Hi Arthur,

Thanks for your prompt reply.

> On May 13, 2024, at 6:55 PM, Buto, Arthur J <arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov> wrote:
>
> A better source for the names, including the diacritical marks ('okina and kahakō) is the **USGS' Geographic Names Information System** database (GNIS). The spellings that the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) approves are sent up to the US BGN. If the US BGN approves those names and spellings, they are incorporated into the GNIS.

Good to know all of the changes are in GNIS today. It sounds like the work is complete? In other words, the Hawaiian names listed in the Project are now updated in GNIS. This is great!

I did a sanity check (can't hurt). Excellent.
. https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/gaz-record/358433

> 'Āhinahina / June 11, 2015

As a followup, we are working to improve our coverage (everywhere). Knowing the GNIS has a great deal of coverage, but misses a few things here and there, I wondered if you are aware of data collections that help to fill in gaps in Hawai'i? As an example, in the California State Park near where I grew up (Mt. Diablo, S.F. Bay Area), one of the major peaks is (was) not in GNIS. I have asked for it to be added. It seems more collaborative to share back concerns and help to improve GNIS rather than make edits here alone. Basically, place names as commodities is the notion. Mt. Olympia is the example at about 37.90106, -121.90255.

Local names are a big challenge too. At one time, I thought we might reach out to individual State Boards on Geographical Names to help fill in the map. We were discouraged from doing so as this may work for many place names, but then we find "Nancy's Hill" and, well, we don't know much about Nancy ... quite a bit of work in this case.

I see the HBGN notes and more online. We may join a meeting as observers as we press to do better.

Thanks,
= David