HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN) Notice of Meeting and Agenda 235 S. Beretania Street 6th floor Library Honolulu, HI 96813

> Wednesday April 9, 2025 3:30 p.m.

As authorized under Act 220, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, this meeting will be held with Board Members, Staff, and Agencies participating in-person at the above location or via Zoom online meeting venue.

> Zoom meeting information: URL: <u>https://bit.ly/hbgn_20250409</u> or dial: (253) 205 0468 [audio only]

> > Meeting ID: 825 1119 8557 Passcode: 030202

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- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Review and approval of meeting minutes for March 12, 2025 *The Board will review/amend the minutes from the previous meeting and will vote on whether or not to approve them at this time.* [Action item]
- 3. Public comments. Participants may provide comments about issues not on the agenda for possible inclusion on a future agenda. [Not an action item]
- 4. Announcements. Participants may share information not requiring Board discussion, action, or decision making. [Not an action item]
- 5. Review and Finalize Outreach Materials Related to Proposed Name Change from "Island of Hawai'i" to "Hawai'i." Board members will finalize the outreach plan and materials prior to scheduling a meeting to consider the name change proposal – "Island of Hawai'i" to "Hawai'i." [Action Item]
- 6. Adjourn

Meeting Materials:

Meeting materials will be available in advance of the meeting on HBGN's website (<u>https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn/hbgn-meeting-materials</u>).

Zoom meeting information:

To participate via the Zoom link provided, you will need a computer or mobile device with internet access, video camera (recommended), and microphone. You will be muted during the meeting unless you

are testifying or actively participating in a discussion. You may also access the Zoom meeting by phone only by using the dial-in phone number, meeting ID, and meeting passcode information provided at the top of this agenda. Further instructions for how to use Zoom are available at: https://planning.hawaii.gov/ghgstf/agendas-and-minutes.

If connection is lost, the meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication or audio-only communication is established within thirty minutes. The public may access the reconvened meeting by clicking the link again.

If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting within 30 minutes after an interruption, then check HBGN's website (<u>https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn</u>) for information as to whether the meeting will be continued to an alternative date and time, or the meeting may be terminated.

Information about submitting and providing testimony:

Written testimony may be submitted on any agenda item:

by email:	arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov or
by postal mail:	Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
	ATTN: Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names
	P.O. Box 2359
	Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

Written testimony should include the word "testimony" with the agenda item number and description in the Subject line, and should be received no later than **Wednesday**, **April 2**, **11:59 p.m.**, in order to be included in the meeting packet. Testimony received after that time will be distributed at the meeting and posted on the website but may not be included in the meeting packet.

Members of the public may also provide oral testimony and participate in discussions for any agenda item during the meeting. If attending in person, please indicate that you wish to speak by raising your hand. When recognized by the Chairperson, you may present your testimony. If attending virtually, please indicate that you wish to speak by using the raise hand function in Zoom, or if calling in by telephone, entering * and 9 on your phone keypad. When recognized by the Chairperson, you will be unmuted. If calling in by phone, you can unmute and mute yourself by pressing * and 6 on your keypad. When testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent.

Information about attending the meeting in person:

Persons may attend the meeting in person at: Leiopapa A Kamehameha, 235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Library, Honolulu, HI 96813. Visitors will be asked to:

- Present a government issued picture ID at the security desk in the lobby;
- Wear a mask which covers both the nose and mouth;
- Maintain social distance of minimum 6 feet apart from others whenever possible.

Information about auxiliary aids:

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Arthur Buto at (808) 587-2894 or by email at *arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov* as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request.

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

MINUTES <mark>draft</mark> for the Meeting of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names

DATE:	March 12, 2025
TIME:	2:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
	Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
	235 S. Beretania Street, 6 th Floor Conference Room
	Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

[0:00:00] AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS:	Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]			
	Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]			
	Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable			
	Development) [in-person]			
	Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]			
	Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) [remote] <i>(joined at 2:10 p.m.)</i>			
	Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote] (joined at 2:12 p.m.)			
ABSENT:	Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)			
GUESTS:	Bobby Camara			
	Dr. Shellie Zahniser (Executive Secretary, Domestic Names Committee (DNC), US BGN, USGS) [remote]			
	Lei De Mello			

[0:01:02] AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2024

[0:01:48] **MOTION:** Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of December 3, 2024. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[0:02:05] The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of December 3, 2024.

