



**MINUTES  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: January, 30, 2015  
TIME: 9:00 am  
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Kamaano Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamaano Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division) and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ABSENT** Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division)

**ADVISORS:** Renee Louis, PhD., Naomi Losch (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—retired)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 19, October 17, and November 19, 2014**

September 19, 2014 Minutes: Mr. Kalani Akana asked that two corrections to the minutes. First the minutes list him as absent although he was present. He arrived late. Second, “‘Ahahui ‘Ōleo”, page 2, paragraph 3, should read “‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i”. Mr. Akana moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2014 as corrected, Ms. Noenoe Silva seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

October 17, 2014 Minutes: Ms. Delos Santos moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 17, 2014, Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and Board approved the motion unanimously.

November 19, 2014 Minutes: Ms. Delos Santos moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 19, 2014, Mr. Akana seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of Preparation and Posting of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Delos Santos explained that concerns have been raised that not all State Boards and Commissions have been completing and posting their meeting minutes within the 30 days required by law. Several individuals met with Senator Donna Kim to discuss these delays and identified some departments responsible for delays that occurred for the Boards and Commissions they administer. The problem is wide spread, but the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) was one of those departments singled out for being tardy. Following the meeting, the DBEDT director sent staff a directive saying that all minutes must be posted within 30 days, even if it is a draft. Ms. Delos Santos then posted, as drafts, the three sets of minutes just approved. The other option is to post the recording of the meeting, but this is not her preference. She proposed that she and Ms. Holly McEldowney, who routinely does the minutes, work together to make sure the Hawaii Board of Geographic Names (HBGN) minutes are completed within the required time. If Ms. McEldowney's workload prevents her from completing the minutes on time, she will let Ms. Delos Santos know as soon as possible so that Ms. Delos Santos can complete them in time. Ms. McEldowney noted that she recently checked posted minutes for other agency Boards and Commissions and found that many had significant backlogs. Ms. Louis asked why DBEDT was singled out. Ms. Delos Santos responded that a number of Boards are attached to DBEDT and does not know which were highlighted by Senator Kim. She did not mention HBGN during the discussions.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that preparing the three draft minutes made her realize how difficult it can be to prepare minutes that appropriately capture the discussions and decision making process. She also feels uncomfortable preparing those sections discussing place name decisions because she does not always understand the points being made. That part of meeting minutes preparation might need to be shared. Ms. McEldowney said she finds place name discussions easier because the Board goes through each name individually and can move slowly as Board members search references or Ms. Renee Louis looks up place name locations. Discussions of longer and more complex issues are harder to capture in a way that hopefully stays true to the speaker's intent.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Status of Research into HBGN Adopting Alternate Names for Some Features**

Ms. Delos Santos wanted to follow up on previous discussions regarding the ability of HBGN to recognize alternate names although the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) cannot. The BGN can recognize "variant names" which are variants to one officially recognized name. She discovered that the HBGN is allowed by statute to recognize alternate place names. Hawaii Revised Statutes §4E-3 (b) says that the annual list of the Board's decisions shall include "...alternate names and spellings for the features..." This could apply to decisions such as Mauna Kea or Maunakea. The Board will need to add a column for alternate names on the spread sheet. Having an alternate still implies that one name is preferred over the other, but at least the alternate can be recognized and agencies can use the alternate on maps and documents. Ms. Louis said it is good to be able to recognize more than one name or spelling as legitimate. Ms. Delos Santos noted that BGN staff was very helpful recently when she received questions about the names Wailuku River and 'Īao Stream and their historic usage.

The individuals wanted to know how the names used on maps were determined in 1912. If the Board wants to adopt alternate names it has the legal foundation to do so. How to implement this option will be another discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM 4A: Information Briefing on Pending Legislation Related to Boards and Commissions**

Ms. Delos Santos proposed to add an item to the agenda. Approval by five Board members is needed to amend the agenda. There are a number of bills pending in the legislature relating to boards and commissions which could affect the HBGN and she believes the Board should be aware of them. She moved to amend the agenda to include a discussion of legislative matters. Ms. Silva seconded the motion and the six Board members present approved the motion unanimously.

