

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

DATE: July 6, 2021  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Library  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)  
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) *left the meeting at 3:35pm*  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)  
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)  
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable  
Development)  
Brad Ka'aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) *joined the meeting at  
2:37pm and left the meeting at 4:00pm*

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Runyon (USGS)  
Matthew O'Donnell (contractor for USGS)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2021**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to accept the minutes of June 1, 2021; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2021.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

Mr. Buto announced that the Governor's emergency proclamation allowing participation by Board members using remote technology will expire after the Board's August meeting – thereafter until a new law takes effect in January 2022, Board meetings will return to in-person meetings in the Office of Planning's conference room. The Office of Information Practices has said that a Zoom link can still be included in the meeting notice to allow members of the public to participate remotely. But Board members wishing to participate remotely must have their location included in the meeting notice and the public will have the opportunity to attend from that location as well.

Ms. Kawaihae announced that this Friday marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing by President Warren G. Harding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act that created the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Hawaiian Homes trust lands. A short program will be livestreamed on Friday at 9am with Senator Schatz, Governor Ige, Commission Chair William Aila, other members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and leadership from the homestead organizations. Ms. Kawaihae provided a link to the news release containing a link to the livestream.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on Lō'ihī / Kama'ehu**

Mr. Wong confirmed that in previous discussions on this topic the Board had decided not to establish another Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), but to keep it on the agenda to address any new research / information.

Mr. Camara doesn't know what a PIG would add. With the archival sources as documentation, he recommends approving *Kama'ehuakanaloa* as the name and waiting for and listening to comments and/or objections that may come from the public. He believes that this naming issue has been languishing and that an action should be taken – like *Island of Hawai'i* and *State of Hawai'i*.

Ms. Oliveira supports making a naming decision with the information that we have. Mr. Buto confirmed that the agenda item allows for a decision to be made.

Ms. McEldowney confirmed that *Lō'ihī* would remain as a variant name.

Mr. Wong stated that in the wa'a canoe realm, the name *Kama'ehu* is already in use. OHA's publication *Ka Wai Ola* could be used for public outreach.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wong moved that the Board approve changing the name of the feature to *Kama'ehuakanaloa* from *Lō'ihī*. Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

Mr. Wong asked if there are federal agencies that use the name of this feature, e.g., USGS. Mr. Camara stated that Hawai'i Volcano Observatory (HAVO) does, and the University of Hawai'i conducts dives there. He asked if a nickname, *Kama'ehu* could also be accommodated. If that is a variant name, then the standard practice is for the primary name to be used in the map with a desired variant in parentheses.

Mr. Camara asked under whose jurisdiction this feature falls. He noted that it is approximately 20 miles off the coast of Hawai‘i. Mr. Wong noted that State jurisdiction extends from 0 to 3 nautical miles from the coastline, territorial waters are 12 miles out. Although not in the State’s jurisdiction, it is considered part of Hawai‘i’s pae ‘āina.

Mr. O’Donnell suggested that the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF), a BGN permanent advisory board, be consulted. ACUF has purview over anything beyond 12 miles; the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) has purview over features 0 to 12 miles. He searched the Foreign Names database for Undersea Features and found *Loihi* with no ‘okina or kahakō. Ms. Runyon suggested submitting a name change request to the BGN’s ACUF with a recommendation of support from HBGN. If the Board sends the request to her, she can forward it to ACUF. It would end up as a name change in the Foreign Name Committee’s database; they manage the Undersea Features too. The advisory committees make recommendations and the full US BGN votes on them. This could be considered at the full US BGN meeting in October.

Ms. Oliveira asked whether HBGN should consider the shorter name *Kama‘ehu*, as a practical matter rather than the longer *Kama‘ehuakanaloa* as the primary name.

Mr. Camara said that the Hālau o Kekuhi CD was called “*Puka Kama‘ehu*.” But in the Huluhia chant, it says “keiki ‘ehu, kama ‘ehu a Kanaloa.” And in the Hawaiian Airlines inflight magazine, *Hana Hou* from 2003, it says that the “Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation has petitioned to officially change the name to *Kama‘ehu*...” During this discussion Mr. Camara reached out to Auntie Pua Kanahale, who said that she’d be happy with the long form of the name with the short form as a variant.

Mr. Buto will put together a formal packet.

Mr. Wong asked if there is any anticipated pushback from federal agencies that might object to a name change. ACUF will probably put out feelers to their stakeholders when the time comes and would get back to HBGN for its reconsideration. Mr. Camara noted that in his experience with HAVO scientists, recent name corrections and changes have not been met with opposition.

