



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

DATE: May 16, 2013
TIME: 1:00 pm
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

Kamanao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board) called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Joan Delo Santos, (Office of Planning), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ABSENT: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum)

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

OTHERS: Kamoa Quitevis (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Zachery Smith (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Report from Kamoa Quitevis of OHA Regarding Feasibility of Moving the Place Names Website to OHA to Complement its Kipuka Website

Kamoa Quitevis, a Lead Researcher with Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), reported on discussions between the Office of Planning (OP) and OHA about OHA housing the Hawai'i Place Names Website. The website was created by Ms. Louis and Mr. Dennis Kim of OP under the auspices of the HBGN and had been hosted on the OP website. As discussed at previous HBGN meetings, this website is no longer accessible on the OP website because OP does not have the capacity to sustain or expand the website or the project which created the website. Based on these discussions, OHA staff believes it is feasible to transfer the Hawai'i Place Names Website to OHA's recently developed Kipuka website where it could be

housed, accessed, and hopefully expanded at some point. Internally, the OHA administration supports the move and thinks it is an excellent idea. There are several options for executing the transfer and technical support would probably be needed to accomplish this. They are currently working with a contractor that could help with the transfer.

Mr. Quitevis first provided an overview of the Kipuka website and demonstrated its capabilities and intended purposes. The Hawai'i Place Names Website could be integrated into one of two parts of website or into both.

The first option is the main Kipuka database which uses Hawaiian land management boundaries to define the basic data layers in the web application. These bounded areas include land units such as ahupua'a, 'ili, moku, government lands, and crown lands. There are also layers for the Land Commission Awards and historic sites. They are continuing to develop layers for land awards, grants, and deeds and hope to complete mapping all up to 1895 in a year. A click on any of these land areas will bring up a details page which lists categories of information related to that area. For example, a list of all land grants found within a bounded land area would appear and clicking on each of these provides access to information relating to the individual grants. This information could include boundary certifications, land convenience documents, or historic maps. Maps were used to create the basic shape files. The website is structured so that data can be continually added.

Mr. Quitevis explained that it is not only feasible to house the Hawaiian Place Names Website in Kipuka, but it is consistent with OHA's plans to develop a place names layer for Kipuka. They had not decided yet whether the place names layer should be part of the historic sites layer or a separate layer. The current historic sites layer is mostly archaeological sites and many place names denote wahi pana that are of historical and cultural significance. As both apply to places, it could be useful to integrate them. The web application being used for Kipuka is capable of having a sound clip, video, and description linked to each place name. Links to place names in a particular land area would appear on the details page. These listings could also be linked to documents in the Papakilo database which was developed to house electronic copies of documents such as newspapers or land documents. It is a separate database because not all information in these documents necessarily links to particular land areas.

The other option is to put the Hawai'i Place Names Website in the Kipuka map gallery which includes specific map layers that OHA or others have created. These layers focus on portraying basic information, are less dynamic, and function more as standalone databases. If it were in the map gallery, the Hawai'i Place Names Website data would not need to be integrated with all the other layers in the main Kipuka database. Mr. Quitevis would prefer to have it as a standalone layer and integrated with the Kipuka databases. The map gallery section is easier to update. They envisioned the gallery as a space where OHA could more easily partner with other organizations that are generating map-based information. This could be particularly useful for community-generated information. An organization may not have the capacity to host map layers with data on its own website. OHA could host this information for them and the organization could have a link on its website to the Kipuka map gallery. The gallery can accommodate both large and small scale efforts. It is basically composed of web map templates from ESRI.

Whichever option is pursued, the place names website cannot be added and made functional immediately. Their web developer believes it will work although something more dynamic than a standard template will be needed. Mr. Quitevis introduced Zackary Smith, a GIS Research Analyst, who is helping with the technical backend aspects of Kipuka.

OHA has collected much more data than have been entered but they need to be indexed before being integrated into the databases. OHA is currently rescanning and digitizing all of the documents at the Bureau of Conveyances and indexing them. Once this process is complete, users can search by family name to access land information related to that name. Other information linked to that parcel can then be accessed as well.

