



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

DATE: November 21, 2013
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Kamanao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ABSENT: Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning)

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

OTHERS: Dennis Kim (Office of Planning)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2013

A motion to approve the September 19, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Betty Kam and seconded by Ms. Noenoe Silva. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Kamanao Mills requested that the Board amend the agenda by considering Agenda Item #4 before Item #3 because Mr. Bobby Camara was already available on the telephone. Ms. Kam moved and Ms. Silva seconded the motion to amend the agenda accordingly. The motion was passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Inquiry Regarding Selected Place Names within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, with Background and Introduction by Mr. Bobby Camara (via telephone)

Mr. Mills introduced Mr. Camara via telephone and explained that the spread sheet distributed to the Board included Hawai'i Island place names that Mr. Camara would like to discuss with the Board.

Mr. Camara began by clarifying that he no longer works at Hawai‘i Volcanoes Nation Park. He did work there on and off for 30 years but officially retired at the end of June. He initially contacted Ms. Joan Delos Santos because he was told that the names Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa were now being spelt as one word. He edits publications for the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association and needs to understand current conventions for spelling Hawaiian place names. Ms. Delos Santos emailed him a place name list dated 2012 which he understood was sent to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN). He went to the BGN website and saw that its list had not been updated with decisions made by the Hawaii Board of Geographic Names (HBGN). He wanted to know whether he should use names on the HBGN list in publications or those on the BGN list. Mr. Camara confirmed that the list distributed to Board for today’s discussion was taken from the HBGN list sent by Ms. Delos Santos. He has highlighted those that he wished to discuss for various reasons.

The following are the place names the Board discussed with Mr. Camara:

- Kīpukakekake: The name should have kahakō over the first “i”, as in the word kīpuka, and over the first “e”, as in the word ēkake. It would read Kīpukakēkake which translates to donkey kīpuka.
- Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a: This place is listed as being on the Kahuku Ranch quadrangle. This is probably an error because Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a is on the Kiholo quadrangle and he does not know of any Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a in Kahuku.
- Kīpukapepeiau: He believes this name probably ends in an “o” instead of a “u” as it probably means “ear”. He could not find a Hawaiian word “pepeiau”.
- Kamakai‘a Uka and Kamakai‘a Waena: He understood that uka and waena are separate in these cases because they indicate a relative location and are not part of the place name itself. Mr. Mills and Ms. Renee Louis confirmed that his understanding was correct.
- Keahole Southwest Substation: He believes there should be a kahakō over the “a”.
- Kūki‘o Bay: The bay now called Kūki‘o should be Uluweuweu as that is how it is labeled on the old maps from the late 1800s.
- Kīpuka Mizotas: He found this name puzzling because Mizota is a person’s name and he thought it should be Mizota’s Kīpuka instead. He was wondering if there were conventions for this. Ms. Louis confirmed that it had been Mizota’s originally. Mr. Camara clarified that the kīpuka is in the saddle between Hualālai and Mauna Loa above Kealakekua School.
- Kūlua: He was wondering why Pu‘ukulua was changed to Kūlua with the Pu‘u removed.
- Halema‘uma‘u: Mr. Camara asked if the Board could make an exception for this name. For 20 years, Ms. Pua Kanahale has sat on the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park’s kupuna advisory group. He remembers the group discussing how individuals would pronounce this name differently, often depending on where they were from or that person’s family or even what is happening in the crater at that moment. If there is no eruption, then maybe it is Halema‘uma‘u which might be house made of or surrounded by ‘ama‘u fern. If there is an eruption, it would be Halemaumau or, according to one translation, the “Home of Eternal Fire”. Ms. Kanahale’s thought, one she repeated over the years, was that all diacritical marks should be left off this name because there are various traditions associated with this very important feature and it should be up to the individual to say it however they wished. Mr. Camara appreciates the term “crater”

being deleted from the name because it is not technically a crater. This raises another issue. Kīlauea is not a crater but a caldera. He mentioned a number of other problematic names in that area, but was not sure whether these fall under the Board's jurisdiction. To address the issue of Halema'uma'u, Mr. Camara asked if the Board would like a letter from Ms. Kanahale or an official request to consider the name. Mr. Mills said it would be helpful if Ms. Kanahale were to send a letter. Ms. Louis noted that this would be a spelling correction and not a name change which is not a major correction. It is, however, a major discussion. Mr. Mills noted that this issue has come up before and the Board would welcome any evidence or leads that would help the deliberations.

