis that reads: Other publications and online resources may be used if those publications cite their source. Should any publication or resource cite “USGS” or anything similar, that information shall not be used. This is to ensure the HBGN is not citing its own work.
- 2) Consult with Knowledgeable Community Members: Consultation with knowledgeable community members should be incorporated in discussions and decision making whenever possible. He included Mr. Akana’s comments that community members should have well-demonstrated knowledge or be long-time residents in area where the place name is located. It would not include those who are just learning the Hawaiian language
- 3) Consider Common Usage: Mr. Mills said he took the wording for this section directly from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN). It says that the Board should consider geographic names that reflect historical spellings or forms commonly used or preferred by the local population, although these names should generally conform to the rules of Hawaiian and/or English and should not be obscene or derogatory.
- 4) Naming Guidelines: Mr. Mills emphasized that this section needs the most discussion and is the one in which he exercised the most discretion when devising the guidelines. His main source was the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines. Note that the introductory paragraph states that the naming guidelines are meant to be used if no information or resources are available for a particular name and more detailed research or interviews with community members is not allowed by time and/or money constraints. The naming guidelines include the following:
 - a. Geographic names are to be capitalized (e.g., Waikāne not waikāne). This is the least contentious and most widely accepted rule.
 - b. Do not capitalize individual words within the compound geographic name (e.g. Waikāne not WaiKāne). This is from the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines.

- c. Geographic names shall be written as one word unless a single word modifier at the end separates an already established place name into two or more geographic regions. The example is Kalihi Uka or Kalihi Kai. Kalihi is the established place name with Uka and Kai being the modifiers that represent two separate geographic regions. Mr. Akana reported that he went through the old Hawaiian newspapers and found that compound names were almost always combined. This includes names such as those with uka and kai; iki and nui, and poko and loa. Ms. Noenoe Silva asked if any dashes were used. Mr. Akana said that dashes were not used. This combining of names is not just historic usage, but there is a continuity of usage as demonstrated by Ko‘olauloa and Ko‘olaupoko. He reiterated that names were generally not combined when proper names were involved. Ms. Silva noted that she has seen Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea written both ways frequently.

Ms. Louis asked if the individuals initially writing the source materials influenced how they were written, for example, in the newspapers. Ms. Silva said that she has not done that level of analysis, but it is a good question. There were no standards when most newspapers were written. Ms. Kam noted that newspaper editors probably contributed to the consistency with which names were written. Mr. Akana reported that the earliest newspaper he found with “Kalihiuka” was in 1860 and latest in 1876. He would need to check later papers to see when that began to change. Ms. Silva suggested that the Board work on this part of the guidelines more and examine more examples to see if usage changed over time and when.

Mr. Mills reviewed the wording for this rule as it appears in the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines: “Proper nouns shall be written as one word unless a single word modifier modifies the whole name rather than one of its parts.” The examples given are Kalihi Uka, Ko‘olau Poko, and Ko‘olau Loa. He explained that changes he made to this language for the Board’s guidelines were based on his review of compound names on the list prepared by Ms. Louis. He added “at the end” to the draft rule because he never found any examples of modifiers being at the beginning of names. His version also includes the phrase “two or more geographic regions” at the end of the statement. Ko‘olau and Kalihi are established geographical regions. He agrees, however, that if history indicates that these words were combined, the rule can be revised.

Mr. Akana raised the issue of the Board saying that its decision making process begins with available sources and then has a rule that is contrary to what is in those sources. This could create confusion. Mr. Mills explained that the guidelines suggest which rules should be given priority. Decisions based on recommended sources, knowledgeable community members, and common usage would be given priority. The naming guidelines (#4) are applied only when information is not available in the priority steps. He said he can make this clearer in the revised draft. Ms. Kam questioned ranking the community (#2) after recommended resources (#1) given the discussion Ms. Joan Delos Santos had with BGN staff. The BGN stresses the importance of community information and wishes. Mr. Mills said he can switch the ranking and put community before recommended references. Ms. Delos Santos cautioned that this switch could raise problems because the Board does not reach out

