



**MINUTES (DRAFT)**  
**FOR THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**DATE:** March 10, 2016  
**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Kama'ano Mills called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) via Skype, Leo Asuncion (Office of Planning), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamana'o Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ABSENT:** Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum),

**STAFF:** Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning)

**ADVISORS:** Renee Louis

**GUESTS:** None

Disabled member Mr. Akana participated in the meeting via Skype from his office at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. There was nobody else with him at that location.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes (5/27/15, 7/15/15, 8/19/15, 9/16/15, 11/4/15, 1/13/16, 2/11/16)**

The board members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of 5/27/15, 7/15/15, 8/19/15, 9/16/15, 11/4/15, 1/13/16, and 2/11/16.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments.**

There were no public comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Board Discussion.****4a: Continued Discussion: HBGN request to send a letter to Hawai'i's Congressional delegation regarding changing the legal spelling of the state's name from "Hawaii" to "Hawai'i"**

Mr. Asuncion reported that the Office of Planning (OP) drafted a letter to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation indicating that the Board is not sure as to the process related to changing the spelling of the legal name of the State, which the Board understands is different than the usual Board procedures to change a geographic place name. OP also consulted with the Deputy Attorney General (AG) assigned to OP, who advised that before sending the request to the Congressional delegation, the Attorney General's office first conduct research to ensure that there were no existing procedures specified in State law to follow in changing the spelling. This would potentially help to determine whether changing the spelling of the State name would be a State matter, or whether in fact Hawai'i law is silent on the matter. Once the research is completed, the OP Deputy AG will provide that information to the Board. If nothing is found in the State Constitution or State Statute, then it would be appropriate to ask for guidance from the Hawai'i delegation as to any federal procedures that would need to be followed. Mr. Asuncion anticipates that the Board will at some point need to contact the Congressional Delegation for their input, because the legal name of the State is referenced in the Organic Act and the Admissions Act, which were Acts by the U.S. Congress. Mr. Asuncion asked the members whether there were any further questions that he should take to the Deputy AG as he conducts the research.

Mr. Mills asked to confirm whether a vote was taken to send a letter to the delegation, and Mr. Asuncion confirmed that was the case, and that OP had drafted the letter. Mr. Akana asked whether the letter would be on behalf of the Board, or whether it would come from the Office of Planning. Ms. Delos Santos noted that the letter was drafted to come from OP, but that it stated that the question was coming from the HBGN. Mr. Asuncion said that the letter could come from either OP (signed by OP Director) or from the Board (signed by the HBGN Chair).

Mr. Akana asked for a copy of the letter for the Board to review and Mr. Asuncion confirmed that the Board would have an opportunity to review the letter before it was sent. Mr. Asuncion said that the results of the research done by the AG would be attached to the letter for review by the Board. If no State procedures are discovered by the AG, and upon approval by the Board, the letter and research documents would be sent to the congressional delegation asking for guidance.

Mr. Akana expressed concern that submitting the question to the AG would result in a significant delay before the question could be resolved. Mr. Asuncion reiterated that because it is a legal question, a legal review would be necessary. The concern is that the Board would ask the delegation for direction, when in fact it could be a State issue.

Mr. Akana said that there is a presumption that it is a State issue – the State has a right to determine the name of its state, and is not dependent on what the federal government says in their law. It is irrefutable that the State of Hawai‘i has a right to determine the spelling of its own name.

Mr. Asuncion said that the question would then become – “Who in the state has the right to determine that spelling?” Ms. Delos Santos said that it is not the HBGN which determines the legal name of the state – the U.S. Board has said that they will not accept a change in the spelling of the legal name of the state based upon a decision by the HBGN. Mr. Akana said that it would most likely need to go before the state legislature. Mr. Asuncion thought that it would require a constitutional amendment, which means it would go to the voters in a ballot.

Mr. Akana asked whether the Board had ever considered the name of the state when considering the name of the island of Hawai‘i. Ms. Delos Santos said that she believes that the board had considered the name of the island, but that the difference is that the Island of Hawai‘i is a geographic feature, while the State of Hawai‘i is a legal entity, and the HBGN’s authority does not extend to the legal name of the state.

Ms. Silva asked whether the AG had given any indication as to how long their research might take. Mr. Asuncion thought it would take approximately another week. Mr. Asuncion said that as OP receives information from the AG, it would pass it on to the board, with the draft letter attached. It could be before the next meeting, but it would be no later than the next meeting.

**4b: Continued Discussion: Possible addition of new place name, Lō‘ihi, to the USBGN Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database.**

Ms. Delos Santos distributed a document containing an email exchange on this topic between Ms. Louis and Ms. Kekuhi Kealiikanakaole on this topic, including the words to a chant that has a reference to the island, named as Kama‘ehu – from line 19 of the chant:

19. Keiki ehu, kama ehu a Kanaloa

Ms. Louis noted that according to the November 2013 minutes, Mr. Bobby Camara said that Ms. Pua Kanahale and members of her family thought that the name Kama‘ehu was more appropriate for the feature commonly referred to as Lō‘ihi.

Ms. Louis clarified that the question before the Board was not to change the name of the feature, but to propose a name for an unnamed geographic feature, as the seamount is not currently in the GNIS database for underwater features. Ms. Louis stated that the feature has no official name, although people have commonly been referring to it as Lō‘ihi. She also suggested that whichever name the Board decided on (Lō‘ihi or Kama‘ehu), the other could be a variant.

Ms. Silva said that she thought that this topic would require a great deal more discussion before reaching a decision. She noted that the scientists are accustomed to calling it Lō'īhi. Another problem is that the name Lō'īhi is actually simply a descriptive word. She also suggested that those who could interpret chants, such as Mr. Akana and herself, should review the chant itself again. She said that in looking at the chant, it is not obvious to her that it says that the new island on the east side of Hawai'i is named Kama'ehu. She also thought that it would be worthwhile to take it to the public for input. It is a momentous decision, and one that would not make the scientists happy. She also pointed out that many maps are already using the name Lō'īhi. Ms. Louis added that many maps using that name are in fact federal maps.

Mr. Asuncion asked how the name Lō'īhi was derived. Ms. Silva recalled that Mr. Akana thought it was because the island would take a long time to form. Ms. McEldowney pointed out that it was Ms. Pukui that gave the island the name Lō'īhi (per Mr. Camara, see 11/21/13 HBGN minutes).

Ms. Louis said that although the name Lō'īhi was used in various federal documents, that usage should not necessarily be given much weight, because the federal government does not have the authority to name geographic features in Hawai'i. Ms. McEldowney said the issue would still need to be discussed with federal agencies in order to understand impacts and how they would deal with them.

Mr. Akana noted that the feature was named Lō'īhi in 1955.

Mr. Asuncion recommended more research and said that public input would definitely be needed, but that research should be completed before going to the public. He suggested that the issue be researched further, and that research be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Mills suggested the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to research this matter and report back to the Board. Part of the research should include outreach. Ms. Louis asked that enough time be allotted to conduct sufficient research, perhaps as long as six months. Ms. Delos Santos will add the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group to the April meeting agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Continued Review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks.**

The Board reviewed 52 Maui island place names. Of these, 27 were determined to be correct in the GNIS database, 4 were corrected, and 3 were determined to require more research. Individual name decisions can be seen below.

***Names reviewed and decisions:***

*Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change; 7 = Other*

Status	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes
5	1924903	Tenrikyo Maui Kyokai Church	Church	Tenrikyo Maui Kyokai Church		HBGN: Maui is the correct spelling; however the Board declines to make a determination because it is not our jurisdiction as it is a private organization, 3/10/16
5	1924905	Ukumehame Bridge	Bridge	Ukumehame Bridge	PNH	3/10/16
3	1924906	Ulua Beach	Beach			HBGN: It could be either the fish, ulua, or a gathering place, 'ulua, 3/10/16
4	1853356	Ulupalakua Hawaiian Home Land	Civil	‘Ulupalakua Hawaiian Home Land	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	364347	Ulupalakua School	School	‘Ulupalakua School	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	1924907	University of Hawaii Agricultural Experimental Station	Locale	University of Hawai‘i Agricultural Experimental Station	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	1924908	Upper Nahiku	Populated Place	Upper Nāhiku	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
3	1987873	Wahea Golf Course	Locale			HBGN: This could be a private entity name or it could be a spelling error for Wailea Golf Course, 3/10/16
4	1924910	Wahiku Park	Park	Wahikuli Park	PNH	HBGN: misspelled in GNIS but spelled correctly on map, 3/10/16
5	364432	Wahikuli Pump Ditch	Canal	Wahikuli Pump Ditch	PNH	3/10/16
3	1924912	Wahine Pe‘e Beach	Beach			HBGN: Wahinepe‘e is a stream on the Ko‘olau side according to the Parker online dictionary and a stream in the ahupua‘a of lo‘iloa in Soehren’s online Hawaiian place names - both on Ulukau, 3/10,16

5	1847308	Wai‘ele‘ele	Lake	Wai‘ele‘ele	HBGN	HBGN: spelling is not contentious, but it is listed in the Bishop Museum Occasional papers Vol XXV April 30, 1982 by Maciolek, 3/10/16
5	364596	Wai‘eli Gulch	Valley	Wai‘eli Gulch	HBGN	HBGN: spelling is not contentious and PNH lists this name for a feature on Moloka‘i, 3/10/16
3	364539	Waialohe Point	Cape			HBGN: according to Soehren, Claim no. 4857 by Naohiki is the "he ili aina i Waialohe ka inoa". The name is corrupted in the Award Book and Indices of Awards to "Waialohi", and to "Waialohe" by USGS, 3/10/16
5	364587	Waiehu Hawaiian Home Land	Civil	Waiehu Hawaiian Home Land	PNH	3/10/16
5	364594	Waiehu Village	Populated Place	Waiehu Village	PNH	3/10/16
4	1924917	Waihee Beach Park	Park	Waihe‘e Beach Park	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	364604	Waihee Canal	Canal	Waihe‘e Canal	PNH	3/10/16
4	1965226	Waihee Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Preserve	Park	Waihe‘e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Preserve	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	1965228	Waihee Dairy (historical)	Locale	Waihe‘e Dairy (historical)	PNH	3/10/16
4	1924918	Waihee Elementary School	School	Waihe‘e Elementary School	PNH	3/10/16
4	364605	Waihee Farm	Locale	Waihe‘e Farm	PNH	3/10/16
4	2414153	Waihee-Waiehu Census Designated Place	Census	Waihe‘e-Waiehu Census Designated Place	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	1935678	Waihee-Waikapu Division (inactive)	Census	Waihe‘e-Waikapū Division (inactive)	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	2414155	Waikapu Census Designated Place	Census	Waikapū Census Designated Place	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
3	364671	Waikau Cabin	Locale			HBGN: no sources/information found, 3/10/16

5	1924920	Waikoloa Beach	Beach	Waikoloa Beach	HPN	3/10/16
4	1924921	Waikuli Terrace Park	Park	Wahikuli Terrace Park	PNH	HBGN: misspelled in GNIS but spelled correctly on map, 3/10/16
5	1924922	Wailea Beach	Beach	Wailea Beach	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924923	Wailea Shopping Village Shopping Center	Locale	Wailea Shopping Village Shopping Center	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	2414157	Wailea-Makena Census Designated Place	Census	Wailea-Mākena Census Designated Place	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	364741	Wailua Hawaiian Home Land	Civil	Wailua Hawaiian Home Land	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	2414160	Wailuku Census Designated Place	Census	Wailuku Census Designated Place	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924924	Wailuku Church of God	Church	Wailuku Church of God	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1956426	Wailuku Civic Center Historic District	Park	Wailuku Civic Center Historic District	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1935680	Wailuku Division (inactive)	Census	Wailuku Division (inactive)	PNH	3/10/16
5	1924925	Wailuku Elementary School	School	Wailuku Elementary School	PNH	3/10/16
5	364756	Wailuku Hawaiian Home Land	Civil	Wailuku Hawaiian Home Land	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924926	Wailuku Health Center	Hospital	Wailuku Health Center	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924927	Wailuku Hongwanji Mission	Church	Wailuku Hongwanji Mission	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924928	Wailuku Post Office	Post Office	Wailuku Post Office	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924929	Wailuku Public Library	Building	Wailuku Public Library	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1924930	Wailuku Shingon Mission	Church	Wailuku Shingon Mission	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
5	1956387	Wailuku Town Hall	Church	Wailuku Town Hall	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16



5	1924931	Wailuku Union Church	Church	Wailuku Union Church	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
4	364769	Waimahaihai	Beach	Waimāha‘iha‘i	PNH	3/10/16
5	1924932	Waine‘e Church	Church	Waine‘e Church	PNH	3/10/16
4	364828	Waiohonu Kakio Homesteads	Civil	Waiohonu Kāki‘o Homesteads	HBGN	HBGN: Waiohonu is in PNH, and Kāki‘o is on Hawai‘i Island in HPN, this is the official name of the State owned homestead, 3/10/16
4	364837	Waiohuli Keokea	Civil	Waiohuli Keōkea	PNH	HBGN: PNH lists Kēōkea separately, but lists Waiohuli Keōkea as one entry, 3/10/16
5	1924934	Wānanalua Congregational Church	Church	Wānanalua Congregational Church	PNH	3/10/16
5	1924937	West Maui Shopping Center	Locale	West Maui Shopping Center	PNH	HBGN: associative, 3/10/16
3	364983	West Wailua Iki Stream	Stream			HBGN: the style guide indicates this is a modified place name of Wailua, but the community recognizes Wailuaiki as a single word place name not as the modified place name of Wailua, 3/10/16

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m., at the Office of Planning Conference Room. Ms. Silva moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Asuncion seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Kamana‘o Mills adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.