

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

DATE: November 16, 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**

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

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

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Reeshay Lanier (intern, DBEDT OPSD)  
Jenny Runyon (US BGN, USGS)  
Bobby Camara (member of the public)  
Ku'uwehi Hiraishi (Hawai'i Public Radio)

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Wong moved to accept the minutes of October 5, 2021 with the revision; Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of October 5, 2021 with the revision.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

Mr. Camara asked if the Board can issue press releases, such as one to encourage people to use the proper names of places; engage in concatenating Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, citing 'Imiloa, the Hawai'i Tribune Herald, and the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau. He feels that this would help the Board become more visible.

Mr. Marzan asked if the Board has released press releases in the past. Mr. Buto does not recall any releases as a Board, but OHA has done press releases regarding the work of the Board and other individual agencies have as well. Does OPSD allow that? Ms. Kawaihae noted that because HBGN is attached to OPSD and the Board administration attached to DBEDT, it would have to follow agency protocols. She suggested using ‘Olelo platform. Ms. Oliveira suggested reaching out to Jenn Boneza or ‘A‘ali‘i Dukelow. Mr. Wong noted that Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi is on today’s call. Ms. Hiraishi has reached out to some of the Board members already about their work.

Mr. Camara is hoping that besides those mentioned, the news stations may benefit. He noted that Na Ala Hele recently installed a trail sign with pu‘u names as two words. He spoke to them and they weren’t aware of the work of the Board. Mr. Marzan noted that we will be discussing concatenation, so we could talk about this further in that discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on CoGNA proposed changes to the Executive Committee**

Mr. Wayne Furr has retired as Executive Secretary of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) and asked that state naming authorities affirm his retirement and approve Christine Johnson as Executive Secretary. Mr. Buto attached Ms. Johnson’s has submitted her name as included information about Ms. Johnson background and qualifications.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to acknowledge Mr. Furr’s retirement and elect Ms. Christine Johnson as the new Executive Secretary. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion. Ms. McEldowney looked her up online and feels that she cares deeply about place names and will be good for the job.

*The members present voted unanimously to acknowledge Mr. Furr’s retirement and to elect Ms. Johnson as the new Executive Secretary of CoGNA.*

Mr. Buto will communicate to Mr. Furr HBGN’s vote to acknowledge his retirement and to Ms. Johnson as the Executive Secretary of CoGNA.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on global concatenation**

The topic of making global changes has come up a few times recently.

Ms. Kawaihae suggested recording the Feature IDs of those names that are being globally changed. Mr. Cummins suggested creating a separate list of the names that have been

globally concatenated rather than a code or note for each record. Mr. Cummins asked if the names can be concatenated quickly in Excel or some other method. Ms. Oliveira is comfortable if there was a unique code with a list attached to the Excel workbook.

Mr. Cummins asked if it is possible to know what percentage of the names are concatenated. Ms. Oliveira noted that our guidelines generally call for concatenation; her concern is being able to identify which ones have been done globally in case something needs to be undone. Ms. McEldowney asked if Ms. Runyon has any suggestion about the concatenation and notation since the spelling corrections would be forwarded up to the USGS. Ms. Runyon noted that in the decision making the Board should consider if it's more likely that the name would be concatenated than not, and if the precedent has been that the Board has concatenated similar names in the past a high percentage of the time. If there is a reasonable explanation why this was done, it should satisfy most inquiries. Individual names can be considered later if there are questions or concerns. Tracking the date(s) of the global concatenation in the notes can help identify them in the GNIS, which will indicate an HBGN decision date. The record would show a BGN decision date and an HBGN as the citation, the authority.

Mr. Marzan would like Mr. Buto to identify how many names there are in this category. Mr. Camara noted that for the entire state has 10,000+ names; many are already concatenated. He suggested categorizing by “pu‘u,” “kīpuka,” and “lae” for example to gauge how many names would be affected.

