



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

DATE: May 20, 2015  
TIME: 1:00 p.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 1:15 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), 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)

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

**ADVISORS:** Renee Louis, PhD and Naomi Losch (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa–retired)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2015 and April 28, 2015**

Ms. Joan Delos Santos moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kalani Akana and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Delos Santos moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan Morales and unanimously approved by the Board.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion on Name Change Request - ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River**

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

Mr. Mills began the report of the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) by reviewing what actions the Board took at its April 28, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, the Board approved a motion to appoint the members of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to gather information related to the proposed name change from ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River. Appointed were Mr.

Mills, Mr. Akana, and Ms. Renee Louis. The group had several interactions via teleconferencing and emails. They decided to approach the investigation separately and to present their findings as three separate reports instead of combining the information in a single report. He then clarified where today's action is within the context of the overall PIG process set out by law. The process must include actions taken at three separate meetings. The first action was taken at the April 28, 2015 meeting when the Board appointed the PIG and defined the scope of work for the group's investigation. The PIG then proceeds to discuss its investigation independently. At the second Board meeting, the one being held today, PIG members present the findings of their investigation. He emphasized that the Board cannot discuss or act on these findings at this meeting. This means that the Board cannot discuss these findings at today's meeting nor can there be a question and answer period after group members give their report. At the third meeting the Board can discuss the findings and take action, in this case, on the proposed name change.

Ms. Noenoe Silva asked if the next meeting on Maui would be a regular Board meeting. Mr. Mills confirmed that it would be and they do have quorum. The meeting is also meant to be an opportunity for the Board to gather information from the community. The Board can choose to render a decision at that meeting or defer the decision until another meeting.

Ms. Louis presented her report first. She chose telephone calls and emails as her means of contacting those having opinions or information on the proposed name change. She began by contacting Ms. Silva who previously offered to provide names of several individuals who might have information or opinions. Ms. Louis emailed all of them but did not receive any responses. She believes this was due to bad timing. All are teachers in the University of Hawai'i system and it was finals week. She guesses they were too busy to respond. Next she approached the Hawai'i Tourism Authority in hopes of finding names of businesses that might be affected by the change and potentially opposed to it. She did not receive a response. She then asked Ms. Kekuhi Kanahale at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for suggestions. Ms. Kanahale forwarded Ms. Louis's email to Ms. Hokulani Holt-Padilla and Mr. Keali'i Reichel on Maui. Ms. Holt-Padilla responded and also forwarded the email to Mr. Ki'ope Raymond. The text response from Ms. Holt-Padilla is included in Ms. Louis's report with Ms. Holt-Padilla's permission. Mr. Raymond called her back and left a voicemail message which Ms. Louis transcribed and included in her report with Mr. Raymond's permission. Both Ms. Holt-Padilla and Mr. Raymond support the change and agree that Wailuku River is the historic name of the river.

Mr. Mills's efforts included three approaches. These were community consultation, historical review, and literature review. For community consultation, he asked that his name and contact information be included in an article on the proposed name change published by the *Maui News*. The May 11, 2015 article was based on the press release issued by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism announcing that the HBGN would meet on Maui on May 27, 2015 to consider the name change. He received only one response. It was from Mr. Hinano Rodrigues, History and Culture Branch Chief of the State Historic Preservation Division, Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Rodrigues noted that his testimony was being submitted on his own behalf and not in his capacity as a state

employee. He supports changing the name of 'Īao Stream to Wailuku River. His testimony is appended to Mr. Mill's report.

For the historical review, Mr. Mills primarily conducted searches on Nupepa.org for "Kahawai o Wailuku" and "Kahawai o Iao". The search on "Kahawai o Wailuku" resulted in five matches. Of these, one was Wailuku River on Maui and the other four were Wailuku River on Hawai'i Island. Searches for "Kahawai o Iao" produced three matches. He conducted a search on "Na Wai Eha" and the number of matches was overwhelming. Mr. Mills reviewed the Hawaiian language text for the following newspapers included in his report:

*Ka Hae Hawaii*, October 1, 1856: The article speaks of how hot it is on Maui but the streams, kahawai, are not dry. There are the rivers of Lahaina, Wailuku, and Waikapu. It is dry on the plains.

*Ke Kumu Hawaii*, May 9, 1838: The article discusses the kula of "na wai eha", one of these being the wai of Wailuku.

*Ka Hae Hawaii*, October 29, 1856: The animals are said to be in trouble during the day because there is no food on the plains and they will surely die. There is water in the rivers of Waiehu, Wailuku, and Waikapū. What is wrong is the wasting of the water. The water is a rich resource for the famers of this land. The crops that can be planted on the land are listed. Coffee grows very well on some of the lands. The animals are flocking to the rivers for water. The writer of the article argues that water should be dispersed to the land for farming.

*Nupepa Kuokoa*, August 25, 1866: This is an instance of the river being called "kahawai o Iao". The sentence reads: "He hihia i ulu ae no ka hoopaapaa ana no ka wai o ke kahawai o Iao."

