

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

DATE: February 4, 2020
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Library
235 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)
Brad Ka‘aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Arthur Buto (Office of Planning)

ABSENT: William Aila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning)

GUESTS: Dane DuPont
Philip Ong

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Philip Ong introduced himself. He is a geologist and is part of the Puna community.

Dane DuPont works with Philip in the Hawai‘i Tracker group and is also part of the Puna community. They produced video featuring Uncle Keone talking about the naming of Ahu‘ailā‘au (Fissure 8).

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Office of Planning has hired a GIS analyst who will start in March.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on the Report of the Permitted Action Group (PIG) established to gather information and review name proposals for the feature known as “Fissure 8.”

Mr. Marzan spoke to Hawai‘i County Council Members Lee Loy and Kierkiewicz. Both supported conducting a small meeting with the three name submitters to try to come to an agreement on a single name for the feature. They are willing to facilitate space and time. If agreement can be reached, then they can show unified support for it at larger community meeting at which the full Board could make the naming decision. Mr. Marzan said that the County Council may have some funds set aside to support Board travel to Pāhoa.

Mr. Marzan and Mr. Wong indicated that they are willing and able to set aside the time to travel to Pāhoa for the meeting with the name submitters.

Mr. Cummins asked, “if consensus is not reached by small group, then what?” He agrees with Ms. Oliveira’s statement at an earlier Board meeting that it is the Board’s kuleana to make a decision.

The intention is to just invite the submitters that met the Board’s criteria/guidelines, just the three name submitters. At the earliest, this small meeting could take place in February. If agreement is reached, then they could report back to the Board at its March meeting. A full Board meeting could potentially take place in Puna in April or May. The Board may be able to time the meeting in Puna to coincide with the two year anniversary of the eruption on or about May 3rd which is a Sunday.

Mr. DuPont noted that at the last meeting in Pāhoa, the PIG made it clear that consensus was being sought. However, at the conclusion of the meeting, all the parties seemed to be in the same place. Getting the three name submitters together is a good idea, but the Board may have to make the decision. Even if that’s the case, he doesn’t think there will be major backlash. The “Hub” crew standing in the back at the last meeting in Pāhoa did not speak, but they were there in support of the Ahu‘ailā‘au name. Mr. Wong commented that it is good to know that there is a significant number of supporters for that name.

Mr. DuPont thinks that a ceremony on the two-year anniversary may be a good idea, especially if the county and State are not planning anything, even if it’s just to make the naming decision.

Mr. Ong said that his gauge of the community is that most support the Ahu‘ailā‘au name. He noted that of the name submitters: one is from Kona; another proposed two names, suggesting uncertainty; and that the Ahu‘ailā‘au name was solid from June and hasn’t deviated since.

Mr. DuPont also noted that there are other fissures with distinct features that people will want to name. Mr. Cummins commented that the Board recognizes that this is just the first

of many features resulting from this eruption that will potentially be named, and that these features are not stand alone. It would be nice if the names all tied in with each other.

Mr. DuPont noted that if there is a public ceremony at Fissure 8, the adjacent landowner has bulldozed an area that may provide room for public parking.

Next steps: Mr. Marzan will reach back out to council members to let them know that the Board is “go” for a smaller meeting. Mr. Marzan will also reach out to Renee.

Mr. Marzan will keep Mr. Wong apprised of the status. Mr. Wong noted that OHA has some meeting facilities on the island of Hawai‘i.

Ms. McEldowney noted that State Park’s Kaiwi Scenic Shoreline Park is not in the GNIS. They are considering expanding the park and asked about the official spelling. It’s near Kaloko Beach. *Discussion of this feature will be added to agenda for next meeting.*

Mr. Cummins said that Wahiawa Civic Club wants to change Helemano to Halemano. He’s found several maps that reference Halemano. Ms. McEldowney noted that there are many variant names for that area. Mr. Cummins is not quite ready for the Board to address this feature name yet.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Adjourn

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the Office of Planning Conference Room.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.