Ms. Delos Santos explained that there are 23 bills pending in the legislature pertaining to boards and commissions. She distributed a table she prepared with information on these bills, including their title, bill description, notes, bill status, introducer, referrals, and companion bills. The bills highlighted in yellow on the table could potentially affect the HBGN while those highlighted in red are of particular concern to this Board. The Deputy Attorney General advising DBEDT believes that the Board members routinely attending HBGN meetings are not the official Board members because they serve as designees for the heads of the agencies or institutions named in the law. Those heads are technically the Board members so any financial disclosure requirements would apply to them. Most of them already need to file financial disclosures as a requirement of holding their positions. There are other interpretations of who must file disclosures. She does not know if the State Surveyor or the head of the Bishop Museum must file a disclosure statement. Last year's legislature passed a bill requiring financial disclosure statements be made public for members of specific boards. As it stands now, if members of the HBGN had to file financial disclosure statements, these would not be made public. A number of bills submitted this year on this topic suggest a trend towards making all these financial statements available to the public. The Deputy Attorney General also clarified that laws applying to all boards and commission apply to the HBGN even though HBGN members are not Governor appointed and Senate confirmed.

Ms. Delos Santos then called attention to several bills in particular. House Bill 369 and Senate Bill 149 would require boards and commissions to post meeting-related documents, including recordings of meetings. Currently, boards can post recordings instead of written minutes, but it is not a requirement. She suspects this might pass as it is not as controversial as others. Another bill, Senate Bill 3, would terminate a board member after four consecutive absences. It is being heard today. Mr. Akana asked about House Bill 1260 which is marked "CONCERN". Ms. Delos Santos explained that her specific concern for this bill was for the impact it could have on the State's Geographic Information System (GIS) program. It requires agencies to assist persons seeking public records to find those records. The State GIS program currently does not do custom analysis. For example, the program provides parcel layers, but it is up to individuals to find the particular parcel of interest. If someone wants to know all the parcels in an Agricultural District, the GIS program provides the data, but the individual needs to extract the particular parcels in that district. She is concerned that this could be interpreted to mean that the Office of Planning would need to conduct these analyses, which

would place a huge burden on staff. This would be easier to implement in the case of the HBGN because it is relatively easy to help the public find decisions made for specific place names.

Senate Bill 149 requires any relevant documents considered by a Board to be posted at the same time as the agenda. For example, the draft HBGN Style Guide would be posted at the same time as the agenda. This bill also requires the posting of any recordings of a meeting. Senate Bill 448 would clearly apply to designees serving on the HBGN. It clarifies that all task force members and designees on boards need to file financial disclosure statements and these would be made public.

Several bills address what board members can discuss with each other or among several members outside of a board meeting. The current law is very restrictive. It permits at most two members to discuss an issue subject to board consideration but not more than that. Nor can two members discuss the issue and then those two members individually talk to one other member. The pending bills broaden the types of interactions allowed.

Senate Bill 476 would require the State Ethics Commission to provide confidential financial disclosure statements of board members to the Governor, all other members of the filer's board, and the executive director. All would be required to keep the information received confidential. This would only apply to those board members currently required to file. If this applied to the HBGN, all members would see each other's financial statements. Ms. Silva noted that they complete similar conflict of interest forms at the University of Hawai'i. The questions are fairly specific and do not require details. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that a number of serving members of boards and commissions resigned last year when newly enacted legislation required public disclosure of their financial statements. The entire Land Use Commission resigned as did several University of Hawai'i regents. One problem is that this includes financial information of spouses and children, not just that of the board member.

Because legislation can move quickly and interaction among Board members is limited, Ms. Delos Santos asked that each member monitor these bills individually. It is easy to do on the Legislature's website. An emergency meeting could be called if the Board wanted to discuss a particular bill as it progressed through the hearing process. The Board may not be able to testify as a board, but members can submit testimony as individuals. The Office of Planning is not submitting testimony because other agencies will and their concerns are similar. Board members agreed with this approach. Ms. Delos Santos said she would provide the Board an update at every meeting.

Mr. Mills said he did not understand why House Bill 186 would apply to the HBGN. Those serving on the HBGN are designees, but the Board is not a "task force" as he understands it. A task force is formed to address a specific issue and has a specified start and end date. The task force begins its work, ends its work, and then reports its findings. Ms. Delos Santos explained that most of the bills addressing public meetings and disclosure issues apply to boards and commission. Only a few address task forces, but the issues are similar and point to trends. Ms. Delos Santos said that there is a definition of task force in state law which she will forward to the Board. She clarified that Board members can interact freely except for matters related to actions being considered by the Board.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Further Discussion and Approval of Draft HBGN Style Guide**

Mr. Mills began by explaining that he prepared two versions of the draft HBGN Style Guide. In one draft the Board's approach to dealing with variant place names is explicitly addressed in the introductory paragraph and, in the other, the issue is not addressed. These dual introductions resulted from a discussion he and Ms. Delos Santos had about how the issue of variant names was stated in the previous draft. After noting that the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) only recognizes one official name for a feature, the draft read: "In the State of Hawai'i, a place may have multiple variant names. In these cases the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names also reviews and includes these variant names along with the official name." Ms. Delos Santos was concerned that this implies the HBGN has been submitting variant names to the BGN which is has not been doing. She thought it would be better to take out any reference to variant names.

Ms. Louis pointed out some variant names were included in some previously submitted worksheets. They were listed in the notes column. If a name was specifically identified as a variant in *Place Names of Hawaii*, this was added to the notes. Ms. Delos Santos wondered if the BGN would consider names included in notes. Ms. Louis read the style guide as claiming only to send variant names to the BGN. It does not say that the BGN would recognize those names. Ms. Delos Santos believed the wording still implies that variant names would be entered into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Ms. Louis pointed out that not all HBGN submissions are being entered into the GNIS anyway. If the BGN is not necessarily processing all HBGN submissions, it may not matter whether HBGN does or does not submit variant place names. The important point is that the HBGN submits these names. Ms. Delos Santos noted that in the 2012 submission to the BGN, which included 1,000 names, there was no column for variant names. It is important to create a column for variant names on the spreadsheet if the HBGN wants to submit variant names and hopes that they will be entered in the GNIS. Ms. Louis agreed that having a column specifically for variants was important to clearly distinguish them from comments and emphasize that they are Board decisions.

Mr. Mills distributed copies of both drafts to the Board and then read the two introductions aloud. The pertinent section of the version addressing variant names is as follows:

"...The Board is responsible for designating the official names and spelling of geographic features in Hawai'i. Following the guidance of the United State Board of Geographic Names, standardized spelling of geographic names allows the public to communicate unambiguously about places, reducing the potential for confusion. Because of this, there is only one approved official name for a geographic feature. In the State of Hawai'i, a place may have multiple variant names. In these cases the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names will submit these variant names to the U.S. Board along with the official name. The Hawai'i Board makes no judgment as to whether an official name or variant name is the more "appropriate" name. In the late 1990s, the Board began a project to review the spelling of each Hawaiian place name for proper use of 'okina and kahakō, or diacritical marks...."

Ms. Delos Santos said that she is comfortable with the language in this version because it says the Board will submit them and does not say or imply that this happened in the past.

The same section of the introduction which does not address variant names is as follows:

“...The Board is responsible for designating the official names and spelling of geographic features in Hawai‘i. Standardized spelling of geographic names allows the public to communicate unambiguously about places, reducing the potential for confusion. In the late 1990s, the Board began a project to review the spelling of each Hawaiian place name for proper use of ‘okina and kahakō, or diacritical marks....”

Mr. Mills said that once the guidelines are adopted, it will be given a version number. This will be version 1.0. A change in the first digit denotes a substantive change, such as a policy change. Changes to the second digit, such as 1.1 or 1.2, signify minor, non- substantive changes to the text such as spelling changes, clarifications, or adding references. Ms. Louis asked if the Board wanted to include something in the guidelines about alternate names discussed under Agenda Item 4. Ms. Delos Santos suggested that the Board wait because more discussion is needed on how it wants to approach designating alternate names. Ms. Silva noted that more books are coming out with place name information all the time and she will update the reference list if she finds any useful for the Board.

