

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

DATE: September 24, 2018  
TIME: 2:00 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. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)  
Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)  
Brad Ka'aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

**ABSENT:** Kaleo Manuel (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)  
Leo Asuncion (Office of Planning)

**ADVISORS:** Renee Pualani Louis  
Arthur Buto (Office of Planning staff)  
Melia Lane-Kamahele (National Park Service) by phone

**GUESTS:** Hawai'i County Councilmember Sue Lee Loy

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2018:**

Ms. Silva noted that the date on the header is incorrect. Mr. Buto will revise the draft and correct the date.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wong moved to approve the minutes as revised; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of August 8, 2018 with revisions.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**Spellings of the names of the islands.

Mr. Buto presented emails from Jenny Runyon (USGS) responding to a query she received from High Point Global regarding the lack of diacriticals in the names of the islands. However, Ms. Runyon found that in the GNIS, all of the island names had the correct ‘okina and kahakō. She noted that the primary name for Hawai‘i Island in the GNIS is “Island of Hawai‘i” whereas the other island names did not have the island descriptor as part of the primary name. She asked that the Board affirm that “Island of Hawai‘i” should be the primary name; “Hawai‘i Island” and “Hawai‘i” are already variant names in the GNIS. Mr. Buto added it to the spreadsheet of place names for Hawai‘i from Bobby Camara that is on the agenda.

Naming process for features in Papahānaumokuākea.

A second email thread from Ms. Runyon was relating correspondence initiated by Brad Wong asking about naming responsibility and process for Papahānaumokuākea. She stated that similar to place names being vetted by the National Park Service (NPS) for features within NPS boundaries before HBGN makes its decisions, names in Papahānaumokuākea should be reviewed by all of the co-management partners before HBGN makes its decisions.

Ms. Silva noted that there are several mo‘olelo that mention people traveling to Kahiki in the west. She asked that some of those mo‘olelo be researched before names are decided on.

Updating GNIS from HBGN decisions.

Ms. Runyon also noted that she has made significant progress updating the GNIS from lists of features that HBGN reviewed several years ago, but had been inadvertently missed in prior updates.

Fissure 8.

Mr. Buto noted that the Star-Advertiser ran an article that accurately described the role of HBGN and the naming process. Mr. Asuncion will appear on a local morning news show in early October. The Hawaii News Now website contains a short article describing the naming process. There is still only one official application that has been received, but there are at least two groups that are in discussion about feature names resulting from the eruption.

Ms. Louis stated that on Facebook last week there was a group from Puna that posted that came to the waiwai collective and did a presentation including naming of fissures. Ku‘ulei Kanahale, Leialoha Kaleimamahu, and Ikaika Marzo. Discussion about naming the features is still very active on social media.

Councilmember Lee Loy stated that the resolution from the Hawai‘i County Council was introduced as a way to channel the community’s interest and energy to the process established by HBGN. Establishing a Permitted Interaction Group

(PIG) would be an ideal way to educate the larger public and to travel to the area to see what it's like down there. She also said that she was asked by HVCB to be included in the process; they want to understand the stories, etc. behind the name. Na Leo could provide a platform for a panel to share info about HBGN's role, what the Board is expecting, and how this process works.

Ms. Silva noted that it's unclear if naming existing features that have been changed or covered by the lava flow would constitute a new name request or a request to change a name.

Ms. Lee Loy stated that the council may be able to assist with some of the logistics of engaging with the community – meeting place, Na Leo, etc.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

No announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Review draft of communication plan**

One of the first steps for the Board is to flesh out the messages. What is HBGN? What is HBGN's process for naming new features? Clarify that a new name proposal should come from the community. The Board is ready and waiting to receive proposals to consider.

Related steps that will help lay the foundation for going out to the community: prepare a FAQ for the website; develop talking points to keep the message consistent and comprehensive – a one-page briefing paper that can be posted and made available; outline a script for videos; post videos on website – a video can include the backgrounds and roles of the member agencies. Councilmember Lee Loy said that the information in the briefing paper will be useful for park rangers to have, especially now that the park has reopened.

**Board members should draft talking points (a couple of sentences for each) and send them to Mr. Buto before the next meeting.**

Renee will write an article for *Ke Ola* magazine for their March/April issue. The Board could also periodically write updates for OHA's *Ka Wai Ola* monthly newspaper; the newspaper could be an input resource in the future for review of feature names. Hawaiian Airlines in-flight magazine, *Hana Hou!* is another possible outreach vehicle.

The Board may hold an information exchange meeting in Puna first, possibly with the PIG, to listen to the community's concerns and answer their questions, and to talk about the information that the Board thinks should accompany a name proposal. The meeting could also be used to accept/collect proposals to be considered.

After reviewing name applications, the Board may return to Puna to present initial findings to get feedback from the community; or the Board could make its decision, then return to Puna to report the decision; or the Board could return to Puna with a list of the names with the most compelling documentation/evidence and let the community choose.

The Wailuku River process was a little different, because the Hui o Na Wai Eha group that had originally asked for the name change, had done extensive research. The Board was able to make its decision at the community meeting on Maui.

The framework set up by Hui o Na Wai Eha could be used by the stakeholders in Puna, driven by the kupuna in the area. It may help to guide their energies – this is how Hui o Na Wai Eha was able to change the name, this is the due diligence they did, these are the stories around the name.

The fact sheet should break down the naming process: what should ideally be in a proposal; how do people go about submitting a proposal; what are the factors that HBGN will use in selecting a name – how will the proposals be evaluated? Is communicating that something that a PIG could be responsible for? Can the PIG do preliminary work with the community to get them set up, so the entire Board doesn't have to go over? A Na Leo site/video and/or radio spot could get replayed multiple times to reach a larger audience.

The County is not currently contemplating initiating a meeting; the purpose of the resolution was to start the process. That can be revisited; the council could create an ad hoc committee to talk specifically about naming; create the opportunity and the space. Pu'uhonua o Puna might have been an appropriate meeting space – Councilmember-elect Ashley Kierkiewicz was part of that effort. Some are listening to the wind, listening to kupuna, listening to dreams; how do you incorporate that in this western naming process?

Mr. Wong can try to nudge OHA to move in the direction of creating that space when the time is right.

The Board members will start with the talking points to get on same page. The most cost-effective outreach would be through Na Leo or O'iwi or on KHPR. Condense something down to about eight minutes for radio, ten minutes for tv; what we do, how do we do it; what the community can do to submit names and make comments. From there, start to get the message out to radio and tv. Later meet with the community, probably through the PIG in small groups.

Can a county member be on the PIG? There can only be a maximum of three Board members, but there's no restriction on outside members. In the radio outreach ask for volunteers. Ms. Lee Loy said that she is willing to serve on the PIG, but that Councilmember-elect Kierkiewicz might be a better representative.

It should also be made clear that the place name decision is for government use, and for utilitarian purposes, e.g., providing emergency responders a standard official name. People are free to use whatever names are meaningful for them. In fact, if a name is in widespread use, it could be proposed as a Variant name, or if prevalent enough, as the Primary feature name. However, the US BGN only accepts one name initially for a new feature.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discuss new decision category, “Alternate name”**

Mr. Cummins introduced his suggestions for revisions to the submittal. A discussion followed.

*[Ms. Lee Loy left the meeting at 3:20pm.]*

*[Ms. Lane-Kamahele left the meeting at 3:22pm.]*

Mr. Wong noted that multiple Alternate names occur in Papahānaumokuākea – e.g., Kure Atoll, Mokupapapa (as named by King Kalākaua), Holaniku (Kukuewa has found in research). The Cultural Working Group doesn’t want to express a preference and uses them interchangeably. They don’t want to push aside the work of the Lexicon Committee, which explained some of the history of the place. Designating Alternate names allows having equally weighted multiple names for a single feature. It should be clear that the criteria for designating an Alternate name are as stringent as for a Primary name. Alternate names do not invalidate variant names.

**MOTION:** Mr. Cummins moved to adopt a new decision category, Alternate names as proposed in the submittal, with revised Use Guidelines as follows:

1. For state agencies, an Alternate Name may be used interchangeably with the Primary Name in all maps and documents.
2. After determining that a place or feature has a Primary name and an Alternate name, the Board may give preference to the Hawaiian name as the Primary name over the Non-Hawaiian name.
3. After determining that a place of feature has a Primary name and an Alternate name, the Board may determine that all other names be considered as Variant names.

Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the motion to adopt the new decision category.*

**MOTION:** Mr. Cummins moved to amend the HBGN Style Guide as follows:

If a place or feature shares a name of the same spelling with another place or feature, the Board may add a feature or place description to the shared name(s) for clarification purposes between said places or features.

Ms. Silva seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the motion to revise the HBGN Style Guide.*

A new column will be added to the spreadsheet to accommodate Alternate names.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Review selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i  
(Bobby Camara)**

HBGN did not review these place names.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn**

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., at the Office of Planning Conference Room.