



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Ref. No. P-

Date

Name/Address Block/Memo

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN), a state board established pursuant to Chapter 4E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and comprising members from the departments of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Accounting and General Services (DAGS), Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the University of Hawaii (UH), and the Bishop Museum. Pursuant to HRS §4E-3, HBGN is responsible for designating "the names and spellings of geographic features in Hawaii."

HBGN was recently asked to review a request to correct the spelling of the legal name of the State of Hawaii to the "State of Hawai'i." However, such a change goes beyond correcting a geographic feature name and is outside of HBGN's purview.

The State of Hawaii Attorney General's Office informed the Office of Planning that the Hawaii Revised Statutes is silent on a process to change the name of the State. In order to effect the change and in the absence of a clear process, they suggested that the State may need to act first (e.g., a bill in the State Legislature or an amendment to the State Constitution), followed by Hawaii's Congressional delegation introducing the name change in Congress for its approval and recognition. Therefore, HBGN is forwarding this request to you for your consideration and possible action.

If you wish to pursue this, HBGN members have offered to assist in this effort by reaching out to community, cultural, and educational organizations to gauge their interest and potential support.

If you need more information about this request, please feel free to contact me at (808) 587-2846 or by email at leo.r.asuncion@hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,

Leo R. Asuncion
Director