



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

DATE: August 19, 2015  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
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. Kamao Mills called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division), Noe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

**ABSENT:** Marques Marzan (Bernice P. Bishop Museum)

**ADVISORS:** None present

**GUESTS:** Malie Beach-Smith (DLNR, Commission on Water Resource Management), Rhiannon Tereari'i Chandler-ʻIao (Earth Justice), Leimana DaMate (Executive Director, Aha Moku Advisory Committee), Drew Decker (National Map Liaison, USGS) – by phone, Regina Hilo (DLNR, State Historic Preservation Division), Dennis Kim (Office of Planning), Leslie Kuloloio (Chair, Aha Moku Advisory Committee), Jenny Runyon – by phone (U.S. Board on Geographic Names)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 27 and July 15, 2015**

Ms. McEldowney informed board members that the meeting minutes of the May 27 and July 15 meetings had not yet been completed. The board deferred approval of the May 27 and July 2015 minutes. Ms. Delos Santos stated that she had prepared draft/abbreviated minutes for those two meetings, and that they were available on the HBGN website.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Update on Status of ‘Āo Stream to Wailuku River Name Change Request**

- a) Ms. Delos Santos stated that Hawai‘i Board had approved the name change request at its 5/27 meeting.
- b) The name change request was submitted to the US BGN on 6.1.15 (Submission number 8728)
- c) In performing its research, the US Board discovered that there was some confusion as to the actual extent of the renamed stream – that is, it was discovered that the geographic coordinates describing the stream were different on different maps and databases – specifically, maps and/or descriptions provided by the applicant, in the GNIS, the National Hydrography Dataset, the US Topo maps, and [ulukau.org](http://ulukau.org) differed from each other. The US Board asked the Hawai‘i Board to clarify the extent of the stream.
- d) DLNR and Aha Moku also expressed an interest in clarification of the correct coordinates.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Determination of Inland Coordinates for renamed Wailuku River**

Mr. Leslie Kuloloio provided comments.

Mr. Mills clarified that the four tributaries to Wailuku River will keep their names – there is no thought of removing or changing the names of any of the tributaries.

Mr. Akana stated that Mr. Kololoio’s comments made him realize that it’s important to know both source (makawai) and the end of the river. In order to determine the correct name, we must determine the correct makawai. Mr. Akana stated that the makawai must be at the point labeled “HBGN ‘Āo Stream Source.” That black dot on map (attached) is clearly not the makawai of any of Nakalaloa, Poonahoahoa Kinihapai, or Ae, it must be the makawai of ‘Āo, as depicted in the NHD map. Ms. Silva and Mr. Kololoio agreed.

There was a question as to why the point furthest upstream was labeled as an “HBGN” decision. Ms Delos Santos noted that the way the stream source is depicted on various maps or in various databases, now or in the past, is not as important as getting it right now. The job before the board is to determine the correct stream source/coordinates, because there may be errors in the various databases. This is our opportunity to correct any errors, and to ensure that the databases/maps are correct going forward.

Ms. Chandler-‘Āo asked to confirm that the Board renamed ‘Āo Stream to Wailuku River at its 5/27 meeting, and that as a result, and the US board is

now asking the question “Where does ‘Īao Stream end and Wailuku River begin? Is it renamed only to the point that the stream becomes a river?”

Ms. Delos Santos noted that this is not quite correct. The board voted on 5/27 to rename ALL of ‘Īao Stream, and is now trying to determine where that stream is. At this point, there is no formal proposal or application to keep part of the stream named “‘Īao Stream.” This would represent a modification to the original application.

Ms. Chandler-‘Īao asked whether a river must have tributaries?

Ms. Delos Santos noted that while there are scientific criteria for determining whether a water body is a stream or a river, in the case of applying names, there is no particular criteria in terms of flow, tributaries, etc. – it is simply a linear water feature in the database, and it can carry a name of river, stream, creek, etc.

Mr. Runyon noted that in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) the term “stream” is a catchall feature class for all linear water features – the actual name “xxx Stream” is actually quite a rare naming convention, which only occurs in Hawai‘i. Everywhere else names are typically river, run, brook, creek, etc. This is similar to the feature class “summit,” which may be named mountain, nob, hill, peak, etc. She said that Ms. Delos Santos is correct, that the issue that the Hawai‘i board voted on is simply whether or not ‘Īao Stream (in its entirety) should be renamed to Wailuku River. The US Board can vote on the name change itself, but in doing their research necessary to bring the name change to the US Board for a vote, they noticed that the maps/databases did not match each other. For the US Board, the question is simply a matter of deciding where the stream begins.

Ms. Runyon also noted that the most westerly dot/location on the maps, indicating the extent of ‘Īao Stream (this is the dot labels “HBGN”) is where the US board originally placed the source/headwater in 1913.

Ms. Runyon noted that Pukui describes ‘Īao Stream as starting at the confluence of Po‘onāhoahoa and Nākalaloa Streams – which is at Point B on the maps. If that’s what local usage is, the US Board can correct it in the database. Or, is it, as Mr. Duey contends, at point A, at the State monument?

Mr. Mills asked whether, if the HBGN decides on coordinate A or B, and then gets more information, can they petition to have the headwater coordinate moved?

Ms. Runyon confirmed that was the case, and stated that it makes sense to have the name change as a separate discussion from the coordinate question.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that another complicating factor is that Mr. Duey suggested that perhaps part of the feature be named 'Īao Stream and another portion Wailuku River. This modifies the request. Ms. Runyon confirmed that yes, giving the water feature two name would change the application, and put us back to square one.

Ms. Chandler-'Īao noted that the applicant is only trying to address a portion of the stream. Some parts of the water body may still be 'Īao Stream. Mr. Duey does not want to rename those portions that may still be 'Īao Stream. Ms. Chandler-'Īao believes that there is an 'Īao Stream, in addition to a Wailuku River. When you go to the park, there is a walkway down, and when you go to the left, there are signs that say that you are at 'Īao Stream. If it means that Mr. Duey has to amend his application in order to get it correct, that is better than forcing a vote on something that may not be correct. She believes that it should be partially 'Īao Stream and partially Wailuku River.

Mr. Mills asked Ms. Runyon to confirm that Pukui describes 'Īao Stream as starting at the confluence of Poonahoahoa and Nakalaloa Streams – which is at Point B on the maps. Ms. Runyon stated that she was looking at the online version, at the Hawaiian Public Library. It says source is Soehren. (<http://ulukau.org/cgi-bin/hpn?e=&a=d&c=mahele&cl=search&d=HASHe0dcd8e2fcac20eede5905> -source – Ulukau, Lloyd Soehren)

Mr. Mills said that the board has two options – 1) more research, or 2) name it up to point A. (which would leave all upstream from there as 'Īao Stream).

Ms. Delos Santos noted that if the Board names it partly 'Īao Stream and partly Wailuku River this would modify application, and also would allow time for more outreach. The problem with making an interim decision, when we're not really sure, is that if we make decision, and US Board concurs, then people at the Federal level and in Hawai'i are required to start using it on their maps. If the Board then changes its decision, there would have been maps made using that interim decision. Another option is to name it as in the NHD names and applications map – farthest point upstream. Ms. Runyon asked whether this made sense to anyone.

Ms. Beach-Smith noted that if the Board renames the feature all the way up to the top – either 'Īao Stream or Wailuku River – then the section

between point B and the bottom of Nakalaloe Stream has two names. Ms. Runyon concurred.

Ms. Delos Santos asked what the Board thought of the proposal to name it partly 'Īao Stream and partly Wailuku River.

Ms. Silva said that the Board does not have enough information to make that determination.

Mr. Akana asked for clarification – is it correct that based on the Board's 5/27 decision, everything on the map that is 'Īao Stream becomes Wailuku River? Ms. Delos Santos stated that this was correct.

Ms. Delos Santos said that another option is to reverse/hold the Board's 5/27 decision until we do more research.

Ms. Runyon asked, regarding the proposal to have two names – would it be correct that the intent would be that downstream would be Wailuku River and upstream would be 'Īao Stream? Essentially there would now be two features. Then the question becomes – where do the names meet?

Mr. Kuloloio agreed - this option retains the 'Īao sense of place. Wailuku downstream feels good on the spiritual level.

Ms. Delos Santos asked Ms. Chandler-'Īao whether giving it two names would be acceptable to Mr. Duey? Ms. Chandler-'Īao said, yes, that Mr. Duey doesn't want to force this board and all maps to be named Wailuku River all the way to the headwaters. That was not his intent.

Mr. Akana asked where the park was. Ms. Chandler-'Īao replied that it is at Point A on the map. Mr. Duey meant to name from park downstream as Wailuku. She asked whether there is a way to make an amendment so that we wouldn't have reverse its decision.

Ms. Runyon stated that only Mr. Duey can amend his proposal. If the HBGN wants to state that we support whatever Mr. Duey says, and trust that he and US Board can work it out, then we wouldn't have to revisit it. Mr. Duey plans to attend US Board meeting in September. AT that meeting, Mr. Duey would give his opinion, and the US Board would send it back to the HBGN for comment, then the . US Board would not vote until October.

Ms. Delos Santos noted that although Mr. Duey would like it done ASAP, it's had the name for hundreds of years, so it may not be so terrible to wait another month.

Ms. Runyon asked for the opinion of the State Park people. Ms. McEldowney said changing the name from the park, downstream, would not be a problem.

Ms. Chandler-‘Īao noted that if the name was changed from point A, then no signs would have to be changed.

Ms. Runyon noted that sometimes a name can be wrong for so long, that it’s accepted as correct. If there is no local support to change a name, even if it’s wrong, US Board must retain the wrong name (e.g., a feature named after a family name, but the family name is misspelled). It is an issue of historical accuracy vs. present day local use and acceptance. Usually present day acceptance wins out.

Ms. Chandler-‘Īao noted that there is much local support for renaming the lower reach, and only the upper reach is in question.

Mr. Mills suggested deferring this agenda item until the September meeting.

Ms. Silva asked Mr. Morales whether any old survey maps would be of any help? Mr. Morales said that he could look it up. Ms. McEldowney said that she looked it up before the meeting and found that the old maps are confusing - it is difficult to tell which features various names belong to.

Ms. Delos Santos said that if the Board defers, then more research must be conducted, so that the Board doesn’t simply have the same discussion.

Mr. Kuloloio said that the Board needs to walk the river; there have been so many changes in the river flow.

Mr. Mills stated that research may not help, the Board may end up in a wild goose chase. He asked whether Mr. Kuloloio or Ms. DeMata know of anyone that the Board can contact before next meeting to assist? The Board wants to do the right thing, but needs to find out what the right thing is.

Ms. Beach Smith asked whether the Board could parse it out into 2 separate decisions? The first part would be “does Wailuku go to point A or point B?” and then leave the rest for later

Ms. Delos Santos noted that the problem with that approach would be if the Board makes a partial decision, and then makes another decision later, then incorrect maps would be created in the interim..

Ms. Chandler-‘Īao asked whether it would be possible to ask Mr. Duey to amend his application to only rename the portion below point A (Kinihapai down). She is concerned that we may not ever find the definitive answer.

Ms. Delos Santos asked whether there is consensus that point A is the correct place for the name to change. Ms. McEldowney stated that she has walked it and that there is a significant change in geography at that point, so it does make sense. The literature also seems to support this.

Ms. Chandler-‘Īao said that she agrees, and also noted that Pukui’s description of the battle, Kepaniwai, supports this point. Ms. Delos Santos asked whether there was agreement on this point.

Ms. DeMata noted that we need to remember Mr. Akana’s question where are the makawai (beginning) and the xxxwai (end). There is no issue with the name change to Wailuku River – the issue is simply where the makawai is. Ms. DeMata will assist in further research.

Mr. Mills stated that he would also do his own research. He stated that there is no choice but to take this approach, otherwise the Board will be simply guessing based upon limited information.

Ms. Delos Santos asked for Ms. Runyon’s opinion. Ms. Runyon said that although applicant is anxious to have a final decision, that the Board shouldn’t rush, and then have to reverse the decision. She noted that the USGS will be remapping Hawai‘i in 2016. It is always a challenge to map Hawai‘i because the imagery is not good due to cloud cover. If people on the ground in Hawai‘i could look at the maps and indicate where the streams are clearly labeled wrong, that could be helpful.

The Board agreed to table the discussion til the next meeting, after more research had been conducted.

The Board deferred agenda items 5 and 6

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.