The OHA administration would like integration of Papakilo and Kipuka Database to be seamless. Progress is being made on how this could work. They will continue to build the Papakilo library which focuses on documents. Any document in Papakilo that has geographic information should be accessible through Kipuka at some point. When Kipuka was launched publically, they were hoping for recommendations on what kinds of datasets might be added or how the website could be made more user-friendly. They are giving priority to developing the participatory interfaces so that people can make comments on particular entries or input data. This would be a way for communities to take ownership of their information and their 'āina. The uploading process would be very structured and it would be vetted. If someone has all the required information, they could populate the data fields with a click of a button. There could be a blog-like set up where people can say that they disagree with entered information. University students could be assigned to do research on a particular parcel and part of the assignment would be uploading this information into Kipuka. Ideally OHA would just manage the site with communities generating information and building the site. The website is not accessible through mobile devices yet.

Ms. Silva noted that one her class assignments is having students do research on a particular neighborhood by looking at place names or street names and former heiau locations in those neighborhoods. She asked if this kind of information would be searchable. Mr. Quitevis noted that street name information is available because of the base layers being used but they do not have the dynamic GIS layer that allows users to search for information in base layer. The Tax Map Key (TMK) layer will be made more dynamic by incorporating original information relating to those lands. You would not be able to search street names or street addresses. This information is important, however, because it is relevant to people today. They want people to learn about and better understand the areas they know best or care about most. Too much data will slow searches considerably so priorities are needed.

Ms. McEldowney asked if the Bureau of Conveyance documents being scanned are text searchable. Mr. Quitevis clarified that they have scanned the grant and grantee indexes and are transcribing them so that they will be searchable. Searches of the indexes will take users to the book and page number of the information being sought. They are also digitizing the microfilms of the original documents which will be linked to the index fields. If you search on an individual name, it will pull up any book reference, land names, and dates of land transactions associated with that name. From this point, the user can link to the scanned

document. This information will not be linked directly to other locational information such as TMK, but the association can be made easily through the details page in Kipuka.

OHA has tried to keep the different kinds users in mind when developing Kipuka. It can provide information for students needing only basic information and for those wanting to conduct more robust searches on the historical and cultural background of an ahupua‘a or other areas. College student could go deeper by pulling up source documents, maybe translating documents, and doing their own analysis. A major user group is those using the Bureau of Conveyance routinely to work on their genealogies and to search for family lands in hopes of fighting adverse possession or quiet title actions. Ideally, these individuals will be able to click on one button and the search will collate all documents needed. That is the eventual goal. This gives individuals the power to conduct their own research and come to their own conclusions.

Ms. Louis asked about documents in the Papakilo database which have geographic information but that information does to refer to single point. Mr. Quitevis clarified that geographic information known to be associated with an ahupua‘a can be listed in the details page for that ahupua‘a so that the association is made without having to tie the name to a point. Once place names are added, information can be linked to a place name whether or not it ties to a specific point. The place would not be represented on a map, but a click on the shape file will give you access to information related to that place name. Almost all information is geographically linked in one way or another. Keeping Papakilo as a separate website is useful because putting everything into GIS attribute tables would slow down the search process and cause problems. Having Kipuka and Papakilo separate with appropriate links is probably the more efficient way to approach these different datasets. The original plan for Kipuka was to have multiple websites for particular interests or different themes. For example, one could be for land tenure issues, one for environmental information, and one of historic sites and mo‘olelo. The City and County of Honolulu does this with their map galleries. Basic templates can be used and copied but the topics of focus would be different in each gallery.

Ms. Louis asked if OHA has the resources or an interest in making an interactive map with information in the Hawai‘i Place Names Website. This would allow visitors to access this information readily, particularly if it were available as a mobile application. Mr. Quitevis clarified that interactive applications are in their overall plan, but they felt that setting up the participatory capabilities was a higher priority because they want people to have a sense of ownership in the datasets. He anticipates contracting someone to develop mobile applications by this time next year. This would be mobile access to the larger Kipuka dataset. They discussed mobile applications with the City and County of Honolulu which uses these applications when staff are inventorying property, such as signs, in the field and preparing condition updates. Such an application could allow people to learn about the history or names of a place as they stand at that location. He agreed that this would be an important tool for encouraging appropriate pronunciation of place names.

Mr. Mills asked if the Hawai‘i Place Names Website would be moved to OHA or would it be replicated. Ms. Delos Santos confirmed that OP wants the database moved. Mr. Quitevis agreed that the database would be moved OHA, would be housed and managed there, and

hopefully updated and expanded. It was developed well but the platform used is already outdated and can be made more user-friendly. OHA has the potential capability of making the information accessible and usable in more than one way. It would be an excellent initiative for OHA to complete the work started and to foster more such partnership where possible.

Mr. Mills asked if transfer of the website involved any legal requirements on the part of the HBGN. Ms. Delos Santos said she did not believe there were any legal issues to consider. This website and its database are not a mandated function of the HBGN. The project was supported by the board but it is not the board's responsibility under the law. Mr. Quitevis noted that one of their aims is to highlight those entities that contribute data to Kipuka and to always explain the particular genealogy of those different databases. Zachery Smith spent considerable amounts of time tracking and rectifying just those databases developed by OHA over the years. They want to insure that records are maintained on how and why each contributing database was developed.

Mr. Mills asked if Lloyd Soehren's place name database on Ulukau will be integrated into Kipuka. Mr. Quitevis noted that Papakilo is already set up to pull data from Ulukau which houses Soehren's place name files. Searches in Kipuka can link user to Ulukau. They have discussed integrating this information directly into the Kipuka datasets. They are always looking for other databases to incorporate or access through links. Any collaboration is welcome.

Ms. Silva raised concerns about confidentiality and people not wanting some information to be made public. Ms. Louis noted that the board discussed this issue when it was considering potential grant applications because some grants might require making information generated by the grant public. Some people might want to share some information only with their family or group. Ms. Louis concluded that the best approach is to tell participants not to share information that they don't want shared with the public because we do not have the capability yet to manage subgroups of information effectively or to ensure that information in subgroups is restricted. This warning needs to be clear when collecting the information. The Landsongs project which the board discussed at previous meetings is able to manage multiple subgroups of information with controlled access of those subgroups.

Mr. Mills suggested that a formalized agreement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), be entered into by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and OHA to create an official record of the transfer. A press release could be prepared to raise awareness of these efforts. A MOU might also help sustain a relationship between HBGN and OHA's website initiatives over time. Ms. Louis pointed out that the project was funded by the USGS and it may technically own the database. If there were a MOU, the USGS should be included. Ms. McEldowney suggested that the OHA website might be a place for the HBGN to post all its decisions relating to place names. As the board discussed at previous meetings, the statute requires the HBGN to make its decisions available to agencies that are mandated to use these official names in their documents. Mr. Quitevis agreed that a MOU would be a good way to highlight the partnership. He asked the board to let him know how it wanted to proceed, what kind of document would be

appropriate, and what parties should be involved. It could be as simple as a letter. Ms. Delos Santos said she would look into how this might work.

Ms. Delos Santos explained that Mr. Kim had done some work on the Hawai'i Place Names Website so that it could be uploaded into ArcGIS Online and thus added to a map gallery. Mr. Kim clarified that his work demonstrates what can be done with the original database to make it compatible with ArcGIS Online. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that the database be turned over to OHA in this form. Mr. Kim demonstrated the organization of the Hawai'i Place Names Database and its existing and intended functions. He noted that the site was created before ArcGIS Online was available. He has created a new web application using ArcGIS Online and transferred the old data to it. Ms. Louis clarified that she still believes it is important for communities to continue populating the database because they know these areas best. She appreciates the approach taken in creating the Kipuka database because she did the opposite. They started with old records and worked forward. She started with recent information and tried to trace it back in time and it was easy to get lost and overwhelmed.

Mr. Mills noted that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has completed the shape files for its lands and is willing to share them with the state and OHA. The files include TMK parcels. Ms. Delos Santos also announced that OP has just received new TMK layers from Hawai'i and Maui Counties.

Mr. Mills asked how they would handle ongoing name and spelling changes which HBGN makes routinely and whether OHA can accommodate continual updates to the place name files. Mr. Quitevis did not see this as a problem although they may consider making changes in bulk and coordinate updates with other bulk changes to the databases. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that HBGN submit changes to OHA at the same time it submits them to the USGS. She offered to make arrangements for the file transfers.

Mr. Quitevis said they hope to add a newsflash function to the website that alerts users when new databases are added or major updates occur. He clarified that they have almost completed mapping all land awards made on O'ahu up to 1895. This now totals about 5,000 maps. They should be finished with this in about a year. They are also in the process of linking the maps to supporting documents. There are currently about 10,000 points polygons, and lines in the historic sites layer. Sensitive data has been removed, such as burials, caves, and artifact scatters. Lots of documents have already been uploaded and all the functionality is there. It is just a matter of continually adding data which is being done in house.

Mr. Mills concluded that the board does not need to make a formal decision on transferring the Hawai'i Place Names Website to OHA so no motion or vote was needed.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names

The Board reviewed a total of 16 place names on the Maui place name list. As in the previous meeting, 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 began its review of all the Hawai'i USGS Quads. The board's decisions are as follows:

- Ala Lani United Methodist Church (Church): The board decided to accept this name because it saw no need to change it. Ms. Louis suspects that the church simply came up with the name on its own, probably to mean “Road” or “Pathway” to “Heaven.” It does not appear to be associated with any place name in the vicinity and it is a private sector building. She explained that the board, in the past, would correct the Hawaiian name if a building were associative with a place name known to have diacritical marks. For example, ‘Aiea Methodist Church would need an ‘okina because it is in ‘Aiea. The individual words ala and lani do not have diacritical marks so there is no need for a change.
- Camp Piihoho (Locale): The board decided that an ‘okina should be added to Pi‘iholo because the camp is associated with place named Pi‘iholo and the board previously decided that a diacritical should be added to Pi‘iholo. The name is in multiple references. In Pukui’s *Place Names of Hawaii (Place Names)* it is a camp as well as a “mountain” and “road” in the same area.
- Eleilei Bay (Bay): The board determined that the name needed further research. Ms. Losch found it on the UH Press Bier map as Ele‘ile‘i with an asterisk next to the name. This indicates uncertainty about a name. Ms. Silva said the John Clark’s *Hawai‘i Place Names* book has the name meaning “shiny black” but that translation did not made sense to her. Clark also calls it Watercress Bay and notes that a man named Taba had a watercress farm there known as Ele‘ile‘i. The name is not in *Sites of Maui* (Sterling 1998), *Place Names*, or Soehren’s database, and did not come up in a search of Papakilo. Mr. Mills pointed out that watercress is Lēkō‘ele‘ele in Hawaiian. Ms. Losch suggested that the place name could be a shortening of Lēkō‘ele‘ele.
- Flume Launiupoko Ditch (Canal): The board decided to recommend a name change in the GNIS from Flume Launiupoko Ditch to Launiupoko Flume. Ms. Louis said it was very strange for a single place name to include two feature types, in this case a flume and ditch. The USGS Quad appears to indicate that, in the land division of Launiupoko, the ditch pulls water from the stream, carries it to a reservoir, and then the flume carries water from the reservoir to the once cultivated sugar cane fields. On the USGS topographic map the three components of the name, that is Flume, Launiupoko, and Ditch, are written separately along the length of these connected features and someone must have entered them as a single name. As the names Launiupoko Ditch and Launiupoko Stream are already in the GNIS, Ms. Silva suggested that the composite name be changed to represent just the flume. The land name Launiupoko is in *Place Names* and has no diacritical marks. Ms. Louis noted that the name Launiupoko Flume would be associative because the flume carries the name of the land.
- Haiku-Pauwela Census Designated Place (Census): The board recommended adding diacritical marks to the two land names as they appear in *Place Names*. It would therefore be Ha‘ikū-Pa‘uwela Census Designated Place. Mr. Mills questioned the reason for hyphenated place names and asked if there were rules for using hyphens in these situations. McEldowney noted that many hyphenated land division names are

government lands because their shared boundaries were never surveyed and they then treated it as a single land unit. A search of the Kipuka database showed that Ha'ikū was not government land. Ms. Silva asked what it meant when "Census" is added to a place name. Presumably hyphenated names in this situation identify the unit for which census data were collected and are available. Mr. Quitevis suggested that because Ha'ikū is a large land and Pa'uwela is small, it would make sense to combine the two lands during a census.

- Haiku-Pauwela Division (Census-inactive): The board recommended that diacritical marks be added to the names and be written as Ha'ikū-Pa'uwela Division. The justification for this decision is the same as that for Ha'ikū-Pa'uwela Census Designated Place. The individual place names are listed in *Place Names* separately with diacritical marks.
- Hale Aloha (building): The board recommended that the name not be changed because neither word, Hale or Aloha, has diacritical marks.
- Hale Makua Rest Home (Building): The board recommended that the name not be changes name because neither word, Hale or Makua, has diacritical marks.
- Hale o Kane Heiau (Locale): The board recommended that a kahakō be added to Kāne and that the name components not be combined (i.e., not Haleokāne). In *Place Names*, the heiau with this name is on Hawai'i Island. On the UH Press Bier map, a heiau with this name is at Kaupō on Maui. In both, Kāne has a kahakō because it refers to the god Kāne and the component names are separated. Mr. Mills suggested that Kāne remain capitalized and separate because it could be seen as disrespectful not to capitalize the name of a major god, particularly when the name involves a heiau where that god was worshiped. If capitalized, it would also need to be separate. Ms. Louis noted that the board has, in the past, not capitalized the names of chiefs and gods in place names when combining name components. She emphasized that board members with new perspectives can establish new conventions.
- Hale Pa'ahao (Building): The board recommended that the name Hale Pa'ahao not be changed. Ms. Louis explained that name already had an 'okina in the GNIS and she included it on this list to verify that the HBGN agreed. The board agreed.
- Halehaku (Civil): The board recommended that the name not be changed because it is in *Place Names* with no diacritical marks.
- Hauola Stone (Pillar): The board recommended that the name not be changed because it is in *Place Names* and on the UH Press Bier map with no diacritical marks.
- Hawini Bay (Bay): The board decided that more research was needed. It is not in *Place Names*, Clark's *Hawai'i Place Names* has it as Hāwini, and UH Press Bier map has it as Hāwini. Ms. Silva noted that she could not make clear linguistic sense of the word. On the USGS topographic map there is a Hauini near the coordinates given for Hawini Bay. Given these differences, the board decided more research was needed.

- Heakalani Heiau (Locale): The board recommended that the name not be changed because it is in *Place Names* and on the UH Press Bier map with no diacritical marks.
- Hokuanui (Cape): The board decided that more research was needed. Ms. Silva suggested that this might be a made up name. She noted that it was in Clark's *Beaches of Maui* but is not in his *Hawai'i Place Names*. The name was not found in other sources.
- Honokohua Post Office (Post Office): The board recommends a spelling correction because the name, Honokohua, appears to be a misspelling. The post office, which no longer exists, was located in the land named Honokahua so it probably should be the Honokahua Post Office. Honokahua is in *Place Names* without diacritical marks.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Old and New Business

Ms. Delos Santos announced that they would start posting the board minutes on the HBGN website.

Ms. Silva suggested that the meeting room be equipped with wireless so that board members can take advantage of online resources during the meetings. Mr. Quitevis offered to have the OHA representative bring a portable Wi-Fi device for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Adjourn

The Board set July 18, 2013 as the date for the next meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3.00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney