

From: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
To: [Cynthia Vanderlip](#); [Kure Atoll](#)
Cc: [McEldowney, Holly](#)
Subject: RE: FW: [EXTERNAL] Question about Kure Atoll
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:13:00 PM
Attachments: [Atoll Research Bulletin164.pdf](#)
[NWHI Atoll names Kikilo'i.pdf](#)

Mahalo Cynthia... By this response I am forwarding your email and attachments to Togrul.

I noticed that the Research Bulletin does not mention the origin of the name Cure / Kure, only that Krusenstern gave it to the island. Do you know where the name came from or do you have any more information about a Russian navigator named Cure / Kure?

Fyi, if PMNM moves forward with the name change, the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) can review it and upon approval forward it up to the US BGN for its approval and for inclusion in the GNIS (Holly McEldowney from DLNR sits on the HBGN). Mahalo...ab

From: Cynthia Vanderlip <kureatollconservancy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov>; Kure Atoll <kureatoll@gmail.com>
Cc: McEldowney, Holly <holly.mcelandey@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Question about Kure Atoll

Hi Togrul

I attached the Kure Atoll Research bulletin #164 with info on page 2 about the name. There is a push by PMNM to rename Kure Atoll, Holaniku. (see attachment)

From World Heritage designation for PMNM

Unlike Midway and French Frigate Shoals, Kure Atoll was not modified during WWII. President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7299 on February 20, 1936, placing Kure Atoll under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Navy. On November 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 10413, giving Kure Atoll to the Territory of Hawaii. The US Navy installed a radar reflector in 1955 and opened large areas for Albatross in 1959, but no other improvements were made to the island until the US Coast Guard built a long-range navigation LORAN C station on Green Island in 1960. The Coast Guard maintained the station until 1992. The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR/DOFAW) worked with the Coast Guard to demolish the majority of the buildings on the Island in 1993. Only one small brick house, a storage shed and water tank, as well as the runway remain on Green Island. DLNR/DOFAW manages Kure Atoll as a State Wildlife/Seabird Sanctuary. Since 1994, DOFAW has set up an annual field camp on the island to monitor seabird populations, conduct habitat restoration, monitor Hawaiian monk seals and remove the marine debris from the shoreline and coral reefs.

Cynthia

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 12:33 PM Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Aloha...

We received this inquiry about the origin of the name of the atoll. I see from your website

(<https://kureatollconservancy.org/explore/kure-history>) that in 1835 a Russian captain/cartographer Krusenstern unified the various names to "Cure Island." According to *Place Names of Hawaii* [Pukui, Elbert, Mookini], "it was discovered by a Russian navigator (for whom it is named)." Do you have any information about the navigator ("Cure" or "Kure") or is there is a different origin for the name?

Mahalo for your assistance...ab

Arthur Buto, Manager
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From: Togrul
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:42 AM
To: GIS <gis@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question about Kure Atoll

Hello,

I would like to request information about the origin of the name of Kure Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. According to the US Board of Geographic Names, it's named after some Russian navigator Kure or Cure, but I couldn't find any information about him. My web search about Kure Atoll's name origin was inconclusive. I currently believe that Kure may be a corrupt variant of Krusenstern, a 19th century Russian admiral who also mentioned that atoll. Could you clarify the matter, particularly whether the navigator Kure ever existed?

Regards,
Togrul Safarov

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