

HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN)

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

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

Friday, February 13, 2026
10:00 a.m.

The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) meetings utilize a Zoom webinar format. 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 Zoom **Raise Hand** function to notify the Chair that you would like to speak. When the Chair recognizes you, the meeting facilitator will unmute your microphone. 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 webinar information:

URL: https://bit.ly/hbgn_20260213

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

Webinar ID: 826 5834 3060

Passcode: 733734

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes for December 10, 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 identify stakeholders, draft outreach materials, and establish a date for decision making regarding 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. Follow up on the name change from the Island of Hawai'i to Hawai'i.
Board members will complete the USGS Domestic Names Committee (DNC) Name Change Form and draft a press release regarding the name change. [Action Item]
7. 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 **Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 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 and sign in at the security desk in the lobby.

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: December 10, 2025
TIME: 2:00 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 2:06 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development) [in-person]
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]
Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote] (*joined at
2:40 p.m.*)

ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS: Bobby Camara [remote]
Katie Hansen (University of Hawai'i) [in-person]
Rachel Li (University of Hawai'i) [in-person]
Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-
person]
Rachel Beasley (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-
person]

[0:01:45]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025

[0:02:25]

MOTION. Ms. Oliveira moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2025. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[0:02:55]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2025.

[0:03:00]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Mr. Camara emailed to voice his disappointment in the Board for not meeting during much of 2025. Mr. Buto did not include it in the meeting packet but will post his email on the website. Mr. Camara thinks that the Board should meet monthly because names are foundational to Hawai'i.

Mr. Marzan acknowledged that the meeting schedule was changed in 2025 for the first time in a long time, and that the Board is open to changing the frequency and format of the meetings to improve their effectiveness; setting the meeting schedule for 2026 is on today's agenda.

[0:09:10]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Ryan Morales is the designee from the State Surveyor's Office. Mr. Cummins has moved to a different department. Mr. Morales introduced himself. This is his second time on the Board; he recognizes some of the members from his first term and he's familiar with the operations of the Board.

[0:11:00]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola

The Honolulu City Council passed a resolution to rename Sand Island and urges HBGN to designate that name. The resolution and some informational documents from John Clark related to the name were included in the meeting packet. Mr. Clark's documentation indicates that "Mauiola" initially referred to the crematory.

Ms. McEldowney noted that Sand Island includes a State Park. Changing the name of the island would probably result in a name change for the park as well. Mr. Buto suggested that BLNR should be consulted since they are the fee owner of the land and suggested that Councilmember Cordeiro take the matter to the BLNR for a decision; HBGN would approve / recognize BLNR's decision.

Mr. Farden agrees that the BLNR should be given an opportunity to comment on restoring the name but is concerned that if a deadline for a Board decision is not set, then a decision would not be made. Mr. Farden's intention is for the Board to conduct more research and map out the different islands and set a time limit for responses and comments.

Ms. McEldowney noted that there is a federally owned portion of the island as well, but title to the largest portion is held in fee by DLNR. Mr. Morales will look for historical survey maps that may have the island(s) names.

To keep this moving, Mr. Farden suggested that the Board hold a hearing at the next meeting and ask impacted agencies to testify. They may want to testify, or they may ask for more time. Ms. Makaila agreed with Mr. Farden about setting a time period for the discussion and decision making among the Board members. During that time, continue to agendize the item so that interested parties can send in testimony or testify at the Board meetings until decision making.

Mr. Buto will put this on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, Ms. McEldowney will reach out to State Parks and other affected agencies at DLNR in advance of the meeting. She also suggested contacting canoe clubs that use that area. Mr. Buto suggested drafting an outreach communication.

Mr. Marzan summarized: establish a standing agenda item to discuss this matter; in the next month or two identify the stakeholders to reach out to; during that time draft the outreach communication materials (resolution and relevant documentation); learn how it might affect various groups and give them time to share their thoughts and concerns; determine a date for decision making.

[0:42:15]

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on changing the official name of the Island of Hawai‘i.

Mr. Buto received a postcard and an email opposing the name change. These are included in the meeting packet. No other Board member reported receiving any feedback.

Ms. Oliveira would like to make a decision today; there’s been media coverage and it’s been under consideration for almost a year. Ms. Makaila concurred.

[0:45:44]

MOTION. Ms. Oliveria moved to change the name of the “Island of Hawai‘i” to “Hawai‘i” and make “Island of Hawai‘i” a variant name. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[0:47:45]

Mr. Marzan called for a roll call vote:

<i>Ms. Oliveira</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Ms. Makaila</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Mr. Farden</i>	<i>aye with reservations</i>
<i>Ms. McEldowney</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Mr. Buto</i>	<i>abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Morales</i>	<i>abstain</i>

Mr. Marzan *aye*

The motion carried.

Mr. Marzan suggested that a press release be drafted; Mr. Buto asked for help drafting that statement. He will submit the draft to the DBEDT Public Information Officer and suggested that other members do the same. This might be a joint release. Mr. Marzan suggested using elements of Mr. Cummins' information document in the press release when the time comes.

Mr. Camara suggested waiting to hear back from the US BGN about their decision about the name change as a courtesy and precaution. He recommended reaching out to the Mayor's office, reps, senators, and Governor's Office.

[0:57:40]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Review Board meeting schedule.

Mr. Farden suggested that a schedule of the meetings be set ahead of time whether it's quarterly or bimonthly so that we can adjust beforehand if it conflicts with a holiday.

[1:11:21]

MOTION. Mr. Farden moved that the Board meetings for 2026 be held bimonthly on the even months, second Fridays at 10am, subject to consideration of holidays. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

Ms. Makaila noted that on the calendar for State holidays, the second Fridays are pretty clear. Mr. Farden noted that the Merrie Monarch Festival will conflict with the April meeting; the April meeting will be held on April 17th instead. Ms. Oliveira noted that public schools' fall break will conflict with the October meeting; the October meeting will be held on October 16th instead.

[1:18:10]

The Board voted unanimously to approve that the Board meetings be held bimonthly, on even months, on the second Friday of the month (except for April and October, which will be held on the third Friday), from 10am-12pm.

[1:19:05]

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn.

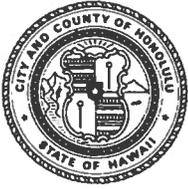
[1:19:25]

MOTION. Mr. Farden moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[1:19:35]

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.



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.

[EXTERNAL] FW: Mauiola

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:08 PM
To Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov>

 3 attachments (1 MB)

Paddle-out Ceremonies.docx; Cremation & Quarantine articles.docx; 1900 Adv 02_13_3 Mauiola Crematory.jpg;

Aloha Arthur,

I'm on your mailing list, and I'm writing in regard agenda item #5 for the HBGN's meeting on December 10: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, Oahu to Mauiola.

I saw the article in the May 12, 2025 Star-Advertiser on page 9 that proposed the same thing. It said the City Council had passed Resolution 63 in favor the name-change and that the resolution had been proposed by Council member Radiant Cordero. As a long-time student of Hawaiian shoreline place names, I had a different opinion of the Hawaiian name of Sand Island, so I sent Ms. Cordero an email to that effect. It's attached below this one.

I believe the Hawaiian name of Sand Island was Kahaka'aulana, which is what *Place Names of Hawaii* by Pukui and Elbert says: "Old name for Sand Island, Honolulu." If you look at the 1900 *Honolulu Advertiser* article in the attachments above, you'll see that Mauiola was the name of a crematory that was built on Kahaka'aulana, which was known then as Quarantine Island in English before it was called Sand Island.

Before a final decision is made on the name-change, perhaps a little more research would be appropriate.

Sincerely,
John Clark

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 5:26 AM
To: 'rcordero@honolulu.gov' <rcordero@honolulu.gov>
Subject: Mauiola

Aloha Ms. Cordero,

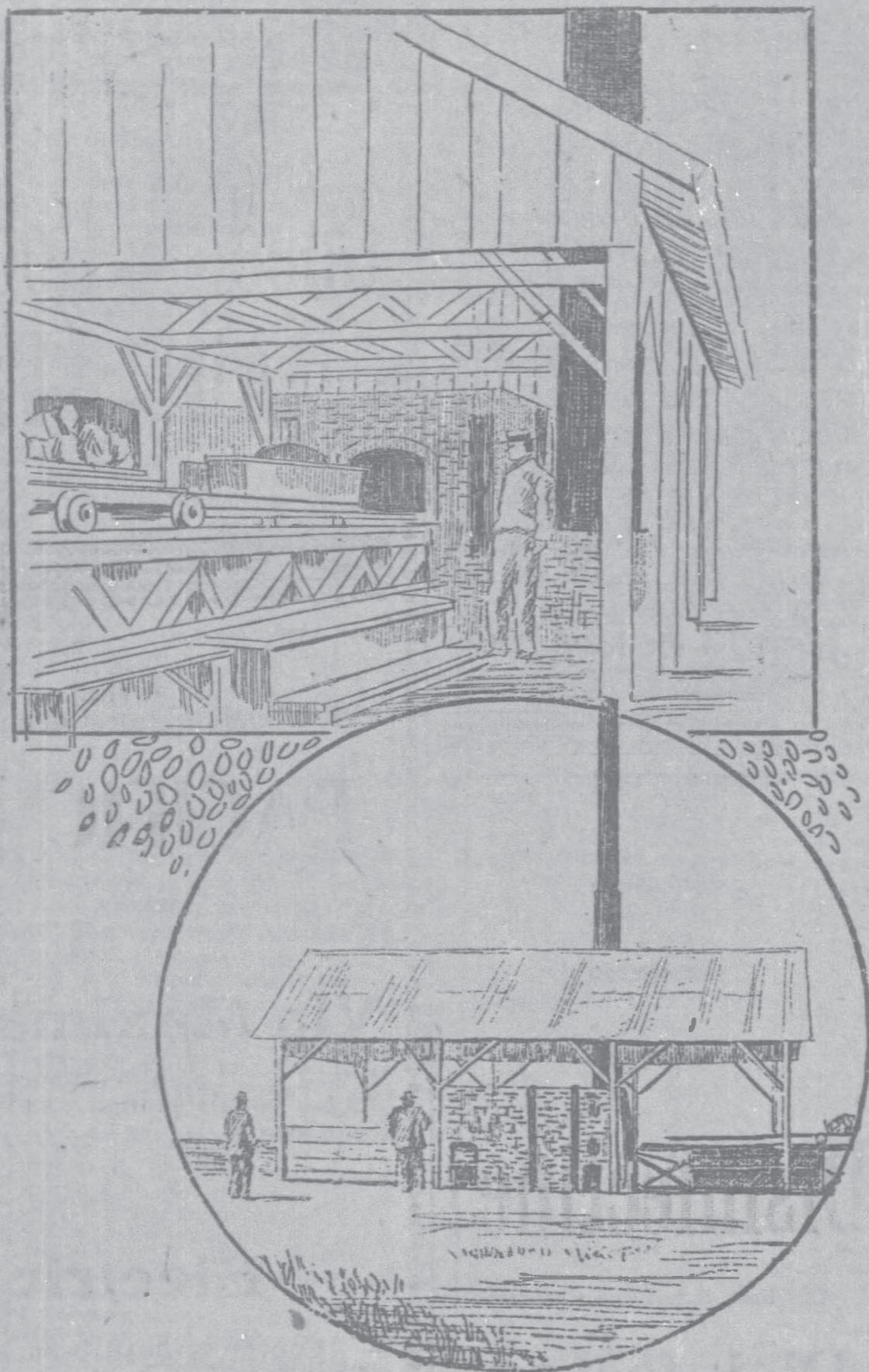
I am writing in regard to the article in Monday's Star-Advertiser (5/12/25 p. 9) titled "City Council requests to restore Sand Island's Native name." My name is John Clark. I'm the author of a series of books about Hawai'i's beaches, surf breaks, and shoreline place names that are published by the University of Hawai'i Press.

Several years ago, I decided to research the origin of paddle-out ceremonies, which are now held world-wide for surfers and many other people who have passed away. One of the elements in these ceremonies is often scattering the cremated ashes of the deceased person in the ocean, so I researched cremation here in Hawai'i and ran across the place name Mauiola. I thought you might be interested in some of the information I discovered, so I attached a copy of my essay on paddle-outs for your files. (An abbreviated version of this essay is in *Hawai'i Gold: Carrisa Moore*, a book that was published last year about our Olympic gold medal surfer.) I also attached my list of miscellaneous articles I found about cremation and quarantines in Hawai'i.

This is a brief summary of what I learned about the place names Sand Island and Mauiola. I think the Hawaiian name of Sand Island was Kahaka'aulana and that a "hale hoomalu," or "quarantine station," was established there in 1861. That station was called Mauiola as early as 1889. In the Hawaiian-language newspaper *Ka Makaainana* in 1895, the station was called "Kahua Hoomalu o Mauiola, Kahakaalana," or "Quarantine Place of Mauiola [on] C [island]." In 1895, the Advertiser also referred to the station in English as the Mauiola Quarantine Station. When the bubonic plaque broke out in 1900, a crematory was built near the station. It was named the Mauiola Crematory, which reinforced the association of the name Mauiola with the island.

Me ke aloha,
John

SCENES AT THE MAULIOLA CREMATORY.



The above illustrations of Honolulu's plague crematory are reproduced from photographs taken during the cremation of a suspect victim on Saturday last. The cremation was witnessed by President Wood of the Board of Health, Dr. Hoffmann, bacteriologist, and Dr. Nichols, superintendent of the "suspect camp" at the battery. It was an official investigation, the President desiring to witness an ordinary trial of the crematory and to critically observe the reduction of a body in the incinerator from a medical standpoint. The body disposed of was that of a Hawaiian, who, while not announced officially as a plague victim, was a suspect, and as such was cremated.

In the upper illustration the casket is resting on the extended rails projecting from the deck of the flatcar, and is about to be pushed forward into the incinerator. In order that the weight of the coffin and the remains will not overbalance the car, heavy lava stones have been piled upon the car. The car was run quickly down to the open door, and before the coffin was deposited on the floor of the incinerating chamber the flames had enveloped it from end to end.

The lower reproduction shows the crematory and elevated car tracks, with the 80-foot smokestack overtowering the structure. 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.



**Cremation in Hawaii
(Puhi Ahi and Puhi Lehu)
(Mauiola, 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 Ianeiro, 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 hooleleia i ke kahua hoomalu ma Kahakaaulana, a ilaila kahi i hoomaemae ahi ia ai. Ua hooleleia 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 Kahakaaulana 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 [Kapalakiko].

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, Kahakaaulana, 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 Kahakaaulana.

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 Kahakaaulana, 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 Bubonika"; "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.

United States Board on Geographic Names



*Instruction Manual for Geographic Names
Proposal Submissions*

July, 2025

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Page 1 of Proposal Form – Acknowledgment for Reviewing Materials

To complete the Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form, you must first confirm you have read several key documents and agree to work with BGN staff. These include the DNC's [Guidance on Name Proposals](#), the USGS [What is the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)?](#) webpages, and the DNC's [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#). Additionally, if a geographic name appears in a published source, you must have already contacted The National Map staff by emailing tnm_help@usgs.gov, and been informed that a proposal to the DNC is necessary because the publication is not an authoritative source. It is crucial that you do not proceed with the form until these initial steps are completed.

Page 2 of Proposal Form – Preliminary Questions

In this section, proponents will need to answer a series of preliminary questions. These questions determine if your proposal falls within the scope of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC). The DNC reviews proposals for natural geographic features (land or water), reservoirs, canals, channels, and unincorporated populated places. They **do not** review proposals for Census, Civil, Military, or incorporated Populated Places. Answering "Yes" to any of these preliminary questions means the BGN will not consider your proposal, and you should not complete the application.

Page 3 of Proposal Form – Submission Details

Proponents should review the information on this page to understand how to submit their proposal once all required information has been completed. For any proposals requiring evidence such as landowner/trademark owner permission/approval of the proposal, a death certificate, obituary, or any additional supporting materials, please include with the submission package via email to BGNExec@usgs.gov, or by mail. Failure to provide the required evidence will result in the rejection of the proposal due to being incomplete. Proposals are considered incomplete and will be rejected if they do not follow the instructions throughout this manual and/or there is missing information, **It is critical that all proponents carefully review the proposal form prior to submitting to ensure that all checked boxes are marked with a response, each text box has a response that fully addresses each question, or it is marked with "Not applicable" or "NA" whenever relevant.** Staff will inform proponents if the proposal has been accepted or rejected. If accepted, the proposal will be processed and added to the Quarterly Review List. If rejected, the proposal will not be processed, and the proponent will have to resubmit a complete proposal form.

Pages 4 and 5 of Proposal Form – Name Details

In this section, the proponent will enter the proposed name in the text box and indicate the type of proposal being submitted by checking only 1 of the 4 boxes. Depending on the box selected, the proponent is then directed to the next appropriate section to complete. The options are to name a feature with no official name in GNIS (requiring completion of Section A), to change or correct an official name in GNIS (requiring Section B), to change or correct the location of an official name in GNIS (requiring Section C), or to change or correct both an official name and its location in GNIS (requiring Sections B and C).

Section A: New names. The proponent must confirm that there is no official name in GNIS by checking the appropriate box. If “No” is checked for this question ONLY, BGN staff will reject the proposal due to incompleteness.

The proponent must provide answers in all text boxes. If the question is not relevant to the proposal, then please type in “Not applicable” or “NA”. Failure to provide responses in the text boxes, will result in the rejection of the proposal due to being incomplete.

Section B: Name changes. This section requires the proponent to provide the current GNIS name and its Feature ID (4-7 digits). To retrieve the current name and Feature ID, go to the [GNIS search tool](#) and enter the name of the feature. Proponents should take caution to ensure that they are retrieving the Feature ID for the appropriate feature. For example, entering the name “Mount Rainier” in the Name search field will result in 4 features. The appropriate Feature ID for the mountain, in the State of Washington, is 1533614 (Figure 1).

The proponent must then provide responses in the text boxes to address why the name should be changed for Federal use, what is the significance of the name, and why the new name is appropriate. For this section, responses entered into text boxes must be less than 300 characters in length.

The proponent must provide answers in all text boxes. If the question is not relevant to the proposal, then please type in “Not applicable” or “NA”. Failure to provide responses in the text boxes, will result in the rejection of the proposal due to being incomplete.

Section C: Location changes. This section requires the proponent to provide the current Feature ID (4-7 digits) and its coordinates in decimal degrees. To retrieve the Feature ID, go to the [GNIS search tool](#) and enter the name of the feature (Figure 1). Proponents should take caution to ensure that they are retrieving the Feature ID for the appropriate feature. For example, entering the name “Mount Rainier” in the Name search field will result in 4 features. The appropriate Feature ID for the mountain, in the State of

Washington, is 1533614. By clicking on “Details” (Figure 1), the proponent can locate the coordinates of the feature by scrolling down to the “Coordinates” section of the pop-up window (Figure 2). Enter the decimal degrees into the text box for the current coordinates.

The proponent must provide answers in all text boxes. If the question is not relevant to the proposal, then please type in “Not applicable” or “NA”. Failure to provide responses in the text boxes, will result in the rejection of the proposal due to being incomplete.

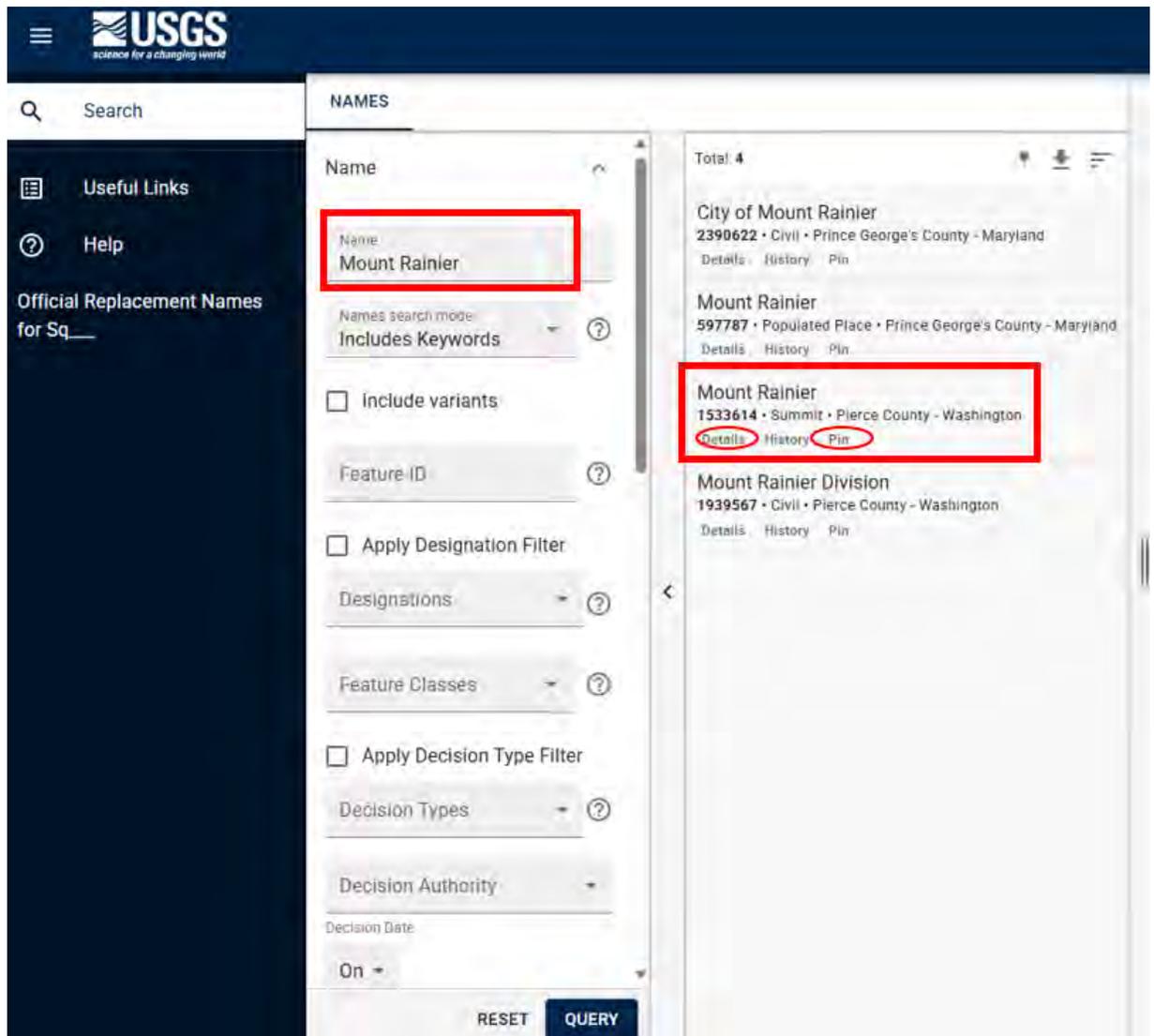


FIGURE 1 THE SCREEN CAPTURE SHOWS ALL RESULTS FOR GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES THAT USE THE NAME "MOUNT RAINIER." PROPONENTS SHOULD TAKE CAUTION TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE RECORDING THE FEATURE ID OF THE APPROPRIATE GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE. IN THIS CASE, THE PROPONENT IS INTERESTED IN THE “SUMMIT”. CLICKING ON “DETAILS” WILL PROVIDE A SUMMARY REPORT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEATURE. CLICKING ON “PIN” WILL MARK THE FEATURE ON THE MAP TO THE RIGHT (NOT PICTURED).



FIGURE 2 THE SCREEN CAPTURE SHOWS A PORTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT WHEN "DETAILS" IS SELECTED FROM THE FEATURE. PROPONENTS SHOULD RECORD THE DECIMAL DEGREES INTO THE COORDINATES TEXT BOX ON THE PROPOSAL FORM.

Pages 6 and 7 of Proposal Form – Location Details

Location Details: The "Location Details" section on pages six and seven requires specific information about the geographic feature. You need to identify the best-fitting GNIS feature type (up to 20 characters), noting that the DNC does not review proposals for Census, Civil, Military, or incorporated populated places. For a full list of feature types recorded in GNIS, please see [GNIS Domestic Names Feature Classes](#).

In the following text boxes, the proponent should provide coordinates based on the feature shape: highest point for elevated features (Pillar, Range, Ridge, Summit), mouth/lower end and source/upper end for linear features (Arroyo, Stream, Valley), or the approximate center for all other types. Coordinates can be found by navigating to <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>. From this webpage, the proponent can enter the geographic name into the search bar on the upper left corner of the window, and then retrieve the coordinates by clicking on the double arrows on the right side of the window. The decimal degrees can be copied and pasted directly into the proposal form (Figure 3). Coordinates can also be found by selecting "Pin" from the feature search (Figures 1 and 4), or (for a name change) pulling up the feature Summary Report for the current official name of the feature (Figure 2). Please ensure that a response is recorded in each text box, and within the character limits allotted. If a response is not relevant, please enter "Not applicable" or "NA". Failure to follow these instructions will result in the proposal being returned to the proponent due to being incomplete.

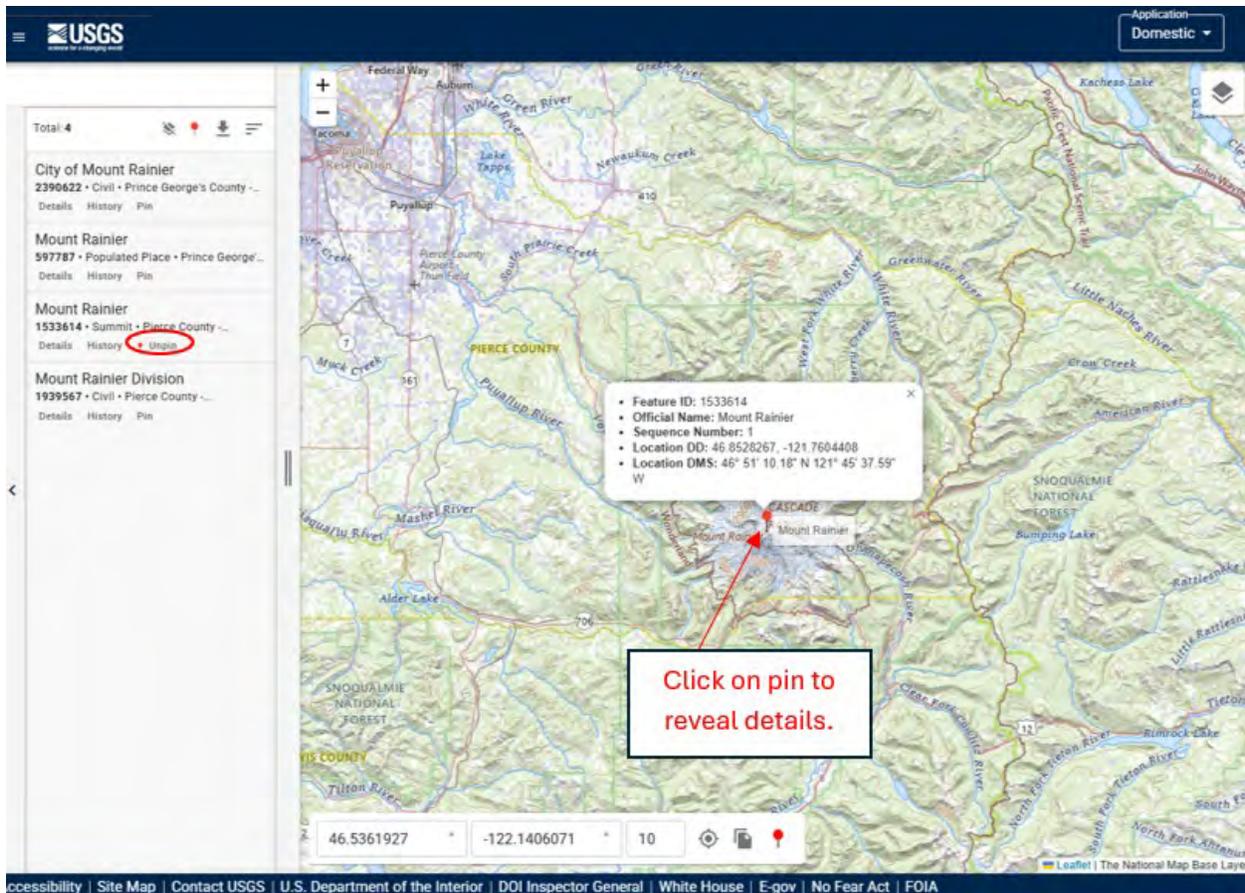


FIGURE 4 THE SCREEN CAPTURE SHOWS THE POPUP WINDOW FROM SELECTING “PIN” ON THE FEATURE SEARCH RETURNS FOR FEATURE ID 1533614. FROM THIS WINDOW, THE PROPONENT CAN RECORD THE DECIMAL DEGREE (DD) COORDINATES OF THE FEATURE AS WELL AS OTHER INFORMATION.

Pages 7 Through 12 of Proposal Form - Policy Information

The "Policy Information" section covers various aspects of naming. To assist proponents in answering the questions throughout this section, please refer to the Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) document, beginning on page 18. The PPP can be found at [USBGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures - Domestic Geographic Names](#). Additional resources are provided throughout the proposal and should be consulted, to the fullest extent possible. Proponents' submissions must provide evidence to support statements and claims made in the proposal form.

The proponent must provide answers in all text boxes. If the question is not relevant to the proposal, then please type in “Not applicable” or “NA”. Failure to provide responses in the text boxes, will result in the rejection of the proposal due to being incomplete.

Pages 12 and 13 of Proposal Form - Proponent Details

This section requires contact information of the proponent. In the event any questions arise from the submission packet, or the Board on Geographic Names staff need to conduct a follow up on any of the details, this information will be required. Failure to respond to the staff within a reasonable amount of time will result in rejection of the proposal. Proponents are allowed to have someone submit a proposal on their behalf so long as written communication, acknowledging approval, and directly from the proponent is provided. This information must be received with the proposal submission package.

Proposal Form

When proponents have read through all these instructions, they can download and complete [the proposal form](#).

DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL COMPLETED

This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or
2. A change in name, spelling, or location of an existing name

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) reviews proposals and makes decisions about geographic names for official Federal use.

I affirm the following:

- I have read through the DNC's [Guidance on Name Proposals](#) and the USGS [What is the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)?](#) webpages **before** filling out this form.
- I have read the DNC's [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#) **before** filling out this form.
- I have read through the **entire** proposal form to determine the necessary information needed for the proposal to meet the minimum requirements for review.
- I agree to work with BGN staff to answer any follow-up questions about my proposal.
- If the geographic name appears in a published source (e.g., book, journal, website):* I have contacted the staff of The National Map staff (tnm_help@usgs.gov) to request that the name be added to the Geographic Names Information System, and The National Map staff has indicated that I need to submit a proposal to the DNC.

DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL COMPLETED



DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL COMPLETED

Preliminary Questions

Is your proposal for a kind of feature outside the scope of the DNC's review?

Yes No

See the list of [GNIS Domestic Names Feature Classes](#). The DNC reviews proposals affecting the names of natural geographic feature (land or water), reservoirs, canals, channels, or unincorporated populated places (communities). The DNC does not review proposals for the following feature classes in GNIS: Census, Civil, Military, and Populated Places that are incorporated.

Is your proposal for a feature entirely outside the United States and its territories?

Yes No

Is your proposal for a feature that is defined by private or public property boundaries?

Yes No

Is your proposal only to name part of a larger complete geographic feature?

Yes No

Is your proposal for a feature **entirely** within the exterior bounds of a federally recognized Tribe's reservation or trust lands?

Yes No

Use the USGS [The National Map viewer](#), the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\) viewer](#), the [2020 Census Tribal Tract Reference Map](#), and the [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tract Viewer](#) to determine this.

Exception: In the case of features entirely within the exterior bounds of a federally recognized Tribe's reservation or trust lands, the BGN will defer to the Tribe's government to determine the appropriate name for Federal use. A Tribe does not need to use this form but instead may make a request in writing on the Tribe's letterhead to the BGN either by email or regular mail (see addresses below).

If the feature is already named, was the name established by congressional legislation, Executive order, Presidential proclamation, or directly by the Secretary of the Interior?

Yes No

Is the U.S. Congress currently considering naming or renaming the feature?

Yes No

Use [Congress.gov](#) to determine if any legislation is pending.

Does your proposed name contain one of the words considered derogatory by the Department of the Interior and the BGN?

Yes No

See *Policy V of the BGN's Principles, Policies, and Procedures*.

Does the proposed name refer to anyone who either is still living or has been deceased for fewer than five years?

Yes No

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the questions above, do not complete this application. The BGN will not consider your proposal.

Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible for standardizing the names of geographic features within the 50 States and in other areas under the sovereignty of the United States. The BGN retains the legal authority to promulgate all official names and locations of natural features (e.g. mountains, rivers, valleys), as well as canals, channels, reservoirs, and other select feature types.

This form is to propose a new name or name, spelling, or application change for a geographic feature for Federal use. A proponent should carefully review the proposal prior to submission to ensure that it is consistent with the BGN policies and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Please note all fields with a red asterisk are required prior to submitting this form.

The proponent should also be aware that the entire proposal – including personal identifying information and any associated correspondence – is in the public domain and may be made publicly available at any time.

Please refer to the instruction manual in order to complete this proposal form. Failure to complete this form properly will result in the proposal not being considered until corrections have been made.

The completed proposal can be submitted in two ways:

1. Download and email this form and supporting to: BGNExec@usgs.gov
 - a. Save PDF with a file name that includes the proposed name.
 - b. Email the PDF as an attachment with a Subject line that includes the proposed name and State in which the feature is located.

2. Send by mail to:
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523
Reston, VA 20192

Please note that materials submitted via US Mail will result in longer processing times.

Please direct all questions and communication to BGNExec@usgs.gov.

Name Details

What is the proposed name?

What type of proposal is this?

- to name a feature that has no official name in GNIS (complete Section A below)
- to change or correct an official name recorded in GNIS (complete Section B below)
- to change or correct the location of an official name in GNIS (complete Section C below)
- to change or correct an official name and the location of that name in GNIS (complete Sections B and C below)

Section A: New names

I have checked GNIS to ensure that there is no official name.

Yes No

Why does the officially unnamed geographic feature need an official name for Federal use? (300 characters max.)

What is the meaning and significance of this name? (300 characters)

Why is the name you are proposing appropriate for this officially unnamed feature? (300 characters)

Is the proposed name in published use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the name be added directly to GNIS and been told that the name must be a BGN proposal because the publication is NOT an authoritative source? Yes No
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is the proposed name in current local unpublished use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed name?

Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (500 characters)

Section B: Name changes

What is the current GNIS name?

What is the current GNIS Feature ID?
(7 characters)

Why should the name be changed for Federal use? (300 characters)

What is the meaning and significance of this name? (300 characters)

Why is the name you are proposing appropriate as a name change for this officially named feature?
(300 characters)

Is the proposed name in published use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the correction or change be made directly in GNIS and been told that the correction or change must be a BGN proposal because the GNIS name was NOT an error from the original authoritative source?
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Yes No

Is the proposed name in current local unpublished use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed name change?

Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (300 characters)

Section C: Location changes

What is the current GNIS Feature ID? (7 characters)

What are the current coordinates in GNIS?

Why should the location be changed for Federal use? (300 characters)

Is the proposed location in published use? Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the correction or change be made directly in GNIS and been told that the correction or change must be a BGN proposal because the GNIS location was NOT an error from the original authoritative source? Yes No
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is the proposed location in current local unpublished use? Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed location change? Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (500 characters)

Location Details

What GNIS feature type best fits the feature? (20 characters)

Review the [list of GNIS feature classes and their definitions](#). Please note that the DNC does not review proposals to name or rename Census, Civil, or Military features. The DNC does not review proposals to name or rename incorporated populated places.

Provide information about the feature's location:

- If the feature is elevated (GNIS classes Pillar, Range, Ridge, Summit), what are the coordinates of the highest point? (50 characters)
- If the feature is linear (GNIS classes Arroyo, Stream, Valley), what are the coordinates of the mouth/lower end and the source/upper end? (50 characters)

- If the feature is not elevated or linear (all other GNIS classes), what are the coordinates of the approximate center? (50 characters)
- In what State or States is the feature located?
- In what county/counties or equivalent(s) is the feature located?
- In what incorporated city/town/township/borough is the feature located? *Use the USGS The National Map viewer to determine if the feature is within an incorporated place.*(50 characters)

Describe the full shape and extent of the feature (length, width, height/elevation, shape, and general extent as applicable) (300 characters)

Who owns or manages the land containing the feature? *Use the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\)](#) viewer to determine the land manager.*

What is the name of the landowner(s) or manager(s)? (300 characters)

If private landowners or managers are involved, provide evidence by email that they are aware you are submitting a proposal to the BGN. (500 characters)

What is your interest in the name of this feature? (300 characters)

Policy Information

[Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#)

Was the feature's name established by Executive order or Presidential proclamation? Yes No

Was the feature's name established by congressional legislation? Yes No

Is the feature currently being considered for naming or renaming by Congress? Yes No

Use [Congress.gov](#) to determine if any legislation is pending to name or rename the feature.

Name Changes

Is the proposal to change an existing name in GNIS?

Yes No

If yes:

- Why should the name be changed? (300 characters)

- Is the proposed change to bring official Federal usage into agreement with well-established local usage and/or with present-day local support? Yes No
If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

- Is the proposed change to eliminate a name that is duplicative, confusing, or was established on the basis of incorrect information? Yes No
If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

- Is the official name in GNIS the name of a person or family? Yes No

If yes, why should this name be changed? (300 characters)

Commemorative Names

Is the proposed name the name of a person or family?

Yes No

If yes:

- Has the person or persons been deceased for more than five (5) years? Yes No
- Could the proposed name be construed to refer to a living person? Yes No

If yes, who? (300 characters)

- Provide a brief biography of the person(s) including birth and death dates. (350 characters)

Provide a death certificate, link to an official obituary in a local newspaper, and/or other evidence of the date of death in supporting documentation by email.

- What was the person's direct or long-term association with the feature? (350 characters)

- If applicable, what was the person's significant contribution to the community, area, or state around the feature? (350 characters, next page)

- If applicable, what was the person's outstanding national or international recognition? (350 characters)

- Is the proposed name the full name of a person? Yes No
- If yes, why should their full name be used? (350 characters)

Wilderness Area Geographic Names

Is the feature in a Federal wilderness, wilderness study area, or proposed wilderness? (for new names only) Yes No

Use the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\)](#) viewer to determine if the feature is located in a wilderness or wilderness study area; note that proposed wildernesses in National Park Service lands are not included in PAD-US.

If yes, what is the overriding need to name the feature? (300 characters)

Derogatory and Offensive Names

Does the proposed name contain one of the words considered derogatory by the Department of the Interior and the BGN? Yes No

Does the proposed name include a word that is derogatory or offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group? Yes No

For name changes only: The BGN does not determine if a word is derogatory or offensive. Does the current official name contain a word considered derogatory or offensive? Yes No

If yes, why do you think the word is derogatory or offensive? (300 characters)

How does the proposed name relate to the current official name? (300 characters)

Duplicate and Similar Names

Is the proposed name the same as a nearby official name recorded in GNIS or an unofficial name in local use? Yes No

If yes, how far away is the duplicate name? (50 characters)

Is the proposed name similar to a nearby official name recorded in GNIS or an unofficial name in local use? Yes No

If yes, how far away is the similar name? (50 characters)

Variant Names

For name changes only: Is the proposed name more suitable as a variant recorded in GNIS rather than for consideration as an official name change? Yes No

Diacritics

Does the proposed name contain diacritics? Yes No

If yes, Are the diacritics listed in [Appendix G](#) or could they be formed by characters in Appendix G? (Please note that additional characters have been approved for use)

Yes No

Long Names

Is the proposed name overly long? Yes No

If yes, why is the long name appropriate? (300 characters)

Tribal Geographic Names

Is the feature entirely on lands under the jurisdiction of a Tribe? Yes No

Use the USGS [The National Map viewer](#), the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\) viewer](#), the [2020 Census Tribal Tract Reference Map](#), and the [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tract Viewer](#) to determine if the feature falls on Tribal lands.

Is the feature partially on lands under the jurisdiction of a Tribe? Yes No

If yes, which Tribe?

Are you a member of a federally recognized Tribe? Yes No

If yes, which Tribe?

Are you submitting this proposal on behalf of a Tribal government or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer? Yes No

If yes, provide their name and contact information, and attach evidence they endorse this proposal.

Does the proposed name honor or refer to Native Americans, their language, or culture? Yes No

If yes, review, follow, and respond to the [Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names](#).

Commercial Names

Is the proposed name related in any way to a business, product, or enterprise (including schools and non-profits)? Yes No

If yes, is the primary purpose of the proposal to promote or publicize a business, product, or enterprise? Yes No

How long has the business or enterprise been associated with the feature? (20 characters)

If no, what is the evidence that the name is not being used for this purpose? (500 characters)

Could the proposed name be construed to be associated with, promote, or publicize a business, product, or enterprise? Yes No

If yes, explain how and why. (300 characters)

Is the name or any part of it trademarked? Yes No

If yes, does the trademark owner give permission to allow the name to be applied to a geographic feature? Yes No

If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

Animal Names

Is the proposed name the name of a pet, service animal, or work animal? Yes No

If yes:

- Has the animal been deceased for more than five (5) years? Yes No
- Could the proposed name be construed to refer to a living person? Yes No

If yes, who? (100 characters)

- Provide a brief biography of the animal including a death date. (500 characters)

Provide evidence of the date of death in supporting documentation by email.

- What was the animal's direct or long-term association with the feature? (300 characters)

- If applicable, what was the animal's significant contribution to the community, area, or region around the feature? (300 characters)

Proponent Details

Provide your contact information.

Name

Email address

Mailing address

Phone number

Are you representing any group, organization, elected body, or any other entity and submitting the proposal on behalf of them with their knowledge and support? Yes No

If yes, send written communication (email, letter) showing that the group knows about this and supports the proposal by email.

Are you a member of any group that is or could be an interested party in the name of this feature? Yes No

If yes, send written communication (email, letter) showing that the group knows about this and supports the proposal by email.

Are you completing this form for someone else? If so, that person will be recorded Yes No as the proponent.

If yes, provide their contact information

Name

Email address

Mailing address

Phone number

“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