

HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN)

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

235 S. Beretania Street
6th floor Conference Room
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday December 10, 2025

2:00 p.m.

The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) meetings will be switching from a Zoom meeting format to a Zoom webinar starting with this December 10, 2025 meeting. This change will ensure greater security and hopefully prevent any malicious meeting disruptions. With this change, remote attendees will not be able to speak, ask questions, show their video, or use screen share unless recognized by the Chair.

If you're attending remotely and you have questions or would like to provide comments during the meeting, please use the **Raise Hand** function to notify the host that you would like to speak. The meeting facilitator will recognize you and unmute your microphone. Or, if you prefer or don't have a microphone, you may ask your questions or make comments using the Zoom **Q&A** function.

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: https://bit.ly/hbgn_20251210

or dial: (669) 900 6833 [audio only]

Webinar ID: 827 7338 6414

Passcode: 529407

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes for April 9, 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. Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola.
Board members will review and discuss Resolution No. 25-63 from the Honolulu City Council urging the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names to rename Sand Island to Mauiola. [Action Item]

6. Discussion and decision on changing the official name of the Island of Hawai‘i.
Board members will review previous discussions about changing the name of the island to “Hawai‘i.” [Action Item]
7. Review Board meeting schedule.
Board members will consider changes to the current quarterly meeting. [Action Item]
8. Adjourn

Meeting Materials:

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

Zoom meeting information:

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

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 (<https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn>) 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 **Friday, December 5, 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 appropriate, the Chair will recognize you and 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 appropriate, the Chair will recognize you and you will be unmuted. When testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization that you represent, if any.

Information about attending the meeting in person:

Persons may attend the meeting in person at: Leiopapa A Kamehameha, 235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Conference Room, 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 DRAFT
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

DATE: April 9, 2025
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

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

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 3:44 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]

ABSENT: Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

GUESTS: Kimber Collins (KITV)

[0:0:40]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2025

[0:01:08]

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of March 12, 2025. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[0:01:27]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of March 12, 2025.

[0:01:35]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

No public comments were received.

[0:01:48]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

There were no announcements.

[0:02:10]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Review and Finalize Outreach Materials Related to Proposed Name Change from “Island of Hawai‘i” to “Hawai‘i.”

Mr. Buto made some non-substantive changes to the document that Mr. Cummins provided in December; adding clarifying language and rearranging items.

Mr. Cummings was unsure if the characterization of the meeting at which the name of “**Island of Hawai‘i**” was raised was accurate and if the narrative is incomplete or too weak.

Collectively, members revised the language in the document to strengthen language inviting participation in the discussion and providing input.

“...Therefore, HBGN is reaching out now to invite the community to submit testimony and comments or provide more information about the proposed name change. The Board also invites you to bring your questions and concerns regarding the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names, its authority and its mission to its June 2025 meeting. For more information about the Board, visit our website (<https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn>) or see the information provided below.

We look forward to a meaningful and respectful discussion on this important topic.

[0:23:10]

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to accept the revised document prepared for the June 2025 meeting. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[0:23:33]

The members present voted unanimously to accept the revised document prepared for the June 2025 meeting.

Mr. Buto will send the documents to the Board members to disseminate among their respective networks.

[0:24:30]

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

[0:24:34]

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

[0:24:43]

The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

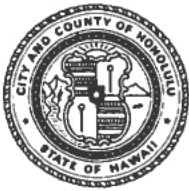
September 23, 2025

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2025
OFFICE OF PLANNING &
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Subject: Board on Geographic Names

Should you have any questions please call me at 586-0390.

REID K. SIAROT
State Land Surveyor



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-63, FD1

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME SAND ISLAND TO MAULIOLA.

WHEREAS, Sand Island, located within Honolulu Harbor, was formerly known as Mauiola, which was derived from maui ola or "breath of life" or "power of healing" in 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s, this small tidal island grew in size with the dredging and infilling of Honolulu Harbor, altering an area that had once been a large complex of fishponds and reefs; and

WHEREAS, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the rapid urbanization of Honolulu and an increasingly busy harbor brought an influx of disease, which rapidly spread; and

WHEREAS, Mauiola was utilized to quarantine ships, and the government built a crematorium on the island, which in part led to Mauiola becoming known as Quarantine Island; and

WHEREAS, Quarantine Island continued to grow in size with more dredging and infilling of Honolulu Harbor in the 1940s, and the island was utilized by the military as a coastal defense station and an internment camp; and

WHEREAS, Quarantine Island later became known by its present name, Sand Island, which is listed as the island's official name on the Geographic Names Information System ("GNIS"), a federal repository for identifying official place names; and

WHEREAS, state governments are given the authority to provide "administrative names" to places, which are then listed in the GNIS; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN"), through the enactment of Act 50, Session Laws of Hawaii 1974 and codified as Chapter 4E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, was established to designate the official place names and spellings of geographic features in the State of Hawai'i ("State") and to ensure uniformity in the use and spelling of geographic features; and

WHEREAS, the HBGN uses cultural and historical significance as a criterion for considering a name change, with preference given to names in 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-63, FD1

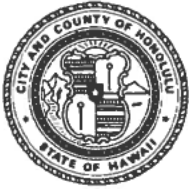
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, today Sand Island is home to a State recreation area, a United States Coast Guard base, a wastewater treatment facility, a business park, and a marine education training center; and

WHEREAS, the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association has advocated for the renaming of Sand Island to Mauiola, as the meaning of this new name would embody the values of healing, renewal, and interconnectedness, and the renaming would also promote public awareness and understanding of the island's historical importance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that Mauiola is a historically accurate and appropriate name that would reflect the area's cultural and historical significance and honor the cultural heritage of Native Hawaiians by recognizing the significance of traditional place names; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names to rename Sand Island to Mauiola; and



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-63, FD1

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names and the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

INTRODUCED BY:

Radiant Cordero

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

February 20, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN"); Hawaii; Geographic Names Information System ("GNIS"); Mauiola; Quarantine Island; Sand Island; Name Change

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

**Cremation in Hawaii
(Puhi Ahi and Puhi Lehu)
(Mauliola, Kahakaaulana, Koholaloa, and Quarantine Island)**

The Polynesian. 9 October 1841. P. 1. *Laws of the Hawaiian Islands. Quarantine Laws.*

[Quarantine laws established by Kamehameha III, translated, and published in *The Polynesian*.]

The Polynesian. 30 July 1853. P. 2. *Public Meeting* [regarding smallpox]

The passengers [from the Charles Mallory] were quarantined at a place beyond Dimond Head, and the small pox did not break out in that vicinity. The person with the small pox was placed on a small island called Kahakaaulana, and remained there for five weeks. He was then cleansed, his things and the house in which he stopped were burned, and after being in the place two days, he left the islands.

Ka Elele Hawaii. 12 August 1853. P. 53. *No Ka Elele.*

... I ko'u manao, aole na kela moku i lawe mai i keia mai, no ka mea; o ke kanaka mai puupuu liilii [smallpox] i waihoia ma Kahakaaulana, ua noho oia malaila elima pule a puka mai, a elua ona la i noho oia malaila elima pule a puka mai, a elua ona la i noho ai me kakou a holo koke aku i ka aina e.

... A o ka hala a ua kanaka puupuu la i noho ai ma Kahakaaulana, ua puhiia i ke ahi, aole no i loa i ka mai malaila, akahi no i keia wa, a o ke kumu o ka puka ana mai o ka mai puupuuliilii malaila no Moanalua mai na keiki i loa i ka puupuu, a ke noho nei malaila.

The Polynesian. 30 July 1856. P. 191. *Legal Advertisements.*

[Supreme Court notice regarding the "administration upon the Estate of Naehuelua, of Koholaloa, late deceased". Earliest mention of Koholaloa in *The Polynesian*, but no mention of its location or its use as a quarantine station.]

Ka Hoku O Ka Pakipika. 10 October 1861. P. 3.

[First mention of Hale Hoomalu, Quarantine Station.]

Ke Au Okoa. 1 August 1872. P. 2. *Na Mea Hou Kuloko.*

Ma ka Poalua iho nei, ua ike hou ia kekahi mea ua loa i ka mai hepela [smallpox] ma Kapuukolo, a ua lawe ia aku ia i ka Hale Hoomalu Hepela ma kai o Koholaloa. Ma keia puka hou ana ae o keia mai e maopopo ai aole i kaohia na anoano o keia mai, eia no ke hoopu nei i waena o kekahi poe o ke kulanakauhale.

Ke Au Okoa. 12 September 1872. P. 2. [Untitled]

He mea hiki no paha ke kanalua ole ian a ka mokumahu Nebraska i lawe mai i ka mai puupuu liilii [smallpox] ia nei, me ka ike a ike ole paha o ke Kapena a me ke Kauka o ka moku. Ma ka la 23 o Mei, ua hoea ae ka mai mua, a ua hoonoho koke ia ma ka hale hoomalu ma Kaholaloa [Koholaloa].

[*Place Names of Hawaii*: “Koholaloa is an old name for Sand Island. Lit., long reef.” Note: PNH also translated Kaholaloa, referring to Sand Island. Koholaloa is correct.]

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 18 March 1876. P. 2. *Mai Ulalii*. [Measles]

Ua puka aenei ka mai ulalii a ka "Mikado" i lawe mai nei maluna o kekahi ohua wahine i holo mai nei mai Kaleponi, a ua hoihoiia aku nei ia i ka Hale Hoomalu mai i Kahakaaulana. I ka Poaha iho nei ka ikeia ana mauka iho o Kaukeano, a maloko o ka pa o Maraea Kanamu. E malama loa oukou e na kanaka i keia; a mai noho a hele e auau iloko o ka wai, i ka wa e hookau iho ai ka li a me ke anu.

Honolulu Advertiser. 19 December 1883. P. 3. *Auction Sale*.

Pound Notice. There will be sold at Public Auction, on Monday December 24th, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Government Pound, Koholaloa, Honolulu, the following estrayed animals: [two horses].

Honolulu Advertiser. 5 September 1884. P. 3. *Local And General*.

“Captain Tell has purchased a fine new boat as a means of communication with his family and residence on Quarantine Island. He finds it preferable to going round in a wagon.” [Earliest mention of Quarantine Island in the *Advertiser*]

Honolulu Advertiser. 20 February 1889. P. 2. *Sealed Tenders*.

“[Tenders] for the addition to and repairs on a building on the Quarantine Ground at Mauiola Honolulu [should be sent to the Board of Health].” [Earliest mention of Mauiola in the *Advertiser*]

Ka Makaainana. 16 July 1894. P. 8. *Kela A Me Keia*.

Auwina la Poaha iho la i ku mai ai ka Rio de Janeiro, aole nae i komo mai iloko nei. Oiai aole oia i ku i Honokona, eia nae, ua hoomaluia no. O ua eke leta keia, na hooileia i ke kahua hoomalu ma Kahakaaulana, a ilaila kahi i hoomaemae ahi ia ai. Ua hooileia na ohua he eouo ohua helu ekahi a me 50 Iapana ma ka papa elua, i Kahakaaulana e hoomalu ai a pau pu no me na ukana, a i keia la paha e

hemo nui mai ai. I ka wanaao Poaono nei oia i holo aku ai o Kapalakiko me eha ohua mai nei aku.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 1 September 1894. P. 3. *Nu Hou Hawaii*.

O na ohua kapena, ua ae ia lakou e lele mai iuka nei, a o na ohua oneki lapana, ua hoomalu ia ma Kahakaaaulana a i keia la e hookuu ia mai ai. Ma ka hora 3 auina la Poalua mai, ua haalele mai ka Belgic a hoi loa aku la Kapakiko [Kapolakiko].

Ka Makaainana. 26 August 1895. P. 1. *He Kolera Io Anei? Ae, Oia no, Wahi a na Kauka o ka Papa Ola*.

Mahope iho o ka puka ai a aku o Ka Makaainana i ka Poakahi i hala, ua oi loa ae ka wawaia no ka puka io ae o ka ma'i ahulau kolera, eia nae hoi, ua huhewa loa makou ma ka olelo ana no ka Moku Akulikuli, o ka pololei ka hoi, no kai aenei no o Iwilei. Elua nae make iwaena o na ohua Pake e hoomaluia nei makai o ke Kahua Hoomalu o Mauiola, Kahakaaaulana, a he mau mea ma'i e ae kekahi, ua pohala ae nae.

Honolulu Advertiser. 4 October 1895. P. 3. *"Kauai Kickers" Tell About It. Graphic Description of Life at the Quarantine Station*. [also referred to as Mauiola Quarantine Station, Mauiola Quarantine Island]

Ka Makaainana. 13 April 1896. P. 1. *Oili Kupuino Hou. Nui ko Kakou Pilikia Ka Laha ae keia Mai Ahulau* [Mai Hebera- smallpox].
Halemai Mauiola on Kahakaaaulana.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 17 July 1896. P. 11. *Nu Hou Hawaii*.

Ma ka Poakahi nei i hoopaeia aku ai no ke kahua hoomalu paahana [busy quarantine station], ma Kahakaaaulana, mai luna aku o ka mokuahi Kina. He 233 Pake a he 79 Iapana.

Evening Bulletin. 24 July 1896. P. 1. *Health Officials Back. Dr. Wood Tells Of Their Trip To China and Japan*.

[Dr. C. B. Wood of the Board of Health and Attorney General Smith visited Tokyo where they were escorted to five crematories by the head of the National Medical and Police Bureau.] "Cremation has been in vogue for ages in Japan and the people are accustomed to it as those in India, but up to twenty years ago it merely consisted in burning the bodies in open air. The five crematories of Tokio are owned by an incorporated company, established less than eight years ago. [p. 1] Cremation is optional except in deaths from contagious or infectious diseases when the government makes it compulsory.

Ke Aloha Aina. 14 January 1899. P. 2. *Loaa He Mau Leta Malu Iloko O Na Lilia Pake.*

“ka pa hoomalu ma’i o Mauiola”

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 May 1899. P. 7. *E Kiai Makaala Ana.*

“ka pa hoomalu o ke aupuni ma Mauiola”

Honolulu Advertiser. 11 July 1899. P. 8. *Wharf And Wave.*

“The America Maru is anchored off port in quarantine from Yokohama. She will remain some days coaling and sail for San Francisco probably about Thursday. Her passengers were landed on Mauiola quarantine station.”

Honolulu Advertiser. 13 December 1899. P. 1. *Bubonic Plaque. It Makes Its Appearance In Honolulu. Five Deaths Reported.*

“The bubonic plaque has come to Honolulu. How it came no one knows.” [p. 1]

“It was stated by President Cooper [Attorney General Henry E. Cooper, who has charge of the Health Department and of the work fighting the plaque] that plans for a crematory were being prepared hurriedly as possible; while the cases now already reported would be disposed of by the Honolulu Iron Works. Dr. Emerson: ‘I move that the President (Dole) be authorized to have the appropriation for the crematory made.’ This motion carried without reserve.” [p. 3]

“...the Attorney General said that he had early in the morning called for plans for a crematory and he wished to compliment the Minister of the Interior who had furnished them and begun work early in the afternoon. The crematory would be erected within the space of two or three days and would be a work at once. The work would be carried out on quarantine island and there the cremation of bodies would be done.” [p. 3]

“The new crematory to be erected on quarantine island will cost about \$1,000.” [p.13]

“Work was commenced on the crematory at the Quarantine Station yesterday [December 12], and the brick work will be commenced this morning. Minister Young states that the crematory will be completed in three days.” [p.13]

Evening Bulletin. 13 December 1899. P. 1. *Situation Well In Hand. Only Three Cases of Plague Up To Noon Today...*

There have so far been five cremations. Three of the bodies were those of known plague victims. [The other two were as a precaution by the Board of Health.]