Ms. Oliveira asked how the Board came to standardize on concatenation. Mr. Camara responded that it was a combination of 1978 ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i guidelines and the style guide adopted by HBGN. Ms. Oliveira noted that these guidelines are coming from one school of thought. She is trying to understand it; she noted that “pu‘u” is concatenated in Pukui (*Place Names of Hawaii*) and “Maunaloa” is one word for the roadway and two words, “Mauna Loa” for the active volcano; “Mauna Kea” is listed as two words.

Mr. Camara stated that he would like the Board to make some decisions based on current usage with the understanding that usage could change in the future and that the Board might have to reconsider some of its naming decisions. He is frustrated that it is taking so long to review some of these names. The vast majority of pu‘u names on the Island of Hawai‘i should be concatenated. There is a “Kīpuka Major” on the island that is not concatenated, but “Major” is not Hawaiian.

He suggested devoting one of the Board meetings to language with someone from UH Hilo or UH Mānoa.

Ms. Oliveira is comfortable with the rationale for global concatenation and is supportive as long as there is sufficient coding and record keeping to note the reasons.

**Mr. Buto can prepare counts by type – pu‘u, kīpuka, lae, etc. – for the next meeting and maybe a sample list.**

Ms. Runyon quickly searched GNIS for Hawaii County, 2,574 entries. 397 named summits, of those 240 are pu‘u and 180 are already concatenated. She asked about the ‘okina in “pu‘u;” would the Board add the ‘okina at the same time? Is it worse to address just part of the name and ignore the rest of the name with respect to diacriticals? Mr. Cummins felt that putting the ‘okina in “pu‘u” might give the impression that the Board has reviewed the name. Ms. Runyon noted that the absence of the ‘okina would serve as an additional “flag” that the name needs to be further addressed. Mr. Camara feels that because we recognize that “pu‘u” is a hill, the ‘okina should be included, even if the rest of the name is not reviewed.

Ms. Oliveira asked if color-coding can be used in addition to other coding to make it even clearer that these names have not been fully reviewed, e.g., green = fully reviewed. Mr. Cummins agreed that color-coding would be a helpful visual aid.

Mr. Wong noted that every name will have to be reviewed at some point. His experience in similar naming processes has been “all or nothing” and he feels that it is worthwhile to do a full review rather than a global change. Mr. Marzan suggested that the Board prioritize reviewing these names. In the past the Board has been able to go through many names in the course of a single meeting. He’d like to try giving these names a focused review and if it doesn’t go well, then the Board can revisit global concatenation.

Ms. Oliveira hopes that sometime in the future Board members will be able set aside a day or several days to dedicate to reviewing names. Ms. McEldowney thinks that might also be an opportunity to review the Style Guide and refine the HBGN guidelines.

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

Mr. Camara said that he was looking at Mauna Kea names in GNIS and feels that it should be addressed by the Board. Mr. Buto noted that the Board recently reversed an earlier name decision and changed the name from one word “Maunakea” to two words “Mauna Kea.” Ms. McEldowney drafted the minutes from those meetings, which included Kalani Akana and Dr. Larry Kimura. They went through the newspapers to tally usage, they also took into account common usage. The end result was that the Board voted to split the name into two words. She clarified that Larry Kimura disagreed with the decision to split the name into two words. Mr. Wong noted that Mr. Akana was very insistent that the name be two words – Mauna Kea combined would describe “white mountain” versus two words which is short for “Wakea.”