Mr. Mills thanked Mr. Camara for contacting the Board and believes all his suggestions merit consideration. Mr. Camara clarified that he was not expecting the Board to make decisions on his recommendations immediately. He has not gone through the whole list. He only highlighted those he noticed because he knows these places already. Ms. Louis encouraged him to review the entire Hawai'i Island list. He said that he doesn't know all areas of the island but he can be an effective proofreader.

Mr. Camara returned to his initial and major question of whether this list is an official list that is just waiting to be entered in the GNIS. The second question was whether or not Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea needed to be spelt as one word on federal publications. Ms. Louis clarified that place names on the lists posted on the HBGN website have been reviewed by the Board. Ms. Delos Santos is currently looking into how many of these names have been approved by the BGN and are officially entered into the GNIS. Federal agencies are required to use place names as they appear in the GNIS in any documents they publish. This would be at the time of publication. The BGN generally accepts recommendations made by the HBGN, but it can take time for this to happen. The BGN generally adopts and enters place names in one step and reviews the names in large groups. The HBGN could ask when the BGN anticipates reviewing and entering names and advise those preparing documents for publication accordingly. The Board might be able to predict when those names would become official. Ms. Delos Santos has contacted the BGN on the updates and the response was that staff would look into it.

Mr. Mills asked Ms. Louis if the Board can act now on the names Mr. Camara identified. Mr. Louis confirmed that the Board can continue to submit recommendations at any time and include additional groups of names to the ones being considered. She understands that a list was sent to the BGN in May but she is not sure which names were sent or which the BGN may be considering. Mr. Mills asked that the names identified by Mr. Camara be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Ms. Silva asked if the Board had officially decided to combine the name components of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. Ms. Louis confirmed that they had. When the issue was first considered, the Board decided not to combine the names because it wanted to spare agencies the expense of changing such prominent names. Later the Board realized that signs do not need to be changed immediately but only when signs are replaced or new ones made. The reason for combining the names was that Hawaiians do not think of them as two words such as "White Mountain". They think of it as one name, Maunakea or Maunaloa. It is not like Uka

or Waena which are geographic designations. Mr. Kalani Akana noted that these two names are separated in the *Hawaiian Dictionary*. Ms. Silva added that they are also separated in many of the old writings. Mr. Mills asked if combining the name components in these two cases follows the conventions recommended by the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Ms. Louis confirmed that it did. Ms. Naomi Losch brought a copy of the 1978 guidelines and copies were distributed to the Board. Ms. Louis said the guidelines will be posted on the website to help the public understand how Board decisions are made. Ms. Losch participated in the 1978 meetings that resulted in the recommendations and confirmed that not everyone in the group agreed with every recommendation. Contention still exists over its use and any group is free to convene for any reason and propose new recommendations. Mr. Camara thought that it could be confusing to combine these particular names because they are so prominent and people are so accustomed to seeing them separated. Some people say it is not Mauna Kea but Mauna a Wakea. In Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, there is the pali named Hilina Pali. Would that be changed to Pali Hilina if the conventions are to be followed? Ms. Louis acknowledged these are good questions and it is up to the Board to make those decisions. The Board needs to weigh different and sometimes competing principles when making decisions. The Board can decide to follow common usage by the people of that place, but there is also Hawaiian language grammatical correctness to consider.

Mr. Camara raised differences he has seen in the pronunciation of Pu'uwa'awa'a. In the Boundary Commission testimony, the name is abbreviated to Puawaa. This could reflect common usage or just the transcriber of the testimony. There are many other examples of these kinds of variations. Ms. Silva pointed out that names can be recorded as variants in the GNIS so these differences are not lost. Mr. Camara offered to go through the Hawaii Island list for any errors or potential corrections he might notice. Mr. Mills encourage him to do this and stressed how helpful his assistance would be. He explained that when the Board feels uncomfortable making a decision, for whatever reason, the name is classified as needing more research. Often the Board wants to understand the historical context of the name if possible.