to communities routinely or very often. Ms. Silva noted that the recommended sources are not perfect either so some latitude will always be needed when applying priorities. For example, there are typographical errors in all references. Ms. Delos Santos suggested leaving the order the way it is in the draft and say that knowledgeable community members would be sought if there are discrepancies in the resources or when community members contact the Board. The two sources could be considered equally depending on circumstances. Mr. Mills suggested that he not rank sources, but leave it up to the Board's discretion to choose which source in most appropriate in a given circumstance. Someone from the community, someone who has lived there for 20 years, could present information that the Board knows is wrong. If the sources are ranked, it would be harder for the Board to deny this request. Ms. Naomi Losch did not believe sources should be prioritized because all factors help the Board reach a determination. Ms. Louis agreed that the guidelines just set out what the Board takes into consideration when making decisions and the general process it follows when doing so. Ms. McEldowney noted that these types of decisions are always judgment calls. Ms. Louis said she welcomes situations in which place names are discussed heavily in the community. The Board would learn from these discussions and it could encourage the younger generation to take an interest in place names. Ms. Silva noted that there was a lot of discussion in the Hawaiian newspapers about words. In his newspaper articles, Kalokuokamaile would ask readers what a particular word meant and discussions would follow. Such discussions are a tradition and part of our intellectual history.

Ms. Delos Santos asked if the list of recommended resources under #1 was meant to represent priorities. Ms. Louis reiterated that any ranking of sources should depend on how the authors or compilers did their research. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that of the 1,300 places names submitted to the BGN, 90% of the decisions are based on *Place Names of Hawaii*. Ms. Silva offered to put together a bibliography of sources used by the Board or of potential use. It could be an attachment to the guidelines. Mr. Mills asked if he should specify that it is the "Revised and Enlarged Edition" of the Hawaiian Dictionary. Ms. Kam pointed out that some people prefer the earlier versions of the dictionary. Ms. Silva agreed and pointed to the Parker dictionary which has information not in other dictionaries. The bibliography she compiles can augment the five major sources listed in the guidelines. Ms. Louis said that the Board will need to decide if it wants to continue using *Place Names of Hawaii* as the primary source for archival information on place names. Ms. Silva noted that it is not just the written resources. For example, Mr. Ryan Morales provides maps that inform Board decisions. Mr. Morales explained that when the surveyors prepared the Registered Maps, the names were basically obtained by word of mouth. At the time they were not concerned with the form of a name. Since he has been attending these meetings, he has noticed just how many errors there are on maps. The maps are, however, a very good resource for ahupua'a names which are well documented. Names of smaller places and features are not as certain. For names such as Ko'olauloa and Ko'olaupoko, surveyors use the combined name and use it that way on legal documents. The Register Maps are mostly important for knowing the location of the places. Often surveyors would just go to a ridge or pu'u and just name it whatever they wanted. He sees that names of triangulation stations on the HBGN

spreadsheet are being adopted. The names of these stations are often given names of features in that area. Ms. McEldowney noted that many of these survey names are descriptive. Sometime it is possible to sort out which names are older from those given by surveyors because the surveyor names are so descriptive.

- d. Compound geographic names shall be written as one word should the initial word be a common noun frequently used to describe geographic features. Mr. Mills explained that this rule was not adopted from the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines. It is based on his examination of the HBGN spreadsheets. He was looking for some commonality in the combining of names. Examples include common geographic nouns such as kīpuka, pu‘u, lae, kalae, wai, kai, lua, pali, pōhaku, or hale. Names starting with these nouns would be combined. Mr. Akana said he wanted to add that if the name includes a proper name, such as Kīpuka Mizota, then the name would not be combined. Proper names should be considered in this discussion. If it were Kīpuka Pele or Kīpuka Laka, then the name should not be combined. Mr. Mills asked if the example given in “b”, Waikāne, should be separated. In the example Waikāne, Kāne is the proper name of the god, so would this be separated? Mr. Akana found an example in *Place Names of Hawaii*, Kīpuka Kapā‘ū. Kapā‘ū was the name of a man and is not a noun describing the feature. The name is separated while Kīpukanēnē is combined. Mr. Mills asked what the Board should do when it does not know if it is a person’s name or not. Ms. Silva found another example. It is from an 1877 geographical article by Kanepuu. He mentions the place name Napuuokane and he spells it all together. Kane is not capitalized. Ms. Losch pointed out that we may be dealing with a couple of things. Ms. Kawena Pukui used hyphens in order to show people the chunks in a word. It makes the parts of a word clearer. This was not just place names. We are also talking about spelling and names as we usually write them. We usually do not write with a capitol in the middle of a name. She believes the Board is trying to navigate between what we think should be and what might be and what is. And then if you really want to get down to it, there was not a written language. We then have all these differences when the language becomes written. She understands wanting to standardize, but there are problems about how do you standardize. Ms. Delos Santos said that this is true with the English language as well. There are general guidelines and there are exceptions.

