

**From:** [Richard Hazlett](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Cc:** [kuabay@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kuabay@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kapoho Crater proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 12:57:59 PM

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Dear Arthur,

I had planned to attend this afternoon's Zoom meeting with the Board, but am flat on my back with a headcold and need to beg off. I've let Bobby Camara know too. Would you folks please put off considering this proposal until the next meeting?

In the meantime, there are some new developments regarding "Kapoho Crater" that I'll write up and share with your office. (There has been mixed community response to the proposal, perhaps significant, that should be taken into consideration).

--Rick Hazlett

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2023

# HAWAII GEOGRAPHIC NAME APPLICATION

OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
 BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
 C/O OFFICE OF PLANNING  
 DEPT. OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
 DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
 P.O. BOX 2359  
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

	Spelling Correction
	Controversial Name
	Obscure Hawaiian Name
	Name Form Change
✓	Name Change
	New Name (Unnamed Feature)

Recommended Name:

Pu'uolēkia

(Kapoho U.S.G.S. topo quadrangle)

Island: Hawai'i Tax Map Key: Zone 1 Section 1 Plat 1 Parcel 1

Latitude: 19 Degrees 56.42 Minutes 00 Seconds North

Longitude: 154 Degrees 8.436 Minutes 00 Seconds West

Description of feature (give precise location in relation to existing named features, particularly if geographic coordinates are not supplied).

"Kapoho Crater." This is a prominent volcanic cone enclosing a wide, shallow crater near Cape Kumukahi, in the easternmost part of the Puna District on the Island of Hawai'i. (Lava during the May-September 2018 eruption engulfed the base of the cone and flooded its crater floor.)  
 This is a recommendation to change this name to ~~Kapoho~~ "Pu'uolēkia".

Published Map or Other Source Using Recommended Name:

Kapoho Quadrangle (USGS)

Variant Names/Spellings:

Source:

Documentation or personal knowledge on origin, spelling and meaning of the recommended name or reason for change. If a new name, state basis for knowledge that feature is unnamed, reason for naming, and why the recommended name was chosen.

(see attached)

Submitted by:

Name: Richard W. Hazlett Title: Research Associate, Date: 3 May, 2023

Agency/Organization (if any): U.S. Geological Survey

Address: 30 Halaulani Place, Hilo, 96720

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e-mail address (if any): rwh@4747@pomona.edu

Documentary material supporting proposed name change:

“Kapoho Crater” is a place name that apparently came into place with the introduction of sugar cane in the lower Puna District on the Island of Hawai‘i, beginning in 1899. The moniker was formally published on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps, related to the name of the nearby plantation town of Kapoho. It is not, however, the traditional name for this prominent landmark, and as such is geographically ambiguous: observers from most directions see a hill (or pu‘u, locally and informally designated “Green Mountain” because of its lush cover of vegetation) rather than a crater (lua), though the hill--essentially the collar of a late-prehistoric ash cone--does indeed enclose a wide-floored crater (similar to the floors of Lē‘ahi and Pūowaina on O‘ahu).

In late Kingdom times, the 1880 Registered Map (366), product of Lyman survey, includes the note “go to the large hill ‘Waiapele,’ above the government road” referring to Kapoho Crater. In the Boundary Certificate for Kapoho, this feature is also designated “The Hill of Waiapele.” (“Waiapele” itself is Green Lake, now filled with lava from the 2018 eruption and a major scenic attraction throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century). For this reason, the HBGN received a recommendation to change the name “Kapoho Crater” to “Pu‘uwaiapele” from Mr. Bobby Camara in 2018, and this is presently listed as an item for Board consideration on the State website. However, subsequent discussions with Mr. Camara and information provided by geophysicist James Kauahikaua of the U.S. Geological Survey and other sources support a revision of this proposal to restore a more traditional published moniker, “Pu‘uolēkia.”

The Kapoho Crater area (employing the present place name for clarity) was the traditional home of two demi-gods, Lēkia and Hanalei, stones (pohaku) that occasionally took animate form, were married, and lived across from one another on the rim of the ash cone, separated by Waiapele. During our geological field work, we discovered one unusually large rock with early historical inscriptions yet to be interpreted in a notch on the western rim of the cone that may actually pertain to this tradition. (We plan to revisit this site soon to document it carefully). Traditional accounts of Lēkia and Hanalei are presented in several significant sources, all part of the Legend of Kaleikini, or Kalakini, a magician who unsuccessfully fought Lēkia. The first published description, in 1894 (Ka Oiaio, vol. VI, no. 43) was translated by Puakea Nogelmeier (Institute for Hawaiian Language) and follows below. Note that it refers to what we now call Kapoho Crater specifically as “Pu‘uolēkia” (correct diacritical marks added). A subsequent account is found in Folk-tales from Hawaii, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, compiled by Laura Green and published by Vassar College (New York) in 1926. The section entitled “The Rock of Hanalei and The Rock of Lekia” records the tale of one “old lady of Kanaloa,” dictated to Mary Kawena Pukui. Contemporary references to this tradition, which is clearly venerable, may be found in E ‘Onipa‘a, the newsletter of Papa Ola Lokahi: Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (2023), and Hunehune Kalo, vol. 22, issue 2. Given HBGN interest in restoring traditional place names, and seeking to address the geographical ambiguity of the moniker “Kapoho Crater,” mentioned above, this application seeks to restore the older traditional name for this feature, in use locally at least until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<p>A ua hana hou ae la ua makan puahiohio nei o Waipio ma kekahi mana a hoea ma Waiwelawela a me Waiakekua, a ua hookolo hou aku oia ma kekahi mana e holo mai ana ka mahu wela a hoea pololei ma Kukamahunuiakea ma ke kua iho o ka hale nookipa mauka o Kaauea ma ka lua opele ma Kilauea, a he nui wale o na wahi a Makanikeoe i nana pono aku ai i na wahi hakahaka malalo o ka moku-puni o Hawaii, ua hoea aku oia maluna o Maunaloa ma Mokuawe-oweo, ua hiki aku oia ma ke-a o Kaniku, kahi i oleloia o keia mau lalani mele.</p> <p>“I moe au i Kaniku-e, I waena konu o ka ino.”</p>	<p>A ua hana hou ae laua makani puahioio nei o Waipio ma kekahi mana a hoea ma Waiwelawela a me Waiakekua, a ua hookolo hou aku oia ma kekahi mana e holo mai ana kamahu wela a hoea pololei ma Kukamahunuiakea ma ke kua iho o ka hale hookipa mauka o Kaauea ma ka lua opele ma Kilauea, a he nui wale o na wahi a Makanikeoe i nana pono aku aii na wahi hakahaka malalo o ka moku-puni o Hawaii, ua hoea aku oia maluna o Maunaloa ma Mokuawe-owe, ua hiki aku oia ma ke-a o Kaniku, kahi i oleloia o keia mau lalani mele.</p> <p>“I moe au i Kaniku-e, I waena konu o ka ino.”</p>
<p>“I moe au i Kaniku-e, I waena konu o ka ino.”</p> <p>A malaila aku oia a hiki ma kekahi lua hohonu ma kahi koko-ke i Hualalai, a he lehulehu wale o na lua meki ma Kona a me Kauana i ike ai ma keia huakai awiwi a ke keiki eueu nui wale o Waipio, e like me ka heouna a Laukaieie iaia, a hiki hou oia ma kela luawai hohonu ma Waiapele ma Puolekia ma Puna, nolaila, ua maopopo ka mea i nui ai na lua a me na mana malalo o ka honua o ka Pele ka mea nana i noelo me kona ikaika nui, oia ka mea nana i hoonnee i ka pohaku Pele iloko o ke kai e like me na mea i ike ia ma Hawaii a me Maui.</p>	<p>A malaila aku oia a hiki ma kekahi lua hohonu ma kahi koko-ke i Hualalai, a he lehulehu wale o na lua meki ma Kona a me Kauana i ike ai ma keia huakai awiwi a ke keiki eueu nui wale o Waipio, e like me ka heouna a Laukaieie iaia, a hiki hou oia ma kela luawai hohonu ma Waiapele ma Puolekia ma Puna, nolaila, ua maopopo ka mea i nui ai na lua a me na mana malalo o ka hoaua o ka Pele ka mea nana i noelo me kona ikaika nui, oia ka mea nana i hoonnee i ka pohaku Pele iloko o ke kai e like me na mea i ike ia ma Hawaii a me Maui.</p>

*This is the key part of the historical text:*

110322 trans below by Puakea Nogelmeier:

And that wild wind of Waipi'o blew off in another branch to reach Waiwelawela and Waiakeakua then moved onward in yet another branch with hot steam rolling forth to directly reach Kūkamāhunuiākea directly to the back of the guest house upland of Kaauea at the Kīlauea Crater, and there were many places that Makenikeoe inspected in the empty spaces under the island of Hawai'i, and he reached the place on Maunaloa at Moku'āweoweo, then reached the fires of Kanikū, the place mentioned in these poetic lines.

"I lie at Kanikū,

Amid the tempest."

And he went from there to a deep crater at a spot near Hualālai, and there were myriad deep pits in Kona and Ka'ū that he observed in this quick journey by the lively boy of Waipi'o in accordance with him being sent by Lauka'ie'ie **until he returned to that deep pool Waiapele at Pu'uolekia in Puna**, therefore it was clear what had made so many craters and the forces under the earth, that the volcano was what had sought out, with its great force, it being what had moved the lava stones into the sea as seen on Hawai'i and Maui.

*Note emboldened text. (According to 19<sup>th</sup> century survey mapping, Waiapele refers To "Green Lake" inside what is presently named Kapoho Crater, here referred to as "Pu'uolekia")*

*Richard Hazlett  
3 May, 2023*