Mr. Camara brought up the issue of names given the underwater volcanoes south of Hawai'i Island and summarized what he knows of their naming. In 1955, a man named Emory, not Kenneth Emory of the Bishop Museum, prepared a map of the ocean floor off of Hawai'i Island. He discovered five different seamounts and described them in a letter to Mrs. Pukui. The names received were descriptive such as 'Āpu'upu'u which means bumpy and Lō'ihī which means long. Ms. Kanahale and members of her family think that Kama'ehu might be more appropriate for Lō'ihī. Mr. Camara asked what the procedure is for submitting new names and what documentation is needed. Ms. Louis explained that there is only one form for all requests and the applicant would check the "New Name" box on the form. Lō'ihī may not be in the GNIS and, if not, any request for that feature would be a new name.

Mr. Mills reiterated that the corrections and suggestions identified by Mr. Camara would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion and decision-making. Mr. Camara suggested that the HBGN website have more explanatory notes on the status to the lists and when lists were last updated. Ms. Louis pointed out that the next agenda item for today's meeting is to discuss how the Board can make the place name lists and decision-making process more accessible to the public. Mr. Camara requested to be notified of the next meeting.

Mr. Kalani Akana asked if it were possible for this Board to revisit the previous decision to combine Maunakea and Maunaloa. Ms. Louis confirmed that the Board can revisit previous decisions. Mr. Mills sought clarification on which guidelines were used when making that decision. He thought there may have been guidelines prepared specifically for the Board's use that were not necessarily identical to the "Recommendations of the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i" (Hawaiian Spelling Project, 1978). Ms. Losch remembers there being only one document and that was the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i recommendations. The one Mr. Mills remembers was from the 1990 or 2000.

Mr. Akana thought that the Board had guidelines covering the decision-making process and sources considered. In one of those sources, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa are written separately. Ms. Louis reiterated the history behind the Board's original decision. Mr. Akana pointed out Rules #6 (i.e., single word modifier) and #12 (i.e., proper names modifier) in the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i recommendations. Ms. Silva said that the examples given in Rule 12, Ko'olau Poko and Ko'olau Loa, are now normally written as one word. Ms. Losch noted that she is from Ko'olaloa and "loa" is part of Ko'olau so it is one word.

Mr. Mills agreed that the Board should revisit this decision because it predates the terms of most current Board members. The Board will do the best it can after reviewing and comparing existing guidance documents and conventions. Ms. Kam noted that a large number of decisions were made over the years based on conventions calling for name components to be combined. If the Board were to change its approach now, it would be a major change that could potentially affect many decisions. Ms. Louis said that the Board has been consistent in giving weight to community usage, particularly that of knowledgeable community elders. This knowledge takes precedence over standard guidelines or references. Ms. Silva pointed out that a "Note" on page 3 of the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i recommendations cautions that there is a "Fine Line of Choice" when making these kinds of decisions. Mr. Mills said he wanted to gather and review the various documents used over the years so that we can better understand how and why decisions were made. He will present his findings to the Board. Ms. Louis recalled that Mr. Craig Tasaka, then with the Office of State Planning, suggested that the Board have some rules in order to be more consistent. A small group was formed to address this issue. The group probably met in 1999 as this project to review all place names began in 1998. She remembers the group supporting use of the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i recommendations as guidelines but with the clear understanding that there would always be exceptions. Mr. Mills said he would try to contact Mr. Nathan Napoka, former Board member, to see if he has any of those documents.

Ms. Louis raised the possibility of contacting those who worked on the 'Aha 'Ōlelo Hawai'i recommendations to understand what they were thinking at the time and if their thinking has since changed. Ms. Losch was one of the participants. She recalls the discussions being very structured. Participants were given a set amount of time to express their opinions and a bell was rung if anyone exceeded the time limit. They then voted. Everybody had a say and the majority ruled. For example, they discussed "na" for plural. At that point, "na" did not have a kahakō but "nā wai", by whom, did. She remembers "na" because she was against using the kahakō for "na", plural, because she felt that the sound of "nā" in "na wai" was a bit longer than the "na" for plural. The problem today is that once a kahakō is placed on a word, people

tend to overly stress or lengthen the sound. Some believe it is best not to use a kahakō because people may overdo it. Ms. Kam asked how many institutions use these guidelines. Ms. Losch thought it was primarily for language people. Ms. Kam asked if it is in common use. Ms. Louis said it is still being used in language classes. Ms. Silva remembered that when she was in Hawaiian language classes the ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i recommendations were referred to all the time and spelling was corrected according to that document. Ms. Losch was not sure if anyone has updated the dictionary using the recommendations but thought that Larry Kimura may have worked on an update. Mr. Akana noted that the recommendations are in the Māmaka Kaiao (Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary). Ms. Losch relayed that Ms. Pat Bacon was unhappy about people changing the *Hawaiian Dictionary* because they are changing Mrs. Mary Kawena Pukui’s work. It would be better if they produced something separate that is their own work. Ms. Losch believes this is similar to the place name Halema‘uma‘u. Mrs. Pukui pronounced it Halema‘uma‘u. She would give deference to Mrs. Pukui’s pronunciation as she was a native speaker, an elder, and from that area. Ms. Louis noted that Ms. Pua Kanahale has expressed her opposition to the use of diacritical marks on any words, not just Halema‘uma‘u. Mr. Akana point out that the 1986 *Hawaiian Dictionary* refers to ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and the 1978 spelling project. Ms. Silva said that this dictionary is controversial in that it was updated without it being clearly disclosed that it was new edition. Ms. Losch summarized the various editions of the *Hawaiian Dictionary* she remembers. The first was the Hawaiian-English dictionary that came out in 1957 and then the English-Hawaiian when she was a freshman at the university. Then they combined the two which had a brown cover. The brown one had a section with the different gods and goddesses. This section was removed from the subsequent edition.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of Names Database Organization and Publication Initiative

Ms. Louis and Mr. Kim began the discussion by demonstrating what is currently available on the HBGN website. Ms. Louis explained that before Mr. Craig Tasaka left, he posted spreadsheets listing decisions made by the Board up to that point. The files are available in Excel or pdf formats. Nothing indicates when the sheets were last updated or changed. She clarified that work done by the Board recently is not available online. No Board decisions have been sent to the BGN for a while either. When Mr. Art Buto was with the Office of Planning, he began to systematically review HBGN operations and look for ways to standardize the process. Ms. Delos Santos is trying to continue this effort.

Ms. Louis summarized a meeting she recently had with Ms. Delos Santos and Mr. Dennis Kim when a HBGN meeting was cancelled. She provided them with an overview of the project which the Board has been working on since 1998 and how it has evolved over time. One topic discussed was why some Hawai‘i Island place names were sent to the BGN and others were not. Ms. Delos Santos and Mr. Kim are beginning a process of going through the spreadsheets and determining which sets of place names have been sent and which have not. Mr. Kim devised a method for comparing the Board’s finalized list with that currently in the GNIS. He reviewed Kaua‘i Island names as a test case and found 53 names that were corrected by the HBGN but have not been entered in the GNIS. Ms. Louis clarified that only corrected names are sent to the BGN. If a name has no diacritical marks and the Board decides that this is correct, then that name is submitted as a correction because a decision was

made and submitting it creates a record of this decision. Names determined to need more research are not submitted.

Mr. Kim illustrated the process he used by showing the Board his comparison between the HBGN list of corrected Kaua'i Island place names and what is currently listed in the GNIS. He pointed out the 53 corrections that had not been entered into the GNIS. Ms. Louis explained that part of the delay in updating the GNIS is due to cut backs at the BGN and the resulting need to prioritize work. The BGN has given priority to correcting names that appear on topographic maps and not names that are just in the GNIS. In the case of the Kaua'i place names, however, all 53 corrected names were on topographic maps at some point. The BGN is also only updating names for natural features and not those in the build environment (e.g., buildings or schools). The HBGN might consider specifically asking the BGN to correct names applying to a broader range of feature types for Hawai'i. For example, homestead lands and schools would not be corrected and would therefore not officially have diacritical marks. This request could also ask that the BGN allow use of the state's official list when projects or facilities are federally funded or on federal lands. Mr. Kim will run comparisons for the other island as well. This will include only names that the HBGN reviewed, corrected, and submitted.

At their meeting, they also decided that it would be useful for the public to create and post at least five separate place names lists. These lists would include: 1) names that need more research; 2) names reviewed, corrected and submitted to the BGN; 3) names currently under consideration; 4) non-Hawaiian names; and 5) a compilation of all names appearing in the individual lists. All lists would be arranged by island. They thought having a list of all the place names needing more research would be particularly useful because it would hopefully encourage and enable the public to provide input on these names and therefore help the Board gather the information needed to make sound decisions. The list of corrected names will be those on which the Board rendered a decision although these names may not have been corrected by the BGN. The list of those under consideration would be updated monthly. The public would know that these names have not been submitted to the BGN yet because the Board is still working on them. The compilation list would allow those looking for a particular name to search only one list without having to search each separate list. The status of each name would be noted (e.g., "more research") next to the name. The list of non-Hawaiian names includes features such as Wilson Tunnel. The Board has not been reviewing these under the current project. Hopefully if all this information is more accessible, more people will learn about the Board's work and will be encouraged to participate. The Board's work could go more quickly if it is not just the Board doing all the background work and with just the resources available to each Board member. The Board's discussion with Mr. Camara earlier in the meeting is an example of what the public can contribute. The Board agreed that this approach would be very useful.

Mr. Mills asked if other states have similar difficulties. Ms. Louis said that many do not because most place names are in English. Some states do not recognize native names while others do. Oklahoma, for example, does. In Oregon and Washington, the process is in flux at the moment. In Idaho, the Coer d'Alene Tribe has been successful at mediating the use of its names with groups around them. Those states with large native populations often struggle to

get their place names officially recognized. None of them have the kind of spelling corrections like Hawai‘i.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names

The Board reviewed a total of nine place 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:

No Change:

- *Place Names of Hawaii*: The Board determined that the following four place names do not need changing because they are in *Place Names of Hawaii*: Kaulanapueo Church; Kaunoa School; and Kawaipapa Stream which is entered twice in the GNIS (i.e., appears as two names). Mr. Akana noted that the school may no longer exist.
- *Hawai‘i Place Names*: The Board concurred with the following two names although they are not in *Place Names of Hawaii*. They are in Clark’s *Hawai‘i Place Names*. Clark’s *Beaches of Maui* is given as the source for these GNIS entries:
 - Kauapo: The Board believed Clark’s explanation for this name is convincing and agreed it would not require the addition of diacritical marks. The name appears to refer to a wharf that was at this location prior to the 1946 tsunami. Uapo is the Hawaiian word for wharf.
 - Kaulahao: The Board agreed that the lack of diacritical marks in this name was reasonable based on Hawaiian language usage and the absence of any viable alternatives that would have diacritical marks. Clark gives the literal translation as “iron chain”
- *Hawaii Board of Geographic Names*: The Board reconfirmed its 1999 decisions on the following two names: Kaulupō and Kawilināu. Both names were recorded by Kenneth Emory in his survey of Haleakalā Crater in 1920.

More Research Needed: One name was determined to need more research:

- Kauiaha: This name is listed as a variant in the GNIS for Kuiaha Gulch. Neither name appears in *Place Names of Hawaii*. It is written without diacritical marks in Clark’s *Hawai‘i Place Names* and with an ‘okina, as Kui‘aha, in *Atlas of Hawai‘i* (3rd edition). More research was considered appropriate due to uncertainty over the use of an ‘okina.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Adjourn

The Board decided not to meet in the month of December and agreed to schedule the next meeting on January 16, 2014. Mr. Akana moved to adjourn and Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2.50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney