



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

DATE: August 9, 2017  
TIME: 10:00 a.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. Marzan called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)  
Kamana'o Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) – left at 11:10 am

**ABSENT:** Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)  
Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)  
Leo Asuncion (Office of Planning)

**STAFF:** Arthur Buto (Office of Planning)

**ADVISORS:** Naomi Losch  
Renee Louis – arrived at 10:05 am  
Melia Lane-Kamahele – arrived at 10:30 am

**GUESTS:** Bobby Camara (called him: 10:20am for Item 5)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for July 12, 2017**

**Motion:** Mr. Mills moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting, and Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of July 12, 2017.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments.**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Review of selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i (Bobby Camara).**

Mr. Bobby Camara submitted a spreadsheet to the Board for its review. He is working with Frank Trusdell at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park to prepare geological maps for publication on which some of these place names will appear. Mr. Camara also asked that the Board concatenate all of the “Kipuka,” “Lae o,” “Lua,” and “Pu‘u” names on the list at this meeting, then review them later in more depth to correct any that shouldn’t have been concatenated.

Ms. Louis provided some historical context around the concatenation decisions that earlier Boards had made. At one time the names were concatenated without resolving other spelling issues (i.e., placement of ‘okina and kahakō) and submitted as corrections, which were then updated in the GNIS. A later Board amended the process and put the concatenated name in the Notes, while leaving the name with a Status Code of “3” (more research needed). Furthermore, the concatenation was done without researching whether or not the descriptor was part of the place name (e.g., “kipuka-”) or just a generic feature descriptor.

The Board called Mr. Camara at 10:20 am to allow him to participate and provide comments while it reviewed the place names on his spreadsheet. This Board expressed reservations about making wholesale changes to the names without knowing more about the meaning of the place name. Normally the Board reviews the names line by line, which can be a slow process and may delay Mr. Trusdell’s efforts. Mr. Mills and Mr. Marzan asked Mr. Camara to provide recommendations, research, sources, and/or documentation supporting changes before making decisions.

Because of the number of corrections, Mr. Camara will advise Mr. Trusdell to use whatever names are in the GNIS at the time of publication. Mr. Camara is comfortable not rushing the process to correct the names; concatenating the names en masse is not necessary. Mr. Camara will meet with Mr. Trusdell to identify place names on the list that may be more straightforward to correct.

Mr. Buto will work with Jenny Runyon (USGS) to correct names in the GNIS that HBGN has already reviewed and for which recommended spelling corrections.

Mr. Camara directed the Board’s attention to *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* from the US BGN, dated 12/2016, v1.0. He believes it would be in the best interests of HBGN

to clarify on p.11, the meaning of “name change.” One of two classes of name changes is meant to bring federal usage into agreement with well-established local usage – does usage include spelling? Ms. Louis clarified that concatenation is a spelling correction. Mr. Camara asked if corrections have to go through a legal policy/review other than HBGN. Ms. Louis stated, “it depends.” Generally, the US BGN accepts the corrections and updates the GNIS. However, if the “correction” is controversial, they will deliberate, e.g., Mauna Kea.

Many names have already been concatenated within the National Park Service (NPS) boundaries with no problems, e.g., Pu‘u‘ula‘ula, Kīpukapuauulu, etc. Other are still spelled as two words – e.g., Mauna Ulu (“growing mountain”).

On p. 14, for designated wilderness areas, “the BGN will not approve proposed names within wilderness areas... unless an overriding need can be demonstrated.”

Mr. Camara plans to be in Honolulu for the September meeting.

Maka‘oku/Moka‘oku is included on the current spreadsheet. Registered Map No. 1076 shows “Maka‘oku;” Map No. 524 has “Moka‘oku” with an inset that is spelled “Maka‘oku.” Map No. 524 is a tracing by George Wright in 1901 of an 1851 map, 50 years after the original map was drawn. Mr. Cummins will look in the State Survey office for the original map and other maps of the area and in that time period for additional verification.

Mr. Camara asked about the status of Pu‘u‘ō‘ō. The Board last month made decisions – the one in the National Park, the Horse Trail, the Volcano Trail, and the summit are all Pu‘u‘ō‘ō. Kiholo will require more research (rooster crow might be a consideration – Pu‘u‘o‘ō). Mr. Camara suggested referring to *Kona Legends* by Eliza McGuire. There is a story about menehune trying to move the top of one pu‘u to another pu‘u without a top. It involves roosters and crowing.

The Board discussed the concern by the National Park Service that concatenating place names changes the meaning of the name. The consensus of the Board was that concatenating a place name pursuant to the Ahahui guidelines does not change its meaning.

Ms. Lane-Kamahele clarified that for the new sheets that Frank Trusdell is creating, he will still have to use the place names that are listed in the GNIS.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Review of Selected Place Names on the Island of Moloka‘i.**

Mr. Mills was excused and left the meeting at 11:10am.

As the Board no longer had a quorum, it did not review these place names.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Office of Planning Conference Room.