

**MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAII‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: March 2, 2021
TIME: 2:30 p.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 2:34 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Brad Ka‘aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jennifer Runyon (USGS)
Lāmaku Mikahala Roy
Melia Lane-Kamahele
Regina Hilo
Bobby Camara
Renee Pualani Louis
Daniel Kawaiaea
Leilani DeMello

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2021

Mr. Buto provided draft minutes from the January and February meetings on the HBGN website and to those on the electronic distribution list. Because these drafts are transcriptions from the meeting recordings, there may be typos or incorrect names; members are asked to pay close attention to the content.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to accept the minutes of January 5, 2021 subject to correcting spelling and grammatical errors; Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of January 5, 2021 subject to spelling and grammatical error corrections.

Mr. Marzan called for review of the draft of the minutes for the February 2, 2021 meeting. Mr. Buto noted that this draft, like the January meeting draft, is largely a transcription of the audio recording of the meeting. This was done to capture as much as possible the nuances and context of the discussion, and to avoid interpreting or summarizing testimony.

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of February 2, 2021 subject to spelling and grammar corrections; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

Ms. Kawaihae asked that the minutes reflect that Daniel Kawaiaea was in attendance at the February 2nd meeting as a guest.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2021 with the correction that Ms. Kawaihae requested and subject to spelling and grammatical error corrections.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

None.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

None.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on name proposals for the feature known as “Fissure 8”

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve *Ahu‘ailā‘au* as the official name of “Fissure 8.” Mr. Wong seconded the motion on behalf of OHA.

Ms. Kawaihae called attention to the hard work of the Permitted Interaction Group, the members of this Board who traveled to Puna in 2018 and 2019 and conducted community meetings there; and based on testimony submitted and testimony received at our last meeting, this was a name that seemed most appropriate.

Mr. Wong expressed his appreciation for the people in the community who proposed names. This name, *Ahu‘ailā‘au* follows the Board’s guidelines in that process. Moving forward the naming process can incorporate some of the revisions that were proposed at the January and February meetings. It’s not beyond the Board’s practice to rename a feature if something comes to light; there is an existing process for that.

Mr. Marzan added that it’s clear in the record that there can be multiple names for a given feature, and this is just one name that is being offered at this point. There will be opportunities for other names to be offered; this being the first name, doesn’t mean it’s the last.

The Board is very grateful to have gotten input and feedback from the Puna community to get to this point.

Mr. Buto echoed other Board members' gratitude for the community and noted that the depth of participation and the passion of the testifiers. As Ms. Louis pointed out, the process can get better; it was an educational experience and a lot to think about going forward.

Mr. Cummins expressed his appreciation for the work of the Permitted Interaction Group and the participation of the community in the process.

Ms. Oliveira expressed her thanks to everyone who submitted testimony and to the Board and the working group for doing a really good job of listening to the community. A lot of time and effort went into considering all of the names proposed. Mahalo especially to those who took the time to submit names and to those who provided passionate testimony.

Lamakū Roy: She is sending out a letter today to all legislators regarding the naming of "Fissure 8" and will send a copy to the Board as well. She feels that with all of the information that has come forward, this process should not be rushed. This committee is at the heart of this discussion.

Mr. Marzan expressed his appreciation for her part in this discussion and her passionate testimony during the past few meetings.

Bobby Camara offered a suggestion that the Board write a report about how the name was chosen, including discussions that might have occurred about all of the name. It would be interesting to the general public and should be part of the public record. As Ka'aleleo noted, there are naming processes in place and improvements that can be made, so it's possible to address those things in a relatively short document, "an executive summary of the process," as a guide for other members of the HBGN.

Mr. Marzan stated that the report from the Permitted Interaction Group provides some of the chronology of events, and with some of the testimony that has been given during this process. The idea of compiling a short report would be ideal for the future.

Lamakū Roy commented that the Western written record and traditional Hawaiian oral traditions are in stark contrast to one another – reducing to the printed page something passionately felt and spoken. She feels that the vote should not take place without the benefit of receiving her letter.

Mr. Wong pointed out that the name has already been given to this place by the people of Puna, and the Board is formalizing the name in its process. Mr. Marzan added that places in Hawai'i often have multiple names, this is just one name for this feature, and does not stop it from having other names proposed and approved. This is just the beginning and the first step in connecting the wishes of the people of Puna, which was made formal by the two

councilmembers of Hawai‘i County. The Board is trying to give respect to the people of Puna and the people who live and connect to that place.

Lamakū Roy insisted that the vote not take place before receiving her additional comments in the letter she will be sending.

Bobby Camara assured Lamakū Roy that she has made her concerns, sentiments, and wishes clear. Mr. Camara remarked that the Board is following its process and that there will be opportunities to provide the Board with more information, including a proposal to change the name.

