

**From:** [Theresa Holderread](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda items 5 and 6 Renaming Hawaii Island Geographic Committee  
**Date:** Monday, April 1, 2024 1:31:22 PM

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If the residents of the island had learned about this agenda item earlier, the committee would have been flooded with emails against it and thinking it's some sort of April Fools joke. Sadly many of us had it brought to our attention on Easter. Many of us are left to submit comments after the deadline of March 28 in the hopes our voices will be heard. To have this agenda item on a committee that probably most of us have never heard about and that takes place in Honolulu is not pono

Why are we wasting time, energy, and money on this when we have a lot more other items that are way more important. After all this time, no one is going to use those names when talking about the island. It's already confusing if someone asks you where you are going and you say Hawaii and people then say, "where in Hawaii". Calling it by its nickname, Big Island, is way more effective; changing it now is only going to create more confusion. And if it's purpose is to just put okinas in their proper place, that is no better either. Same results.

What exactly is the purpose of renaming it? If you do change it, how much money is that going to cost because we all know you'll have to create new signs, new advertising, and it's not going to make a difference.

Thank you,  
Theresa Holderread  
Kailua Kona

**From:** [Michael Konowicz](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Bad link posted for HBGN Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 1, 2024 11:17:10 AM

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Aloha and mahalo for the quick reply!

Are there any supporting documents for item #5, like alternate names to be discussed? The Board Packet lists the item and says results of research will be discussed and a decision is possible, but I haven't seen that research published unless I'm looking in the wrong place.

Thanks again for your help and for your public service to the community.

-Michael

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Buto, Arthur J" <[arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov](mailto:arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov)>  
**Date:** 4/1/24 11:08 AM (GMT-10:00)  
**To:** Michael Konowicz [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Bad link posted for HBGN Meeting

Aloha Michael,

The table is meant to cover both Item 5 and Item 6. Since the Item 6 names are on the Island of Hawai'i, they are on the same spreadsheet. Mahalo for reaching out...ab

Arthur Buto, Manager  
Hawai'i Statewide GIS Program  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Honolulu HI 96813

Email: [arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov](mailto:arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 587-2894  
Website: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/gis>  
Geoportal: <https://geoportal.hawaii.gov>

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**From:** Michael Konowicz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2024 11:02 AM  
**To:** Buto, Arthur J <[arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov](mailto:arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bad link posted for HBGN Meeting

Aloha!

I noticed a bad link was posted online today for agenda item #5 for the possible names for Hawaii Island in tomorrow's HBGN meeting; instead it links to the item #6 document (as does the #6 item.) Could you fix that or send me the document tied to Agenda item #5?

Mahalo!

Michael Konowicz  
Hawaii Island

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [DBEDT State Planning](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Mary Alice](#); [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Hawaii News Now Request: Renaming Hawaii Island  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:07:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-vvg4lbdz.png](#)

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Forwarding.

Thank you,  
Megumi

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**From:** Derek Kravitsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** DBEDT State Planning <[dbedt.stateplanning@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.stateplanning@hawaii.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marcette Perales [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hawaii News Now Request: Renaming Hawaii Island

To whom it may concern,

My name is Derek Kravitsky, I'm a producer with Hawaii News Now.

We saw there is a meeting tomorrow for the Hawaii Board on Geographic names and on the agenda is the topic of renaming "Hawaii Island"

Can you provide any materials/background on this matter?

On the agenda it says research will be presented.

Without getting into the details of that research which I'm sure is reserved for tomorrow, can you please tell us what type of research was done?

And most importantly what are the alternative names being considered for Hawaii Island.

Please feel free to give the newsroom a call at 808-847-1112.

We'd love to do a zoom call if anyone is available this evening.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Aloha.

# DEREK KRAVITSKY

Senior News Producer

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Direct: [REDACTED] Newsroom: 808.847.1112

[REDACTED]

420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 205, Honolulu, HI 96817



**From:** [R Jim](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO to Hawaii name change  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:38:05 AM

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Forwarding.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **R Jim** <[roxtjm@gmail.com](mailto:roxtjm@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Apr 2, 2024, 8:35 AM  
Subject: NO to Hawaii name change  
To: <[gis@hawaii.gov](mailto:gis@hawaii.gov)>

Aloha e Board on Geographic Names

My mom is from Puna and we were shocked to hear on the news about the thought of changing the name.

Do not change the name and you have the authority to make a major change that affects all the people on the island and in our State?

Please work on efforts to help the people or bring stability in an ever unstable world.

Mahalo for reading this.  
Roxanne Jim  
Honolulu, HI

**From:** [Melvin Ah Ching](#)  
**To:** [Buto, Arthur J](#)  
**Subject:** Renaming Hawaii Island  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 9:06:08 AM

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Hello Mr. Buto,

Senator Inouye would like to know about this renaming of Hawai'i Island proposal. The matter just seems to be a blank item ( #5) on today's meeting agenda.

The Senator would like to comment on this but we have a lack of background knowledge on the matter. Can you or someone on the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names contact our office at 808 586-7335. This has caught a lot of Senator's Big Island constituents by surprise after vague media reports surfaced on all three local news channels. I just need to know more details and what the process is in regards to renaming an island. Will this be up for more discussion and possible legislation by either the State or Congress in the future? I know places such as Fissure 8 from 2018 have been renamed in the past, but renaming an entire island without public input or comment seems to be extraordinary. Hawai'i Island is a major landmass and such a name change will probably be disruptive.

Your reply or reference to another person who knows will be greatly appreciated.

Aloha,  
Melvin Ah Ching

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Melvin Ah Ching | Legislative Aide for Senator Lorraine Inouye  
415 S. Beretania St. Room 210, Honolulu HI USA  
Telephone (808) 586-7335 | January 2 to May 3, 2024.

**From:** [James Tacker](#)  
**To:** [GIS](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Changing the name of our island home, Hawaii  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 12:09:49 PM

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Aloha,

I've lived on the island of Hawaii for many years. Why do you think you can change the name? This is an undemocratic process. Residents of Hawaii I've spoken to dislike this idea.

Please don't change it.

Mahalo, James Tacker

79-1039 Hokukano Rd

Kealahou, HI

808 208-3787