Some of the cremations have been at Quarantine Island and other in the furnaces at the Honolulu Iron Works. On the island a regular funeral pile was made of wood and some kerosene oil was used. In the cremations at the Iron Works coke had been used [in their furnace].

[A furnace is being built on Quarantine Island by the Iron Works.] It is suggested by many citizens that the burning of bodies made necessary at this time will serve splendidly to show to a number of the prejudiced nationalities that this is an excellent manner in which to dispose of the dead.

[At the Council of State meeting] there was a complete presentation of the matter of a crematory being under construction at the Honolulu Iron Works for immediate use at the Quarantine Island.

Ke Aloha Aina. 16 December 1899. P. 5. *Na Poe I Make.*

He elua mau kino make i maopopo loa ua loa i keia ma'i a he ekolu e huli pono ia aku ana ke kumu i make ai.

A o ka pake i make ma ke alanui Maunakea, na puhi lehu ia oia ma Kahakaaulana.

Ka Loea Kalaiaina. 16 December 1899. P. 3. *Puhi Ahi Ia Na Kino Make.*

The Hawaiian Star. 18 December 1899. P. 1. *On Quarantine Island. A Place For Breeding Disease. A New Crematory Just Built Near The Grave-Yard [In] Unhealthful Conditions There.*

[Graphic descriptions of the stench and swamp of refuse. Description of the building constructed by contractor Fred Harrison.] "It [the crematory] is close by the little graveyard on quarantine island, where lie the victims of previous epidemics that have visited Honolulu. The graves are wholly uncared for, a collection of weedy mounds and dirty tombstones."

Ke Aloha Aina. 23 December 1899. P. 4. [no title] "e puhi ahi ia na kino make..."

Ke Aloha Aina. 30 December 1899. P. 3. *Poha Hou Ka Mai Bubonic He Ekolu Mau Kino Make I Puhi Lehu Ia.*

Ethel Johnson, 14, makahiki no Iwilei, make i ka ma'i bubonika, ma ka hora 1 p.m. Dekemaba 23, puhi lehuia ma ka po Poaono.

Ka Loea Kalaiaina. 30 December 1899. P. 4. *Bubonic. Puhi Ahi Ia Na Kino Make.* "ka ma'i Buboponika"; "Puhi ahi hou ia he mau kino make ma ka Po La Pule nei ma Kahakaaulana ae nei."

Honolulu Advertiser. 1 January 1900. P. 11. *Three Dead Yesterday. Board Takes Vigorous Action. Burns Three Buildings. The Health Authorities Decide To Condemn Infected Portions Of Chinatown.*

“The body [of the second death] was sent to the crematory.”

Ke Aloha Aina. 6 January 1900. P. 2. *Ke Pahola Nei No He 4 Make I Hoomaopopo Ia No Ka Bubonika.*

Aole i noii pono ia kona kumu i make ai, aka, ua hoouna koke ia aku no ke puhi lehu ia ana ma kai o Kahakaaulana. O na kino a pau na puhi lehu ia.

Evening Bulletin. 8 January 1900. P. 1. *Views Of Medical Men.*

[During the monthly meeting of the Hawaiian Medical Association] cremation was recognized as the most sanitary mode of disposal of the dead, and the burning of bodies of victims of the plague illustrated the necessity of having a regular crematory.

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 January 1900. P. 1. *Aohe Mau Keena I Koe No Lakou.*

“maluna o kahi mokupuni o Mauiola”

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 January 1900. P. 4. *Ke Pii Mau Nei Na Make. Eha I Lilo Hou Aku La Na Ola Makamae.*

Puhi ia o Aala i ke ahi ma o ke Poha ana ae ia o ka Ma'i ma ia Wahi.

Ma ka Poaono nei ua loa aku he hapa pake nona ka inoa a o Ahi, ua make ma Kamanuwai, ma ka nana ana a na kauka aupuni ua ike ia he bubonika.

Ma ke Sabati ua make he bebe pake no Aala ae nei, ua ike ia na helehelena o ka ma'i weliweli maluna ona.

O Kekawano he Iapana, no kahi hoomalu o Kalihi ua make oia ia pono i ka ma'i bubonika.

O ka eha o na poe i make he Iapana no ke alanui Kukui nona ka inoa o Mizuno Sakuichi. Ua make oia ma ia pono, a na lawe ia aku oia no ke puhi ia ana i ke ahi ma Mauiola.

O ka nui o na ma'i bubonika a hiki iho la i ke Sabati nei he 46, a maloko oia he 38 i make.

E puhiia ana na halekuai o Aala e ku nei ma ke alanui Moi ma keia Poaono.

Ke Aloha Aina. 27 January 1900. P. 4. *Ke Pii Mau Nei Na Make Eha I Lilo Hou Aku La Na Ola Makamae.*

O ka eha o na poe i make he Iapana no ke alanui Kukui nona ka inoa o Mizuno Sakuichi. Ua make oia ma ia pono, a na lawe ia aku oia no ke puhi ia ana i ke ahi ma Mauiola.

Ke Aloha Aina. 27 January 1900. P. 7. *Eia Hou No Ua Make.*

Ua hoouna ia aku kona kino no kahi puhi ahi [cremation place] o Kahakaaulana, mahope o ka ike ana o na kauka ua kiai makaala ia nei ka loli ae o kona kulana.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 9 February 1900. P. 2. *Na Leo Mahalo I Ko Papa Ola Malama I Na Kanaka Hawaii Ma Na Wahi Hoomalu.*

Iloko no nae oia wa hookahi, e hoomanao ana no makou i kela kau ma'i hebera (small pox) i poha ai ma Honolulu i ka makahiki 1881, a i hoomaluia ai hoi na kanaka i loohia kekahi o ko lakou mau ohana i ua ma'i la, ma ke Kahua hoomalu mai ma Kahakaaulana, kahi mokupuni hoi i kapaia, "Ka Moku Akulikuli."

Honolulu Advertiser. 13 February 1900. P. 3. *Scenes At The Mauiola Crematory*

The crematory was built within four days after the order was given on December 12th, all the ironwork being made from special castings. Honolulu is indebted to Attorney General Cooper and Minister of Interior Young for the construction of the crematory. President Wood states that the Mauiola crematory is more effective in general results than the one at Tokyo, Japan.
[Drawings of the crematory with a long caption.]

The Hawaiian Gazette. 16 February 1900. P. 3. *Scenes At The Mauiola Crematory.*

The crematory was built within four days after the order was given on December 12th [1899], all the ironwork being made from special castings. Honolulu is indebted to Attorney General Cooper and Minister of [the] Interior Young for the construction of the crematory.

President Wood states that the Mauiola crematory is more effective in general results than the one in Tokyo, Japan.
[Clifford B. Wood, President of the Board of Health]

Ke Aloha Aina. 24 February 1900. P. 5. *Eia Hou No Ka Bubonika. Ekolu Mau Ola I Lilo Aku La.*

Ma ka nana ia ana o na mea paahana oloko o kona kino ua ike ia iho la, ua piha oia me na anoano o ka bubonika, a lawe koke ia aku la oia e puhi ma Mauiola.

The Hawaiian Gazette. 24 April 1900. P. 4. *No Cremation For Catholics. So Says Bishop Of Panopolis Who Issues A Circular Letter To His Flock.*

“The Bishop of Panopolis, vicar apostolic to the Hawaiian Islands, and head of the Catholic Church here, has issued a circular letter against cremation. [A copy of the letter is included. According to a decree in 1886 by Pope Leo XIII, no Catholic shall ask cremation for himself nor for anybody else.]

Honolulu Advertiser. 26 May 1900. P. 13. *Chisholm Cremated. So Ordered By Board of Health.*

“The friends protested and threatened to secure an attorney to fight the dictum of the president of the Health Board. Nevertheless, Dr. Wood persisted in carrying out his order, and had the remains removed to the crematory on Quarantine Island where they were quickly cremated.”

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 26 April 1901. P. 6. *Na Koa O Ka Moku Mai Manaoia.*

Ua olelo ao kekahi haole i ike pono i ke ano o ka hoouna ana ia o ka poe koa ma'i puupuu liilii (measles) i Kahakaaulana ua hookuu ia iluna o na waapa a waiho ia peia i ka wela o ka la a hiki i ke kii ana mai o ka waapa mahu e lawe ia lakou. Aohe he peia, a mau mea oluolu e ae hoi, a aohe no hoi he mau mea e palulu ae ai i ka wela o ka la. O ke ola ana paha o keia poe?

Mai oi loa ka maikai i na i ka manawa i ike ia ai ua loa ka moku i ka ma'i hepera i na i lawe ia na koa a pau loa i Kahakaaulana koe na poe hana o ka moku, puhipuhi i ka moku me namea hoomake ma'i a ae e komo mai e kii i wai inu a me ka nanahu a pau hoi aku i waho hookau keia poe koa a holo aku no Manila. Ina me keia e hana mai ai keia poe e poino ana na oia makamae o Hawaii nei i ka lakou ma'i.

He 35 poe ma'i e hoomalu ia nei ma ka Hakaaulana. He ekolu poe i loa i ka ma'i hepera (small pox.) a he ma'i puupuu liilii ka hapanui.

Ke Aloha Aina. 24 February 1902. P. 5. *Moku Lawekoa Sheridan Me Ka Ma'i Samola Poki* [smallpox]

Ua hoolele ia aku ke koa ma'i ma ke kahua hoomalu o ke aupuni ma Mauiola, me na koa a me na ohua o keia awa, a e hoomalu ia ana lakou malaila no 15 la mamua o ka hookuu ia ana mai.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 9 May 1902. P. 6. *Ua Piholo O Welau.*

He lono walohia ka i hiki mai i o makou nei, no ke piholo ana o Weiau iloko o ke kai. ua hele aku ia me kekahi mau kanaka elua ma ka waapa no ka lawaia mawaho o kuanalu o Kahakaaulana a loohia ia oia e keia pilikia.

Evening Bulletin. 3 June 1903. P. 1. *Horst Family Over At Mauiola Island.*

“The Horst child which, being a smallpox patient, caused the Pacific Mail steamship Korea to be quarantined for a while last Monday, is at present at the quarantine hospital of Mauiola Island.”

The Hawaiian Gazette. 5 February 1904. P. 1. *Catholic Church Opposes Cremation.* [Reasons given by a local priest.]

The Hawaiian Star. 1 May 1905. P. 1. *Plans For A Crematory. The one at Quarantine Island is no longer available for the public, hence there is not in the islands a place where a wish to have one's body incinerated can be carried out.*

The federal authorities and the local authorities have in the past accommodated the public in this matter [requests for cremation] until the opinion quite generally prevails that cremation is to be had by any one who would apply for it and hence the Federal crematory has come to be regarded as a public institution. [Local government is looking into constructing a public crematory.] [Private cemeteries and Buddhist temples then step in and build their own crematories.]

The Hawaiian Gazette. 12 May 1905. P. 7. *The Question of Burial Versus Modern Cremation.*

The crematory on Quarantine Island is the property of the Federal government, and is definitely closed for private use. Its purposes are for incineration of those who die of uncertain, possibly contagious, diseases, and, therefore, the necessity of there being established a crematory which would be available for all who wish.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 12 May 1905. P. 8. [Untitled]
“Mokupuni o Kahakaaulana”

Ka Na'i Aupuni. 15 August 1906. P. 2. *Kuahaua Koho Balota Nui.*
“ka mokupuni hoomalu eemoku (Kahakaaulana)” [immigrant quarantine island]

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 15 October 1920. P. 3. *Hoolaha.*
O ke Ki Manu, Ka Hahai Holoholona, Ka Lawai'a a Komohewa paha maluhia o na aina o Mokauea, na aina kai kohola ame na Loko I'a e waiho ana mawaena o Puuhale ame Kahakaaulana ame ka Mokupuni Hoomalu, ua papa loa ia, malalo o ke hoopa'i a ke kanawai.
(Kakauinoaia) Fred A. Luning. Honolulu. Oct. 12, 1920.

[Mokupuni Hoomalu: Quarantine Island- earliest mention in the Hawaiian-language newspapers]

Honolulu Advertiser. 15 March 1923. P. 1. *Sand Island Control Under Secretary of War, Opinion Of U. S. Attorney General.*

[Long legal opinion that continues on page 6 regarding ownership of Sand Island, including Quarantine Island, and the history of both back to 1840.]

All these tend strongly to show that the jurisdiction of the Marine Hospital Service thus acquired was confined strictly to the small island of Kamolouakulikuli [Kamokuakulikuli] otherwise known as Quarantine Island which was “above high water mark on the reef of Kaholaloa.”

...the small tract then “known as Quarantine Island,” which was “above high water mark on the reef of Kaholaloa, [is] now occupied by the government as a quarantine station.”

The Marine Hospital service took control of Quarantine Island in 1898, following the adoption of the resolution of annexation [and nothing changed] between annexation and the Organic Act [of 1900, which established the Territory of Hawaii].

Paddle-out Ceremonies.

Paddle-out ceremonies to scatter someone's ashes in the ocean began in Waikīkī in the early 1900s. They originated with the members of Hui Nalu, the canoe club founded in 1908 by Duke Kahanamoku, Knute Cottrell, and Ken Winter. Burials at sea have been a maritime tradition as long as sailors have been sailing, so members of Hui Nalu, many of them Waikīkī beach boys, took the burial at sea concept and modified it by paddling the ashes of the deceased offshore in a canoe and scattering them in the ocean along with flower lei.

Surfing legend Wally Froiseth (1919-2015) was born in Los Angeles, but moved Hawai'i with his parents when he was 3 years old. He started surfing as a child in the 1920s, learning the sport and how to make surfboards from Waikīkī beach boy John Kaupiko. In an interview with *The New York Times* in 2010 Froiseth recalled attending his first paddle out ceremony at the age of six and said, "I don't know of any place that did it before Waikīkī."

Cremation, an important part of most paddle-out ceremonies, was not practiced in Hawai'i until the early 1900s. Discussions about it started as early as 1890, when Dr. Sidney Swift, the Board of Health physician for the leprosy settlement at Kalaupapa, recommended investigating cremation as an alternative to tradition burials.

Honolulu Advertiser. June 6, 1890. P. 5. "Report of the Board of Health."

It is held on high authority that the leprous germ is not destroyed by the burial of a dead body. On the contrary it thrives for a time certainly and is not unlikely to penetrate wells and springs contaminating them thereby. It would seem as if the only true sanitation would be cremation of the dead.

In 1896 the Board of Health sent two emissaries to Japan to investigate crematories and cremation procedures as a way to deal with mass fatalities of an epidemic. One of them, Dr. Clifford Wood, submitted the following in his report after he returned to Hawai'i.

Evening Bulletin. July 24, 1896. P. 1. "Health Officials Back."

Cremation has been in vogue for ages in Japan and the people are accustomed to it as those in India, but up to twenty years ago it merely consisted of burning bodies in open air. The five crematories of Tokio [sic] are owned by an incorporated company, established less than eight years ago. Cremation is optional except in deaths from contagious or infectious diseases when the government makes it compulsory.

The information Dr. Wood gathered in Japan proved essential late in 1899 when bubonic plague struck Hawai'i. Under his direction as president of the Board of Health, the board asked Honolulu Iron Works to build a government-run crematory on Quarantine Island, a small tidal island off Honolulu Harbor. Known in Hawaiian as Kahaka'aulana, the island had been used as a quarantine station as early as the smallpox epidemic of 1853. The building was named the Mauiola Crematory after the Hawaiian god of health.

Evening Bulletin. January 8, 1900. P. 1. "Views Of Medical Men."

[During the monthly meeting of the Hawaiian Medical Association] cremation was recognized as the most sanitary mode of disposal of the dead, and the burning of bodies of victims of the plague illustrated the necessity of having a regular crematory.

Honolulu Advertiser. February 13, 1900. P. 3. "Scenes At The Mauiola Crematory." The crematory was built within four days after the order was given on December 12th [1899], all the ironwork being made from special castings. Honolulu is indebted to Attorney General Cooper and Minister of [the] Interior Young for the construction of the crematory. President Wood states that the Mauiola crematory is more effective in general results than the one at Tokyo, Japan.

The use of Mauiola Crematory during the bubonic plague introduced cremation to Hawai'i, and as it gained acceptance, the general public continued to use the facility on Quarantine Island [Sand Island today] long after the plague ended. When the government terminated cremation services in 1905, local mortuaries and Japanese Buddhist temples stepped in and built crematories for their clients and congregations.

The Hawaiian Gazette. 12 May 1905. P. 7. "The Question of Burial Versus Modern Cremation."

The crematory on Quarantine Island is the property of the Federal government, and is definitely closed for private use. Its purposes are for incineration of those who die of uncertain, possibly contagious, diseases, and, therefore, the necessity of there being established a crematory which would be available for all who wish.

With the widespread acceptance of cremation as an alternative to traditional burials, some Hawai'i residents began scattering ashes at sea.

Honolulu Advertiser. December 2, 1913. P. 5. "Daughter Scatters Ashes of Father on Sea Off Molokai."

At about ten o'clock last night, while the steamer Claudine, on its voyage from Honolulu to Lahaina, Maui, was on the high seas between Molokai and Maui, Mrs. Peter N. Kahokuoluna, in compliance with the last request of the late Capt. Andrew Rosehill, cast to the four winds the ashes of her father. She was assisted by her husband.

The memorial service that laid the foundation for paddle-out ceremonies took place in Waikiki in 1918 for Dr. George H. Stover, where the highlight of the service was scattering his ashes in the waves washing over the beach. Stover, a medical doctor from Denver, Colorado, first came to Hawaii in 1910. A prominent physician and an x-ray specialist, he was interested to learn if this new technology would work as a cure for leprosy. During several trips to Hawai'i, he stayed at the Seaside Hotel [the site of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel today], where he swam almost every afternoon with friends and listened to the music of the beach boys, many of them members of Hui Nalu.

Stover enjoyed writing poetry and during a visit in 1914 wrote the lyrics to “On the Beach at Waikiki,” the popular song that was also known as “Honi Kaua Wikiwiki.” Henry Kailimai composed the music, and Albert “Sonny” Cunha arranged it.

When Stover passed away in 1915, his remains were cremated and his ashes placed in an urn. Prior to his death, he requested his ashes to be scattered in the ocean at Waikīkī Beach. In 1918 Stover’s widow, Anna, asked J. Harrick, a family friend who was on his way to Hawai‘i, if he would fulfil Stover’s request. Harrick agreed and on February 22 he led the ceremony that was attended by hundreds.

Honolulu Advertiser. February 23, 1918. P. 6. “Wind and Wave Claim Ashes of Song Writer. Dust of Doctor Stover Who Wrote ‘On the Beach At Waikiki’, Scattered Over Sand and Sea As He Requested On Death Bed.”

It was the last wish of the doctor that his ashes be scattered upon the sands upon one of the sunny afternoons that have Waikiki Beach the theme of poets, painters and musicians, when the beach was crowded with bathers, surfers and canoists, and when it was the real Waikiki Beach of song and story.

There were hundreds of bathers in their varied assortment of bathing suits; there were fashionable groups; there were motion picture men and photographers; dancing upon the waves boards were held upright until [there] were many outrigger canoes and [the] surf-ceremony was over. The canoe boys, the beach guards and many of the members of the Hui Nalu, some of whom had played upon the beach and swam with Doctor Stover, [were there] and to them the duty was assigned of singing Hawaiian melodies.

Never was such a strange funeral ceremony witnessed in Honolulu, and never was such a strange burying ground selected. There was no minister, no choir, no gravediggers. The waves swept upon the beach, murmuring their own sad requiem to the memory of the man who had been their playfellow in years gone by.

Mr. Harrick stepped down from the seawall upon the sand just at the junction of the Seaside Hotel and Outrigger Club beaches. As he opened the urn the Hawaiian boys, led by Beach Guard David Kahanamoku, sang “Aloha Oe” softly and impressively. They continued the plaintive air as Mr. Harrick scattered the gray ashes over the sands. Back and forth the young man walked covering a wide area, stepping even into the water that some of the ashes might be carried out by the waves. Ripples of water washed up on the sands and obliterated thin gray lines.

A brief prayer was uttered by Mr. Harrick as he carried out the dying request, and as the last of the urn’s contents were caught by the breezes and blown seaward the singers changed to the lifting strains of “On the Beach at Waikiki” concluding with another verse of Aloha Oe.

In a few minutes the beach had resumed its wonted gaiety. The waves swept up high and dragged down the sands so that at last ashes and sea were one.

Stover’s memorial service set the stage for scattering ashes in the waters of Waikīkī. It included all of the elements of the paddle-out ceremonies that followed: surfboards, outrigger canoes, music, a beachside service, and the spreading of ashes in the ocean. Hui Nalu took the lead in organizing paddle-outs, conducting them for many years after

Stover's service. In a 1928 Burton Holmes Travelogue called "Hawaiian Shores," Holmes included movie footage of a paddle-out ceremony fronting the Moana Hotel, showing an impressive procession of several dozen outrigger canoes leaving the beach to scatter someone's ashes. He titled the piece "Toodle-oo," which was slang of the day for "goodbye."

In 1955 members of Hui Nalu still continued to provide the paddle-out ceremonies their founders had initiated earlier in the century. In addition to the original elements for paddle-outs, they also had participants form "a great arc," an early version of today's circle of surfers.

Honolulu Star Bulletin. April 14, 1955. P. 29. "Lew G. Henderson's Ashes Scattered to Ocean Waters."

Sixty-one beach boys paddled silently out past the breakers to Waikiki reef last night, to scatter the ashes of Lew G. Henderson in the waters he helped to make famous.

The 11-canoe procession was led by Samuel Mokuahi Sr., and his son Samuel Jr., who paddled David K. Bray to the reef with the ashes. Before the canoe procession Bray led the beach boys in several Hawaiian chants and delivered a eulogy.

The beach boys sang [their club song called] Hui Nalu, then sang Aloha Oe before moving the canoes into the water. The canoes went out single file. There was a slight rain falling at the reef. At the reef the canoes formed a great arc facing the sea. Bray led the 61 paddlers in a final Hawaiian chant, then sprinkled the ashes on the water.

Then floral wreaths and beach boy leis were placed in the water and started drifting out to sea, following the ashes.

“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 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. Therefore, HBGN is reaching out now to invite the community to submit testimony and comments or provide more information about the proposed name change. The Board also invites you to bring your questions and concerns about the Board on Geographic Names, its authority, and its mission to its June 2025 meeting. For more information about the Board, visit our website (<https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis/hbgn>) or see the information provided below.

We look forward to a meaningful and respectful discussion on this important topic.

ABOUT THE HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

A. What is HBGN?

The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (the "Board" or "HBGN") was established by Act 50 of the 1974 Hawai'i State Legislature. Act 50 states that "*the board shall designate the official names and spellings of geographic features in Hawaii...*" The purpose of an official name is to assure uniformity in the use and spelling of geographic feature names by State agencies and to allow the State and the public to communicate unambiguously about places, reducing the potential for confusion. State agencies are required to use the names approved by the Board on all maps and documents.

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 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%20Name.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



thank you
NO



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Please do not change the
name of the Big Island.

There already is confusion
and we really should honor
the wishes of the local
people.

Mahele,
Joanne Amaki

[REDACTED]
Hilo, HI 96721 [REDACTED]
May 20, 2025

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2025

OFFICE OF PLANNING &
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
ATTN: Hawaii Board on Geographic Names
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the official name, "Island of Hawai'i," is currently being used in federal and state government databases, documents, and on maps. The name "Hawai'i" is being considered.

I prefer "Island of Hawai'i" continue to be used as the official name. It will help clear up the ambiguity between the names of our state and my island.

"Moku o Keawe" is a beloved chiefly name for my island, but I would caution against its official use unless the other islands follow suit with their own official "Moku" chief names. We need to think of ourselves as united. There were chiefs on each island, and we would need to respect them accordingly. Doing so, however, could cause division that King Kamehameha the Great worked very hard to avoid.

On the other hand, allowing my island to be officially named Moku o Keawe while the other islands keep their names would make it look like we're being punished for something. We'd be singled out like we don't belong. There would be nothing in our island name that anyone is used to reading or hearing about, too. Education would be key.

We need to be careful with a name. There is mana that connects it with identity. Again I reiterate in favor of keeping the official name as "Island of Hawai'i."

Thank you for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Mendoza