

Buto, Arthur J

From: Runyon, Jennifer <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Buto, Arthur J
Subject: Re: What is the official name of this state: "Hawaii" or "Hawai'i"

Hi Arthur,

Yes, we have confirmed that **only the Congress or President can change the name of a state**. The question of whether 'an action has to occur at the state level first' (as you suggest, by statute or constitutional amendment) would have to be answered by your Congressional delegation, but that seems to us like the most logical approach. The state delegation would then move it forward at the federal level.

Good to know about the okina.

Thanks as always for the update.

Jenny

On Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 3:52 PM, Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Hi Jenny,

I shared the email thread below at the HBGN meeting this morning. The question came up about your statement that only the 'Congress or President can change the name of a state.' Is that correct -- I thought there was some uncertainty before? Or is it just the process of getting to that point that is unclear/undefined? We are proceeding under the assumption that an action has to occur at the state level first (statute or constitutional amendment), after which our Congressional delegation will move it forward at the federal level one way or another.

Fyi, this will come up if this initiative does move forward – the 'okina is considered a consonant in the Hawaiian language, so omitting it is more than just a visual aid to pronunciation...ab

From: jrunyon@usgs.gov [mailto:jrunyon@usgs.gov] **On Behalf Of** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Carol Kavanagh - NOAA Federal <carol.kavanagh@noaa.gov>
Cc: Troy Kitch - NOAA Federal <troy.kitch@noaa.gov>; Louis Yost <lyost@usgs.gov>; Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov>; Drew Decker <ddecker@usgs.gov>
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