[0:02:10] AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments Mr. Buto received an email from the Office of Information Practices (OIP) regarding reviewing documents outside of a Sunshine Meeting. Board members must meet in a regular Sunshine meeting in order to review documents that relate to a Board decision. Mr. Buto suggested that the Board schedule a meeting next month to finalize the documents related to the proposal to change the name of the "Island of Hawai'i" to "Hawai'i" in order to distribute them to the members' networks and on the HBGN website well in advance of the planned June meeting.

Mr. Cummins and Mr. Marzan agreed that a meeting next month is in order.

Mr. Camara expressed disappointment that the Board is only meeting quarterly.

[0:07:00] Ms. Oliveira joined the meeting.

Mr. Buto explained that the decision to move to a quarterly meeting was made to boost attendance by members. Several members noted that meeting less frequently raised the priority of the meeting in their schedules and would make it more likely that they would attend; they are less likely to let other obligations take priority in their schedules. The quarterly meeting schedule could be changed if it doesn't result in better attendance.

[0:08:45] Mr. Farden joined the meeting.

Mr. Cummins suggested a meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Mr. Buto will schedule an hour-long meeting 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Zahniser reported that the US BGN has been executing the Executive Order 14172 and has updated the GNIS to reflect name changes from "Gulf of Mexico" to "Gulf of America" and from "Denali" to "Mt. McKinley."

[0:14:40] AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

There were no announcements.

[0:14:55] AGENDA ITEM 5: Selection of Chairperson

Board members expressed gratitude to Mr. Marzan for chairing the Board for the last nine years.

The Board discussed various options for the term and start of service. A two-year term aligned with the election of the Governor was proposed as one that could adjust to changes

in the Governor's Cabinet but still provide some continuity of leadership of the Board. Changes in agency leadership require new or renewed identification of Board designees.

[0:25:23]

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to vote on a new Chair every two years at the last meeting of that year with no limit on the number of terms that the member may serve as Chair. Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

[0:26:45]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the motion that the Chair be selected every two years at the last meeting of the year and that there be no limit on the number of terms that a member may serve as Chair.

Mr. Farden nominated Mr. Marzan to serve as Chair. Mr. Cummins seconded the nomination.

Mr. Marzan indicated that he is not opposed to continuing to serve as Chair.

[0:29:11] **MOTION:** Mr. Farden moved to close the nominations. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

[0:29:50] *The members present voted unanimously to close the nominations.*

There being no other candidates, Mr. Marzan was elected Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Zahniser noted in the chat that the HBGN's recommendation that "**Pu'u Kalena**" be changed to "**Kalena**" is on the US BGN docket for its meeting on March 13, 2025.

[0:30:00] AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on selected feature names on O'ahu

Mr. Buto explained that the list being considered today continues the discussion of names by ahupua'a.

Mr. Camara asked if there is a process to advise people making maps to remove English descriptors from place names.

A discussion followed with Board members – Mr. Cummins: if the feature is well-known, leaving out the English descriptor is fine, but if not well-known the descriptor can help when reading maps, e.g., putting the descriptor in parentheses. Mr. Buto: in maps, the English descriptor helps to clarify what the name is referring to and what the common name is for that feature, both historically and in the present day. In the GNIS the word "historical" is used in parentheses after the Primary Name to identify a place that no longer exists. At a

prior meeting the Board adopted a practice of removing the English descriptor if there was no other feature in that area with the same name. Mr. Farden: if we're communicating with other people, the priority should be to communicate clearly and not necessarily to follow spelling or grammar rules. Mr. Cummins: suggested leaving the English descriptor for clarity. Ms. Oliveira: one resource in her academic studies stated that when referring to a place name, you're quoting ancestors. She suggests that identifying the feature without the English description be an Alternate Name. Mr. Marzan: it has been his experience that the Board has advocated for the 'inoa Hawai'i in its decisions. Mr. Camara: balancing 'olelo Hawai'i and English naming is not always straightforward. He would like the Board to pause this discussion and focus for now on the Hawaiian part of the name. Mr. Marzan proposed considering the English descriptors later.

[1:02:43]

[359197] Hina Gulch.