*Ka Lahui Hawaii*, August 17, 1876: This is another instance of the river being called Iao. The writer of the article discusses a large rock which fell from the cliffs on the Waikapu side of the valley and fell into 'Īao River. When the rock hit the ground, it split in two with one half falling in the river and the other on the doorstep of Hoopilimeaai.

*Hawaii Holomua*, January 25, 1893: This is the third instance of "kahawai o Iao". The article talks about a rock in the middle of Iao River.

For the literature review, he went to the library of the State Historic Preservation Division to review archaeological inventory survey or monitoring reports for the area. He reviewed samples of reports from the different consulting firms that had done work in the area. He found that the river or stream of Wailuku is consistently mentioned as being one of the four waters, Nā Wai 'Ehā, of Maui.

Mr. Mills concluded that after reviewing these sources, his opinion is that the historical name Wailuku River is more appropriate than 'Īao Stream. There is a Wailuku River in Hilo and one can assume that 'Īao Stream was so named to differentiate these two rivers with the same name. He does not believe this convenience should outweigh the historic name of a place.

Mr. Akana presented his report last. His survey results were projected on the screen for the Board to see. His approach was to conduct a survey using SurveyMonkey through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Facebook page. Yesterday there were 39 responses and today there are 44. The survey had two questions. The first question was: "What is your relationship to the Wailuku-'Īao area?" Most had connections to the area while a few did not. The second question was: "Should the currently used name 'Īao Stream be officially changed to the earlier used name Wailuku River?" Respondents could add comments on why they said yes or no. Of the 44 responses, five said they did not want the name changed. He was glad to see these no answers because they show that people were given an opportunity to respond in the negative. Mr. Akana then scrolled down through some of the individual responses to give the Board a sense of why individuals said yes or no. He said he would export the data from the survey so that the results can be posted on the website with the other two group reports. Ms. Delos Santos asked the PIG members to send her copies of their written reports by Friday so that they can be posted on the website prior to the May 27, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Mills closed the presentation on the PIG reports and announced that the Board would now discuss logistics for the HBGN May 27, 2015 meeting on Maui.

Ms. Delos Santos began by asking if all attending Board members and advisors had reservations and could confirm their arrival times. Most would be arriving after 3:30 pm. The meeting room cannot be accessed until 5:30 pm for the 6:00 pm meeting so help will be needed to set up the room quickly. The Board will sit at a table facing the audience and there will be a podium for those testifying. The facility can provide wireless mics for board members, four mics for the board, and one for testifiers. Ms. Louis will use her video recorder to record the meeting. Ms. Holly McEldowney asked that a backup recorder be used to ensure that the meeting minutes can be complete and accurate. Ms. Delos Santos said she would prepare a sign in sheet for those wanting to testify. Ms. Silva suggested that someone count the number of attendees so the Board will know how many attended.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that there were 700 responses to the KITV poll on this issue so there is interest in the topic. Some respondents could have voted multiple times. She posted the results of the poll on the HBGN website. Roughly 60% were in favor of the change and 30% were not. Ms. Louis pointed out that it is interesting to compare the poll results two months ago with those posted two weeks ago. There was a much higher percentage of no responses in the more recent results although still less than the majority. Ms. Delos Santos said she expects at least some Maui County Council members to attend. She booked the larger room in case attendance is high. *Maui News* may cover the meeting as they have already written articles on the subject. She received a call from KITV News last week asking if the Board would be making a decision at its May 20, 2015 meeting. She explained the process and noted that the decision may be made at the May 27, 2015 meeting on Maui or deferred to a subsequent

meeting. She suggested the Board consider limiting the amount of time testifiers can speak if many want to testify. Mr. Mills proposed a five minute limit if needed. Ms. Delos Santos said she paid for internet access in the meeting room in case it was needed.

Ms. Delos Santos went over the May 27 meeting agenda. The meeting will focus only on the name change. Mr. Mills will begin by summarizing the name change request, including when the request was received and background on the name change process. Mr. Duey was asked to make a presentation on his name change request. Mr. Mills will then give a combined summary of the individual PIG reports. After that, there will be time for public comments and then Board decision making if time permits. The Board has the flexibility to defer the decision if it feels more time is needed to consider the public testimony or to discuss the issue further. Eight people will be going, including Deputy Attorney General Bryan Yee, five Board members, and advisors Ms. Louis and Ms. Naomi Losch.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that the Office of Planning has not received letters from all agencies or institutions designating their representatives to the Board. The Hawaii State Ethics Commission called asking if all designations were complete. Still missing are letters designating Ms. Silva for the University of Hawai'i, Mr. Mills for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Mr. Marques Marzan for the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, and herself for the Office of Planning. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that Ms. Silva contact the university president's office directly to encourage them to act on the designation. Mr. Mills said his designation letter is awaiting the chairperson's signature.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Continued Review of Maui Island Place Names for Spelling and Diacritical Marks**

The Board reviewed a total of 24 names on the Maui place name list. Reviewed were names that are in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) but were not entered in the HBGN's working spreadsheets created when the HBGN began its review of all Hawai'i USGS Quads. The board's decisions are as follows:

Kingdom of Hawai'i (historical): After considerable discussion, the Board agreed with Ms. Louis's recommendation that the spelling of this name not be changed because Hawai'i is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The GNIS entry cites George Kanahale's 1995 publication as its source for this name. The GNIS coordinates place the name in the ocean west of Mā'alaea. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that this location might represent the center point of the island chain when Hawai'i was a kingdom. Ms. Silva pointed out that the 'okina was not in use during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii. Ms. Louis noted that the feature classification for this name in the GNIS is "Civil" which is applied to types of political subdivisions. Conceivably this would apply to a kingdom. She also explained that if a place name is identified as "historical", it will not be appearing on maps being produced now. The name is just maintained in the database. Names entered in the GINS are never removed.

Ms. Silva asked if the 2001 entry date might indicate why it was entered into the GNIS. Ms. Louis responded that the name's citation is very brief and provides few clues. She is not aware of any particular effort to systematically enter names at that time. The HBGN began its review of diacritical marks in Hawaiian place names in 1998 and did not submit this place name. It was probably an action taken at the Board of Geographic Names (BGN) level. Ms. McEldowney asked if the "State of Hawaii" is a place name. Ms. Louis conducted a search for Hawaii in the GNIS and confirmed that the name State of Hawaii was entered in the GNIS in 1959. The Territory of Hawaii was listed in 1934. Multiple variants were also listed. She pointed out that Hawaii is spelled without the 'okina because that is the way Congress spelled it when recognizing Hawai'i as a state. It would take an act of Congress to add the 'okina. Ms. Delos Santos noticed that the description for the entry says the point for the State of Hawaii is placed at the geographic center of the state. This reasoning probably applies to the point locating the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

Kīpahulu and Kīpahulu (historical): The Board decided that both Kīpahulu entries were spelled correctly because this is how they appear in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

KKUA-FM (Wailuku), KLHI-FM (Lahaina), KLHI-FM (Lahaina), KMAU-TV (Wailuku), KMEB-TV (Wailuku), KMVI-AM (Wailuku), KMVI-FM (Pukalani), KMVI-FM (Pukalani), KNUI-AM (Kahului), KNUI-FM (Kahului), and KOGG-TV (Wailuku): The Board determined that all eight place names are spelled correctly because each is associated with a place that is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. This includes Wailuku, Lahaina, Pukalani, and Kahului. Ms. Louis reminded the Board that place names included in the names of these radio and television station transmitters may represent the location of the station's home tower and not necessarily the location of a particular antenna or tower. This became apparent during discussion of a name with station call signs at April 28, 2015 Board meeting. She also reiterated what Ms. Jennifer Runyon, Senior Researcher, BGN, explained at the April meeting. The BGN is seriously considering not maintaining these types of feature in the GNIS database because they change so frequently. The BGN been giving priority to reviewing names of natural features.

Kōkī Beach Park: The Board decided Kōkī Beach Park is spelled correctly as it is in Clark's *The Beaches of Maui County* and on the University of Hawaii Press map with two kahakō. Clark's 1989 book is the source cited in the GNIS entry. The park is in Hana. The name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Mr. Mills noted that the Hawaiian dictionary has entries for koki, kokī, and kōkī. Ms. Silva added that the dictionary meaning for kōkī is the extremity, topmost, upper limit or to put on a helmet.

Koolau: The Board agreed that the spelling of Koolau should be changed to Ko'olau. This decision is based on the name's spelling in *Place Names of Hawaii* although the Ko'olau mentioned in this reference is on O'ahu. All the major islands have places referred to as Ko'olau because ko'olau means windward.

Ku'au Bay, Ku'au Cove, and Kuau Plaza Shopping Center: The Board agreed that Ku'au and Kuau in these place names should be spelled Kū'au based on their association with the land division Kū'au which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The GNIS source for Ku'au Bay

and Ku‘au Cove is Clark’s 1989 *The Beaches of Maui County*. The bay and cove are spelled Kū‘au in Clark’s 2002 *Hawai‘i Place Names*.

Kukui Mall Shopping Center: The Board decided that the name Kukui is spelled correctly because the shopping center was likely named after the tree which is spelled kukui in the *Hawaiian Dictionary*. A peak above Lahaina and a bay in Kīpahulu named Kukui are in *Place Names of Hawaii* and neither has diacritical marks.

Kula Division (inactive), Kula Hawaiian Home Lands, and Kula Hospital: The Board decided that all three names were spelled correctly. Kula Division is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a land division. Kula Hawaiian Home Land and Kula Hospital were determined to be correct because they are associated with the place named Kula which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Kūlepeamo Point: The Board agreed that this place name is spelled correctly base on the 2008 edition of the University of Hawaii Press map which shows a Kūlepeamo Point at the same location as the GNIS coordinates. Kūlepeamo is listed in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a ridge and heiau on O‘ahu.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:      Adjourn**

The Board agreed to meet on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, if no decision is made on changing the name ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River at its May 27, 2015 meeting on Maui or if other issues arise. Otherwise the next meeting will be in July. The Board will plan, when possible, to meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Mr. Akana moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Delos Santos seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney