Aloha Arthur,

I would defer this to Noenoe as the representative for the UH system. Mahalo for the information.

Marques Hanalei Marzan
Cultural Advisor

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum
1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, HI 96817-2704
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Aloha Noenoe...

I received a call from Daryn Arai, Deputy Planning Director at the County of Hawai‘i. Apparently the mayor will be getting more involved in the TMT efforts (not sure what aspects) and the county wants to know the correct spelling for “Mauna Kea.” Daryn contacted UH’s Institute for Astronomy and the Center for Hawaiian Studies and was told that the correct spelling is “Maunakea,” and they may have even cited the ‘Ahahui guidelines and/or the HBGN’s earlier decision to concatenate in accordance with those guidelines. However, when Daryn checked the HBGN website, he saw that the Board had reversed its decision and corrected the spelling to “Mauna Kea.” I directed him to the minutes from the HBGN meeting on 1/16/2014 at which the reversal decision was made; there’s good documentation in the minutes of the discussion behind the reversal.

For this particular decision, I think that the Board should probably reach out to the Institute for Astronomy and the Center for Hawaiian Studies to make them aware of the spelling change and lessen the confusion. Is that something that you and/or Marques can do? Let me know what you think. Mahalo,

Arthur Buto
GIS Program Manager
Hawaii Statewide GIS Program
State of Hawaii, Office of Planning
235 S. Beretania St., 6th Floor
Hi Arthur,

I really think this needs to be dealt with forthwith…


Thanks,

Bobby
Maunakea And Maunaloa Deserve Our Respect

A conversation about the proper spelling of the revered mountains consistent with the Hawaiian language, pronunciation and culture.

By Puakea Nogelmeier and Steven Businger / November 22, 2017

Steven Businger: How many people reading this short article are surprised to find out that the spelling for Mauna Kea should likely be Maunakea, and for Mauna Loa, we’d be more consistent to spell it Maunaloa. Are you surprised?

Frankly, I was surprised when I learned this from Puakea Nogelmeier, the founding director of the Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation. To be honest I am not the best speller and computers have both helped and hindered my middling proficiency with their autocorrect
feature.

Case in point, when I type Maunakea, my computer flags the name as misspelled and when I google Maunaloa, it comes back Mauna Loa. So I challenged Puakea and told him about the widespread use of these two-word spellings in the scientific literature as well as the general digital world. He easily set me straight, or at least provided a longer perspective than the recent computer age.

A photographer works near the Keck Observatory on the summit of Mauna Kea ... er, Maunakea.

The point of this piece is to allow a broader audience to share this longer perspective and to raise awareness that the names of these revered mountains deserve to be referenced thoughtfully, consistent with the Hawaiian Language, Hawaiian pronunciation and the Hawaiian culture.

Puakea Nogelmeier: In an article that Steven and I co-authored with several others, I edited the spellings of the Hawaiian words, and Steven questioned my request to combine both Maunakea and Maunaloa as one-word names, citing a long list of modern sources. I explained that there
are other resources, including the recommendations of the 1978 language convention of the ‘Ahahui Ōlelo Hawai‘i (recapped in Guidelines for Hawaiian Geographic Names).

That landmark convention of teachers and speakers had generated the consistent spelling rules that have been widely used by the Hawaiian language community in classrooms, publications and communications for almost 40 years. I showed him that those recommendations were based upon a century and a half of published Hawaiian-language material.

Now that much of the historical corpus of published Hawaiian language is on line, it is relatively easy to track historical usage. The online database developed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, www.papakilodatabase.com allows one to search through 75,000 pages of newspaper published in Hawaiian, where the spelling Maunakea generates 5,719 hits, while the two-word form, Mauna Kea generates 1,071. Both spellings have been in use throughout the history of Hawaiian literacy, but Maunakea is over five times more common in writings by speakers of the language.

Both spellings have been in use throughout the history of Hawaiian literacy, but Maunakea is over five times more common in writings by speakers of the language.
The ‘Aahului ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i did not have access to all of today’s resources when the guides were established, but the collective experience of the teachers and speakers who worked to generate those guides proves to be historically founded. The 1978 recommendations included twelve sets of guides about modern use of the ‘okina and kahakō, word division, capitalization and spelling norms. Several of the guides addressed proper nouns and names, calling for a single initial capital, even if proper names were in a name (Waikâne, not WaiKâne), and for the single-word spelling of any name, thus Maunakea and Maunaloa.

The 1978 recommendations of the ‘Aahului ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i did not gain traction in all segments of our community, but have been widely used in college and high-school classes, immersion schools, Hawaiian publications, and throughout the broader Hawaiian language community (not to say there is no disagreement, but...).

Businger and Nogelmeier: Decades of media explosion have empowered other segments of the community far more than the small Hawaiian-speaking circle, so inconsistent spelling of Hawaiian words is widespread, and the broader community is not certain where to turn for credible answers.

While individual schools and language circles guide and affirm themselves, little is available to the general public. The ‘Aahului ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, which has held a low profile for over decade, is now attracting a new and highly-motivated membership that may well provide new resources for the Hawaiian-language community and the general populace as well. The expanding interest in “proper” use of Hawaiian language calls for ready access to such resources (e.g., Hawaiian digital library and dictionary site).

I mua kākou (Onward we go).
Community Voices aims to encourage broad discussion on many topics of community interest. It’s kind of a cross between Letters to the Editor and op-eds. This is your space to talk about important issues or interesting people who are making a difference in our world. Columns generally run about 800 words (yes, they can be shorter or longer) and we need a photo of the author and a bio. We welcome video commentary and other multimedia formats. Send to news@civilbeat.com.

About the Authors

Puakea Nogelmeier

Puakea Nogelmeier is a professor of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii Manoa, where he has taught for over 30 years. He is founder and executive director of Awaiaulu, a nonprofit translation training entity and is also the director of UH's Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation.

Use the RSS feed to subscribe to Puakea Nogelmeier's posts today

Steven Businger

Steven Businger is professor and chair of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Hawaii Manoa. For the past 30 years he has been active in researching the evolution and structure of destructive atmospheric storms, resulting in fundamental contributions to our understanding of cyclogenesis in cold air streams and in the subtropics.

Use the RSS feed to subscribe to Steven Businger's posts today
Maunakea And Maunaloa Deserve Our Respect - Honolulu Civil Beat

Aloha e Ka Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names,

Mahalo for your 2014 Guidelines for Hawaiian Geographic Names. I have noticed some inconsistencies with the spelling guideline for a few of the names beginning with the word, "mauna", as follows: Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, Mauna Ulu. All other "mauna" spellings following your guideline and are spelled as one spelling. I am recommending that Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Mauna Ulu be spelled as one word. Please see my enclosures in support of my recommendation.

Mahalo nui i kā 'oukou hana ho'omanawanui a na'auao no ka mālama pono 'ana i ka pela 'ana i nā inoa 'āina o Hawai'i nei. Inā he nīnau, e 'olū'olū e ho'ohip mai me a'u.

Dr. Larry Kimura
Ka Haka 'Ula O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language
Kelepona: 808-932-7236
Leka Uila: larrykim@hawaii.edu
To: Hawai‘i Board of Geographic Names  
Office of Planning  
State of Hawai‘i  
P. O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96804-2359

From: Dr. Larry Kimura  
Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language  
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo  
Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

Maunakea As One Spelling  
as submitted to Ka Wai Ola by L. Kimura  
published in Ka Wai Ola Nov. 2008, Vol. 25, No. 11

Hawaiian names, both personal and place names, are usually made up of several root words combined together to represent the person or place. Hawaiian tradition is to write these roots words together as a single word, e.g., Kamehameha not Ka Mehameha, Kalākaua not Ka Lā Kaua, Waikīkī not Wai Kīkī, Keauhou not Ke Au Hou. The Hawaiian tradition is different from the English one, as in English the parts of a place name are sometimes written separately, e.g., Mount Vernon, New York, Red River Valley. It is also common in English to write "native" names as separate words "Sitting Bull", "Crazy Horse", "Red Cloud".

The Hawaiian tradition is based in the Hawaiian grammar of the oral language that marks separate words differently from names. In the case of two mountains on Hawai‘i islands where scientists from outside Hawai‘i have come to predominate, e.g., Maunakea and Maunaloa, American English spelling traditions have been imposed on earlier Hawaiian spelling traditions. The earlier Hawaiian spelling traditions can be seen in places with the same name where American scientists have not had as much of an influence, e.g., Maunaloa on Moloka‘i and Maunakea Street in Honolulu and the Maunakea family name. Older Hawaiian language writings and publications also include examples of Maunakea and Maunaloa written as one word when referring to the mountains on Hawai‘i island.
To: Hawai‘i Board of Geographic Names
Office of Planning
State of Hawai‘i
P. O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96804-2359

From: Dr. Larry Kimura
Ka Haka ‘Ula O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

The spelling of the name Maunakea / Mauna Kea searched by Dr. Larry Kimura in Hawaiian Language newspapers through nupepa.org, referring to all of its usages such as a geographic name referring to the mountain, the steamship, the street name, and family name. The following is the count.

399 "Maunakea" one word spelling in Hawaiian newspaper publishing.

66 "Mauna Kea" as two word spelling in Hawaiian newspaper publishing.