*Mr. Marzan called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Mr. Wong will put in *Ka Wai Ola* and also advocate with its federal advocacy / lobbyists. Mr. Buto suggested a joint press release with OHA. Mr. Camara suggested holding off on a public announcement until ACUF and US BGN approve.

ACUF is required to issue a decision packet five business days before the full US BGN quarterly meeting. Ms. Runyon will find out when ACUF will meet in advance of the US BGN’s October meeting. That should be the target date for formal name change packet. She can find out when they would want to receive a name change packet.

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

Mr. Camara is working on a list of 10-12 name changes, some of which are to remove the word “crater” from the names of the craters. There are other name changes as well, e.g., in the SW Rift towards Pahala, on the maps is Pu‘ukou. That pu‘u is very pointy, like an upside-down shave ice cone. In the dictionary *kōū* means “to look about in all directions,” which is what you can do up there. There are no archival sources that support that, but it is evident from the feature, and there are no kou trees in that area.

In the Tree Molds area of the park in the lower part of Mauna Loa Road, the old traditional name is Kuapa‘awela, not used for many decades. He wants to discuss with the Kupuna group whether or not to name some features for the sake of naming them, because they don’t have a known Hawaiian name or they have a generic English name. He’s hoping that the Kupuna group will discuss this at their August meeting, then he bring any naming recommendations back to HBGN for its September meeting.

Mr. O’Donnell would like to follow up on a minor spelling correction for one of the features on Moloka‘i on the edge of the national park. The National Park Service (NPS) asked about the significance of the name change, *Kalāhuapueo* to *Kalāhuipueo*, changing the “a” to an “i.” Mr. Buto will look for the minutes from the meeting at which this change was decided.

Mr. O’Donnell and Ms. Runyon indicated that they did not receive the packet of name changes from HAVO. Mr. Buto will send them the packets and will also send them to Melia Lane-Kamahele.

[362749] **Ohiahuea Stream.** Mr. Camara pointed out that hu‘ea makes sense because in the Hawaiian Dictionary [Pukui and Elbert] “*Hu‘ea pau ‘ia e ka wai*” means all washed away by water. This stream originates in the mountains and ‘ōhi‘a might be washed away. Mr. Marzan added that he’s heard many stories of heavy rains the area causing trails to become uncrossable. Mr. Camara noted that the Feature Class is Stream making “stream” in the feature name redundant.

The recommended name and spelling is “**Ōhi‘ahu‘ea.**”

Ms. Runyon noted that removing “stream” from the name would require a name change. The US BGN is more flexible now than it was in the past to removing an English descriptor to a Hawaiian feature name.

Mr. Cummins said that having the word “stream” as part of the feature label on a map helps to clearly identify the feature and reduce confusion with names of other features in the area. More current cartographic standards and practices help identify features by other means as well, such as their symbology and font type. Ms. Runyon added that for USGS maps, the label is applied in the middle third of the feature, so removing the word “stream” from the name would result in the label shifting.

Mr. Camara noted that Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is in the process of putting together a list of names of craters in which the descriptor “crater” would be removed from the name. Ms. Runyon cautioned that these name changes would have to be approved by the US BGN first.

Mr. O’Donnell provided a link to a stream feature that the US BGN allowed staff to make the name change, removing “stream” from the name, without going through the full US BGN process. Ms. Runyon’s recollection was that this might have taken place in the late 1990’s and at that time it probably should have gone to the US BGN. She noted that for the 500 or so streams in Hawai‘i that have the word “stream” in the name, if the HBGN and the people of Hawai‘i are comfortable with the feature name without the generic descriptor, the US BGN would probably allow the staff to revise those in the GNIS in the same way that they do for straightforward spelling corrections.

Mr. Cummins stated that as a land surveyor he sees the value of having the word “stream” in the feature name and on the map label. Having the descriptor in parentheses might mitigate confusion while preserving the traditional feature name.

Mr. Camara asked if the Board can address on a future agenda other features in which the Feature Class has been appended to the feature name, and possibly including in the style guidelines.

*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
6	362749	Ohiahuea Stream	Stream	‘Ōhi‘ahu‘ea	HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: Hawaiian Dictionary [Pukui and Elbert] “Hu‘ea pau ‘ia e ka wai” means all washed away by water; this stream originates in the mountains and ‘ōhi‘a might be washed away; Mr. Marzan shared that he’s heard many stories of heavy rains the area causing trails to become uncrossable; it was noted that the Feature Class is Stream making “stream” in the feature name redundant, 07-06-21.	Honokane

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. It will be the last remote participation meeting allowed under the current Emergency Proclamation which will expire later that day.

Ms. Kawaihae noted that she will be on jury duty at the time of the August meeting. She will keep the Board informed of her availability.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.