Mr. Marzan thanked both Lamakū Roy and Bobby Camara for their comments.

Mr. Marzan called for a vote on the motion to approve the name proposed by Pi‘ilani Ka‘awaloa et al., *Ahu‘ailā‘au*.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the name **Ahu‘ailā‘au** proposed by Pi‘ilani Ka‘awaloa, Keone Kalawe, and Lei Kaleimamahu, and submitted by Kalani Makekau-Whittaker, as the official name for the feature known as “Fissure 8.”*

Lamakū Roy asked for confirmation that the opportunity to bring the name of this feature back to the Board is always available. Mr. Marzan confirmed that requests for name changes and corrections can be submitted at any time.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Review selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i (Camara)

Mr. Camara is working with the National Park Service (NPS) to prepare packets for names from the November 2020 meeting. Ms. Lane-Kamahele sent him a list from the November meeting and he wants to confirm which names need packets – some look like they’re just concatenations, some are variant names being promoted to the primary name.

Ms. Runyon was on the call and helped confirm/clarify that Mr. Camara’s example of Thurston Lava Tube would need a packet in order to promote the variant name Nāhuku to the primary name. Packets are also needed for new names that are not variants. Packets do not need to be an exhaustive; a sentence or two explaining the request, e.g., a name that’s been used by long-time residents, a brief note about the history, or if the name is published somewhere. Ms. Lane-Kamahele added that there should be some reference to the existing file, so that it’s not duplicative. The form should have an appropriate justification and reasoning as to why the reference materials are being used to justify it.

Ms. Runyon added that since these features are predominantly within the national park boundaries, they should be coordinated with Mike Shelton, the US BGN member in the DC office. One option is to send them to the US BGN first, then Ms. Runyon will send them to Mike; he may contact Ms. Lane-Kamahele to verify Superintendent support and the regional

name coordinator. Another option is to ask Mike to submit them to the US BGN. He should be in the loop so that when it goes to the US BGN for a vote, he's supportive.

Ms. Lane-Kamahele thinks that the best way is to continue with their process of the park submitting the packets, they come thru Ms. Lane-Kamahele, then to the HBGN for an opportunity to review and make a recommendation, then Ms. Lane-Kamahele presents it to Mike Shelton so he can then take on to the US BGN.

For simple concatenations and adding diacriticals, the USGS staff has blanket authority to make the changes in the GNIS. They are still assigned a US BGN decision date, but they don't need a packet or formal review. Ms. Runyon will make the changes for the eight spelling corrections that are on the November meeting minutes.

Ms. Runyon reminded the Board that Administrative Names will be coming out of the GNIS shortly, sometime during this fiscal year, before September. They will not be maintained after that; they are being gradually being taken over by other USGS data programs.

Ms. Runyon can delete the two benchmarks that were mistakenly put in the GNIS. They are also listed in the November meeting minutes.

Ms. Runyon reminded the Board that the quarterly review list is due out at the end of this month. If the packets are submitted in the next three or four weeks, they can be included in this review list. Otherwise, they'll be included in the next review list in June. These packets will still have to be reviewed by the HBGN, so Mr. Camara will send them to Mr. Buto and they will appear on a future agenda.

With Ms. Runyon's and Mr. Camara's assistance, the Board continued reviewing the spreadsheet of names that Mr. Camara submitted.

A bug was found in the GNIS API in which the URL referencing a vowel with a kahakō is not found. In the address line of browser, removing the ascii code preceding the vowel "corrects" the URL.

Ms. Runyon noted that the USGS can block sensitive features like the Feature ID 359247, Holua Slide, but they have no way of knowing about locally, culturally sensitive sites. HBGN can inform the US BGN of those sensitive sites that should be blocked.

Mr. Wong will have his researchers look into the names that need more research.

Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change

Stat	FeatID	Name	Class	Corrected	Source	Notes	USGSQuad
3	365063	Ahole Heiau	Locale			PNH: Āhole, Maui; HBGN: GNIS shows location to be in the ocean southeast of Pu'upili; discussed 4-22-19 more research needed. HBGN: more research needed, 03-02-21	Pahala
5	1905283	Āhole Heiau	Locale			HBGN: This one appears to be correct, 03-02-21	Milolii
3	1905365	Holua Slide	Locale			PNH: Holua, Maui; HBGN: more research needed, 6-24-19; HBGN: in the ocean; more research needed, 03-02-21	Milolii
5	359247	Holua Slide	Slope			HBGN: This one appears to be correct, 03-02-21	Pahala
3	1905284	Āholehōlua	Locale			HBGN: Jenny Runyon (USGS) edited June 2019 per HBGN decision to concatenate the two words; it was originally added late in 2001; in the ocean; per Bobby Camara should be two words, 03-02-21	Milolii

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.