

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

DATE: September 7, 2021  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Library  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

In Mr. Marzan’s absence, Mr. Wong volunteered to chair the meeting. Mr. Wong called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

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

**ABSENT:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)

**GUESTS:** Laura Ruby (member of the public)  
Casey McCoy (geography student)  
Reeshay Lanier (intern, DBEDT OPSD)  
Jenny Runyon (US BGN, USGS)  
Bobby Camara (member of the public)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2021**

**MOTION:** Mr. Cummins noted that “Land Court Award” should be “Land Commission Award.” With that correction, Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of August 3, 2021; Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2021.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

- Mr. Buto received emails from Ms. Runyon and Ms. Lane-Kamahele indicating that they didn't receive the name packets from HAVO that were sent by email. The attachment size was too large, so Mr. Buto sent the files a different way.

Ms. Runyon noted that now their first step is to prepare case briefs for the quarterly review list, which will come out about the end of September; it needs the formal endorsement of the NPS member on the US BGN. The briefs are being prepared, so it may still be a few more months – they are required to give tribal governments 60 days to comment on any names on the review list. They may ask the US BGN if that applies to proposals from Hawai'i, because the process was designed for the 574 federally recognized tribes on the mainland and Alaska and doesn't include Native Hawaiian groups. If that waiting period is unnecessary, then these names may be included on the US BGN's October agenda.

Mr. Camara noted that the HAVO Kupuna group reviewed and approved the names for which packets were created, and HBGN includes a representative from OHA.

There is pending legislation to form an advisory committee to the US BGN to address offensive names and the most recent iteration specifies OHA representation on the advisory committee.

- Ms. Runyon also emailed to alert HBGN that the GNIS database and site are being overhauled, so no search capability is currently available. When the database is restored, administrative place names will no longer be included. They will be archived and available for download separately. Those administrative names on HBGN's list could still be updated and corrected, but not through the GNIS team.
- Laura Ruby sent some additional emails regarding other names that she'd like HBGN to review – recognizing Mo'ili'ili Gateway and Mauka Gateway at UH and restoring traditional names at surfing sites. Ms. Ruby confirmed the locations of the gateways. Ms. Runyon stated that if these are not natural features, they would probably not be in the GNIS. Mr. Wong noted that the surfing sites would be ocean areas. Ms. Runyon noted that "areas" will be retained in the GNIS.
- Ms. Delia Ulima called the office to ask about the naming process. There is a large rock that has been used to mark her property line. Ms. Runyon noted that there is a feature class "pillar" that could be applied to the rock feature. Mr. Cummins noted that this particular rock already appears on a number of maps already.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

Mr. Wong would like to do a press release for the name, “**Kama‘ehuakanaloa.**” He’s also been working with Bobby Camara on an article for the October “*Ka Wai Ola.*”

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

Mr. Cummins sent some additional maps of the area; these are downloadable. There are a number of Land Court Applications in that area, and they all call the stream **Alanaio**. Two applications and Registered Map 1009 also call for “**Auwai Alanaio.**” Mr. Buto noted that we need to identify beginning and ending coordinates for **Alanaio** and **Pi‘inaio** (this would be historical as it no longer exists).

Ms. Runyon stated that because **Alanaio** appears on official government maps, the US BGN can include **Alanaio** without a formal name application packet as a non-recorded name. They will still need the coordinates of the mouth and the source, the entire length, if possible. She was unable to correlate it with a USGS topographic map or the National Hydrography Dataset. She’s seen it with and without “Stream” and as one or two words.

To facilitate further research on the stream, it was suggested that the 1952 government survey map be overlaid on a contemporary map.

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

Mr. Camara restated his desire that feature names be concatenated globally to bring consistency to the naming and to bring them in compliance with the HBGN’s style guidelines. Mr. Buto recalls that the Board decided against global concatenation in part to avoid the assumption that names have been researched and discussed. Alternatives were discussed, such as adding another Status code to identify names that were part of a global change without being fully researched or adding an asterisk or other notation/citation to make it clear that the name was part of a global change that still needs more research. Ms. Oliveira is supportive, but expressed concerns that global concatenation might cause unforeseen issues.

Several Board members recommended adding further discussion of this topic (global concatenation) to a future Board meeting.

Mr. Wong directed the discussion back to the list of names under consideration.

*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	2634508	Ohiawai (historical)	Spring			HBGN: could be lit. 'ohi'āwai ('ohi + 'āwai) = gathering into a bundle; or lit. 'ōhi'a wai ('ōhi'a + wai) = watery 'ōhi'a tree; more research needed, 09-07-21	Kahuku Ranch

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

The current Emergency Proclamation will expire on October 4<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Board's meeting on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be in-person unless the Governor issues an Emergency Proclamation allowing meetings using remote interactive technology for Board members. 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 from that remote location.

Mr. Wong adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.