

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

DATE: August 3, 2021
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Library
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:33 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)
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)

ABSENT: Brad Ka'aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

GUESTS: Laura Ruby (member of the public)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of July 6, 2021; Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of July 6, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

None.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Mr. Buto announced that a bill last session brought some other state agencies into the Office of Planning and the office has been renamed the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Mr. Marzan holds the first endowed chair at Bishop Museum: The Wayne Pitluck and Judith Pyle Curator for Cultural Resilience.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and Action on Hausten Ditch / Alanaio

Ms. Ruby shared a PowerPoint presentation that she prepared to support her request to change the name of “**Hausten Ditch**” to “**Alanaio.**” The Alanaio figures prominently in the history of the area. Using a Hawaiian Government Survey map by S.E. Bishop, dated 1881, she traced the water flow from Land Court Award 1631 to Naio from west to east through ponds and sinkholes in the area, then south down through Mō‘ili‘ili to become the Pi‘inaio, which used to empty into the ocean, but now empties into the Ala Wai Canal.

When she interviewed people for her book, *Mō‘ili‘ili – The Life of a Community*, they would often refer to streams in their neighborhoods using the names of the ‘ili in which they were located. One of her sources for the book said that in the ‘30’s and ‘40’s they lived on the grounds of The Church of the Crossroads, which was at the edge of the Mō‘ili‘ili flow. She remembered having to jump over the stream in order to cross it.

Ms. Ruby then displayed historical Sanborn maps showing the stream in relation to house lots. Children at the time referred to areas where the stream widened into pools and sinkholes as duck ponds (as seen on various maps). Mike Yamamoto and Annette Tagawa’s book, *Hawai‘i’s Native and Exotic Freshwater Animals* describes some of the species of fish that were found in the Alanaio, many of which can no longer be found there. Ms. Ruby also displayed current and historical photos (1940’s) of channelized portions of the Alanaio, as well as current photos of the Alanaio looking mauka (toward the Marco Polo condominium) and makai (toward the Ala Wai Canal).

Ms. Ruby hopes to retire the name “**Hausten Ditch**” in favor of the historical name “**Alanaio.**”

Mr. Buto confirmed that there is currently no feature name in the GNIS for the stream or the ditch, although the topo map does show a line for a waterway. Mr. Marzan asked if this would be considered a new name.

Ms. Oliveira suggested that a packet also be prepared for “**Pi‘inaio,**” which was labeled on some of the survey maps and is the portion of the stream that currently empties into the Ala Wai Canal. She’s had conversations with the Prince Hotel’s manager about the name because their main ballroom is called “**Pi‘inaio.**” It is related in both proximity and name to “**Alanaio.**”

Mr. Cummins asked Ms. Ruby if she found any maps that had labeled the name of stream – he noted that Pi‘inaio appears, but he didn’t see Alanaio. She replied that she didn’t find maps with the stream labeled; she relied on the expertise of Mr. Yamamoto and on the anecdotal evidence from her interviews with long-time residents of the area. Mr. Cummins recommended to the Board that along with the maps provided by Ms. Ruby that the

anecdotal evidence that can be tied to the maps be included in the name packet documentation. Ms. Ruby can provide some of the personal histories about the duck ponds that were related to her, but they don't refer to the stream by name.

Mr. Cummins recommended that “**Hausten Ditch**” be added as a variant since it has been in use.

Mr. Buto will confirm with Ms. Runyon that this is a new name request. If so, he will prepare name packets for next month's Board meeting. The old Registered Maps and Ms. Ruby's anecdotal evidence can be used as documentation for the name packets.

Mr. Cummins found some information about Alanaio in the Papakilo Database (<https://papakilodatabase.org>). That information will be included with the documentation as well.

Ms. Ruby clarified that the extent of Alanaio runs through the Mō'ili'ili Japanese School, under King and Beretania Streets, then under old Varsity Theater parking lot, then up to the Church of the Crossroads. There are several ponds and springs in the area as well. Ms. Ruby once descended into one of the underground caverns where pools still exist and saw some of the “blind” fish that inhabit the water – they are blind due to the concentration of calcium in the water.

Ms. Ruby asked the Board about several other issues. Years ago, Ms. Ruby received approval from the neighborhood board and University of Hawai'i faculty senate to name the “**Mō'ili'ili Gateway.**” UH did not have funds at the time to put up signage. She asked if HBGN could do that. Although HBGN doesn't have funds for those kinds of activities, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or the State Department of Transportation may. She also asked if the Board could make that name designation official.

Similarly, there was a suggestion that there be a gateway on mauka side of campus to be called Pāmoa, after the name of the 'ili, meaning “chicken field.”

Ms. Ruby would like to see the names of surf breaks restored to their Hawaiian names and asked if HBGN could help with that effort. Ms. Oliveira noted that Bishop Museum has a map of surf breaks in Waikiki.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and Action on Lō'ihī / Kama'ehuakanaloa

Mr. Buto prepared a name change packet to the ACUF, based on information about Lō'ihī on their website, e.g., coordinates. Mr. Camara's documentation is included with the name application. There is no option for variant names in the ACUF database, but Mr. Buto will include Lō'ihī as a variant name in the comments. Ms. McEldowney suggested including excerpts from minutes of the Board meetings where this was discussed. Mr. Buto will add these to the packet and will send it on up to Ms. Runyon to forward on to ACUF for their consideration and recommendation to the US BGN.

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

The Board decided to defer this review for a future meeting when Mr. Camara can attend.

The Board agreed to the suggestion to remove the concatenation names from the spreadsheet in the meantime, pending further research and/or resources. In addition, the Board will consider discussing at a future meeting reviewing stream names globally in the GNIS.

At last month's meeting Mr. Camara said that the Kupuna group will be meeting to discuss crater names and should have a dozen or so names for the Board to consider.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

The current regular meeting date and time still works for Board members. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.** The format will return to in-person meetings for the Board; a Zoom link will be included with the meeting agenda, so the public can still participate remotely.

Mr. Marzan will not be able to attend next month. Mr. Cummins will have to leave at 4:00pm. Ms. Oliveira is currently on Maui.

The current Emergency Proclamation will expire this month. The new law allowing the use of remote interactive technology takes effect January 1, 2022. In the interim, if Board members wish to attend remotely, their locations will be included in the meeting notice and the public will have an opportunity to participate in the meeting from that remote location.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.