



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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## Hawaii Board on Geographic Names

### Authority

The Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names was created by Act 50 of the 1974 Hawaii State Legislature. Act 50 (Chapter 4E, Hawaii Revised Statutes) states that the purpose of the Board is "... to assure uniformity in the use and spelling of the names of geographic features within the State."

### Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for designating the official names and spellings of geographic features in Hawaii. In its deliberations, the Board solicits and considers the advice and recommendations of the appropriate County government officials and, as appropriate, other knowledgeable persons.

Upon approval, the Board informs appropriate State and other agencies of relevant name changes or decisions. As appropriate, Hawaii Board name recommendations, together with information regarding location, the origin and meaning of names and alternative names and spellings for the features named, are sent to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for their review and consideration.

### Membership

The Hawaii Board on Geographic Names includes the following persons or their representatives: Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Office of Planning, the President of the University of Hawaii, the State Land Surveyor and the Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

### How to Submit a Proposed Name

Complete the attached application making sure to supply sufficient information to allow proper identification and location of the feature. Justify your proposal by documenting the name as completely as possible (history, sources, etc.). Send the completed application to the Board on Geographic Names, c/o Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804.

## Suggestions for Recommending Geographic Names in Hawaii

- For all geographic features in the State of Hawaii, Hawaiian names are given preference. Any known Hawaiian diacritical marks (the glottal stop (okina) and the macron (kahako)) should be included on the application.
- In determining the spelling of controversial names, early historical records, knowledgeable local informants and other means are used to arrive at the most viable original spelling.
- In Hawaii, very few geographic features exist which were not named by ancient Hawaiians. If no amount of research can reveal the original Hawaiian name of a feature, a new name may be considered. Things to avoid are:
  - a) Non-Hawaiian names
  - b) Duplication of names, especially on the same Island
  - c) Names commemorating living persons
  - d) Long or clumsily constructed names
  - e) The use of hyphens or apostrophes
  - f) Personal names unless of historical significance

# HAWAII GEOGRAPHIC NAME APPLICATION

STATE OF HAWAII  
 BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
 C/O OFFICE OF PLANNING  
 DEPT. OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
 DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
 P.O. BOX 2359  
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

	Spelling Correction
	Controversial Name
	Obscure Hawaiian Name
	Name Form Change
	Name Change
	New Name (Unnamed Feature)

Recommended Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Island: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Key: Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Plat \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Degrees \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Seconds North

Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Degrees \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Seconds West

Description of feature (give precise location in relation to existing named features, particularly if geographic coordinates are not supplied).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Published Map or Other Source Using Recommended Name: _____	Variant Names/Spellings: _____ _____ _____	Source: _____ _____ _____
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Documentation or personal knowledge on origin, spelling and meaning of the recommended name or reason for change. If a new name, state basis for knowledge that feature is unnamed, reason for naming, and why the recommended name was chosen.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Day): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address (if any): \_\_\_\_\_