Ms. Delos Santos moved to approve the draft version which includes language addressing variant names as HBGN style guide 1.0. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ms. Delos Santos said she would post the approved guidelines on the HBGN website. The Board thanked Mr. Mills for suggesting that the Board develop guidelines and for all his work on multiple drafts over the past year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7:           Announcements:**

Ms. Delos Santos requested, and Mr. Mills agreed, to discuss the announcements listed under Agenda Item 7 before reviewing Maui Island place names identified as Agenda Item 6.

##### Possible submission of name change request for Mountain View to ‘Ōla‘a

Ms. Delos Santos said she received an inquiry from individuals wanting to change the name of Mountain View to ‘Ōla‘a, on Hawai‘i Island. She has not received the completed form needed to request the change.

##### Possible submission of name change request for ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River

Ms. Delos Santos reported that she has received the completed form and supporting documents for the request to change the name ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River. She received it after posting the agenda. She distributed the supporting documents to the Board members present. The request will be on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. The request submitter, Mr. John V. Duey, plans to attend the next meeting.

### Correction of typo of “Ha‘ikū” on Maui Island Spreadsheets

When reviewing the Maui place name spreadsheet, Ms. Delos Santos noticed an error in the spelling of Ha‘ikū. She corrected it because it was clearly a typographical error, but wanted to let the Board know that she had done so.

### Availability of Hawai‘i Tourism Authority Language Tool

Ms. Delos Santos reported that someone from Hawai‘i Public Radio (HPR) asked for the HBGN place names list which she provided to them. The caller told her that HPR uses something called the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) Hawaiian Language Tools. If downloaded, the tool automatically corrects misspellings of Hawaiian words. She provided the Board with the link to the Hawaiian Language Tools website if anyone wanted to try it. It runs as an extension to Word. Mr. Mills pointed out that there is another similar style guide which he created when working at the Office of the Auditor. It was based on the Pukui and Elbert *Hawaiian Dictionary*, but it was never officially adopted. Ms. Delos Santos explained that she is interested in this kind of program because it could be a way to encourage agencies to use place names and spellings determined by the HBGN as they are required to by law. Currently, agencies need to look up each place name to check the official spelling. It would be ideal to have a program autocorrect Hawaiian place names and is something to keep in mind for the future. HTA might want to include the HBGN list in this program at some point. Ms. Louis suggested that the HBGN reach out to HTA and let them know about the HBGN decisions. HTA is a State agency and is bound by law to use place names approved by the HBGN.

This reminded Ms. Delos Santos of the discussion the Board had at its September 19, 2014 meeting regarding groups who oppose the use of diacritical marks in any Hawaiian words. Ms. Silva noted that this belief is becoming more widespread. Ms. Delos Santos pointed out that the Board discussed addressing this issue in more detail at a future meeting, so she is thinking of placing the topic on the February meeting agenda for discussion. Ms. Louis agrees that the Board should be informed of this perspective. In particular it would help Ms. Delos Santos, who must answer most public inquiries, to have a statement ready on the how the Board wants to answer such questions. The Board could decide to place a written position on the issue on its website so that individuals will not need to call.

Mr. Mills asked what arguments are being made for opposing diacritical marks. Ms. Naomi Losch said that some simply say that their grandmothers never wrote with them, so why should we. Ms. Louis said she hears claims that Hawaiian is an oral language and should never have been written. Diacritical marks are therefore not needed. These individuals are Hawaiian language speakers and writers. Ms. Silva voiced her support for placing this issue on the agenda because this idea has taken hold in some crucial places. The issue has come up at ‘Iolani Palace. Ms. Losch recalled a similar discussion at a house in Sāmoa regarding the Samoan language. One teacher, who has a school, did not want any marks used while others present said that of course diacritical marks were needed. Another commented that some people go overboard. It is alright to have marks, but not on everything. Everyone knows it is Fa‘a Sāmoa, so why add marks?

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Continued Review of Maui Island Place Names for Spelling and Diacritical Marks**

The Board reviewed a total of 24 names on the Maui place name list. As with previous meetings, this list includes names that are in the GNIS but were not entered into the HBGN's working spreadsheets created when the HBGN began its review of all the Hawai'i USGS Quads. The board's decisions are as follows:

Kā'anapali Beach and Kā'anapali Congregational Church: The Board decided that these two names are spelled correctly. The place name Kā'anapali is in *Place Names of Hawaii* although not specifically applied to a beach or Congregational Church. The spelling is correct by virtue of the beach and church being associated with the place Kā'anapali.

Ka'uiki Light: Ms. Silva asked for clarification on what "Light" meant. Ms. Louis checked the Feature Detail Report in the GNIS for the name and confirmed it was a "Light". John Clark's *The Beaches of Maui County* is listed as the GNIS source. Mr. Mills pointed out that Ka'uiki Lighthouse is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. A Google Search for Ka'uiki Light confirmed that the structure is called a "Light" and has been called that for a long time. The Board decided that the name was correct because Ka'uiki is in *Place Names of Hawaii* although applied to a "lighthouse" instead of a "light". The two references most likely refer to the same feature.

Kaanapali Airport and Kaanapali Census Designated Place: Neither of these names is in *Place Names of Hawaii*, but the Board decided to change the spelling to Kā'anapali Airport Kā'anapali Census Designated Place based on their association with the place Kā'anapali which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Kahana Beach: The Board determined the name is spelled correctly as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Kahoma Shaft Pump and Kahoma Tunnel: The Board decided the names are spelled correctly. Kahoma Tunnel is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and Kahoma Shaft Pump is correct by virtue of its association with the tunnel and ditch of the same name.

Kahului Beach, Kahului Census Designated Place, Kahului Division (inactive), Kahului Elementary School, Kahului Jodo Mission, Kahului Public Library, Kahului Shopping Center: The Board decided that these seven names are spelled correctly. Kahului Elementary School is in *Place Names of Hawaii*. The rest are correct based on their association with the place Kahului which is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and the Board previously decided that Kahului is the correct spelling.

Kailahulu Beach: The name is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a beach so the Board considers the name to be correct.

KAI-TV (Wailuku): Ms. Louis explained that the only reason this television antenna location, named after the station's call sign, is in the spreadsheet is because Wailuku appears after it in parenthesis. This signifies that this antenna is in Wailuku. The Board



determined that Wailuku is spelled correctly because it is associated with the place Wailuku which is in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Kailiili: The GNIS applies this name to a beach. The name is spelled Ka‘ili‘ili in *Place Names of Hawaii*, but it does not mention it being applied to a place on Maui. The name is in *Hawai‘i Place Names* (John Clark) as Ka‘ili‘ili, a beach in Olowalu. It is also Ka‘ili‘ili on the University of Hawai‘i Press (Bier) map, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Ms. Louis confirmed that the name coordinates are for a beach in Olowalu. The Board decided to change the spelling from Kailiili to Ka‘ili‘ili.

Kailua Village: The Board decided this name is spelled correctly as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and is listed as a village on Maui.

Kalaloa Point: The name Kalaloa is in *Place Names of Hawaii* but not for a point on Maui. It is on the University of Hawai‘i Press (Bier) map, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, without any diacritical marks. Mr. Mills ask Ms. Louis to check the USGS quads to make sure the name is not Kanaloa. Ms. Louis located the point in Ke‘anae and confirmed it is Kalaloa. Ms. Silva noted that it is in *Sites of Maui* without any diacritical marks. The Board decided that the spelling was most likely correct based on available sources.

Kapela: The feature class for this name is “Civil” in the GNIS. The name is spelled Kālepa in *Place Names of Hawaii* and is listed as a land division, gulch, and point in Kaupō. The Board decided that the spelling of the name should be changed from Kapela to Kālepa based on *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Kaluani Ditch: The Board decided that the name is spelled correctly as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as a ditch in Ha‘ikū, Maui.

Kama Ditch: The Board decided that this name needed more research. The name Kama Ditch was not found in any of the standard references and Ms. Silva noted that, based on potential meanings, the name could be Kamā. Mā means faded, wilted, stained, etc., so it is linguistically possible.

Kamehameha III School: The Board decided that the name is spelled correctly as it is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as an elementary school in Lahaina

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8:      **Adjourn****

Mr. Delos Santos moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Marques Marzan seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The next Board meeting will be on February 18, 2015 at 9:30 am. The Board agreed to hold its meeting, when possible, on the third Wednesday of the month. The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney