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Council urged to rename Iao Stream

March 7, 2015
By MELISSA TANJI - Staff Writer (mtanji@mauinews.com) , The Maui News

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A Maui County Council committee will review a proposed resolution urging the state Board on Geographic Names to change the name of Iao Stream to Wailuku River.

On Friday, council members referred the proposal to the Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. The matter had not officially been scheduled on the committee's agenda as of Friday afternoon.

Na Wai Eha President John Duey is asking the council to call on the state panel to return the body of water's name to the Wailuku River. It had been called Wailuku River in various historical documents, including one that goes back to 1850, he said.

Na Wai Eha is a Maui-based organization that advocates the restoration of mauka-to-makai stream flows. Duey said documents show that the Wailuku River's name was changed to Wailuku Stream in the early 1900s, after water was diverted to irrigate sugar fields and reduced the flow from a river to a stream.

Later, the sugar industry referred to it as Iao Stream, which is now the official name of the body of water, he said.

In 2014, after many years, Duey's organization and others succeeded in having the state Commission on Water Resources Management approve a settlement to have diverted water returned to the four great waters of Na Wai Eha - Wailuku (Iao), Waihee, Waiehu and Waikapu.

With water being return to the Iao Stream, "it's time for the name to go back," Duey said.

"There are many, many references to Wailuku River. There is no reason in my mind it (the name) should not be restored," he said.

The Iao Valley taro farmer said that if and when the Board on Geographic Names approves the name change, it would be forwarded to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Duey said he was told that the national board's decisions usually mirror the recommendations of local boards.

Duey has met with the state board and has already submitted an application for the name to be returned to Wailuku River. He has garnered support from the Maui Historical Society. The council's backing would help the effort, he said.

According to Duey, the matter still has to be scheduled before the state board.

* Melissa Tanji can be reached at mtanji@mauinews.com.

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By Paula Akana
BIO »

Maui council comm. urges state to change name of lao Stream

In maps, literature dating back to the Hawaiian Kingdom, it was known as Wailuku Stream

UPDATED 3:25 PM HST Mar 16, 2015

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Courtesy: OHA

WAILUKU, Hawaii — A Maui County Council committee approved a resolution on Monday urging the state to change the name of lao Stream back to its original name of Wailuku River.

SURVEY

Should Hawaii change the name of lao Stream back to Wailuku River?

Yes. - 78% (233 votes)

No. - 17% (50 votes)

Undecided. - 5% (14 votes)

Total Votes: 297
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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Last October, millions of gallons of water began pouring back into the body of water known today as lao Stream.

A settlement that came after years of legal battles spurred Hui o Na Wai 'Eha, the water advocacy group in that lengthy fight, to push for the return of the old name.

In maps and literature dating back to the Hawaiian Kingdom, the body of water was known as the Wailuku River.

POLL: Should the state change the name of lao Stream back to Wailuku River?

The Hui has submitted an application to the Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names to make the change. The council resolution, which would urge that state board to make the change, goes before the full Maui council next month.

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KITV March 16 at 4:00pm · Edited · [Like Page](#)

Iao Stream or Wailuku River? The move to change the name back to its roots tonight on KITV 4 News.

Click on the link below to vote on this topic.

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Courtesy: OHA

Maui council comm. urges state to change name of Iao Stream

A Maui County Council committee approved a resolution on Monday urging the state to change the name of Iao Stream back to its original name of Wailuku River.

WWW.KITV.COM | BY PAULA AKANA

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Ricky Hana So many Hawaiians slaughtered so many other Hawaiians that the water ran red for many days - 1790
Like · Reply · 2 · March 16 at 4:32pm
1 Reply

Robert L. Mangold Iao Stream!
Like · Reply · 2 · March 16 at 7:08pm

Donald Yoshihara Leave it Iao Stream!
Like · Reply · 4 · March 16 at 4:12pm

Vernon Demello Iao Stream is a fine name.
Like · Reply · March 16 at 7:37pm

Maria Mulu Sometimes when people change things around too much they get all kapakahi just keep the language the way it was formed then less confusion in the world as a matter of fact I like Wailuku River the way it is. Aloha.
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 3:36pm

Mathew Hauanio Jr. FYI It'll be confused with our Wailuku River in Hilo on Hawaii (Big) Island!! Something to think about especially with tourists!! Hmmmm!!
Like · Reply · March 16 at 6:10pm

Emery Fernandez Wailuku stream. Wailuku is its original name, but it is barely a river. Even during the wet season, Wailuku's highest (and dangerous) yields doesn't determine it as a river. Hawaii's 'rivers' are on Kauai, but even those are mere slivers compared to true rivers on the continents.
Like · Reply · March 16 at 11:42pm

Michael Hosino Why?
Like · Reply · 1 · March 16 at 4:06pm

Mary Jo Kamano Wailuku River
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