



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

DATE: June 26, 2014  
TIME: 10:00 am  
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. Kamaano Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 10:00 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), Kamaano Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ABSENT:** Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2014**

Ms. Noenoe Silva said she found a few typographical errors in the minutes distributed to the Board and sent Ms. Joan Delos Santos a draft highlighting the errors just before today's meeting. A motion to approve the May 15, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected was made by Mr. Kalani Akana and seconded by Ms. Silva. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Report on Inquiry from Hawaii County Regarding Decision on Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa**

Mr. Mills explained that Ms. Delos Santos received an inquiry from the County of Hawai'i (County) regarding the spelling of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. The County is in the process of making new signs and needs to know if these place names should be written as one or two words. Ms. Delos Santos clarified that the County is required by law to follow prevailing HBGN decisions on place names at the time signs are made. The Board's last decision was to write these place names as two words. Even if the Board is in the process of revisiting that decision, the official decision at this moment is that they be written separately (i.e., Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa). The County needs the signs soon because it will be assuming

management of Mauna Kea State Recreation Area from the Division of State Parks on July 1, 2014. The last Board decision was that these names be written as two words. Mr. Mills said he wanted to poll Board members on their thoughts. Ms. Silva said she was going to suggest that the Board take more time before responding. When Mr. Bobby Camara presented his arguments on why these names should be written as two words, the Board was persuaded by those arguments. Then when Kumu Larry Kimura argued the opposite, the Board also found those very persuasive. She would prefer that the Board spend more time before making the decision so that these arguments can be considered more thoroughly. Ms. Delos Santos explained that the Board does not need to make a decision on the name now but only needs to confirm the Board's current decision.

Ms. Silva suggested that the Board, at some point, consult with qualified linguists. She suggested linguists Al Schütz, who is currently retired, Laiana Wong, and possibly Kaliko Baker. The Board could ask them to meet, put the question to them, let them discuss it, and see what advice they might have. She emphasized that this is not to counter Mr. Kimura's opinion because he has a great deal of experience and has partnered with a linguist for years. Mr. Akana said that he does not see this as a linguistic issue but an issue of usage. As Mr. Kimura pointed out, it is important to look at the data. There are more instances in the Hawaiian language newspapers in which Mauna Kea is written as one word than two words. He finds this evidence more useful. Ms. Silva agreed that this is a factor to consider, but there are other arguments which are more linguistic in nature. For example, if the word is a proper noun with an "o" with an 'okina in front of it, then it should be written one way and, if not, it should be written another way. She believes the Board should evaluate these different arguments. She reiterated that she also finds data from the newspapers persuasive, but there are counter arguments. Usage in the newspapers is, in many cases, not the way linguists have now persuaded people to write Hawaiian words. Examples are the spelling of iluna and ame as one word. She believes more study would be useful before making another decision.

Ms. Delos Santos emphasized that the Board cannot make a decision on the name Mauna Kea today because it is not on the agenda. She thought Mr. Kimura was going to provide comments in writing but she has not received them. Mr. Mills pointed out that Mr. Kimura was sent the Board's revised draft guidelines for the use and spelling of native Hawaiian place names, but has not submitted comments yet. He is concerned that Mr. Kimura might see the new signs and think the Board did not take his advice seriously or that the County is in error. Ms. Betty Kam asked if the signs could be delayed. Ms. Delos Santos emphasized that the State Parks signs need to be replaced with County signs on July 1 because that is when the County takes over the park. She assumes the signs have already been made. Ms. Kam thought it is important to let the County know this topic is being actively discussed and that the signs may need changing in the future. Ms. Delos Santos said the person from the County who called had read the Board minutes and understood it was a hot issue. She did not think the Board could advise them to do anything other than that which is consistent with the Board's latest decision.

In summary, Mr. Mills reiterated that, according to the Board's latest recorded decision, Mauna Kea is two words and the County signs reflect this decision. Ms. Delos Santos pointed

out that this situation illustrates that people are now paying more attention to the Board and its decisions. Having minutes posted online also helps people understand the Board's process and decisions. Ms. Renee Louis observed that this level of transparency also puts more external pressure on the Board. Ms. Kam noted that the Board's emphasis on consistency will need to accommodate differences among the islands. A consensus might be reached on one island but not on another.

Ms. Louis recommended that the Board also consult with cultural practitioners if it is going to consult linguists. This issue is also about a cultural relationship with language. Those closest to a place are likely to have the strongest opinions and these opinions should be weighted differently. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that level of consultation be for the entire guidelines. Ms. Louis also suggested that the Board write an article for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) newsletter about the draft guidelines. This would make the community aware of this effort and encourage discussion. If questions are asked, people can be referred to the newsletter for background. The newsletter is online and provides an alternative and more widely available source of information. Mr. Akana pointed out that OHA has several forums to discuss issues. One is Ka Maka Ko'i which allows people to weigh in on particular issues. Ms. Kam expressed concern that some responding may not be aware of usage in the Hawaiian language newspaper which she finds so valuable. The Board needs to figure out how to weigh differing perspectives. Ms. Louis stressed the importance of the Board having as much information as possible before making decisions.

Mr. Mills suggested that any consultation begin with the Kahu Kū Mauna Council of which Kumu Kimura was member and is now an advisor. Its members are the ones closest to the issue and have the most experience with the mountain and local community. Their opinions should be given weight. Ms. Silva asked if the Board should write to the Kahu Kū Mauna Council and specifically ask for its opinion on the spelling of Mauna Kea. Mr. Mills said he would draft a letter explaining the Board's dilemma and asking for their input. He will pass the letter through Ms. Delos Santos. Philosophically, it would be great to convene meetings and solicit input broadly, but practically the Board does not have the budget for this. Meeting with linguists is possible because they are based in Honolulu. We need to keep budgets in mind. Ms. Delos Santos is not sure if the letter would be from the Board or signed by the Office of Planning director.

Mr. Mills concluded that the newly made signs should have Mauna Kea written as two words because this is consistent with the Board's last decision. The next decision may result in the name being spelled as one word based on consultation with more people.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Report on Request for HBGN Chair to Meet with OHA**

Mr. Mills explained that he with talked Mr. Jerry Norris who provides staff support for OHA's Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council (NHHPC) about making a presentation to the NHHPC on what HBGN does. At the time, Mr. Norris did not know when NHHPC would meet next. He called Mr. Norris this morning and learned that the meeting is tomorrow at 9:00 am. Some members were confused about how place name decisions are

made. Mr. Mills is planning to give them the draft guidelines and explain what the Board does. If there are any specific controversies, he will find out at tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Akana understood that one member had concerns over how street names were developed. He told the individual that these did not fall under the Board's jurisdiction. Mr. Mills said he would report back at the next HBGN meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Further Discussion of Draft HBGN Style Guide and Past and Future Decision Making Criteria**

Mr. Mills noted that he made some minor semantic changes to the HBGN Style Guide which is now draft version number 5. The only substantive change was to add the online resource *nupepa.org* to the bibliography. Ms. Silva noted that she also made a change to the bibliography which she emailed this morning. She added in brackets after Lloyd Soehren's entry that this source should be used for research only and not as an authoritative source for spelling. This was discussed at the last meeting. His sources are mostly secondary and sometimes refer back to decisions made by the HBGN.

Mr. Akana pointed out that a section on proper nouns should be added reflecting the Board's discussions with Mr. Kimura at the last meeting. This discussion is recorded in the last meeting's minutes. Ms. Losch noted that one question was how the Board would know if a place name includes a proper noun or if it is just a name. Mr. Akana pointed to the name Kipuka Kapā'ū which is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and was used as an example in the last meeting's discussion. Kapā'ū is identified as a person so his name was written separately from Kipuka. This treatment is generally consistent when it is known to be a person's name. Mr. Mills said he would make the addition. He will say that when a place name includes the name of a person, the place name is written as two separate words with the name of that person being separate. Mr. Akana noted that this usage is not always consistent in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Even Ms. Mary Kawena Pukui seems to have struggled with these decisions sometimes. Another example is if there is an 'o in the name, such as Kīpuka-o-Pele-iki. In *Place Names of Hawaii*, she wrote the name all together but kept Pele capitalized. In the newspapers, Pele would not have been capitalized. A proper noun included in a place name without an 'o is separate. If there is an 'o, then the place name components are combined.

Ms. Louis asked how this guidance applies to Waikāne which is the example used in the guidelines under 4a. Mr. Akana agreed that this is what makes it difficult. Ms. Losch said that when they were preparing the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo guidelines, they agreed that there would not be capitalizations in the middle of words. However, it is not always clear whether something is one or two words. Mr. Akana noted that it is common usage to combine Waikāne. Ms. Louis suggested a footnote be added saying that there will be exceptions to each general guideline presented. Board decisions are always going to be made on an individual basis and will depend on what the Board knows about that name. There are approximately 10,000 place names already recorded for Hawai'i and potentially three times that if all archival and community resources were considered. There is enough information available to identify general practices and to know there will be some exceptions. Ms. Kam reiterated that current common usage could be a reason to make an exception. Ms. Louis point out that current

common usage is often inaccurate because it is based on current maps which are not always correct. When considering common usage, it is important to figure out, if possible, the origins of that common usage. The sources' relationship with a place name should matter most. If they relate to a place name as if it includes the name of a person, then this should be recognized in the place name spelling. It is important to get at the essence of their understanding of the name. After that point, linguistics can help express this appropriately. It is the cultural relationships that we are looking for and not just how people have always known it or know it because of written resources. Ms. Silva pointed out that the chant "Hanau-a-Hua-ka-lani" clearly shows it as Mauna a Wakea over and over again. Ms. Louis said that this is the beauty of language. We can metaphorically recognize them both as being correct. Ms. Silva pointed out that this is why they say something is reduced to language.

Mr. Mills said that he would try to revise the guidelines this weekend and then ask Joan to email the draft to members for comments. Mr. Akana questioned whether the Board still needs to resolve the issue of a proper noun within a place name and these being separated or not. He felt that it was discussed but not resolved. Ms. Louis pointed out that, as general practice, this is covered under 4a in the guidelines. Any proper name within a place name will not be capitalized and a note added that there are exceptions to this such as common usage. This is not the only reason for exceptions. If one of the name components is capitalized, it will be written as a separate word. The Board will decide, based on available information, when exceptions apply. Mr. Akana wanted to clarify that Haleolono is one word and Kīpapaaola would be one word with the chief's name, ola, being lower case. Ms. Louis answered that an argument could be made that these names should be treated as exceptions. Mr. Akana clarified that one of the exceptions would be separating the name components.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that when the Board first came up with the idea for guidelines, they were meant to cover past and future decisions. It might help if this point was made explicitly in the document. Decisions have already been made for thousands of names. Ms. Louis said she believes the current guidelines do adequately reflect what was done in the past. Ms. Kam pointed out that the Board relied heavily on the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo guidelines in the past. They were applied more routinely rather than acknowledging potential exceptions. Ms. Louis pointed out that previously there were only two Board members, Ms. Losch and Mr. Nathan Napoka, who knew the Hawaiian language and could suggest decisions based on knowledge of the language. Now the Board has a much higher percentage of members with this expertise. Ms. Losch commented that this change is good because people with knowledge of the language are now also more experienced researchers and there is much more information available and retrievable than there was in the past. She had to remind her son when he criticizes someone that the work was done in a different time. People had to plow through all the books and now you just go online. Ms. Louis said it is this accessibility to information that is forcing the Board to reexamine practices and past decisions.

Ms. Silva pointed out two minor omissions in the guideline text. Hawai'i needs an 'okina in two places in the first paragraph. Also periods are missing at the ends of the first paragraphs in section 2 (Check Resources) and section 3 (Consider Common Usage).

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names (Continued review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks)**

The Board reviewed a total of eight place names on the Maui place name list. As with previous meetings, 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 Hawai'i Islands USGS Quads. Ms. Louis reminded the Board that Board of Geographic Names (BGN) staff mistakenly added Hawaii place names to the GNIS which the Board had identified as needing more research. At some point, these will need to be removed if the Board's eventual decision differs from that enter in the GNIS. The board's decisions for this meeting are as follows:

Makaa Stream

Decision: More Research Needed

This place name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii, Atlas of Hawaii*, or in John Clark's books which include Maui names. It is on the USGS Quad and in the District of Hana. Without any additional information, the Board determined the name needed more research. It was entered in the GNIS as part of the Phase 1 effort to digitize place name information nationwide.

Malulani Hospital

Decision: Not Board's Purview

The name Malulani is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* or in other sources. It is not associated with a named geographic feature, so the Board cannot address it as an associative name. As a hospital, it is considered built environment and therefore does not fall under the Board's purview. It appears on the 2008 edition of the University of Hawaii Bier Map without any diacritical marks. The Board concluded that the name is spelled correctly because the two components words are simple and could not be spelled any other way.

Malulu o Lele Cultural Center

Decision: Not Board's Purview

This place name does not fall under the Board's purview because it is applied to structures and facilities that are considered build environment. Malu'ulu-o-Lele is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as the name of a park in Lahaina. Ms. Silva noted that it could be spelled as four separate words or all one word as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. She pointed out that Malu'ulu is not a word although it is part of saying. It is a poetic description of a certain area in Lahaina which, literally, means the breadfruit shade of Lele. Lele is an ancient name for Lahaina. Dashes are used in *Place Names of Hawaii*, but this is no longer the practice. The Board agreed to note that the name is associated with a geographic area and recommended that it be spelled all as one word.

Manienie Gulch:

Decision: Change Spelling

Mānienie is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a gulch on Hawai'i Island and is said to refer to the grass named mānienie or Bermuda grass. The Board felt comfortable applying this spelling to the Maui gulch because there are not any other potential options.

Maria Lanakila Roman Catholic Church:Decision: Not Board's Purview

This place name is not in the Board's purview because it applies to build environment. It is in *Place Name of Hawaii* and is spelled Maria Lanakila. The name is therefore spelled correctly in the GNIS.

Mauna Kea:Decision: No Decision Made

A search of the GNIS for this place name on Maui produced a "No Data Found" result. Despite other search efforts, Ms. Louis was unable to confirm that a place with this name exists on Maui or in the GNIS. It may have been a data entry mistake during the GNIS Phase 1 data digitizing project. Ms. Delos Santos offered to check with staff of BGN to see if they could explain this situation.

Maunakini:Decision: Name is Correct

The Board determined that no spelling change was needed for this name as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii* without any diacritical marks. It also appears this way on the University of Hawaii Bier Map, 2008 edition.

Maunaolu College:Decision: Not Board's Purview

The Board recommended that spelling of the associative place name be changed to Mauna'olu as it is spelled this way in *Place Names of Hawaii* and on the University of Hawaii Bier Map, 2008 edition. The name is technically not within the Board's purview as the college is considered built environment.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

The Board decided that the next meeting would be held on August 21, 2014 at 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney