HAWAI’I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
September 14, 2016

Chairperson and Members  
Hawai’i Board of Geographic Names  
State of Hawai’i

SUBJECT: Review name of Pu‘ukapanaha, a lava flow feature on the Island of Hawai’i

SUMMARY: In the GNIS database, Feature ID 365057 appears with a Feature Name of “Pu‘ukapanaha” and a History stating that it is the “Hawaiian name meaning ‘spectacular hill.’” However, according to the Hawaiian Dictionary (Pukui and Elbert, 1974), kapanahā means “mild insanity.” Kupanaha on the other hand means “surprising, strange, wonderful, extraordinary, unaccountable, marvellous [sic]” according to the same source. This and evidence found on the GNIS website suggest that the Feature Name in the GNIS is probably a typographical error, and the Feature Name should be “Pu‘ukupanaha.”

BACKGROUND: Mr. Bobby Camara called the Office of Planning on August 25, 2016 to say that he had a concern about one of the features in the GNIS database. Feature ID 365057 appears in the GNIS with a Feature Name of “Pu‘ukapanaha” and a History stating that it is the “Hawaiian name meaning ‘spectacular hill.’” However, according to the Hawaiian Dictionary (Pukui and Elbert, 1974), kapanahā means “mild insanity.”

Mr. Camara stated that the lava flow feature was originally named in the 1980’s by Jack Lockwood and Frank Truesdell who named it “Pu‘ukupanaha.”

The USGS' GNIS website (geonames.usgs.gov) shows both spellings under the “Board on Geographic Names Decisions” section (see Exhibit A). And the associated USGS topographic map labels the feature Pu‘ukupanaha (see Exhibit B).

Other documents on the GNIS website also show the name as Pu‘ukupanaha (see Exhibit C for the letter from the US BGN to the HBGN under the section “BGN Subject Folders > Correspondence” and Exhibit D for the documents under “BGN Subject Folders > Forms.”).

From the GNIS website and from anecdotal evidence from Frank Truesdell related by Bobby Camara, it appears that there is a spelling error in the Feature Name on the GNIS website. The Feature Name should be Pu‘ukupanaha.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board corrects the spelling of the Feature Name associated with Feature ID 365057 to “Pu‘ukupanaha.”

Respectfully Submitted,  
/s/  
Leo R. Asuncion
EXHIBIT A

Feature Detail Report for: Pu'ukapanaha

ID: 385057
Name: Pu'ukapanaha
Class: Summit (Definitions)
History: Hawaiian name meaning "spectacular hill". (US-T121).
Description: 2.1 km (1.3 mi) NNE of Puu Ulaula.
Citation: U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Geographic Names Post Phase I Board/Staff Revisions. 01-Jan-2000. Board decided controversial names.
Entry Date: 01-Dec-1989
*Elevation: 95702917
*Elevations in feet/meters from the National Elevation Dataset

Variant Names

Variant Name
- Puu Kupanaha
- Puukapanaha

Board on Geographic Names Decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Decision Type</th>
<th>BGN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pu'ukapanaha</td>
<td>Board Decision</td>
<td>Official</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puu Kupanaha</td>
<td>Board Decision</td>
<td>Official</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BGN Subject Folders: (Click arrow to open folder)

Correspondence: ☐

Forms:

Date | Folder Name
--- | -------------------------

Counties
Mr. Robert C. Schmitt, Chairman
Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names
Department of Planning & Economic Development
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Dear Mr. Schmitt:

At its October meeting, the Board on Geographic Names approved the names: Puu Hoakolei, Puu Kupanaha and Na Lua Mahoe on Docket List 267. The decisions will be published in Decision List 8104 with the entries reading as shown on the docket list.

Action was deferred on the names remaining on Docket List 267.

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Orth
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

cc:
RGN (2)✓
jf file
cg file
Kupanaha, Puu: volcanic cone, elevation 2,928 m (9,607 ft.) 2.1 km (1.3 mi.) NNE of Puu Ulaula; Hawaiian name meaning "spectacular hill" proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1981; Hawaii Co., Hawaii; 19°33'00" N, 155°27'30" W.
Recommended Name: Pu'ukapanaha, Puu

State: Hawaii
Civil Division: Hawaii County

Lat. 19° 33' 00" N., Long. 155° 27' 30" W.
Lat. , Long.

sec. T. R. Meridian

Description: Volcanic cone, elevation 2928 ft (900 m) 2.1 km (1.3 mi) NNE of Puu Uaulea; "puu kapanaha" is translated as "marvelous, spectacular hill." Hawaiian name meaning "spectacular hill" proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1981.

Veriﬁcation of Names in Descrip.

Variant(s):

Verification of Names in Descrip.

Summary: USGS (1981), Puu Uaulea 1:24; proposed new name; proposal using diacritical marks, i.e., Pu'u Kupunaha; feature is unnamed or not shown on available Federal and county maps; not in a USNF.

Submitted by: USGS (NMD)
Prepared by: J. Torres
Reviewed by: J. F.

Date: 5/29/81
Docket List No. 267
Decision List

Date: 6/20/81

Date: 5/27/81
Decision List
Punalu'a Pu'u

EXHIBIT D
HI 365057 002 Pu'ukapanaha frm 1981.pdf

1. Pu'ukapanaha, Pau

2. Shown, unnamed 1956

3. USGS Puu Ulaula

4. 1:24

5. 1:

6. USGS

7. 1:

8. Not shown 1969/70

9. Not shown 1961

10. AMS Hawaii North

11. 1:250

12. 1:

13. USFS

14. 1:

15. NOS

16. Not shown 1970

17. Not shown 1943

18. Hawaii County, sh. __________ County, sh. __________


21. U.S. Cens. pop. __________


24. __________ BGN Decision

Other: 

State Board

NOS USFS DGN USGS  NPS 

letter memo
### Proposed Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed name</th>
<th>Pu'u Kupanaha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Pronunciation

If not obvious (use Webster's Dictionary symbols)

### Dictionary

mynbōlit

### Location of Feature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>19° 33' 00&quot; N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>155° 27' 30&quot; W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section(s), T., R., Meridian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section(s)</th>
<th>, T.</th>
<th>R.</th>
<th>Meridian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Description and Extent of Feature:

Prominant 100'-high black spatter cone formed ca. 300 years ago on the Northeast Rift Zone of Mauna Loa. It was previously (erroneously) considered the eruptive vent for the lava flow of 1881. It is conspicuous as viewed from a large area and is distinguished by its remarkably symmetrical cone-shape.

### Distance and Direction from Prominent Features or Towns:

1.3 mi. NNE from Pu'u Ula'ula, at 9,600'. Indicated on the Pu'u Ula'ula 7½' quadrangle as Hill 9607'.

### Basis of Knowledge that the Feature is Unnamed:

Name not shown on earliest map; no oral traditions of name.

### Reason for Choice of Name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>descriptive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other (state reason):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other (state reason):

for a nearby feature

for a person

### If the Name is Descriptive, State Why It Is Appropriate:

Pu'u Kupanaha = "Marvellous; spectacular Hill". Because of its uniquely well-preserved, pristine shape.

### If Named for Another Feature, State for That Other Feature:

1. Name

   ___________  Lat. ° ' " N. -- Long. ° ' " W. 

   Section(s) , T. , R. , Meridian

2. Any known variant spellings or other names:

3. Number of years known by present name:

4. Relation of the two features:
If the name commemorates a person, state:

1. Full name of the person: ____________________________________________
   (do not propose name of a living person).

2. Date of the person's death: ____________________________________________

3. Last residence: ______________________________________________________

4. Association, if any, of the person with the feature to be named:

5. Brief biography:

List any Marked map: Pu'u Ualua 7 1/2' quadrangle
Attached Marked photographs:
Identification Other:
Aids

SUBMITTED BY:

Individual or private organization

Name: John P. Lockwood
Address: ____________________________

Government agency (State or Federal) [X] Check appropriate box
Field officer of a mapping agency [ ]

Agency: U.S. Geological Survey
Name and title: John P. Lockwood, Geologist
Address: ____________________________
         U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
         Hawaiian Volcano Observatory
         Hawaii National Park, P.O., Hawaii

Date: 2-27-81