Ms. Louis asked if the Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea discussion falls under the “d” category. M. Mills concluded that Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa would be under “d” because mauna is a geographic feature. The exception in this case is that common usage has them separated. Ms. Louis relayed that individual members of the BGN will often cite particular sections of its guidelines when arguing why a name should or should not be recognized in a particular way. There is then a record of why each member voted as he or she did. Mr. Mills said he is striving for something that can be followed without etching the Board’s decision-making process in stone. It would remain discretionary. Mr. Mills suggested that Board members go back to their resources so that the various issues raised can be discussed with more information in hand.

Ms. Silva questioned the way “Makai–Makua” is written in rule “c”. In common usage today, ma kai and ma kua are separated. Ms. Louis verified that this is the way it is being taught in Hawaiian language classes. Ms. Losch agreed that they are two separate words. Ms. Silva suspects that this is because the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines are being followed in classes and others have stressed that they are separate words. She also asked if there are place names with “makai” and “makua” after them. Mr. Mills confirmed that there were. Ms. Losch suggested that these are recent names. Mr. Akana asked about the “One–Two/1–2” under “c”. Ms. Louis answered that when lands were divided, a one or two, etc. were added to distinguish them. The number could be written as a numeral or as a word. A previous Board decided to change them to Arabic numerals so that “One” would not be confused with “One” as in “sand”.

Ms. Louis suggested that the document be labeled “Working Draft” with the version and date indicated. Ms. Delos Santos said that she wants to post it on the website at some point. Mr. Mills encouraged member to look through the draft again and test it against resources. The Board can continue the discussion at its next meeting and eventually adopt them as formal guidelines. It will bring some uniformity to the Board’s methodology. Ms. Silva added that she has been pulling out place names from sources she has been reading. Poepoe, who was from Kohala, lists different areas of Kohala–Ekolu na Kohala. There is a Kohala hulaana, Kohala wai, and Kohala loko, and also Kohala waho. These might be added as examples.

Ms. Louis clarified that she has been entering the edition or publication date of sources in the spreadsheets when the Board makes a decision or discusses a particular name. She also pointed out how valuable she finds comparing definitions among the different dictionary. It expands her understanding of the word. Ms. Silva pointed out that Andrews, in his Hawaiian dictionary, often explains a definition in Hawaiian. Ms. McEldowney noted that some of Andrews’ landscape definitions are very good because he actually saw them. They were gone by the time others were working on definitions. Ms. Silva added that in Parker’s dictionary, you look up a word and may find a place names as well. She and Ms. Louis suggested that wehewehe.org be added to the list of sources. It is a way to check the different definitions of a word in multiple dictionaries quickly. Ms. Kam thought it would help to have some of the main sources on hand for reference during the meetings. Ms. Delos Santos said that the program has some funds that might be used to purchase references, but she needs to know before May 9 or May 14 what the Board needs.

Ms. Delos Santos followed up on a previous question about the number of Board decisions that were not based on *Place Names of Hawaii*. This was to help assess the impact on the Board’s previous decisions if it decides to longer rely primarily on *Place Names of Hawaii*. The Board has submitted almost 1,400 names and, of these, 1,226 were based on *Place Names of Hawaii*. Ms. Kam said that she though one question concerned how many times the Board cited *Place Names of Hawaii* as its source, but then decided to combine the name although it was not combined in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Ms. Delos Santos said she did not extract those figures. Ms. Louis now notes this practice on the spreadsheets although she did not do so in the past.

AGENDA ITEM 5: 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 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 board's decisions are as follows:

Lahainaluna: The Board decided that Lahainaluna would be written as one word and without kahakō. Ms. Silva pointed out that Lahainaluna is written as one word in Elspeth Sterling's *Sites of Maui*. This is also common usage. Mr. Akana noted that people previously used a kahakō as in Lāhnainā Luna, but this is not common usage any more. *Place Names of Hawaii* says that Lāhainā is the old pronunciation. Ms. Louis said she would include this as a variant. Lahaina and Luna are separated in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Ms. Silva suggested that the Board recognize Lahainaluna because that is how people commonly know it and other names should be listed as variants. Mr. Mills said he supports combining the names in this case but he is uncertain about use of kahakō. The kahakō could be included for accuracy or left out because of common usage. Ms. Losch suggested that the kahakō not be included because in *Place Name of Hawaii* it specifically says that this is the old pronunciation and the current pronunciation has no kahakō. Ms. Louis asked if removing the kahakō changes its meaning. Ms. Silva answered that the words basically have no meaning without the kahakō. Ms. Louis then asked if the Board is consistent in giving weight to the meaning of names or to its spoken common usage. Board members agreed that, in this case, common usage would be given priority. Mr. Akana added that it is written as one word in the old newspapers. The first newspaper, Na Kalama, has it as one word. The UH Bier map, 1988 edition, also has the name combined.

Lahainaluna Ditch and Lahainaluna High School: The Board decided to apply its decision on the place name Lahainaluna to the ditch and school. *Place Names of Hawaii* includes a ditch and school as features to which this name is applied.

Lanakili Ihiihi O Iehowa Ona Kava Church: Mr. Mills explained that "Kava" in the name was really Kauwā as in an outcast. He looked up the church online. It is an awkward situation because the name is spelled incorrectly, but it may not be up to the Board to change the names churches. The Board reviewed the website of the Ke'anae Congregational Church. A historic photograph of the church's sign reads Lanakili Ihiihi O Iehowa Ona Kaua. The Board decided to change the name in the GNIS to Lanakili Ihiihi O Iehowa Ona Kaua to reflect the spelling used by the church. The "Ona" should be "O Na" and there should be an 'okina in Ihi'ihii, but the Board decided to leave it unchanged because it is common usage for this church.

Lelekawa: The Board decided not to recommend any change to the name. This name is in *Place Names of Hawaii* but for a place in Puna, Hawai'i Island. It is spelt the same. In John Clark's *Hawai'i Place Names*, there is Lelekawa in Pā'ia, Maui. Ms. Losch asked if it is a place where they could jump into the ocean because that is what lele kawa means. The original source for the GNIS entry is Clark's 1980 publication *Beaches of Maui County*.

Lihikai Elementary School: The Board decided to leave this name unchanged because is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a school. Ms. Louis asked if the “kai” in the name should be separate to conform to rule “c” of the draft naming guidelines. Ms. Silva suggested that it remain unchanged because it is a school.

Liho‘ula Beach: The Board decided to change the name from Liho‘ula Beach to Leho‘ula Beach because sources indicate that Leho‘ula, not Liho‘ula, is correct. Liho‘ula is most likely a spelling error. According to the GNIS record, Liho‘ula Beach was entered as part of the Phase 1 entry of names in the GNIS. In this phase, states, counties, and cities were asked to submit place names and locations from within their jurisdictions and these were then entered into the GNIS. This resulted in some spelling errors. Ms. Silva suggested that the Board correct this name, particularly as there is a story behind the name. It refers to a red cowry shell which is consistent with the spelling leho‘ula. *Sites of Maui* has the name as Leho‘ula as does the 1988 UH Press map. Ms. Louis confirmed that the location of Liho‘ula Beach and Leho‘ula Beach are the same. It is located near Hāna. The name Liho‘ula Beach is in the GNIS twice with the same unique feature identification number which is probably a computer error.

Loaloa Heiau: The Board decided that the spelling of this name should be changed to Lo‘alo‘a Heiau as this is how it appears in *Place Names of Hawaii*, *Sites of Maui*, and the 1988 UH Map.

Loko Mokuhinia (historical): The Board decided that this name did not require any changes. The information entered in the GNIS was from the Lahaina Restoration Foundation. The entry says it is a pond which was filled in 1913. Two sources included in *Sites of Maui* have Mokuhinia being a land area in Lahaina. In one source, an ancient trail was said to pass through this and other named lands. In the other, a water rights case, the lands said to have receive water from Kaua‘ula Stream include Mokuhinia.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Adjourn

Mr. Akana moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The next meeting will be on May 15, 2014 at 10:00 am. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney