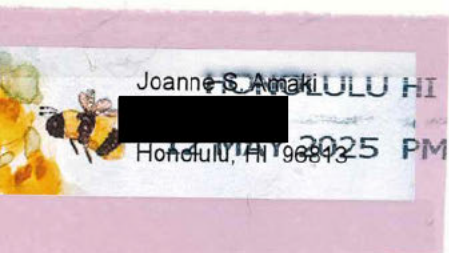




thank you
NO



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Please do not change the
name of the Big Island.

There already is confusion
and we really should honor
the wishes of the local
people.

Mahele,
Joanne Amaki

[REDACTED]
Hilo, HI 96721 [REDACTED]
May 20, 2025



Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
ATTN: Hawaii Board on Geographic Names
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the official name, "Island of Hawai'i," is currently being used in federal and state government databases, documents, and on maps. The name "Hawai'i" is being considered.

I prefer "Island of Hawai'i" continue to be used as the official name. It will help clear up the ambiguity between the names of our state and my island.

"Moku o Keawe" is a beloved chiefly name for my island, but I would caution against its official use unless the other islands follow suit with their own official "Moku" chief names. We need to think of ourselves as united. There were chiefs on each island, and we would need to respect them accordingly. Doing so, however, could cause division that King Kamehameha the Great worked very hard to avoid.

On the other hand, allowing my island to be officially named Moku o Keawe while the other islands keep their names would make it look like we're being punished for something. We'd be singled out like we don't belong. There would be nothing in our island name that anyone is used to reading or hearing about, too. Education would be key.

We need to be careful with a name. There is mana that connects it with identity. Again I reiterate in favor of keeping the official name as "Island of Hawai'i."

Thank you for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa L. Mendoza". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa L. Mendoza