Ms. Oliveira stated that she is confident that this feature name is correct.

[1:11:45]

MOTION: Ms. Oliveira moved to change the status to "5, GNIS correct." Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

[1:12:02]

The members present voted unanimously to change the status to "5."

[1:12:13]

[359484] Ihiihi Gulch.

A discussion followed about the uncertainty of the meanings of some of these names and danger of making educated guesses about the diacriticals in the spellings – the Board's decision to make a spelling decision would have an impact on others looking at the name and inferring some meaning based on that spelling. It would be better to not make a spelling change if there's no evidence to support that change.

Ms. Oliveira suggested reviewing specific names that may have some significance instead of or in addition to a systematic review of names. As an example, she cited "Honomanū" on Maui. Mr. Farden noted that another resource for the Board may be the interviews Mr. Kanahele recorded with mānaleo (<u>https://library.byuh.edu/clinton-kanahele-collection</u>).

[1:38:22]

MOTION: Ms. Oliveira moved to leave the status of the remaining names on the list as "3, more research needed." Mr. Farden seconded the motion.

[1:38:50] The members present voted unanimously to leave the status of the remaining names on the list as "3."

[1:39:28]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion and decision on selected feature names on Kaua'i

[364827]

Waiohonu.

Ms. Oliveira thinks that this name is correct, based on its listing in Place Names of Hawaii.

[1:42:57]

MOTION: Ms. Oliveira moved to change the status of **Waiohonu** to "5, correct in GNIS." Mr. Farden seconded the motion.

[1:43:30]

The members present voted unanimously to change the status of Waiohonu to "5."

[1:45:30]

MOTION: Ms. Oliveira moved to withdraw her previous motion to change the status "5" because she mistakenly thought this was the **Waiohonu** on Maui, but this is on Kaua'i. Mr. Farden withdrew his previous second.

[359786]

Kahoano.

Mr. Cummins found "Puu Kahoana" on Registered Map 1395, dated 1878. Next to it is labeled "Palena Swamp" that may be what became "Waita Reservoir." He also looked at an updated version Registered Map 2375, dated 1903. **Kahoano** is not labeled on this map, but a feature labeled "Waihohonu Hill" is located where **Waiohonu** should be. Mr. Cummins will continue looking at these maps.

Mr. Buto will add a review of the feature name **Honomanū** to the agenda for the June meeting of the Board. Mr. Cummins asked that a longer list of names be made available so that he can begin researching them now. Mr. Buto will post longer lists on the website.

[2:06:44] Agenda Item 8: Adjourn

[2:06:47]

MOTION. Mr. Buto moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[2:07:03] *The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.*

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes

Stat	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes	USGS Quad Name
5	359197	Hina Gulch	Valley	Hina Gulch	HBGN	PNH: Hina, Moloka'i; HBGN: feature name is correct as listed in GNIS, 03-12-2025	Kahuku
3	359484	lhiihi Gulch	Valley			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	359607	Kaaoao Gulch	Valley			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	359731	Kahawainui Gulch	Valley			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	359732	Kahawainui Stream	Stream			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	361152	Kepi Gulch	Valley			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	361399	Kōloa Gulch	Valley			PNH: Koloa Street, Oʻahu; Kōloa Beach, Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi; Kōloa, Kauaʻi; HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	361708	Lamaloa Gulch	Valley			PNH: Lamaloa, Moloka'i; HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	363816	Pu'ukauweweole	Summit			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	363846	Pu'uki	Summit			PNH: Pu'uki on Hawai'i and Kaua'i; HBGN more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	364999	Wini Gulch	Valley			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Kahuku
3	359786	Kahoano	Summit			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Koloa
3	361592	Kumanumanu	Summit			HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Koloa
3	363262	Pihakekua	Crater		AH3	Var: Pīkakekua (UHP); PNH: not listed; AH3: Pikakekua; HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Koloa
3	364119	Puu Wanawana	Summit		AH3 / UHP	PNH: not listed; AH3 / UHP: Pu'uwanawana; HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Koloa
3	364827	Waiohonu	Summit			PNH: Waiohonu, Maui; HBGN: more research needed, 03- 12-2025	Koloa

ABOUT THE HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

A. What is HBGN?

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HBGN is modeled after the US Board on Geographic Names (US BGN), a federal body created in 1890 and established in its present form by Public Law in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. The US BGN maintains the authoritative Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database that identifies the official Primary Names of geographic features approved by the US BGN that federal agencies are required to use.

B. Who Sits on the Board?

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes \$4E-1, the Board serves without compensation and consists of the following persons or their representatives:

- The 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 and Sustainable Development;
- The President of the University of Hawai'i;
- The State Land Surveyor; and
- The President of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

C. Names

When considering a feature name, the Board consults a number of printed and online resources, including *Place Names of Hawaii* (Pukui, Elbert & Mookini, 1974), *Atlas of Hawaii, Third Edition* (Juvik and Juvik, 1998), *nupepa.org*, *kipukadatabase.com*, and *wehewehe.org*, and often consults with cultural advisors and community members as well.

1. Variant and Alternate Names

Variant Names are names for a feature that may be spelled differently or may have different origins or meanings from the Primary Name. Generally, they can be found in the historical record but are not in common use today. An Alternate Name is one whose use and spelling is as widely or nearly as widely accepted as the Primary Name by members of the community. The Board makes a distinction in its decision making between the Primary Name and these other names. Both Variant Names and Alternate Names are listed as part of the Primary Name record in the GNIS database, and there are rules governing their use by federal agencies. For State agencies an Alternate Name is an official name and may be used interchangeably with the Primary Name in State maps and documents. However, this designation is equivalent to a Variant Name for federal agencies, which are required to use the Primary Name listed in the GNIS.

2. Diacritical Marks

In the late 1990s, the Board began a project to review the spelling of each Hawaiian place name shown on the United States Geological Survey ("USGS") quadrangle maps for proper use of diacritical marks – 'okina and kahakō. This ongoing project involves reviewing each of the over 10,000 names that appear on the quadrangle maps and in the GNIS and adding 'okina and kahakō, as appropriate. At this point, the Board has reviewed all of the names appearing on the USGS quadrangle maps and is currently reviewing additional names that appear in the GNIS. The Board has adopted a policy of adding diacritical marks only when there is solid evidence that there should be an 'okina or kahakō. There are many instances where no decision has been made, and the Board has advised the USGS to leave the name without any diacritical marks until further research can be conducted.

3. Spelling

When determining the spelling of names, the Board generally follows conventions developed by 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in 1978. *Place Names of Hawaii* (Pukui, Elbert & Mookini) is considered a primary source for determining the appropriate use of 'okina or kahakō in individual place names. The Board has deviated from these sources when other experts have provided alternative spellings or pronunciations. In those instances, the priorities for determining names and their spellings were:

- First priority: Native Hawaiian-speaking members from the community where the geographic feature is located;
- Second priority: Members from the community where the geographic feature is located whose command of the Hawaiian language is reliable;
- Third priority: Members who were born and raised in the community where the geographic feature is located; and
- Additionally: People with a cultural or familial connection to the area where the geographic feature is located.

In 2014, the Board sought to further standardize and document decision making criteria regarding the use of 'okina and kahakō in Hawaiian place names. The HBGN style guide was completed in January of 2015, revised in February 2016, and can be found online at:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/gis/bgn/Guidelines_for_Hawaiian_Geographic_Names_v1.1.pdf

4. Name Changes

Members of the public can initiate naming new features, such as Ahuʻailāʻau, formerly known as Fissure 8, or recommending a name change for a feature by filling out a Name Change Form found online at:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/gis/bgn/BGN%20How%20to%20Submit%20a%20Proposed%20N ame.pdf

Once submitted, the Board will consider the proposal at a future meeting where it will discuss the recommendation, the reason for the change, and the evidence provided and will conduct its own research and consider testimony provided at the meeting before rendering a decision.

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"ISLAND OF HAWAI'I" OR SIMPLY "HAWAI'I?"

In March of 2024, members of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN") expressed a desire to discuss the official name of the largest island in the Hawaiian Archipelago, the "Island of Hawai'i." Members proposed a review of the name, given that it is the only island in the Hawaiian Archipelago whose name includes the phrase "Island of." Simply put, members wanted to consider changing the Primary Name to "Hawai'i," in line with with the naming convention of the other islands, e.g., Maui, O'ahu, etc. However, discussing a name change first requires it to be on the Board's agenda for a future meeting. Thus, in the April 2024 Notice of Meeting and Agenda for the HBGN, Agenda Item 5 called for a "Discussion and decision on Island of Hawai'i."

Subsequently, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development received many emails and phone calls from the public seeking clarification regarding Agenda Item 5. Concerns were expressed over the lack of notice of the issue, disquiet about what naming options were being presented, who was making the proposed change, and under what authority. It was not surprising that the public was disturbed by the news given the lack of information about the circumstances that gave rise to Agenda Item 5. Indeed, many members of the public expressed concern that they did not even know who or what the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names was or to what end it was acting.

At the Board's April 2024 meeting, there were many attendees who wished to comment, both in person and virtually. Board members spent the early part of the meeting explaining the circumstances surrounding the discussion and addressed most of the concerns. Moreover, the Board made clear that the decision will only directly affect State agencies as it is only empowered by statute to affect the name the State government uses on its maps and in its documents.

Promising to provide more information about this decision and others in due course, HBGN has since considered a number of options to increase public involvement in its decision making process. Thus, HBGN is reaching out now to provide more information about the proposed name change and about the Board and its authority, and providing an opportunity to submit testimony, comments, and concerns prior to discussing the proposed name change at its June 2025 meeting.

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Both Variant Names and Alternate Names are listed as part of the Primary Name record in the GNIS database, and there are rules governing their use by federal agencies. For State agencies an Alternate Name is an official name and may be used interchangeably with the Primary Name in State maps and documents. However, this designation is equivalent to a Variant Name for federal agencies, which are required to use the Primary Name listed in the GNIS.

2. Diacritical Marks

In the late 1990s, the Board began a project to review the spelling of each Hawaiian place name shown on the United States Geological Survey ("USGS") quadrangle maps for proper use of diacritical marks – 'okina and kahakō. This ongoing project involves reviewing each of the over 10,000 names that appear on the quadrangle maps and in the GNIS and adding 'okina and kahakō, as appropriate. At this point, the Board has reviewed all of the names appearing on the USGS quadrangle maps and is currently reviewing additional names that appear in the GNIS. The Board has adopted a policy of adding diacritical marks only when there is solid evidence that there should be an 'okina or kahakō. There are many instances where no decision has been made, and the Board has advised the USGS to leave the name without any diacritical marks until further research can be conducted.

3. Spelling

When determining the spelling of names, the Board generally follows conventions developed by 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in 1978. *Place Names of Hawaii* (Pukui, Elbert & Mookini) is considered a primary source for determining the appropriate use of 'okina or kahakō in individual place names. The Board has deviated from these sources when other experts have provided alternative spellings or pronunciations. In those instances, the priorities for determining names and their spellings were:

- First priority: Native Hawaiian-speaking members from the community where the geographic feature is located;
- Second priority: Members from the community where the geographic feature is located whose command of the Hawaiian language is reliable;
- Third priority: Members who were born and raised in the community where the geographic feature is located; and
- Additionally: People with a cultural or familial connection to the area where the geographic feature is located.

In 2014, the Board sought to further standardize and document decision making criteria regarding the use of 'okina and kahakō in Hawaiian place names. The HBGN style guide was completed in January of 2015, revised in February 2016, and can be found online at:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/gis/bgn/Guidelines_for_Hawaiian_Geographic_Names_v1.1.pdf

4. Name Changes

Members of the public can initiate naming new features, such as Ahu'ailā'au, formerly known as Fissure 8, or recommending a name change for a feature by filling out a Name Change Form found online at:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/gis/bgn/BGN%20How%20to%20Submit%20a%20Proposed%20N ame.pdf

Once submitted, the Board will consider the proposal at a future meeting where it will discuss the recommendation, the reason for the change, and the evidence provided and will conduct its own research and consider testimony provided at the meeting before rendering a decision.

All Board meetings are public and open to public participation.

D. How Can You Find Out More?

• Learn more about HBGN on our website:

https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn/

• Listen to meeting recordings or read the meeting minutes:

https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn/hbgn-meeting-minutes/

• View the meeting packets and agenda for upcoming meetings:

https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn/hbgn-meeting-materials/

• Email us at:

gis@hawaii.gov