HAWI‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN)

Tuesday, October 5, 2021
2:30 p.m.
Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Zoom Meeting information:
Meeting ID: 849 2535 1772
Passcode: 269991

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Introduction of Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru's Guam Place Names Committee

3. Review of Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2021

4. Public Comments

5. Announcements

6. Discussion and Decision on Kaluaopalena Rock (Ulima)

7. Review selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i (Camara)

8. Adjourn

This meeting of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) will be available for live viewing via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting information:
or
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84925351772?pwd=VDNGanZtcHBLaHpTdzFQQTVoQjZ0dz09
Meeting ID: 849 2535 1772
Passcode: 269991
If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact:

Arthur Buto  
Email: arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov  
Phone: (808) 587-2894  
Fax: (808) 587-2824

as soon as possible, preferably by Friday, October 1, 2021. If a response is received after October 1st, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.
September 1, 2021

Hawaii State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 South Beretania Street
6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GUAM PLACE NAMES PROJECT

Håfa adai,

The Kumísion i Fino’ CHamoru yan i Fina’nå’guen i Historia yan i Lina’la’ i Taotao Tåno’ (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) serves as the authority on CHamoru language policy for the island of Guam. This includes authority over I Na’an Lugåt Guåhan (INL; Guam Place Names). The main goals of INL include: 1) restoring indigenous place names 2) aligning CHamoru place names with the updated CHamoru orthography 3) providing updated maps for public use and 4) uncovering histories of place.

We are in the second phase of reviving the Guam Place Names project which includes working with GIS specialists helping to build our place names database and base maps. We are also collaborating with village mayors and informants to gain community input.

We acknowledge that the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) holds a similar responsibility and has been doing this kind of work longer than we have. We kindly ask if you would be willing to meet via zoom as we are interested in your place naming processes and relationships with USGS and, perhaps, Google Maps, Apple Maps, and others. Essentially, we are curious as to how the HBGN transfers their data to user-friendly platforms so that the public is informed of Hawaiian place names.

We hope this can be the first of other networking opportunities between our offices. The work of restoring CHamoru place names is a major part of our cultural heritage and identity. It is a matter of pride and a serious endeavor. We are thus open to any information you may have that can help further our efforts.
Kon Respetu,

Robert A. Underwood  
I Na’an Luguåt Chairperson

Teresita Flores  
I Na’an Luguåt Kumite Member

Jimmy Santos Teria  
I Na’an Luguåt Kumite Member
AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

In Mr. Marzan’s absence, Mr. Wong volunteered to chair the meeting. Mr. Wong called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Brad Kaʻalele Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa)
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development)

ABSENT: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)

GUESTS: Laura Ruby (member of the public)
Casey McCoy (geography student)
Reeshay Lanier (intern, DBEDT OPSD)
Jenny Runyon (US BGN, USGS)
Bobby Camara (member of the public)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Cummins noted that “Land Court Award” should be “Land Commission Award.” With that correction, Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of August 3, 2021; Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2021.
AGENDA ITEM 3:    Public Comments

- Mr. Buto received emails from Ms. Runyon and Ms. Lane-Kamahele indicating that they didn’t receive the name packets from HAVO that were sent by email. The attachment size was too large, so Mr. Buto sent the files a different way.

Ms. Runyon noted that now their first step is to prepare case briefs for the quarterly review list, which will come out about the end of September; it needs the formal endorsement of the NPS member on the US BGN. The briefs are being prepared, so it may still be a few more months – they are required to give tribal governments 60 days to comment on any names on the review list. They may ask the US BGN if that applies to proposals from Hawai‘i, because the process was designed for the 574 federally recognized tribes on the mainland and Alaska and doesn’t include Native Hawaiian groups. If that waiting period is unnecessary, then these names may be included on the US BGN’s October agenda.

Mr. Camara noted that the HAVO Kupuna group reviewed and approved the names for which packets were created, and HBGN includes a representative from OHA.

There is pending legislation to form an advisory committee to the US BGN to address offensive names and the most recent iteration specifies OHA representation on the advisory committee.

- Ms. Runyon also emailed to alert HBGN that the GNIS database and site are being overhauled, so no search capability is currently available. When the database is restored, administrative place names will no longer be included. They will be archived and available for download separately. Those administrative names on HBGN’s list could still be updated and corrected, but not through the GNIS team.

- Laura Ruby sent some additional emails regarding other names that she’d like HBGN to review – recognizing Mo‘ili‘ili Gateway and Mauka Gateway at UH and restoring traditional names at surfing sites. Ms. Ruby confirmed the locations of the gateways. Ms. Runyon stated that if these are not natural features, they would probably not be in the GNIS. Mr. Wong noted that the surfing sites would be ocean areas. Ms. Runyon noted that “areas” will be retained in the GNIS.

- Ms. Delia Ulima called the office to ask about the naming process. There is a large rock that has been used to mark her property line. Ms. Runyon noted that there is a feature class “pillar” that could be applied to the rock feature. Mr. Cummins noted that this particular rock already appears on a number of maps already.
AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Mr. Wong would like to do a press release for the name, “Kamaʻehuakanaloa.” He’s also been working with Bobby Camara on an article for the October “Ka Wai Ola.”

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on Hausten Ditch / Alanaio

Mr. Cummins sent some additional maps of the area; these are downloadable. There are a number of Land Court Applications in that area, and they all call the stream Alanaio. Two applications and Registered Map 1009 also call for “Auwai Alanaio.” Mr. Buto noted that we need to identify beginning and ending coordinates for Alanaio and Piʻinaio (this would be historical as it no longer exists).

Ms. Runyon stated that because Alanaio appears on official government maps, the US BGN can include Alanaio without a formal name application packet as a non-recorded name. They will still need the coordinates of the mouth and the source, the entire length, if possible. She was unable to correlate it with a USGS topographic map or the National Hydrography Dataset. She’s seen it with and without “Stream” and as one or two words.

To facilitate further research on the stream, it was suggested that the 1952 government survey map be overlaid on a contemporary map.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Review selected place names on the island of Hawaiʻi (Camara)

Mr. Camara restated his desire that feature names be concatenated globally to bring consistency to the naming and to bring them in compliance with the HBGN’s style guidelines. Mr. Buto recalls that the Board decided against global concatenation in part to avoid the assumption that names have been researched and discussed. Alternatives were discussed, such as adding another Status code to identify names that were part of a global change without being fully researched or adding an asterisk or other notation/citation to make it clear that the name was part of a global change that still needs more research. Ms. Oliveira is supportive, but expressed concerns that global concatenation might cause confusion or ambiguity where concatenated names may be interpreted as a different word or words, or in some cases it might present a presumptive choice of a feature name.

Several Board members recommended adding further discussion of this topic (global concatenation) to a future Board meeting.
Mr. Wong directed the discussion back to the list of names under consideration.

Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change

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<th>FeatID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Corrected</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>USGSQuad</th>
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<td></td>
<td>HBGN: could be lit. ʻohiʻāawai (ʻōhi + ʻāawai) = gathering into a bundle; or lit. ʻōhiʻawai (ʻōhiʻa + wai) = watery ʻōhiʻa tree; more research needed, 09-07-21</td>
<td>Kahuku Ranch</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

The current Emergency Proclamation will expire on October 4th, prior to the Board’s meeting on Tuesday, October 5th. The next meeting will be in-person unless the Governor issues an Emergency Proclamation allowing meetings using remote interactive technology for Board members. If Board members wish to attend remotely, their locations will be included in the meeting notice and the public will have an opportunity to participate from that remote location.

Mr. Wong adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.
A Change of Name

By Guest Author - October 1, 2021

By Bobby Camara

“O ka manu ai aku
Iaahia
Keiki ehu, kama ehu a Kanaloa
Loa ka imina a ke aloha”

“The elemental acrid aroma [of the volcano]
Is the predictor for an ehu child of Kanaloa

The wait to greet this new island is long.”

– Excerpt from a Pele chant translated by Pua Kanahele and Ku'ulei Kanahele

About 19 miles off the southeast coast of Moku o Keawe, and approximately 3,200 feet below sea level, an active underwater volcano is slowly making its way to the surface. Back in 1955, scientists named the volcano “Lō‘ihi” (long) based solely on its physical characteristics.

Collections of rock samples are taken during a deep-sea expedition to Kama'ehuakanaloa. - Photo: Schmidt Ocean Institute

This past July, the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) voted unanimously to rename the volcano “Kama'ehuakanaloa,” which Ku'ulei Kanahele of the Edith Kanaka'ole
Foundation explains, "Is a powerful name that invokes the name of Peleholuamea and her birth out of Kanaloa."

HBGN includes representatives from the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Planning, the University of Hawai‘i, the Bishop Museum and the State Land Surveyor, and has kuleana for designating the official names and spellings of geographic features in Hawai‘i.

Hanalei Marzan, Bishop Museum cultural advisor and HBGN chair said, "Members of the Board are excited to revitalize the use of traditional place names such as Kama‘ehuakanaloa. This part of our kuleana to ensure uniformity in the use and spelling of names of geographic features within our cherished pae ‘āina."

The move to change the name of the volcano to Kamaʻehuakanaloa was initiated by cultural practitioners, like Kanaha, who noted the name "Kamaʻehu a Kanaloa" while researching and translating mele recorded in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i newspapers from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

One example is Hulihi ke Au, a mele Kanaha found in Ka Moʻolelo Kaʻao o Hiʻiakaikapōloipele, and printed by Poepeoe in Kuokoa Home Rula on May 22, 1908. This is an excerpt from the mele that Kanaha translated:

Keiki ehu, kama ehu a Kanaloa  
Loa ka ʻīmina a ke aloha  
Ua mokuia ka makamaka, ka lino  
Ua kaʻa ʻia e ka Ua lena a Lono ē  
Na Lono, na ka Manō Nihi kiaʻi moku  
E moku ka pō e wehe ka pawa o ke ao  
E ao hoʻi

Ruddy progeny, glowing child of Kanaloa (an undersea volcano)  
The search for salutation is far (the volcano’s growth to the ocean surface is long; when it finally surfaces it can be greeted)  
The umbilical cord is severed (it has broken the surface)  
Run over by the yellow rains of Lono  
Lono, the great niuhi shark who guards the islands  
Darkness has broken, dawn has unfurled (the volcano, surfacing, receives light)  
It is light

Another mention of Kamaʻehuakanaloa is found in Ka Nupepa Kuokoa, in a similar mele submitted by S. W. K. Kekalohe of Kipahulu Maui, on Oct. 1, 1862. The mele is attributed to Namakahea, an aliʻi at the time of Kamehameha I.

According to Kanaha, "Kamaʻehu a Kanaloa" is a reference to any undersea volcano, a child born in Kanaloa, the ocean. There are several Pele genealogies in which different male entities are listed as her father – depending on the site of the eruption or the type of eruption – indicating where or how Pele was born. Because an undersea volcano is the birth
of Pele from the ocean, the undersea volcano is a kama 'ehu a Kanaloa, a reddish child of Kanaloa.

One may wonder why it has taken nearly 70 years to give this undersea volcano a culturally relevant and appropriate name. Part of our kuleana today is to supplement earlier research with current knowledge. Researchers in the 1950s did not have easy access to newspapers or other resources written in 'ōiolo Hawai‘i.

Such is the case with the naming of Lō‘ihi in 1955.

Marine geologist Dr. Kenneth O. Emery (not to be confused with Dr. Kenneth P. Emory, the noted Bishop Museum archaeologist/anthropologist) sought to confirm the presence of seamounts (underwater volcanoes) in 1955.

From June 29 to July 2, aboard the USS Patapsco, Emery conducted echo-soundings of the ocean floor south east of the Island of Hawai‘i to confirm the presence of seamounts. His work was published in great detail in Pacific Science in July 1955.

He identified five seamounts. One was long, one conical, one irregular (with peaks), one was deep, and the last was shallow. Emery reached out to renowned cultural experts Mary Kawena Pukui and Martha Hohu from the Bishop Museum, and Dr. Gordon A. Macdonald, then director of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

Pukui, Hohu, and Macdonald conferred five names, based solely on the physical characteristics of each, a practice that follows the naming convention of many cherished places for features that make each unique. For the long seamount, “Lō‘ihi” was selected.

Today we have access to 'i ke Hawai‘i from primary sources to help in our naming processes.

Accounts of the journey of Pelehonuamea and her clan from Kahiki to Papahānaumokuākea, to her current home in Halema‘uma‘u, have been told and retold. We know that she used Pāoa, her divining rod, as she looked for suitable dwellings along our pae‘āina. So it seems completely reasonable that Pele continues her explorations offshore of Kīlauea, seeking to bring new land to the surface. And that new land, still submerged, is the reddish child of Kanaloa. E ola Kama- ‘ehuakanaloa!

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_Bobby Camara was born and raised in Honoka‘a on the Island of Hawai‘i, and has dwelt in Volcano for 40 years. Retired from Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, his passion has been learning and sharing about the natural and cultural resources of his āina aloha, with emphases on botany, ethnobotany, geography and place names, geology, archeology, and ethnography. He studied with many different kumu, and remains insatiably curious about his island home._
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