



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

DATE: April 28, 2015  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
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**

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), Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), and Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division)

**ABSENT:** Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ADVISORS:** Renee Louis, PhD

**GUESTS:** Debra Mendesz (Office of Planning), Melia Lane-Kamahele (National Park Service), Nick Belluzzo and Regina Hilo (State Historic Preservation Office); and Jenny Runyon (U.S. Board on Geographic Names, by phone)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2015 and March 25, 2015**

Ms. Joan Delos Santos moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kalani Akana and unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of the March 25, 2015 minutes was deferred to the next meeting. Ms. Holly McEldowney reported that the draft minutes were completed but needed proofing. A copy is available for reference during the meeting if needed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Report on Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Filing Requirements**

Ms. Delos Santos distributed a packet of documents pertaining to financial disclosure statements. Board members are now required to file with the Hawaii State Ethics Commission (Ethics

Commission). As discussed at the last meeting and subsequently confirmed by the Ethics Commission, HBGN members are required to file financial disclosures statements although they serve as designees for the agency and institution heads named in the statute establishing the HBGN. The packet includes the law requiring disclosure, a copy of the long version of the disclosure form, and instructions on how to complete the form. The long form version is generally filed on even years and a short version on odd years. The HBGN designees need to complete the long form this year because it is the first time HBGN members are filing. She pointed out that assets such as mutual funds need to be reported. Board members can decline to serve as designees if they are reluctant to submit disclosure statements. The Office of Planning (OP) sent letters to the heads of all agencies and institutions represented on the Board asking them to appoint a designee for the upcoming term if they themselves would not be attending Board meetings. Only the Department of Accounting and General Services responded that Mr. Ryan Morales would continue to represent the State Land Surveyor. Once all appointment letters are received, OP will forward these names to the Ethics Commission and it will contact Board members directly asking them to complete the disclosure forms within 30 days.

Mr. Akana said that he already filed and it was not difficult. Mr. Mills asked if members could submit completed forms before being contacted by the Ethics Commission. Mr. Marques Marzan said that he has already submitted his disclosure statement.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Report on Status of Proposed Bills Affecting State Boards and Commissions**

Ms. Delos Santos reported that only two bills alive in the legislature affect boards and commissions and neither would have much impact on the HBGN. One is Senate Bill 475 which allows electronic mailing of meeting notices and requires the posting of meeting notices on the applicable state or county electronic calendars. The HBGN already does both. This bill also requires public meeting notice procedures to be followed for emergency meetings. This would not be difficult to do if the Board ever has an emergency meeting. Some boards are concerned that this bill also requires meeting packets to be mailed to all interested parties. These packets can be substantial for some boards. For the HBGN, packets are generally just spreadsheets and the Board's mailing list is short. This requirement is unlikely to have much impact on the Board. Ms. Melia Lane-Kamahele asked if there was an issue with posting spreadsheets that are working documents and often pre-decisional. Ms. Delos Santos explained that she has been posting spreadsheets in pdf format that describe decisions made by the Board. She does not believe this poses a problem. It lists all place names and gives the status of each. For example, it notes if a name has been reviewed, if it has been changed, if it is already correct in Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), etc. An official document is produced at the end of each meeting.

The second is Senate Bill 652 which requires boards to report any final action taken during an executive meeting. She does not think the Board would have a problem reporting the outcome of an executive meeting if it were to have one.

Mr. Mills asked if the bill requiring the accurate and appropriate use of the Hawaiian language in government documents was still alive. Ms. Delos Santos confirmed that this bill, Senate Bill 895, died.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion of Name Change of Seven Pools to ‘Ohe‘o**

Ms. Delos Santos began by noting that she posted on the HBGN website a compilation of all documents she has related to the pools at ‘Ohe‘o. She distributed what she views as the most relevant documents for today’s decision and a timeline of major actions taken on this issue. Distributed were the GNIS records for Seven Pools and ‘Ohe‘o. She noted that these discussions date back to the 1970s. At that time, the HBGN recommended that the name Seven Sacred Pools be changed to Seven Pools and, sometime prior to 2010, determined that the name of the gulch be ‘Ohe‘o Gulch. When submitting the decision on ‘Ohe‘o Gulch to the Board of Geographic Names (BGN), the term Gulch was inadvertently omitted from the submittal and this gulch feature was entered in the GNIS as just ‘Ohe‘o. It remains that way today. At its February 2013 meeting, the HBGN voted unanimously to change the name of Seven Pools to just ‘Ohe‘o. The BGN would not enter this change in the GNIS until the National Park Service (NPS) had been consulted. In December of 1913, NPS asked the Board to reconsider its February decision and recommended the name Pools of ‘Ohe‘o be adopted instead. In January 2014, the Board considered the NPS request but deferred a decision pending additional information. NPS is again requesting consideration of the name Pools of ‘Ohe‘o because Seven Pools is still the official name and NPS is required to use that name.

Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that this history of the name ‘Ohe‘o has resulted in confusion over which feature or past decision is being addressed at today’s meeting. The feature number for the gulch named ‘Ohe‘o in the GNIS is different from that of Seven Pools. The GNIS feature number for Seven Pools is the subject of today’s agenda item (feature number 364258). Mr. Mills noted how confusion can be created when the same name is applied to two different features in the same area. The gulch feature and the pools feature are both ‘Ohe‘o.

Ms. Delos Santos asked Ms. Lane-Kamahele to present NPS’s position on its requested name change. Ms. Lane-Kamahele relayed the position of Haleakalā National Park Superintendent Ms. Natalie Gates. She reiterated that the park’s primary concern is that the names in GNIS be usable for the purposes of park publications, signs, and other materials. Ms. Gates said the park is comfortable with the entire area being named ‘Ohe‘o and its preference for the pools is Pools of ‘Ohe‘o, Pools at ‘Ohe‘o, or ‘Ohe‘o (Pools). Some could be considered variants.

Ms. Delos Santos explained how she views this decision. For her it makes sense to look at the GNIS feature classifications for these names. The feature class for Seven Pools in the GNIS is Lake. It makes sense that a name in this class would be Pools of ‘Ohe‘o instead of just ‘Ohe‘o. NPS had previously argued that it would be confusing to the public, and visitors in particular, if the name of the pools were something very different or unrecognizable. This is her recommendation from a practical perspective.

Mr. Mills noted that the title of this agenda item is discussion of name change of Seven Pools to ‘Ohe‘o. He asked if this title allows Board decision-making at this meeting. Ms. Delos Santos confirmed that this title allows decision-making.

Mr. Mills asked if any records indicate that these pools ever had individual names. Ms. McEldowney recalled that another name was found in a 1960s newspaper article and this was discussed at a previous meeting. She handed Mr. Mills the minutes of the HBGN meeting of January 16, 2015. Mr. Mills relayed that one source cited in *Sites of Maui* said the full name of the gulch was 'Ohe-o-Kapo. This was probably shortened to 'Ohe'o. There are many examples of this kind of contraction in Hawaiian names. 'Ohe-o-Kapo as written would probably mean the bamboo, 'ohe, of Kapo. The reference also says that each pool had a name but these were not recorded. He said he would hate to see individual names for the pools, if known, lost by applying a single name to them all. Ms. McEldowney suggested, and Mr. Mills agreed, that the Board recognize 'Ohe-o-Kapo as a variant name at a future meeting.

Ms. Renee Louis wanted to clarify how the name 'Ohe'o was entered in the GNIS instead of 'Ohe'o Gulch prior to 2010. It was an error made when she was entering the Board's decision in the spreadsheet. She inadvertently wrote down just 'Ohe'o and not 'Ohe'o Gulch on the spreadsheet submitted to the BGN. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that the feature class of this 'Ohe'o is valley. Ms. Louis explained that the GNIS feature classification categories are very broad and each encompasses many feature terms commonly used in place names. For example, the feature class for valley can encompass a stream, gulch, or arroyo. The Board can use whatever generic term it wants when recommending a place name. The name is subsequently classified as being in one of these broad categories.

Ms. Delos Santos asked if this error needs to be corrected apart from the Board making a decision on Seven Pools. Ms. Louis and Mr. Mills agreed that this needs to be discussed at a separate meeting because this issue is not specified on the agenda. Ms. Louis pointed out that correcting the error would resolve the problem of a single place name being applied to multiple features in the same general area. Mr. Marzan asked if assigning a single place name to two different features was really a conflict. Ms. Louis answered that the conflict in this case is that outsiders will have no idea what the place is if there is just a name without a generic feature term. The feature term helps describe the place. This is particularly important for places like national parks. Ms. Delos Santos said she would include a discussion on the name 'Ohe'o Gulch on the next agenda.

Ms. Jenny Runyon confirmed that Ms. Louis's description of feature classifications and terminology was correct. Valley is the catch-all term for features of similar resemblance. This allows anyone to search the GNIS for anything with similar characteristics, whether or not it is named valley, gulch, canyon, or arroyo. Stream is a catch-all term for river, brook, creak, run, or other similar terms. There are groupings of like characteristics. A couple of months ago she discussed the issue of changing 'Ohe'o to 'Ohe'o Gulch with Ms. Delos Santos. She thought that the HBGN had already agreed to change the name after recognizing that it was a spreadsheet error. She was ready to correct this by putting it on the BGN agenda for vote at its last meeting. The NPS member in the Washington office pointed out that if it is just a data base correction and everyone agrees it was an error, it can be fixed without a BGN vote. If there is no compelling reason for the HBGN to vote on this, she can fix it in the GNIS almost immediately. The Board agreed that it did not need to vote on changing 'Ohe'o to 'Ohe'o Gulch and that Ms. Runyon could fix the error in the GNIS.

Ms. Runyon asked if there are two or three features related to the name ‘Ohe‘o. Two features would be the gulch and pools, or valley and lake in GNIS terminology. She asked if a third feature could be the general area. This would be appropriate if people refer to the general area as ‘Ohe‘o. Places can be entered in the GNIS as areas if the HBGN approves it. There is an “Area” feature classification. There is no confusion if these different features have the same name because each would have a unique identification number and different geographic coordinates. The HBGN needs to determine if it wants to recognize two or three features. Ms. McEldowney recalled that Naomi Losch strongly supported recognizing ‘Ohe‘o as an area during past Board discussions. Ms. Losch might be more comfortable with Pools of ‘Ohe‘o if the area were also recognized as ‘Ohe‘o. Ms. Delos Santos said she would include consideration of an area feature called ‘Ohe‘o on a future meeting agenda. Ms. Louis noted that this is consistent with what she heard from one person from that area. When Ms. Louis mentioned the pools, the person asked her if she meant ‘Ohe‘o in a way that implied the area was ‘Ohe‘o. Ms. Runyon asked Ms. Lane-Kamahele if NPS would be comfortable with an area called ‘Ohe‘o in addition to Pools of ‘Ohe‘o which would be easier for visitors to understand. Ms. Lane-Kamahele indicated that NPS would ask to be involved in further discussions.

Mr. Akana moved to change the name Seven Pools to Pools of ‘Ohe‘o. Ms. Delos Santos seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion on Name Change Request - ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River**

- a) Appoint an Investigative Permitted Interaction Group
- b) Discuss logistics for HBGN meeting on Maui.

Ms. Delos Santos distributed an overview of rules pertaining to “permitted interaction groups”. She noted that what the Board called investigative committees at the last meeting is called “permitted interaction groups” (PIG) in the law. This group can be composed of two or more members of a board but less than the number needed to make quorum. For HBGN, this is three or less. At today’s meeting the Board needs to appoint the members of the PIG being formed and identify the scope of this investigation. In this case, the general approach discussed was having the group speak with identified individuals in the community privately about the proposed name change from ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River. The group would then present its finding to the Board at a regular meeting.

Mr. Mills suggested that the Board discuss scheduling and logistics before asking for volunteers to serve on the PIG. In previous discussions, the Board expressed its intension to hold a meeting on Maui. Ms. Delos Santos noted that the initial plan discussed included conducting outreach and having a Board meeting in May. She was not sure this was logistically possible. A meeting venue needs to be found and travel arrangements made. Another issue is that Mr. Duey, who filed the name change request, will be on an extended vacation from June through November. Although it is not a requirement that Mr. Duey be at the Board meeting on Maui, it seems appropriate that he should be there. He raised the issue and has strong opinions. She also asked if a Deputy Attorney General could be present to insure that the meeting is conducted legally. Mr. Mills suggested that the Board’s decision-making meeting would probably not occur until June if the PIG needs to generate a report and present it to the Board at a regular meeting prior to the decision-making meeting. Ms. Delos Santos said that the PIG report may not be needed prior to a May Board

meeting on Maui if the Board also wanted to use that meeting as part of its overall effort to gather information. One option would be having the PIG report presentation at the May Board meeting on Maui and then the Board could make its decision at a June meeting. Another option would have the PIG gathering and compiling information in May, presenting its findings at the June Board meeting, and then the Board making its decision at a July meeting. She sees the purpose of holding the meeting on Maui is to gather information and not necessarily to make the decision. Mr. Mills said he can visualize community members showing up at a Board meeting expecting a decision.

Ms. Louis recalled from previous discussions that the PIG did not need to gather information just on the day of the Maui meeting. PIG members can call or meet with people ahead of time as long as that information is included in the PIG report. She prefers this approach because some people do not have time to attend meetings or are reluctant to speak at public meetings. Outreach could be done through telephone calls, emails, letters, or face-to-face meetings. This gives as many people as possible an opportunity to share an opinion. Holding a meeting is just another venue to gather information.

Mr. Mills asked Board members to suggest possible meeting dates in May. Ms. Delos Santos said the Deputy Attorney General gave her a list of days that he is available. Mr. Akana suggested that the Board hold its decision-making meeting on Maui because this is what is most important to the community. The meeting at which the PIG makes its presentation to the Board can be on O'ahu before the Maui meeting. The public is allowed to testify at the Board's decision-making meeting so the Board is, in fact, continuing to collect information even at that meeting. Mr. Mills said he agreed with Mr. Akana's suggestion.

Mr. Mills proposed two meeting options for Board consideration. Both fulfill the requirements needed to complete the decision making process. In the first option, the Board selects the PIG members at today's meeting; it then holds a Board meeting on Maui at which the PIG presents its report and the Board hears public testimony, and then the Board meets on O'ahu to make a decision on the name change. In the second option, the Board selects members of the PIG at today's meeting; it then holds a Board meeting on O'ahu at which the PIG presents its report; and then the Board meets on Maui to hear public testimony and make its decision if time allows. He said that he is comfortable with either approach.

Mr. Marzan concurred with Mr. Akana's observation that people attending these kinds of meetings generally expect a decision. If the decision is made at that meeting, the community feels like something was accomplished. Ms. Delos Santos said she has been to meetings that are strictly for information gathering and did not include decision making. She can see advantages to both approaches. Information only meeting would be similar to those the University of Hawai'i Regents recently held for Mauna Kea. Ms. Debra Mendes suggested it would help the community if they know the meeting dates ahead of time and what action will be taken at which meeting. This helps create realistic expectations.

Mr. Mills polled Board members on their preference. In Alternative A, the Board goes to Maui for decision making. In Alternative B, the Board goes to Maui for the meeting at which the PIG presents its report. Ms. Delos Santos clarified that the Board will need quorum to hold either of

these meetings on Maui. Three members preferred having the decision-making meeting on Maui and two preferred having the meeting with the PIG report presentation on Maui. Mr. Mills confirmed that the decision-making meeting would be on Maui.

Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that it would be difficult to have the decision making meeting on Maui before Mr. Duey leaves in June. Mr. Mills suggested that this could be accomplished if the Board held the decision making meeting on Maui on May 27, 2015 and the PIG report presentation meeting on O‘ahu on May 20. The PIG would have from May 1 to May 20 to gather information. Ms. Delos Santos confirmed that the Deputy Attorney General would be available on May 27. This schedule would accommodate Mr. Duey’s plans and allow him to provide testimony in person as well as muster supporters. The other option is for the Board to wait until November to make the decision when Mr. Duey returns. His group is anxious for a decision but the issue was only recently brought to the Board. It does not need to be decided by June. She said she is not advocating for this, but it is an option if the proposed schedule does not work. Mr. Akana said that he thought the Board should not wait until November.

Ms. Delos Santos cautioned that she needs to find a venue available on May 27 before the meeting schedule can be finalized. Ms. McEldowney noted that she would not be available on May 27. The tight schedule does not allow the PIG much time to conduct its research. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that having the Board hear public testimony at the same meeting as decision making does not allow the Board much time absorb that testimony prior to making its decision. Mr. Mills said the Board can always defer decision making if it feels more time is needed to consider a high volume of testimony or complicated arguments. The proposed dates will remain tentative until members check their calendars and a meeting venue is confirmed.

Mr. Mills asked for suggestions on the scope of work to be conducted by the PIG. Mr. Akana said that he would volunteer if media could be used to solicit input. He could use the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) website as well as its Kamakako‘i website. He may not be able to meet people on Maui but he could collect input through OHA’s media capacity. People can submit testimony directly on Kamakako‘i. Mr. Mills clarified that technically the PIG does not need to go to Maui or maybe only one member could go for one-on-one discussions if needed. Ms. McEldowney noted that Bryan Yee, the Deputy Attorney General at last month’s meeting, explained that it is up to the PIG to determine how it wants to approach the scope of work the board gives it. The scope could be a simple statement. Ms. Delos Santos said she thinks the scope is to solicit community input on the name change, with a particular emphasis on including those who may not want to speak in public, who are well versed in the area, and/or have strong opinions on the topic. She thinks the scope should include the PIG providing a written report of some sort which includes a recommendation.

Mr. Marzan apologized that he could not serve on the PIG because he is busy with a project up until May 20. Ms. Delos Santos contacted Ms. Silva to see if she could serve. Ms. Silva responded that she would like to but is busy finishing a book during this period. She could, however, provide names of individuals from the area that the PIG could contact. Ms. Delos Santos noted that the rules governing PIGs say that a PIG can include individuals who are not members of the board creating the PIG. Ms. Louis could be on the PIG if she wished. Ms. Louis agreed to serve and said she appreciates the opportunity to do so. Mr. Mills agreed that he would

serve as the third member of the group. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that additional non-Board members could serve on the PIG as long as there are no more than three Board members on the PIG.

Ms. Delos Santos moved that the PIG consist of Mr. Mills, Mr. Akana, and Ms. Louis and that the scope be to solicit input on the name change from members of the community, including writing a report of its findings and recommendations. Mr. Marzan seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Mills said that the appointed PIG members would meet to devise a plan of action. He reiterated that the Board would hold a meeting on May 20 on O‘ahu at which the PIG would present its findings. It would then meet on Maui on May 27 if quorum can be met. If circumstances change, the Board might meet on Maui in June for decision-making. Ms. Delos Santos said she would coordinate logistics to see if this schedule is feasible.

Mr. Mills asked how the Board will get word out to the community if he were to go to Maui for individual meetings on behalf of the PIG. The announcement could say that he is available at a particular place and time to gather information and opinions on the name change. Ms. Delos Santos said she visualized such meetings being by appointment because the point of this effort is to reach those who do not want to speak in public. Ms. Louis said notices could be posted on various websites asking people to call Mr. Mills for an appointment.

Mr. Marzan asked about the Maui County Council resolution concerning the name change. Ms. Delos said she has the resolution and will post it on the HBGN website with other background materials on this topic. The resolution encourages the HBGN to change the name of ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Continued Review of Maui Island Place Names for Spelling and Diacritical Marks**

The Board reviewed a total of 10 names on the Maui place name list. Reviewed were names that are in the GNIS but were not entered in the HBGN’s working spreadsheets that were created when the HBGN began its review of all Hawai‘i USGS Quads. The board’s decisions are as follows:

Keawakapu Beach: The Board decided that this name is spelled correctly. Keawakapu is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a coastal area between Kīhei and Makena and in *Hawai‘i Place Names* (Clark 2002) as a beach.

KGMV-TV (Wailuku) and KHCR-FM (Paauilo): The Board determined that the name KGMV-TV (Wailuku) is spelled correctly because the television tower is associated with Wailuku which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. No action was taken on KHCR-FM (Paauilo) because the name, Paauilo, is not a Maui place name. Mr. Marzan and Mr. Akana pointed out that Pa‘auilo is a place on Hawai‘i Island, not Maui. Mr. Mills found a reference that probably explains the tower’s name. A radio station with the call letters KHCR was licensed to operate out of Pa‘auilo on Hawai‘i Island. The tower on Maui was probably a transmitter for the

station's tower at Pa'auilo. The radio station KNUQ replaced KHCR and obtained the license to serve the Pa'auilo, Hawai'i area in 1994. KNUQ was closed in 2013. Ms. Runyon asked if the tower could now be listed as "historical". Ms. Louis noted that the tower may no longer be operational but it may still be standing or the site used for other telecommunication purposes.

Ms. Runyon added that the BGN has discussed discontinuing the inclusion of radio towers in the GNIS. They were added during the Phase 1 entry of data in the GNIS because they were on topographic maps. The BGN may not want to consider them geographic features anymore. Many towers with call letters from the 1960s or on the 1978 topographic maps are not maintained. She also asked if the Board had found many Phase I GNIS entries, those entered in the late 1970s or early 1980s, that did not make sense or were located in illogical places. Ms. Louis characterized this as happening infrequently. She did quantify some patterns initially and found that those with jumbled misspellings or nonsensical locations were less than five percent. This is not much considering the large number of places reviewed. Ms. Runyon asked if corrections being made by the Board as recorded on the spreadsheets were being entered into GNIS in a timely manner or was there a backlog of submitted names at the BGN Denver office. Staff at that office said no names needing correction had been received from Hawai'i recently. Ms. Delos Santos confirmed that she has not submitted any name corrections recently. She wanted to wait until they complete the current phase of organizing the names database.

Kihei Census Designated Place, Kihei Division (inactive), Kihei Elementary School, Kīhei Landing (historical), Kihei Pier, Kihei Professional Plaza, and Kihei Town Center Shopping Center: The Board determined that the spelling of Kihei in all seven names should be Kīhei. No action was needed for Kīhei Landing (historical) as it is already correct and is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Only one of the remaining six names, Kīhei Elementary School, is specifically listed in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The change to Kīhei in the other five names is based on their association with the place Kīhei which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Kīhei Landing is also in *Hawai'i Place Names*, as are two docks. One of the docks may be the pier.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn**

Ms. Delos Santos asked the Board to identify recurring meeting dates for the period after May. She said that Ms. Silva's schedule is open during the summer, but she will not be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Fall Semester. The Board members present said they had no standing commitments on particular days although Ms. Delos Santos said she has another meeting on some Wednesdays. The Board selected the third Wednesday of each month, between 1:00 and 3:00 pm, to be its recurring meeting date and time when feasible.

Mr. Akana moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Marzan seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney