



HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN)

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

235 S. Beretania Street  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

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

**Zoom meeting information:**

URL: <https://bit.ly/hbgn-20230301>  
or dial: (669) 900-6833 [audio only]

Meeting ID: 814 5663 6982  
Passcode: 581717

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes for December 7, 2022  
*The Board will review/amend the minutes from the previous meeting and will vote on whether 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 Kapoho Crater / Pu'uolekia  
*Review request to change the name of Kapoho Crater on the Island of Hawai'i to Pu'uolekia. [Action item]*
6. Discussion and decision on Lō'ihi Seamount / Kama'ehuakanaloa.  
*Review HBGN's 2021 naming decision and recommendation to the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) in the context of ACUF's Policies and Guidelines. Board will decide on whether or not to change its 2021 naming decision and recommendation to ACUF. [Action item]*

7. Discussion and decision on selected feature names on the Island of Hawai‘i.  
*Board members are reviewing and researching feature names from its review list. Board members will discuss the results of their research and may make naming decisions. [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, video camera (recommended), and microphone. You will be muted during the meeting unless you are testifying or actively participating in a discussion. You may also access the Zoom meeting by phone only by using the dial-in phone number, meeting ID, and meeting passcode information provided at the top of this agenda. Further instructions for how to use Zoom are available at: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/ghgstf/agendas-and-minutes>.

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

If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting within 30 minutes after an interruption, then check HBGN’s website (<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 **Monday, February , 2023, 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. Please indicate that you wish to speak by using the raise hand function in Zoom, or if calling in by telephone, entering \* and 9 on your phone keypad. When recognized by the Chairperson, you will be unmuted. If calling in by phone, you can unmute and mute yourself by pressing \* and 6 on your keypad. When testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent.

**Information about attending the meeting in person:**

Persons may attend the meeting in person at: Leiopapa A Kamehameha, 235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 7, 2022  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Cummins called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]  
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]  
Scott Glenn (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [remote]

**ABSENT:** Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)  
Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)  
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

**GUESTS:** Jenny Runyon (USGS) [remote]  
Arthur Buto (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2022**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2022;  
Mr. Glenn seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of  
November 2, 2022.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

Mr. Buto shared an email inquiry from Mr. Evan Miyaki, Jr., who asked if the HBGN had authority over town names. HBGN does not have jurisdiction over town names. Mr. Miyaki also asked about the relationship between the HBGN and the US BGN. Mr. Buto related to him that HBGN’s decisions are forwarded to the US BGN for its consideration and review. If US BGN approves the decisions, they are entered into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). All federal agencies are required to use the primary names listed in the GNIS on maps, signage, and other documents. If US BGN does not approve and

has questions or concerns, it will send the name back to HBGN for clarification or reconsideration.

Mr. Buto also shared an email from Ms. Runyon about the US BGN Quarterly Review List. The web page listed in the email includes a link to the US BGN's latest Action List. The Action List includes approvals for ten names from Hawai'i for which the HBGN made decisions at its May 4, 2021 meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

Mr. Scott Glenn introduced himself. He is the incoming Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) and as such is the newest member of the HBGN. Mr. Glenn served most recently as the Chief Energy Officer in the State Energy Office, and prior to that was the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) in the Department of Health.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on selected place names on the Island of Hawai'i**

[361665] Lae Mamo. Mr. Cummins found "Lae Mamo" on two registered maps (RMs), RM 1796 and RM 1445. It is spelled as two words with no diacriticals.

[361647] Lae o Humuhumu. Mr. Cummins found "Lae o Humuhumu" and "Lae Humuhumu" in RM 2469 and RM 1677, respectively.

[361646] Lae o Ahole. Ms. McEldowey found a reference to this area in *Catalog of Hawai'i Place Names* (HPN) [Lloyd J. Soehren]. Soehren describes the Ahole heiau, "Lae o Ahole," Ahole Stream, and the 'ili of Ahole.

Board members present did not find any information about the remaining names on the list.

*Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change; 7 = HBGN partial correction, exhausted available reference and research resources*

Status	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes	USGS Quad Name
5	361665	Lae Mamo	Cape		HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: RM 1796 and RM 1445 feature is labeled as two words, 12-07-2022	Honaunau
5	361646	Lae o Ahole	Cape		HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: HPN: listed as "Lae o Ahole" in the ahupua'a of Kapua; lexicology shows "lae o āhole;" Bishop Estate Map No. 2525; near a heiau; the whole areas was referred to as Ahole, south of Miloli'i; ca. 1930 John Reinecke described the area and nearby sites, 12-07-2022	Milolii

*Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change; 7 = HBGN partial correction, exhausted available reference and research resources*

7	361666	Lae o Hiiaka	Cape			PNH: not listed Bobby Camara: should be Lae o Hi'iaka; no promontory there; HBGN: more research needed, 1-11-17; HBGN: more research needed; exhausted available reference and research, 12-07-2022	Anaehoomalu
5	361647	Lae o Humuhumu	Cape		HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: RM 2469 ("Lae o Humuhumu") and RM 1677 ("Lae Humuhumu"), 12-07-2022	Milolii
7	361669	Lae o Ili	Cape			PNH: not listed; HBGN: more research needed; exhausted available reference and research, 12-07-2022	Puu Hinai
7	361652	Lae o Kamimi	Cape			PNH: not listed; HBGN: more research needed; exhausted available reference and research, 12-07-2022	Milolii
7	361670	Lae o Panipou	Cape			PNH: not listed; UHP: Laeopanipou, uncertain p & m; HBGN: more research needed; exhausted available reference and research, 12-07-2022	Puu Hinai
7	361671	Lae o Puili	Cape			PNH: not listed; HBGN: more research needed; exhausted available reference and research, 12-07-2022	Anaehoomalu

## AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Ms. McEldowney.

Mr. Cummins confirmed that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 4th. Mr. Buto will poll the members before the meeting; if there are at least six members present, discussion and decision making on Lō'ihī / Kama'ehuakanaloa will be on the agenda.

*The members present voted unanimously to adjourn.*

Mr. Cummins adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

**From:** [Kawaihae, Niniau](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: subcommittee assignments - msg from Howard and Rachel  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10:28:28 AM

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Aloha,

Please share the good news below!

Me ka mahalo nui,

**Niniau Kawaihae, Special Assistant**

Office of the Chairman  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
91-5420 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707  
PO Box 1879, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805  
(808) 620-9513 | (808) 620-9529 facsimile  
[Niniau.Kawaihae@hawaii.gov](mailto:Niniau.Kawaihae@hawaii.gov)

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**From:** Winchell, Joshua <[joshua\\_winchell@nps.gov](mailto:joshua_winchell@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:10 AM  
**Cc:** Howard Valandra <[hvalandra@gmail.com](mailto:hvalandra@gmail.com)>; Rachel Pereira <[rachpereira@yahoo.com](mailto:rachpereira@yahoo.com)>; Rachel Pereira <[pereirar@stjohns.edu](mailto:pereirar@stjohns.edu)>; Kawaihae, Niniau <[niniau.kawaihae@hawaii.gov](mailto:niniau.kawaihae@hawaii.gov)>; Mike Catches Enemy <[catchesenemy@gmail.com](mailto:catchesenemy@gmail.com)>; Dr. Christine Johnson <[ckjohnson@nevada.unr.edu](mailto:ckjohnson@nevada.unr.edu)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] subcommittee assignments - msg from Howard and Rachel

Committee Members,

Thank you for your prompt responses regarding interest in serving on subcommittees, we were able to make assignments that closely matched your preferences. We have asked Mike Catches Enemy, Niniau Kawaihae, and Christine Johnson serve as chairs for the Geographic Features, Federal Land Unit, and Processes and Principles Subcommittees, respectively.

Below is a list of subcommittee memberships. Joshua and the subcommittee chairs will be reaching out soon to schedule the first meetings of the subcommittees.

Howard D Valandra, Chair  
Dr. Rachel Pereira, Vice Chair  
*Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names*

Federal Land Unit Subcommittee
Niniau Kawaihae, Chair

Julie Dye
Fred Mosqueda
Aimee Villarreal
Kiana Carlson
Charles Bowery
Howard Valandra
Rachel Pereira
<b>Geographic Features Subcommittee</b>
<i>Mike Catches Enemy, Chair</i>
Angelo Baca
Don Fixico
Jason MacCannell
Lauren Monroe
Kamana'o Mills
Letise LaFeir
Howard Valandra
Rachel Pereira
<b>Processes and Principles Subcommittee</b>
<i>Christine Johnson, Chair</i>
Derek Alderman
Kimberly Probolus- Cedroni
Elva Yanez
Charles Bowery
Letise LaFeir
Howard Valandra
Rachel Pereira



**From:** [Lane-Kamahele, Melia M](#)  
**To:** [Enomoto, Stanton K](#); [Oshiro, Lisa C](#)  
**Cc:** [Duman, Bennadette \(Honeygirl\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AI for native languages - two different perspectives  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:53:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [ICT\\_Nora Mable\\_Use of AI for languages\\_022823.docx](#)  
[ICT\\_Storyshare article\\_Clarice Larson Juneau Empire\\_022623.docx](#)

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Aloha - as you consider native languages, development and delivery systems - two different viewpoints of use of AI for language.

Arthur, for your awareness, some of this was touched upon during several consultation sessions being held regarding development of policy and guidance for 'olelo hawai'i and place names, use of diacritical marks etc. as well as the development of educational programs and systems to help deliver sound bytes (like we did for the names DB with the verbal clips). Some of the attendees to the sessions were supportive of including macron and 'okina - and I chatted an update on role of HBGN and BGN.

cheers, m

Michael Running Wolf wants to use AI to help reclaim Native languages. (Provided by Michael Running Wolf)

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**Nora Mable**

Missoulain

Imagine putting on a virtual reality headset and entering a world where you can explore communities, like Missoula, except your character, and everyone you interact with, speaks Salish, Cheyenne or Blackfoot.

Imagine having a device like Amazon's Alexa that understands and speaks exclusively in Indigenous languages.

Or imagine a digital language playground in Facebook's Metaverse, where programmers create interactive games to enhance Indigenous language learning.

Michael Running Wolf, a Northern Cheyenne man who is earning his Ph.D. in computer science, wants to make these dreams a reality.

Running Wolf grew up in Birney, Montana, a town with a population of 150 just south of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. He spent most of his childhood living without electricity.

Running Wolf can speak some Cheyenne, but he wants Indigenous language learning to be more accessible, immersive and engaging.

And he believes artificial intelligence is the solution.

Running Wolf is one of a handful of researchers worldwide who are studying Indigenous languages and AI. He works with a small team of linguists and data scientists, and together, they analyze Indigenous languages and work to translate them into something a computer can interpret.

If his team can accomplish this, Running Wolf reasons, then perhaps AI can be used to help revitalize Indigenous languages everywhere.

Michael Running Wolf is pictured in a cradle board as a baby. He grew up in Birney, Montana.  
(Provided by Michael Running Wolf)

Alexa, can you speak Cheyenne?

Running Wolf worked for Amazon's Alexa project for four years and became deeply familiar with the product.

As he worked on the software, he wondered, "Could something like Alexa speak Cheyenne?"

But time and again, Running Wolf said the initiative would die, because "it takes a lot."

Google Assistant, for example, employs tens of thousands of contractors and the technology requires lots of data, including millions of hours of annotated audio spoken in different languages.

"It's a huge, monumental effort," Running Wolf said. "And if you're looking at Montana tribes, like the Northern Cheyenne, no one has that (data). We're looking at millions of hours of audio, and at best, we have maybe around 100 or so, and some tribes don't have anything."

## More barriers

Aside from the lack of data, it didn't take long for Running Wolf to run into another barrier — the nature of Indigenous languages themselves.

[Navajo mystery series 'Dark Winds' seeks true storytelling](#)

European languages, Running Wolf explained, differ from most Indigenous languages in syntax and morphology.

Indigenous languages in Montana, Running Wolf said, are generally polysynthetic, meaning words are composed of many word parts with independent meanings. In English, which is considered an isolated language, the words “the red cars” are three different words with different meanings. But in polysynthetic languages, “the red cars” can be summed up in one word.



Michael Running Wolf poses with his family. (Provided by Michael Running Wolf)

The highly polysynthetic nature of Indigenous languages, Running Wolf said, “is an unsolved challenge in artificial intelligence.”

The problem relates to automatic speech recognition technology. Running Wolf explained that when one speaks to a voice recognition device, like Alexa or Siri, the technology usually uploads the audio file, converts the file to text, then interprets the meaning of the text and then responds by doing a task or answering a question.

The current technology assumes all languages are a type of English. It’s common, he said, for voice AI to translate a French command into English, interpret the command in English and then translate the response back to French. This process works for languages like Spanish, French and German, which have similar morphologies to English, but it doesn’t work for Indigenous languages.

Running Wolf remains determined to solve these problems. His research now focuses on the Wakashan language family, which he said are the “most highly polysynthetic.”

If Running Wolf can figure out how to get these languages to communicate with AI, his efforts could open doors for revitalizing Indigenous languages across the country.

## Why does this work matter?

From the 1800s to the 1970s, many Native children were forced to attend government-funded Christian boarding schools, where they were emotionally, physically and sexually abused. The explicit mission of these schools was cultural genocide, historically referred to as “kill the Indian, save the child,” and tribes have suffered language and culture loss as a result.

Michael Running Wolf's grandmother holds him as a baby. (Provided by Michael Running Wolf)



“It was illegal to speak our language, and our culture was underground for a long time,” Running Wolf said. “It’s typical for children of my generation, for our grandparents to restrict us from speaking our language because they didn’t want us to suffer the humiliation of having the language ripped from our throats.”

Running Wolf said that reclaiming Indigenous languages can help Native people and their communities connect with culture and maintain their identity.

But there are other benefits as well. Running Wolf said that people, statistically, who speak more than one language, on average, make more money than those who speak only one language. He also said that people who are bilingual are scientifically happier and make healthier life choices. He said learning languages is a useful life skill, and the same skillsets can be used when learning to play music or do math.

While Running Wolf envisions a virtual reality where people can immerse themselves entirely in Native languages, he also envisions a world where Native communities exercise sovereignty over their language reclamation efforts.

He thinks AI language programs will inspire community members to learn how to program. He imagines that tribal governments will want to invest in AI. And he thinks a growing body of people will spend time learning lucrative technology skills as well as their Native languages.

“Sometimes, anthropologists want to preserve Native languages so other anthropologists can learn it,” Running Wolf said. “(This work) is centered around growing the language and reinforcing the language.”

*This article was [first published in the Missoulian.](#)*

Downloaded by MLK at 9:45 am. From ICT on 022823

[Using artificial intelligence to reclaim Native languages - ICT News](#)

*Professor of Alaska Native languages at the University of Alaska Southeast, X'unei Lance Twitchell, analyses a ChatGPT story in Lingít while teaching his Intermediate Tlingit II class. (Photo by Juneau Empire)*

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## **Clarise Larson**

*Juneau Empire*

Whether you think artificial intelligence is the future or the destruction of mankind, AI is making global headlines as its development and investments continue to boom — and its reach isn't as far from Juneau as you might think.

One of the most recent shake-ups in the AI industry was the November launch of Open AI's ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot promoted as being able to interact with users in a conversational way using more than 95 natural languages.

In an effort to find out if this new technology really has what it takes to converse in Lingít, the Empire asked ChatGPT to write a story in the Tlingit language and reached out to a fluent speaker and a professor of Alaska Native languages at the University of Alaska Southeast, X'unei Lance Twitchell, who decided to analyze a Lingít short story written by ChatGPT in with his Intermediate Tlingit II class Thursday evening.

The results?

"It's total nonsense, it's not even close," he said, laughing with the 15 or so students who attended the class.

For the most part, he said the “story” written by the AI largely grabbed random words with perhaps a little association and put them together in a pattern that is also random. His own name was even thrown in there a few times as well, for a reason unknown to him.

“That’s a new one — I’ve never seen that one before,” he said pointing to a word on the screen with a laugh. “And, I don’t think that’s actually a word? I don’t think it is,” he said about another.

**(Related: [Using artificial intelligence to reclaim Native languages](#))**

Twitchell said while the ChatGPT’s use of Lingít might not be exactly correct — or even all correct — he said still thinks AI could be a helpful tool if the technology advances to the point where it’s accurate and could assist learners of the Lingít and other Alaska Native languages as the number of speakers have dwindle dramatically over time.

I do think it could be helpful,” he said. “I think some sort of AI could give you a starting point, we could always use more tools”

According to estimates by the University of Fairbanks Alaska Native Language Center, approximately 500 Lingít speakers are scattered across different Southeast Alaska communities. However, Twitchell said that number is likely even less and estimated that around 200 speakers are actively using the language.

He said for decades Lingít speakers have talked about creating a program that could converse and understand the language, but so far nothing has been developed enough to understand the extremely complex language that is Lingít.

Efforts to grow the language continue to make major strides in Juneau through university and school programs, most recently, Juneau School District's Tlingit Culture, Language and Literacy Program at Harborview Elementary announced it will be expanding its reach to be able to teach students up to the eighth grade level. However, Twitchell said he hopes to see growth like that continue beyond the classroom and into the community where he said it should have stayed the whole time.

"The biggest thing you need in language revitalization is for people to choose to use the language, and technology can't do that — it can't change the fabric of society, but it can give people more tools," Twitchell said.

He said AI could be a part of that growth while respecting the sovereignty of the language and knowing that the language belongs to the Tlingit people.

"We need to put our language back out there because it was taken from us, it was prohibited, and we need those conscious efforts to put it back into society on the land," he said. "And, we have more people learning, and people that are generally learning faster, but we are losing our high fluency elders. The goal is to create as many speakers as we can while holding on to the authenticity of the language and taking it to new places."

*This article was published via AP Storyshare.*

Downloaded by MLK at 9:39 a.m. from ICT/AP Storyshare and Charise Larson Juneau Empire on 022823

[Does AI have a place in Tlingit language revitalization? - ICT News](#)

**From:** [Cummins, Meyer A](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** Bobby Camara; Name change or variant name for Kapoho Cone  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 1:13:08 PM

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Aloha Arthur,

Bobby called me last week

. Ultimately, we got on the subject of a name he believes is the correct name for Kapoho Cone on the Big Island. Kapoho Cone appears to be another name for Kapoho Crater in the GNIS, Feature ID: 360553 See <https://www.usgs.gov/news/volcano-watch-kapaho-cone-ash-and-tuff-cone>.

Bobby forwarded me a few emails with information supporting Puu o Lekia as the correct name. Can Board members add the discussion of a third-party's suggested name change to the meeting agenda? Should Bobby just fill out a name change application and submit it to the Board for review? Please advise.

Mahalo,

Meyer

**From:** [Kawaihae, Niniau](#)  
**To:** [Marques Marzan](#); [Cummins, Meyer A](#); [Buto, Arthur J](#); [K. Oliveira](#); [McEldowney, Holly](#); [Keith Gutierrez](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: HBGN Board Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:43:46 PM

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I believe Chair we did not. But I haven't looked yet at your link. I know it was on the agenda but you had been suggested to virtually attend their meeting in September or October.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Marques Marzan <marques@bishopmuseum.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:31:23 PM  
**To:** Kawaihae, Niniau <niniau.kawaihae@hawaii.gov>; Cummins, Meyer A <meyer.a.cummins@hawaii.gov>; Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov>; K. Oliveira <kapa.oliveira@hawaii.edu>; McEldowney, Holly <holly.mceldowney@hawaii.gov>; Keith Gutierrez <keithg@oha.org>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: HBGN Board Meeting

Aloha,

I can be available for the meeting on 15 February. Did HBGN vote in July 2021 to rename Lō'ihī to Kama'ehuakanaloa? See USGS link attached.

<https://www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kama'ehuakanaloa>

Marques Hanalei Marzan  
Cultural Advisor / The Wayne Pitluck and Judith Pyle Curator for Cultural Resilience  
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum  
1525 Bernice Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
T: 808.847.8220

**MINUTES  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
HAWAI‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: July 6, 2021  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Library  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)  
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) *left the meeting at 3:35pm*  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)  
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)  
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable  
Development)  
Brad Ka‘aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) *joined the meeting at  
2:37pm and left the meeting at 4:00pm*

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Runyon (USGS)  
Matthew O’Donnell (contractor for USGS)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2021**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to accept the minutes of June 1, 2021; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2021.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**



Mr. Buto announced that the Governor's emergency proclamation allowing participation by Board members using remote technology will expire after the Board's August meeting – thereafter until a new law takes effect in January 2022, Board meetings will return to in-person meetings in the Office of Planning's conference room. The Office of Information Practices has said that a Zoom link can still be included in the meeting notice to allow members of the public to participate remotely. But Board members wishing to participate remotely must have their location included in the meeting notice and the public will have the opportunity to attend from that location as well.

Ms. Kawaihae announced that this Friday marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing by President Warren G. Harding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act that created the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Hawaiian Homes trust lands. A short program will be livestreamed on Friday at 9am with Senator Schatz, Governor Ige, Commission Chair William Aila, other members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and leadership from the homestead organizations. Ms. Kawaihae provided a link to the news release containing a link to the livestream.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on Lō'ihī / Kama'ehu**

Mr. Wong confirmed that in previous discussions on this topic the Board had decided not to establish another Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), but to keep it on the agenda to address any new research / information.

Mr. Camara doesn't know what a PIG would add. With the archival sources as documentation, he recommends approving *Kama'ehuakanaloa* as the name and waiting for and listening to comments and/or objections that may come from the public. He believes that this naming issue has been languishing and that an action should be taken – like *Island of Hawai'i* and *State of Hawai'i*.

Ms. Oliveira supports making a naming decision with the information that we have. Mr. Buto confirmed that the agenda item allows for a decision to be made.

Ms. McEldowney confirmed that *Lō'ihī* would remain as a variant name.

Mr. Wong stated that in the wa'a canoe realm, the name *Kama'ehu* is already in use. OHA's publication *Ka Wai Ola* could be used for public outreach.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wong moved that the Board approve changing the name of the feature to *Kama'ehuakanaloa* from *Lō'ihī*. Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

Mr. Wong asked if there are federal agencies that use the name of this feature, e.g., USGS. Mr. Camara stated that Hawai'i Volcano Observatory (HVO) does, and the University of Hawai'i conducts dives there. He asked if a nickname, *Kama'ehu* could also be accommodated. If that is a variant name, then the standard practice is for the primary name to be used in the map with a desired variant in parentheses.

Mr. Camara asked under whose jurisdiction this feature falls. He noted that it is approximately 20 miles off the coast of Hawai‘i. Mr. Wong noted that State jurisdiction extends from 0 to 3 nautical miles from the coastline, territorial waters are 12 miles out. Although not in the State’s jurisdiction, it is considered part of Hawai‘i’s pae ‘āina.

Mr. O’Donnell suggested that the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF), a BGN permanent advisory board, be consulted. ACUF has purview over anything beyond 12 miles; the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) has purview over features 0 to 12 miles. He searched the Foreign Names database for Undersea Features and found *Loihi* with no ‘okina or kahakō. Ms. Runyon suggested submitting a name change request to the BGN’s ACUF with a recommendation of support from HBGN. If the Board sends the request to her, she can forward it to ACUF. It would end up as a name change in the Foreign Name Committee’s database; they manage the Undersea Features too. The advisory committees make recommendations and the full US BGN votes on them. This could be considered at the full US BGN meeting in October.

Ms. Oliveira asked whether HBGN should consider the shorter name *Kama‘ehu*, as a practical matter rather than the longer *Kama‘ehuakanaloa* as the primary name.

Mr. Camara said that the Hālau o Kekuhi CD was called “*Puka Kama‘ehu*.” But in the Hulihia chant, it says “keiki ‘ehu, kama ‘ehu a Kanaloa.” And in the Hawaiian Airlines inflight magazine, *Hana Hou* from 2003, it says that the “Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation has petitioned to officially change the name to *Kama‘ehu*...” During this discussion Mr. Camara reached out to Auntie Pua Kanahale, who said that she’d be happy with the long form of the name with the short form as a variant.

Mr. Buto will put together a formal packet.

Mr. Wong asked if there is any anticipated pushback from federal agencies that might object to a name change. ACUF will probably put out feelers to their stakeholders when the time comes and would get back to HBGN for its reconsideration. Mr. Camara noted that in his experience with HAVO scientists, recent name corrections and changes have not been met with opposition.

*Mr. Marzan called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Mr. Wong will put in *Ka Wai Ola* and also advocate with its federal advocacy / lobbyists. Mr. Buto suggested a joint press release with OHA. Mr. Camara suggested holding off on a public announcement until ACUF and US BGN approve.

ACUF is required to issue a decision packet five business days before the full US BGN quarterly meeting. Ms. Runyon will find out when ACUF will meet in advance of the US BGN’s October meeting. That should be the target date for formal name change packet. She can find out when they would want to receive a name change packet.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Review selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i (Camara)**

Mr. Camara is working on a list of 10-12 name changes, some of which are to remove the word “crater” from the names of the craters. There are other name changes as well, e.g., in the SW Rift towards Pahala, on the maps is Pu‘ukou. That pu‘u is very pointy, like an upside-down shave ice cone. In the dictionary kōū means “to look about in all directions,” which is what you can do up there. There are no archival sources that support that, but it is evident from the feature, and there are no kou trees in that area.

In the Tree Molds area of the park in the lower part of Mauna Loa Road, the old traditional name is Kuapa‘awela, not used for many decades. He wants to discuss with the Kupuna group whether or not to name some features for the sake of naming them, because they don’t have a known Hawaiian name or they have a generic English name. He’s hoping that the Kupuna group will discuss this at their August meeting, then he bring any naming recommendations back to HBGN for its September meeting.

Mr. O’Donnell would like to follow up on a minor spelling correction for one of the features on Moloka‘i on the edge of the national park. The National Park Service (NPS) asked about the significance of the name change, *Kalāhuapueo* to *Kalāhuipueo*, changing the “a” to an “i.” Mr. Buto will look for the minutes from the meeting at which this change was decided.

Mr. O’Donnell and Ms. Runyon indicated that they did not receive the packet of name changes from HAVO. Mr. Buto will send them the packets and will also send them to Melia Lane-Kamahele.

[362749] **Ohiahuea Stream.** Mr. Camara pointed out that hu‘ea makes sense because in the Hawaiian Dictionary [Pukui and Elbert] “*Hu‘ea pau ‘ia e ka wai*” means all washed away by water. This stream originates in the mountains and ‘ōhi‘a might be washed away. Mr. Marzan added that he’s heard many stories of heavy rains the area causing trails to become uncrossable. Mr. Camara noted that the Feature Class is Stream making “stream” in the feature name redundant.

The recommended name and spelling is “**Ōhi‘ahu‘ea.**”

Ms. Runyon noted that removing “stream” from the name would require a name change. The US BGN is more flexible now than it was in the past to removing an English descriptor to a Hawaiian feature name.

Mr. Cummins said that having the word “stream” as part of the feature label on a map helps to clearly identify the feature and reduce confusion with names of other features in the area. More current cartographic standards and practices help identify features by other means as well, such as their symbology and font type. Ms. Runyon added that for USGS maps, the label is applied in the middle third of the feature, so removing the word “stream” from the name would result in the label shifting.

Mr. Camara noted that Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is in the process of putting together a list of names of craters in which the descriptor “crater” would be removed from the name. Ms. Runyon cautioned that these name changes would have to be approved by the US BGN first.

Mr. O’Donnell provided a link to a stream feature that the US BGN allowed staff to make the name change, removing “stream” from the name, without going through the full US BGN process. Ms. Runyon’s recollection was that this might have taken place in the late 1990’s and at that time it probably should have gone to the US BGN. She noted that for the 500 or so streams in Hawai‘i that have the word “stream” in the name, if the HBGN and the people of Hawai‘i are comfortable with the feature name without the generic descriptor, the US BGN would probably allow the staff to revise those in the GNIS in the same way that they do for straightforward spelling corrections.

Mr. Cummins stated that as a land surveyor he sees the value of having the word “stream” in the feature name and on the map label. Having the descriptor in parentheses might mitigate confusion while preserving the traditional feature name.

Mr. Camara asked if the Board can address on a future agenda other features in which the Feature Class has been appended to the feature name, and possibly including in the style guidelines.

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

Stat	FeatID	Name	Class	Corrected	Source	Notes	USGSQuad
6	362749	Ohiahuea Stream	Stream	‘Ōhi‘ahu‘ea	HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: Hawaiian Dictionary [Pukui and Elbert] “Hu‘ea pau ‘ia e ka wai” means all washed away by water; this stream originates in the mountains and ‘ōhi‘a might be washed away; Mr. Marzan shared that he’s heard many stories of heavy rains the area causing trails to become uncrossable; it was noted that the Feature Class is Stream making “stream” in the feature name redundant, 07-06-21.	Honokane

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. It will be the last remote participation meeting allowed under the current Emergency Proclamation which will expire later that day.

Ms. Kawaihae noted that she will be on jury duty at the time of the August meeting. She will keep the Board informed of her availability.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.