Mr. Camara looked at some of the other names on the mauna:

- Feature ID: 364110, “Pu‘u‘ula‘ulua” should be “Pu‘u‘ula‘ula” – he thinks it’s a typo
- Feature ID: 364016, “Pu‘u‘ula‘ula” on the other side of the crater; PNH indicates multiple occurrences – *“Coulter lists places with this name at Humu‘ula, Ka Lae, Keāhole, Pāhala, and Waiki‘i qds.”*

- Feature ID: 364585, “Lake Waiau” should just be “Waiau” – removing “Lake” this would be a name change
- Feature ID: 363714, “Pu‘uholei” should be “Pu‘uhōlei”
- Feature ID: 366216, “Pu‘uwekiu” should be “Pu‘uwēkiu,” currently one of the variant names; this would be a name change
- Feature ID: 366216, “Kukahaula,” the variant name for “Pu‘uwekiu” refers to the complex of pu‘u and should have its own record in the GNIS; this would be a new name request

*Mr. Marzan left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.*

Haukea, Poli‘ahu, Lilinoe, and Waiau are separate pu‘u. Kūkahau‘ula refers to the cluster of Hau‘oki, Kea, and Wēkiu. Ms. McEldowney confirmed that those pu‘u names are more recent names from around the 1970’s. She had put a table together of when the names appeared through time. Mr. Camara located a memo from Mr. Shelley Mark from the Department of Planning and Economic Development, dated March 13, 1974 establishing the names for ten cones atop Mauna Kea. He will send the memo to Mr. Buto for distribution. Mr. Camara referenced TJ Lyons 1891 Registered Map 1641, showing a benchmark Mauna Kea summit cones = Kukahauula. If a new entry is needed in the GNIS, Ms. Runyon asked that the Board let her know; it would be removed as a variant from the Pu‘uwekiu record and a new separate record would be created for it.

Mr. Cummins found Registered Map 1210, dated between 1884-1891, Kūkahau‘ula is in pencil writing, noted in the same area. Ms. McEldowney remembers that at one time the Board had discussed changing the name of the summit to Kūkahau‘ula. She will try to locate those minutes.

Mr. Wong suggested tabling the discussion of the individual more recent pu‘u names for another time – whether or not to remove them from the GNIS in favor of Kūkahau‘ula.

The Board deferred decision making on the names that were discussed until the next meeting.

Mr. Wong is looking forward to Ku‘uwehi’s article. It will be good for getting the word out about the Board. OHA is also interested in getting more articles out about the work of the Board.

Stat	FeatID	Name	Class	Corrected	Source	Notes	USGSQuad
3	364585	Lake Waiau	Lake			Bobby Camara: recommends removing the English word "Lake" from the name and just leaving "Waiau;" more research needed, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea

Stat	FeatID	Name	Class	Corrected	Source	Notes	USGSQuad
3	364110	Pu'u'ula'ulua	Summit	Pu'u'ula'ula	PNH	HBGN 11/2012: Pu'u'ula'ula from UHP 4th Ed; PNH: "Pu'u'ula'ula: Cone and rest house at the 10,092-foot level on the trail to the summit of Mauna Loa. Kīlauea qd... Coulter lists places with this name at Humu'ula, Ka Lae, Keāhole, Pāhala, and Waiki'i qds., Hawai'i;" spelled correctly on the map, but incorrectly in GNIS, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea
3	363714	Pu'uholei	Summit	Pu'uhōlei	PNH	PNH: Pu'uhōlei; different quad (Puna qd.), but same spelling, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea
3	366216	Pu'uwekiu	Summit	Pu'uwēkiu	HBGN	Promote from variant to primary name, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea
3	366216	Pu'uwekiu	Summit		HBGN	Bobby Camara: the name for the cinder cone is Kukahau'ula with individual subpeaks named, including Pu'uwēkiu; remove variant Kukahau'ula, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea
3	n/a	Kūkahau'ula	Summit		HBGN	HBGN: traditional name for the summit cone; previously included as a variant name for one of the subpeaks, Pu'uwēkiu; appears on Registered Map 1641 ca. 1891 "summit cones = Kukahauula" and Registered Map 1210 ca. 1884-1891, Kukahauula is written in pencil in the same area, 11-16-21	Mauna Kea

### AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

Mr. Buto adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.